

— THE OFFICE OF THE —
SCOTTISH ROAD WORKS COMMISSIONER

Commissioner's Newsletter

August 2013 Issue

Penalties

The Commissioner imposed a penalty on East Lothian Council of £8,000 on 12 August 2013 in connection with a failure to keep its street gazetteer up to date over a number of years.

In addition, a penalty of £50,000 was imposed on BT Openreach on 31 May 2013 for serious compliance failures in the Highland Council area.

Bedding-in Period for Co-ordination of Works in Roads

The bedding-in period related to the coming into force of the Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Works in Roads has now ended.

Normal monitoring commenced from June 2013.

Indicator Questionnaire

A questionnaire is being produced to review the existing suite of indicators and enable the community to comment on how they could be further developed.

It is anticipated that this will be released in the Autumn.

Strategic Consultation

The Strategic Consultation on Works in Roads has ended and the responses are now being analysed. It is expected that a report will be released later in the year.

Transport Scotland would like to thank those who submitted responses.

Training Materials

The Commissioner would like to hear of any training materials that you have come across and found useful.

There are three DVDs currently in the Commissioner's library available for loan. These are:

- Safety for All – an overview of how signage and guarding can affect those with disabilities or those using alternative travel arrangements.
- Know your Ground – working safely near underground apparatus.
- Changing Behaviour – What does it take?

If you are interested the above or, have suggestions to add to the library please send them to enquiries@srwc.gsi.gov.uk.



Recruitment

The Commissioner recently appointed two new members of staff. Renée Statt (L) has been appointed to the post of Policy Officer and will work with Raymond Elliot, Pauline Walker (C) is our new Admin & Finance Assistant, and Iain Ross (R) transferred to the office as SRWR Liaison Manager following the winding up of Susiephone Ltd. The Commissioner would like you to welcome them in their new positions.

Fixed Penalty Notices, Areas of Interest and Contact Details

The Commissioner has recently been made aware of problems which roads authorities are having in contacting undertakers in relation to fixed penalty notices (FPNs) and unattributable works. They are:

- Notices created without the proper contact details;
- Organisations not having the correct Area of Interest set up to allow unattributable works to be created against them; and
- Organisations not reviewing the FPNs they had received (believing a contractor was doing this on their behalf).

The Commissioner would like to remind every organisation of their responsibility to ensure:

- all notices contain the relevant contact details, including address and telephone number, for both the originator of the notice and the contractor carrying out works;
- each organisation has an Area of Interest set up on the SRWR for all areas they have apparatus or where they intend to work; and
- each organisation monitors the register for incoming FPNs and ensures that they respond accordingly. Undertakers are ultimately responsible for all actions carried out by their contractors on the SRWR in their name, including the payment of any FPNs.