NJUG

NJUG Response to DfT Statement

NJUG is committed to working with its members and Government to deliver the highest standard of street works and to minimise the regrettable disruption these essential works sometimes cause. Utility service providers and local authorities each undertake approximately 50% of works in the street, and are already working together on a range of initiatives to reduce disruption. These include advanced planning of works, wide scale use of minimum dig techniques, and systems such as Transport for London's London Works as an aid to better planning and co-ordination of works, which we strongly believe will deliver the greatest benefits in terms of reduced disruption.

Additionally, improved Noticing requirements and increased overstay charges are in the process of bedding in and NJUG is working with local authorities to develop robust and workable permit schemes.

However, NJUG recognises that more needs to be done and is committed to the successful implementation of the London Code of Conduct, which London utilities recently agreed with the Mayor, and developing similar principles with authorities across the country. We are also focusing on improved communication of works and reduced occupation of the highway.

NJUG is therefore disappointed that the Minister feels the need to introduce further sanctions while these initiatives are already in place.

NJUG believes that the greatest reduction in disruption can be achieved through better planning and co-ordination of works, building on the existing successful pilots across the country.

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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.