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Road Safety Strategy Post 2010 consultation
Department for Transport
Zone 2/13, Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World

Response from the National Joint Utilities Group Ltd

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) welcomes the opportunity to comment on this consultation on road safety. We have a number of points we would like to make to Government on this subject, detailed below. Background information on NJUG can be found at the end of this document.

In April 2007 we launched our *Vision for Street Works*¹ and have since been working to turn this into reality. At the forefront of this *Vision* is safety, listed as our number one priority. For this reason, NJUG members have been working with highway colleagues, representatives from the Department for Transport (DfT), and other stakeholders for some time on a review of the street works Safety Code of Practice.

The draft Safety at Street Works and Road Works Code of Practice is due for public consultation in 2009, and is something we feel should be complemented, not compromised, by any actions taken by the Department as a result of this consultation into road safety. Street works colleagues within the DfT should be consulted to ensure a consistent departmental approach to any updated road safety policy. The DfT are currently working with NJUG, JAG(UK) the HSE and other affected road user groups to update the Safety at Street Works and Road Works Code of Practice and the reduction of speed limits at street and road works is one option for enhancing safety on the roads.

NJUG would also encourage Government to consider reducing speed limits around street works. This could increase levels of road safety by minimising collisions between vehicles and street works apparatus, which unavoidably takes up road space while essential works are conducted.

As part of turning our *Vision for Street Works* into reality, we launched the NJUG Awards in 2008, with the categories based on the principles held within the *Vision*. As a result, we received a number of good practice case studies detailing how members are ensuring that safety is the number one priority when works are being carried out in the street. These submissions are available from the NJUG Secretariat should the DfT be interested in viewing them.

The winner of the safety category was Northern Gas Networks, whose *Play Safe, Stay Safe* campaign works to promote safety around street works to school age children². The submission demonstrated an impressive voluntary initiative undertaken by the company to improve levels of safety around street works among young children.

¹ NJUG's *Vision for Street Works* can be viewed at http://www.njug.org.uk/uploads/NJUG_dl_May09.pdf

² An NJUG good practice case study based on this winning submission can be viewed at:
http://www.njug.org.uk/uploads/11_Playsafe_Staysafe.pdf



If you have any queries, or would like to meet with NJUG to discuss any of the points made within this consultation response, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Les Guest", is positioned below the closing text.

Les Guest
CEO
National Joint Utilities Group Ltd

Cc Patricia Hayes, Department for Transport
Cc Richard Buckley, Department for Transport
Cc Ellen Duffy, Department for Transport

Information on the National Joint Utilities Group Ltd

The National Joint Utilities Group Ltd (NJUG) is the UK trade association representing utilities and their contractors on street work issues. Further information can be found at www.njug.org.uk.

NJUG's current members are Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas), Water UK (representing all water and wastewater companies), National Grid, Openreach, and Virgin Media. Our associate members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska McNicholas, Balfour Beatty, Morrison, Morgan Est, NACAP, PJ Keary, First Intervention, Carillion, Enterprise, Laing O'Rourke and AMEC. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-seven utility companies and twelve utility contractors.

NJUG is also the utility-arm of the UK Highways and Utilities Committee – HAUC(UK) – working collaboratively with local authorities in England, Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland to better the standards of road and street works. Further information can be found at www.hauc-uk.org.uk.