

**STREET WORKS**

## NJUG blasts department over notice failure

Implementation of the Traffic Management Act's network management section this week caused 'confusion and complication' because of software failure and a lack of time to properly prepare, say utility companies.

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) says that, while the majority of its members successfully sent out the latest version of the *Electronic transfer of notices (EToN 4)*, they could not be read by some authorities – the majority of which seem to be using the old system (*EToN 3*).

Some utilities were also stuck using *EToN 3*, but NJUG says this is because the Department for Transport failed to provide the final technical specifications to system developers in time.

An NJUG spokesman said that while minor teething problems had been addressed, a lack of compliance by authorities meant that only a small number of *EToN 4* notices went through automatically, vindicating NJUG's long-standing position that more time was needed.

'The fact that a large number of notices needed to be sent by fax meant the system was queuing and causing notices to be sent late,' he said.

'NJUG warned the DfT and HAUC UK that there was insufficient time for all utilities and au-



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thorities to be ready at the same time. This has been proven today.'

The DfT said it had worked for more than 12 months with relevant bodies to produce the specifications, which were published last July, and that suppliers experiencing problems were already working to fix them.

The Local Government Association said it would be speaking to councils to monitor progress.