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5th February 2009

NJUG response to Scottish Government consultation on
'The Road Works (Inspection Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2009'

Dear Mr Gardiner,

Thank you for contacting NJUG in regard to this consultation. As Chief Executive, I am writing on behalf of the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) in response to the Scottish Government's consultation on 'The Road Works (Inspection Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2009.

NJUG[1] was formed in 1977 and is recognised as the only UK industry association representing utilities on street works issues. Our focus is on promoting: safety; the prevention of damage to underground assets; quality and sustainability of street works; sharing of best practice; self regulation; and a two-way working relationship with Government, local authorities, and other key stakeholders to minimise disruption.

Our members represent utilities in discussions with Government and other key stakeholders to seek to ensure that any legislative or regulatory proposals are fair, workable and do not affect the safe provision of our essential services or place unnecessary burdens on utilities or their customers.

NJUG is also the utility arm of the Highways Authorities and Utilities Committee (UK) (HAUC (UK))[2] and through its members actively supports the Road Authorities and Utilities Committee (Scotland) (RAUC(S))[3], working collaboratively with local authorities to achieve better standards of road works in Scotland.

Through its membership of RAUC(S) and HAUC(UK), our members have played a central role in representing utilities in the discussions surrounding inspection fees in Scotland, England and Wales.

In line with the recommendation of the Scottish Government Policy Review Group (on which NJUG sits), the National Joint Utilities Group supports the revised level of inspection fee which 'The Road Works (Inspection Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2009' seeks to implement.

Yours sincerely,

Richard W.

Richard Wakelen
CEO
National Joint Utilities Group Ltd

[1] NJUG's current members are Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas), Water UK (representing all water and wastewater companies), National Grid, BT, Virgin Media and THUS, a Cable and Wireless Business. Our associate members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska McNicholas, Balfour Beatty, Morrison, Morgan Est, NACAP, PJ Keary, First Intervention, Carillion, Enterprise, and Laing O'Rourke. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-eight utility companies.
[2] http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/
[3] http://www.raucs.org.uk/