NJUG

NJUG to speak at Government's CEO- level summit on street works

NJUG members will be attending a high-level street works summit on 15th October in Birmingham, organised by the Department for Transport and led personally by the Minister responsible for road and street works, the Rt Hon Sadiq Khan MP.

The purpose of the event is to discuss, at a strategic level, how works can be better managed. Invitations have therefore been targeted at the highest levels, extended to Chief Executives of utility firms and contractors.

The Chief Executive of the National Joint Utilities Group, Les Guest, who has been invited by Government to present at the event, will brief delegates on utilities' recent efforts to improve standards. This will include examples of good practice already taking place, and the outcomes of a recent industry workshop held at Stamford Bridge, which identified innovative ways to improve the efficiency of street works as well as reasons why the process sometimes fails.

The Government is committed to reducing congestion and that includes the unfortunate disruption sometimes caused by street works. NJUG and its members are eager to discuss ways in which disruption can be minimised while ensuring the UK's essential utility services, upon which businesses and residents rely, are maintained to the necessary level.

Les Guest stated "NJUG and its members are looking forward to inputting into the discussions on the 15th. I will be particularly interested to gather attendees' responses to our recent efforts and forthcoming plans, to continue to improve the standard of our members' works. What is critical is ensuring the discussions and any agreed outcomes are balanced, measuring practical benefits against potential costs on UK plc. NJUG is fully committed to working with its members on delivering a recognisable improvement in standards of works. "

Les added, "The high level nature of this event is key, and is necessary if industry and Government are to discuss the realities facing them both. For this reason, I was pleased to learn that similarly strategic level representatives from UK local authorities are also being invited, since it is these bodies who play a pivotal role under current legislation in managing and coordinating both their own works and utility works in order to minimise disruption. It is vital that highway authorities, who are responsible for fifty percent of all works, and their contractors, also improve at the same time as utilities or the public will not see a beneficial change. Working better together is something we must all strive towards if change is to occur."

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Notes to Editors

For further information about the National Joint Utilities Group please go to www.njug.org.uk. To arrange an interview please contact the NJUG press office at pressoffice@njug.org.uk or telephone 020 7340 8737.

About The National Joint Utility Group (NJUG)

NJUG is the only UK industry association representing utilities and their contractors on street works issues.

Our full members include the Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas companies), Water UK (representing water companies), National Grid, Openreach, and Virgin Media. Our Associate Members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska Utiltiies, Balfour Beatty, Morrison Utility Services, 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.

NJUG is the utility arm of the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee representing street works in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales known as HAUC (UK). Please see http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/ for further information.

NJUG's focus is on promoting best practice, safety, quality and co-ordination of works as well as representing utilities in discussions with Government and other stakeholders on street work issues.

Utilities undertake street works for four primary reasons – safety, security of supply, to connect or upgrade customers' supplies, or to divert apparatus to facilitate major transport or urban regeneration projects. Examples include Crossrail, the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, tram projects, or new urban and housing developments.