

### **Co-ordination and SROR Consultations**

The formal consultations exercises that cover both the revised Co-ordination Code of Practice and the revised Specification for Reinstatements closed on 12 October 2012.

The consultations for Co-ordination and Reinstatement formed part of the formal process for statutory Codes of Practice and comprised a series of questions that focused on the key changes made.

The responses have been collated by this office and the working groups have re-convened and started work on considering them. The Commissioner will develop formal reports for both which will be presented to the Scottish Government. It is hoped that the report on the Co-ordination Code will be completed in December. Given the more technical nature of the SROR, its report is not likely to be completed until the new year.

We would like to thank all those who submitted responses to the Consultations.

### **Strategic Consultation**

It is proposed that a Strategic Consultation on the Management of Road Works in Scotland will be launched in January 2013. This high level consultation aims to ask key questions to inform future Government policy on the management and operation of road works in Scotland. We will ensure that the details of this consultation are widely circulated within the community when it is launched.

### **Commissioner Advice Paper No 8 – Interrupted Works**

A paper on the above topic is now available on the Commissioner website at <http://www.roadworksscotland.gov.uk/LegislationGuidance/CommissionerGuidance.aspx>

### **National Road Maintenance Review**

The final report of the National Road Maintenance Review was published in June 2012 on the Transport Scotland website and is available at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/maintenance/roads-maintenance-review>

### **Inspection Fees Regulations**

The Inspection Fees Regulations increasing the fee from £32 to £33 came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012.

### **The Road Works (Maintenance) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations**

These regulations continue to be progressed and it is anticipated that they will come into force early in 2013.

### **Scottish Road Works Register (Prescribed Fees) Regulations 2013**

The consultation period on the regulations closes on 11 January 2013. The amount to be collected this year is £860,000 - a reduction of £164,000 in the £1,024,000 required in 2012.

### **Commissioner Retirement**

The Commissioner will retire on 31 December 2012.

The Commissioner said "It has been an enjoyable as well as challenging five and a half years. We have an excellent road works community which has worked hard to improve the way in which road works are undertaken. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all who have contributed and would encourage you to give your help and support to the new Commissioner."

### **Commissioner Recruitment**

Interviews for a new Commissioner have been held and it is hoped the outcome can be announced at the December RAUC(S) meeting.

### **Performance Review**

Work has commenced on the annual performance reviews. It is intended for the majority of these to be issued before the end of the year.

### **Inspections Code of Practice**

The revised Inspections Code of Practice can be found on the Commissioner website at: <http://www.roadworksscotland.gov.uk/LegislationGuidance/CodeofPractice.aspx>

It came into force on 12 November 2012.

### **Award for VAULT**

Following the successful launch of Project VAULT in March 2012, the Commissioner submitted applications for the Utility Industry Achievement and NJUG Awards. We are pleased to be able to report that VAULT was shortlisted in two categories in the NJUG awards and was successful in winning in the Avoiding Damage category. Leeds University also submitted VAULT for the Institution of Engineering & Technology Awards where it won in the Built Environment category.

Scottish Water was also shortlisted for an NJUG award in the Quality category.

### **HAUC(UK) Conference**

The Annual HAUC (UK) Conference was held in London on 11 October 2012. There was a strong Scottish presence with presentations on:

- The Scottish Policy Development Group – Reviewing The Regulatory Framework;
- Indicator Benchmarking as a Tool for Organisational Improvement in Scotland; and
- VAULT– Instant access to underground apparatus records in Scotland.