



NJUG Statement – Lane Rental Consultation

Quotes attributable to Les Guest, CEO, National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG)

NJUG welcomes the Government consultation and supports its aim to reduce the unfortunate disruption sometimes caused by works. However NJUG believes that for any lane rental scheme to be truly effective it must only be targeted at the busiest streets in England, charges must be avoidable, for example if utilities choose to work out of hours, and they must apply equally to local authorities' own works, which after all account for half of all works carried out.

Unfortunately under the current proposals local authorities are encouraged but not legally obliged to apply lane rental to their own works, which would detract from the effectiveness of the scheme. Similarly existing schemes such as works overrun charges and permits apply no financial incentive on highway authority works which as a consequence frequently overrun without any effective sanction.

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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 and waste water companies), National Grid, Openreach, and Virgin Media. Our Associate Members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska Utilities, Balfour Beatty, Morrison Utility Services, Morgan Est, NACAP, First Intervention, Carillion, Enterprise, Laing O'Rourke, AMEC, SQS, Fastflow Pipeline Services, CLC Construction and May Gurney. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-nine utility companies and fifteen utility contractors.

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.