

Performance Reviews

The next round of Performance Reviews will be based on the full calendar year. This is a move away from the previous reporting period which ran from October – September. Consequently, we will be beginning work on the reviews in the new year.

Recruitment

The Commissioner recently advertised a vacancy for the new role of Technical Standards Manager. The successful candidate was Lindsay Henderson who started at the Commissioner's office at the beginning of December. We hope you will join us in extending him a warm welcome.

Roads Expo 2013

The Commissioner and the team attended at Roads Expo on 6 and 7 November 2013 along with Transport Scotland.

Our SRWR Manager Iain Ross demonstrated VAULT to interested delegates and it was a fantastic opportunity to meet people from all areas of the road works community. Thank you to everyone who came to visit us over the two days.

HAUC (UK) Conference 2013

The Commissioner attended the HAUC (UK) conference in Birmingham on 16 October 2013 and gave a well-received presentation on the Strategic Consultation on Works on Roads.

ICE Scotland

The Commissioner was very pleased to accept an invitation from the Municipal Group Masterclass at ICE Scotland to deliver the keynote speech at its *Intelligent Engineering – How Communications & IT are used in Modern Municipal Engineering* event on 15 November 2013.

Training Materials

There has been a very positive response to the training item in August's Newsletter with many of you borrowing from the Commissioner's library. Resources are available to all SRWR members but please be aware that we are unable to lend to contractors. A new DVD is available for loan in addition to our existing collection:

- **UKOPA – People & Pipelines Working Together**

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

Indicator Survey 2013

The Commissioner's Indicator Reports were developed in 2008 and have since been used as a facility for monitoring the performance of both roads authorities and utility companies. After five years of monitoring, we decided to seek the community's opinion on these Indicator Reports and how useful they were deemed to be by creating an online survey.

The screenshot shows the start of an online survey titled "SCOTTISH ROAD WORKS COMMISSIONER Scottish Road Works Commissioner Indicator Survey 2013". The page is divided into sections. The first section is "1. Introduction", which contains text explaining the purpose of the survey and asking for feedback. Below the text are two questions: "1. Which organisation do you work for? If you are a contractor please go straight to Q2." and "2. For Contractors Only: Please state your company name and the organisation(s) that you place notices for." Each question has a text input field. At the bottom right of the form area is a "Next" button.

The closing date for survey submissions was 8 November 2013 and we will be analysing the results over the coming months.

We would like to offer our thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Roads

It has been confirmed that the new specification will come into force on 1 October 2014.

The document will be published by the Scottish Government and will be available on the Commissioner's website well in advance of the above date.

Safety at Street Works and Road Works: A Code of Practice

The new Code of Practice was published on 1 October 2013 and comes into force on 1 October 2014. The 2013 version of the Code is a revision to the existing version and provides updated guidance on safe working at street works and road works sites.

The new Code has been designed to make it simpler to follow and the site layout diagrams have been redrawn to make them easier to understand. It encourages safer working practices and there is more emphasis on risk assessment, providing for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, and site-specific design. Additional guidance is given on mobile and short duration works and working near tramways and railways, and advice on high visibility clothing and the signing and visibility requirements for works vehicles has been updated. The Code of Practice also encourages operatives to think about minimising inconvenience to road users.

It is available to download at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safety-at-street-works-and-road-works>