



Notes of Meeting

Meeting Roads Authorities and Utilities Committee (Scotland)

Place of Meeting held on MS TEAMS

Date: Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Present: -

Jim Forbes (S.U. Co-Chair)

Philip McKay (R.A. Co-Chair)

David Armitage D.J.A.

Kevin Abercrombie K.A.

Caroline Auld C.A.

Clive Bairsto C.B.

Tess Brown T.B.

David Capon D.C.

David Carter D.Car.

Michael Cogan M.C.

Gerry Cullen G.C.

Ian Dalrymple I.D.

Karyn Davidson K.D.

Stephen Finch S.F.

Roger Garbett R.G.

Darren Grant D.G.

Julie Greig J.G.

Jason Halliday J.H.

Kevin Hamilton K.H.

Stuart Harding S.H.

Owen Harte O.H.

David Hearty D.H.

John Henderson J.H.

Ewan Hogg E.H.

Rob James R.J.

Stephen Kitt S.K.

Carole McDonald C.McD.

Fiona McInnes F.McI.

Tom Murphy T.M.

Martin Polland M.P.

Kat Quane K.Q.

Alex Rae A.R.

Iain Ross I.R.

Stephen Scanlon S.S.

Ruth Scott R.S.

David Shaw D.S.

Kevin Skinner K.S.

Calum Stewart C.S.

Elaine Stewart E.S.

Scott Walker S.W.

J.F.

P.McK,

Aberdeenshire Council

Aberdeen City Council

Network Rail

Street Works UK

Scottish Power Energy Networks

JAG UK

South Lanarkshire Council

Dundee City Council

Traffic Scotland

Openreach

Vodafone

Openreach

Improvement Service

SSEN

SGN

West Lothian Council

Scottish Road Works Commissioner

City of Edinburgh Council

Virgin Media

MBNL-EE/3

Scottish Borders Council

Falkirk Council

Network Rail

BEAR Scotland

CityFibre

Scottish Water

Argyll and Bute Council

Transport Scotland

Transport Scotland

SGN

O.S.R.W.C.

Openreach

SSE Telecom

Ayrshire Roads Alliance

Scottish Water

Glasgow City Council

Scottish Power Energy Networks

North Lanarkshire Council

In Attendance: -

George Borthwick	G.B.	RAUC(S) Secretary
Jonny Moran		

Apologies: -

Jamie Barr	J.B.	East Renfrewshire Council
Lee Broomhall	L.B.	Royal Mail
Michael Casey	M.C.	Royal Mail
Gavin Cook	G.C.	East Renfrewshire Council
Ian Jones	I.J.	Fife Council
Andrew Matheson	A.M.	Virgin Media
Peter McGillivray	P.McG.	Glasgow City Council
Craig McQueen	C.McQ.	Scottish Water
Mark Wrightson	M.W.	Openreach

1. Introduction and Apologies

Jim Forbes welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

The apologies were noted as above.

2. Presentation

2a National Road Worker Abuse Campaign Jonny Moran (Transport Scotland)

Operatives are reporting increasing numbers of incidents of abuse not only from motorists and pedestrians on site but also from members of the public at meetings. The abuse can be serious with weapons being wielded and death threats being made.

These matters are being reported to the police who are acting where sufficient information is provided. One driver has been fined £350 and banned from driving for 6 months.

In a review between April and October 2021 some 70% of operatives indicated they had suffered abuse. There were 5500 instances of incursion which includes: -

- 52% near misses
- 31% missiles thrown
- 65 Verbal abuse
- 14 physical abuses

A zero Tolerance approach is being taken to deal with this matter. This includes: -

Giving staff support.

Ensuring that the problem does not affect appointment and retention.

Publicising prosecutions.

Get political stakeholder and Ministerial support.

Fostering a culture of reporting events.

The 2021 Campaign Message included: -

The Survey of operatives.

Develop Campaign message and videos and circulate via the press and television.

Publication of the Corporate Position Statement.

The link to the Video will be circulated.

Action J.M.

The ongoing Campaign includes: -

Maintaining focus across teams.

Training and support including toolbox talks. Other courses can include conflict resolution.

Ongoing support including promoting mental health support where required. Operatives who have been threatened verbally and with weapon require support. Watch for signs of stress with colleagues and offer assistance and where necessary pass the information to supervisors and managers to deal with.

Further surveys to assess future action.

Further campaigns including Road Workers Safety Week.

Surveys of sites should be carried out at an early stage to design the works including traffic management in an effort to minimise driver frustration due to delays.

Consider where body cameras should be issued and worn.

Respect Road Workers Week will be held during June 2022.

J.F. thanks J.M. for an interesting and valuable presentation. The Community needs to work together as it affects both R.A. and S.U. staff at all levels and the message needs to be spread to the public that abuse will not be tolerated.

D.Car. commented that this problem was getting worse with more reports being received. South Lanarkshire were using a blue and white sign referring to incursions etc to try to get the message out to the public. Along with the signs the press needs to be used to publicise the problem, likely action and information on the results of court action. In order that the police can take action, the registration number and any other information needs to be recorded and reported immediately following the event.

Information should be passed to the control centre and the police as soon as possible to allow the matter to be investigated.

D.H. indicated that his Organisation had a zero-tolerance approach. The App used by staff to book onto a 5g site contained a facility to report a confrontation so that it could be reported, and action taken.

P.McK. commented on cameras being attached to convoy vehicles and body cameras being worn. He will raise these developments and the safety of staff in general with SCOTS.

All abuse events be they on site or at meetings need to be recorded and dealt with.

J.M. thanked the Committee for their time and indicated that he would be happy to give a follow up presentation to RAUC(S) / SCOTS in the future. He would circulate slides and links to the Community.

J.F. thanked J.M. for his presentation.

2b. Noticing of Works which require Traffic Restrictions Kevin Hamilton

K.H. gave the following presentation: -

The presentation is based on his knowledge and not that of a lawyer so R.As may wish to consult with their legal departments to confirm their view agreed with his. The subject should be considered by SCOTS to get a standardised approach.

(The Power Point Slides of the presentation have already been circulated and should be used to explain the Commissioner's views)

The Traffic Authority has the powers to use one of the two options.

Temporary Traffic Order – Allows works to be carried out with a closure using an order. This takes some time to arrange and can cover works taking a few weeks to complete. The Orders require to be managed and advertised through the Legal Department which results in an extended period to complete administration and issue of the Order.

Temporary Traffic Notice – The Notice is used to deal with emergency / urgent works which are short term i.e. less than a week. The Notice can be issued directly therefore costs and administration is much less.

The other issue causing concern is that the Register categorises sites to be carried out under an order as Major Works which need a 3-month advance Notice. Emergency and Urgent works can be carried out with a TTRN, and this could also cover minor works of a short duration - less than a week.

S.H. indicated he was concerned that Notices would be issued on the basis that the works would be completed within the week but with the applicant already knowing the work would take longer.

While there would be occasions when a Notice was requested in the knowledge that work would overrun, the applicants should be aware of their programme and apply accordingly for an Order or a Notice.

The Committee noted that some R.As would only issue Orders. If Notices were issued, they would allow short term works to be programmed and carried out more efficiently. Other R.As will issue Notices but will not allow them to be extended.

Parked vehicles affect R.A. sites as well as S.U. sites but little can be done about the parking unless there is already a Traffic Order in place.

J.F. thanked the Commissioner for his presentation.

3. Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 1st December 2021

a. Accuracy

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 1st December 2021 were agreed as read.

b. Matters Arising / Action Tracking Summary

The Action Tracking Summary was reviewed and updated.

4. RAUC(s) Working Group Reports

a. National Coring Programme

The Committee noted that: -

- Khub is ready to be used. Each R.A. must individually give access to the relevant S.U.s in their Area. Folders should be used to send Files to avoid having to send each file separately.
- At the last round of RAUC (S) meetings in November all S.U.s were asked to send details of their Coring Representatives to L.H. but to date only 15 out of 57 have responded. All S.U.s must action this as soon as possible. J.F. indicated that he has sent out a reminder that this requires urgent attention.
- R.As should have produced their list of preferred sites and passed it to the S.U.s by last Friday (Milestone No.3) and meetings should now be held to agree the final list of sites.
- Meetings of the Working Group and the Lead Authorities are due to be held on 8th and 10th March.
- K.S. indicated that C.McQ. was very busy with Scottish Water projects as well as the Coring programme. He asked that S.U.s raise queries with C.McQ. and R.As contact I.J.

b. Advice Note No. 8 – Temporary Traffic Signals Review

The final version of the Advice Note had been circulated with the revised flow chart which now includes the loop to deal with the instance where an application is refused.

The Advice Note was approved, and the Commissioner asked for a Word Version to be passed to his office for publishing on the web.

c. Working Group Recruitment

The updated Schedule had been circulated to this meeting and the following comments made: -

- No further replacement Representatives will be added to the existing Schedule.
- The R.As and S.U.s must now discuss the revision of the Schedule with Representatives from the New Areas. In each Working Group there should be 4 R.A. Representatives and 4 S.U. Representatives.
- S.JUG will discuss this matter at their next meeting and it was suggested that the R.As should do the same at their next national meeting

Action – S.U.s / R.As

5. Area RAUC(s) Action Reports

The previously circulated report was taken as read with the following comments: -

a. NoSRAUC Area

- The report was taken as read.

b. South East Area RAUC

- The meeting was well attended on MS TEAMS.
- The report was taken as read with the following additional discussion: -
- A Section 109 application to lay 15km of cable in the verge had been discussed. There was no intention for the plant to be adopted. The route included bridge crossings which would fill any vacant ducts making them unavailable for S.U.s at a later date.

There was no plan being submitted to remove the plant when it became redundant. In addition, there was concern about the availability of maintenance crews and the arrangements to be in place to give them access for works.

A refusal to issue a section 109 Permit may be challenged in Court and the preference would be for the Organisation to become a SU and carry out the works on the Register in accordance with Legislation, codes etc. They are a subsidiary of an Organisation which is a S.U. but not covered to operate as an S.U. within that Organisation.

D.Car. commented on a problem in his area where an application was requested to construct an outfall across a road. It would be adopted on completion by the Estate concerned but he still had concern that the agreement documentation would be lost and it would fall to the R.A. to maintain. A.R. commented that plant is generally abandoned and should be recorded on the Register as redundant, and dead should this be required. I.R. suggested that refusal was one option or alternatively a bond could be requested to cover the required action when the plant became redundant.

D.S. commented on a Section 109 application which they received for 9km of cable from a wind farm to be laid in the verge in the Girvan area. The Organisation had been told to apply for S.U. status and join the Register. There had been no further contact.

David Capon referred to a Court case related to this problem which had been heard in the High Court in Norfolk. The link relating to the case was circulated to the Members.

With the pressure to reduce emissions there would be increasing pressure on the Community to accommodate green energy infrastructure.

The R.A. would need to record the plant on the VAULT and maintain the record. On a long route this may require more than one record with the requirement for shape files to be created.

P.McK. asked for the details of the case to be passed to SCOTS for consideration and response to the RAUC(S) Community. **Action – J.H. / D.C.**

c. South West Area RAUC

- The use of 30 / 14 HRA is noted to be in the Code but a national agreement on its general use is required however a local / area agreement would be advantageous.

There was concern about where and when it was used for future monitoring.

The S.U.s commented that they would in the absence of an Area / National agreement go to individual R.As but this would not be their chosen solution.

- Use of Temporary Traffic Signal Controlled Pedestrian Crossings

During the diversion of a pedestrian footpath route which required to cross 5 roads the S.U. had erected Temporary Traffic Signal Controlled Pedestrian Crossings on 2 of the intersections. The R.A. subsequently, on locating the crossings asked for their removal as they were not approved and did not meet the required specification for either pedestrian or vehicular flows and were creating conflicts with policy and specifications.

Scottish Water indicated that there was a variance between the Red Book, the DfT design leaflet and the Inspections code and requested a review of these documents so that there would be a consistent message from all three.

Scottish Water was concerned that they had assessed the route and decided that temporary controlled crossings were required and now were not providing them. What view would the Court take in any litigation. Would it accept that the R.A. was responsible having asked for the crossings to be removed or would the blame rest with the S.U. The view was that the

decision was made by the R.A. as the Authority responsible for the final decision on the traffic management having taken all factors into account.

- BT proposal for dealing with water in their ducts: -
The previously circulated paper was taken as read with the following discussion.

S.F. indicated that the paper content indicated no change. They would continue to test the water to assess its source and take action based on the findings. They would clean out their ducts. They will core the inspection box and ask the R.A. to drain the water to the nearest outfall.

There was a need for B.T. to consult with others (S.U.s and private parties) to deal with the source of the water.

P.McK. indicated that he would raise the subject with SCOTS and report back to RAUC(S).

Action – P.McK.

d. TayForth Area RAUC

There was a good attendance at the meeting which was hosted on MS TEAMS.

- Colin Heggie had Chaired the meeting due to John O'Neil having left Dundee City Council to take up a post with BEAR Scotland.
- In the absence of C.H. at this meeting E.H. provided the Area Meeting Report.
- The meeting was well attended with input from all Representatives in attendance.
- A trial was being carried out in Perth and Kinross on the use of non Hapas approved 15mm cold lay material for permanent reinstatement.

The trial on the A9 is using Viafix which is mixed with water on site and takes 24 hours to cure. It was noted that 6mm and 10mm Viafix are HAPAS approved.

The use of these materials as a final reinstatement is included in the SROR review. There is a difference between the various PCSMs which has to be considered.

Details of the Trial will be recorded and monitored. S.F. will provide more information on the trial.

e. WOS Area RAUC

- There was a good attendance at the meeting which was hosted on MS TEAMS and all Representatives were given the opportunity to provide input to the meeting.
- The requirement was raised for S.U. coring representatives to pass their contact information to the o.S.R.W.C. if they have not already done so.
- R.As must arrange for each individual S.U. to have access to Khub for the circulation of coring files and folders.
- There was ongoing discussion on the request to use 30 / 14 HRA on footway reinstatements associated with adjacent road reinstatements.
- S.S. stood down as the WoS Area Chairman and thanked all for their support over the last two years.
- North Lanarkshire will be Chairing WAREA from 1st April.

6. RAUC(s) Business

a) RAUC(S) Constitution

The Committee noted that Area Chairs going forward were being agreed leaving the RAUC(S) Chairs to be agreed. P.McK will be the RAUC(S) Co-Chair for the coming year but the election of the R.A. Co-Chairs for future periods should be progressed as soon as possible.

In the new Constitution the RAUC(S) Agenda Setting Meeting requires sight of the Area Meeting Reports. There is a problem with the WAREA and the SAREA submitting their report as their meetings occur the day before and day after the Agenda Setting Meeting. Initially the Co-Chairs will accept the two reports late and if necessary, meet online to deal with any matter which requires preparation for the RAUC(S) meeting.

The Coordination Code needs to be revised and D. Shaw will arrange for Word copies of the Code to be circulated to the Working group members. This is a Ministerial Code therefore an Advice Note may need to be prepared and issued to allow the changes to be introduced ahead of the Code being rewritten and approved by the Minister.

The Web Site pages are being revised to accommodate the new Areas and Local Groupings.

A suggestion had been made that a link be issued via the relevant web page for issuing the meeting papers. There was concern that this could have problems relating to the privacy legislation. The alternative which will be considered is for the Link to the papers and the MS TEAMS link be issued together on the one email which would keep all meeting information together.

b) Safety – Issues for Consideration

The previously circulated Bulletins were taken as read. An appeal for more internal bulletins / reports to be provided for circulation was made.

Action – All

c) Environmental Issues

Discussions are ongoing about dealing with Coal tar arisings. When there is information available it will be circulated to the Community.

7. HAUC (UK) and Associated Subgroup Report

a. Report

C.B. provided the following verbal report: -

- Flexible permits were being discussed.
- Inspections – the Scottish model was being considered and a consultation paper will be circulated.
- The Conference is planned to take place online on 18th and 19th May 22 and the decision on holding it as a real or online event will be made in January. The theme for the Conference is “**Collaboration, Connectivity and Climate**”. Due to the meeting being online the hope is for as good attendance from the Scottish Community.
- A Sustainability Study is being planned using Lane Rental funding. D.C, added that the Contract is out to tender to three Universities.
- Work is continuing on the Strategic Plan.
- Development of a Carbon Calculator is to be progressed.

b) HAUC UK Working Groups – RAUC(S) Reps

There are vacancies for 2 R.A. and 2 S.U. Representatives to attend the HAUC UK Working Groups. This will be raised at the SJUG and R.A. National Meeting

c) TAG Report

The work of TAG is ongoing with update Reports submitted to RAUC(S).

Robert Hudleston has stepped down as Co-Chair of TAG and appreciation of his contribution to the group over the years was recorded. Once a new Co-Chair has been appointed, RAUC(S) will be notified. The interim Chair will be Ian Law.

d) Diversionary Works

The working group is now meeting, and the following comments were made: -

- The Working Group is having regular meetings and are benefiting from the input of the 4 Scottish Representatives.
- The Group hope to publish the first draft in December.
- Efforts are being made to keep the document as a UK Code but if this cannot be achieved a Scottish version will be needed.
- The status and powers of the Commissioner and the Scottish disputes procedure needs to be accommodated.

e) Safety

- The Review of the Red Book is being led by DfT and a Consultant has been appointed.
- The final version should accommodate the needs of working north and south of the border.
- The process needs to include consultation to produce a document which is acceptable to the Community.
- All should therefore note consultations and respond with their comments.
- The Code needs to include for mobility which is currently not covered.
- Pass any comments or suggestions to K.Q., A.R., E.H., L.H. M.P. who are all involved with the Sub Committee.

8. Standing Reports

a. The Scottish Government Report

The previously circulated papers were taken as read and K.Q. updated the Committee as follows: -

COVID-19 Update

- The First Minister announced on 25 January that, from Monday 31 January, new guidance recommends that employers should consider implementing return to office working or hybrid working where that can be accommodated.
- Homeworking, where possible, remains one of the most effective protections against Covid-19 however, there are benefits to be gained from Office working even if it is only part time in a hybrid model.
- The intention is to remove all restrictions on the 21st of March, but this will depend on the number of cases rising and or falling before then.
- New Guidance is available at: -

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-offices/>

- Other guidance updated to reflect the above is available on: -
 - [safer businesses and workplaces guidance](#)
 - [call centre and customer contact centre guidance](#) and [checklist](#)

- General guidance on wearing face coverings can be found on the Scottish Government Web Site. Please note that wearing a face covering when traveling in a vehicle with people not from your home is still advised e.g. in car sharing or travel in a works vehicle.

Queens Platinum Jubilee Street Parties

- The UK Government Guidance is for Street Parties to be permitted where possible with the required permits issued. R.As have the powers to approve parties or suggest alternative locations e.g. parks or communal areas.

Transport (Scotland) Act 2019

The previously circulated batch diagram which was updated in December 2021 was commented on as follows: -

- This is the most recent list, but changes are likely to be made as required.
- A number of Items will be updated in 2022 They include:
 - Review of accreditation qualifications (general)
 - A new requirement for R.As to have qualified operatives and supervisors
 - Works start and works clear / closed information to be provided within 2 hours. See paper and note comments in report below.
 - Update of SROR confirming new 6-year guarantee period
 - Bringing forward the status of VAULT in plant protection, e.g. confirming that the information in the register can be used for safe digging.
 - Mandatory submission of data to the VAULT is still planned for 2023.
 - Early work on Compliance Notices in preparation for the SRWC appointment of Authorised Officers (Inspectors)
 - Final removal of Items of Legislation which have never been introduced.
- The RQP Code of Practice has now been published on the SRWC website. In accordance with the powers of Section 17(4)(b) of the 2005 Act, The Scottish Road Works Commissioner has endorsed this code as best practice. This code is due to come before Scottish Ministers in 2023.
- The special case of Section 109 holders operating with a RQPs requires an update to Advice Note 22. The new Section 109 'template' allows the suggested process to be formalise, which will allow R.As to issue permission (or refuse permission) without requiring the application involvement from the SRWC.
- The Register itself needs to be amended to allow for the additional information gathered through the application process to be included with the intention to issue a license notification. The RAUC(S) Working Group should finalise the template and process for approval through the RAUC(S) protocol, with the involvement of the oSRWC in the process to allow those adjustments to be made.
- The legislation to cover Community Heating Organisations is being progressed. Most Organisations will become S.U.s but some may continue to operate with Sect. 109 Notices.

Changes within Scottish Government

- For health-related reasons, Mr. Graeme Dey MSP has recently stepped down as Minister for Transport.
- Ms. Jenny Gilruth MSP has now been appointed Minister for Transport, supporting Mr. Michael Matheson MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport.

K.Q. confirmed that her desk phone is still available although she has not been into the Office for a considerable time. If you leave a message and your name and contact number, she will return the call.

The previously circulated paper about Works Start and Works Stop / Site Clear was taken as read with the following comments: -

- Section 117 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 amends the way ‘work start’ and ‘works completed’ notices are handled. Broadly the changes will be as follows: -
 - When works are started, the period to update the register with the ‘actual start notice’ will be within two hours, rather than by noon the following working day.
 - When works are completed, to either an interim or permanent standard, the information will now be required within two hours, rather than by the end of the next working day.
 - In both cases, you will be required to supply the start and end time in addition to the start and end date.
- The operation of these arrangements was summarised by K.Q
- Implementation – the intention is to progress with a ‘soft launch. Work will begin on amending the necessary SSIs to detail the above. The Commissioner supports this approach and will ensure the Register is updated to allow Organisations to meet the requirements of the new shorter period, before it becomes legally required.

If there are any queries about any of the above, they should be referred to K.Q.

b) Scottish Road Works Commissioner

The Commissioner reported as follows: -

RQP Launch Webinar - The Code of Practice for Reinstatement Quality Plans was published and posted on the Commissioner’s website on 20 January. A launch webinar was held on the same day. It was well attended with over 100 attendees.

More Webinars will be used to deliver information to the Community as required.

Commissioner Best Practice Guidance - The Commissioner has updated his guidance on what he considers to be best practice under section 17(4)(b) of the Transport Scotland Act 2005. Essentially, all Codes of Practice, Advice Notes and Guidance published on the Commissioner’s website are considered best practice and failure to comply with any of these can be considered a failure to meet duties required under Sections 118 and 119 of the New Roads and Street Works Act.

Policy and Quality Manager Vacancy – The Commissioner has a vacancy for a Policy and Quality Manager. The Closing date was Friday 25 February.

Engagement with SCOTS – The Commissioner has regular engagement with SCOTS, the Society for Officers in Transportation in Scotland through its Liaison Committee. The Commissioner would encourage all R.As to engage proactively with SCOTS to gain valuable insight into best practice and share experience with other local authority practitioners.

Research Project – Service Life of Reinstatements. Confirmation is awaited from SRRB that the consultant has been formally appointed after which the project will commence.

SROR – A couple of meetings have been held with the Co-Chairs of the SROR Working Group and it was agreed that frequent meetings will be held going forward starting in February 2022. The intention is still to submit a draft to RAUC(S) for consideration after the summer.

The Commissioner noted the comments that the delivery of the draft by the autumn was tight, and the six-year Guarantee arrangements may add to possible delays, but every effort will be made to keep to the timetable.

Performance

Dashboard - The previously circulated SRWC 2021/22 Q3 dashboard taken as read. Responses on poor performance should be submitted to the Commissioner's Office. All should remember that where they have performance in the red, they should make contact with the oSRWC.

2020/21 Performance Reviews – Following the issue of the 2020/21 performance reviews a small number of Organisations continue to engage with the oSRWC on performance issues.

Improvement Plans - 6 Organisations are currently on plans with all co-operating to deliver a compliant performance.

All should note that poor performance across consecutive quarters will trigger intervention by the oSRWC.

Submission date for Q3 Improvement Plans for 2021/22 is Friday 15 February 2022.

Monthly Performance Monitoring - The Commissioner is developing a monthly monitoring dashboard which considers performance information covering all sectors. This information will be made available on the SRWC website. The publishing of this data will allow transparency and hopefully assist Organisations to bench mark their own performance against peer groups.

Recent monthly analysis had identified a particular non-compliant trend which required Commissioner intervention. Those affected all provided appropriate responses.

All Organisations should be aware that non-compliant performance should be investigated, and a response submitted to enquiries@roadworks.scot

If you have any comments on any of these items, please contact the office at: -

enquiries@roadworks.scot

Management & Operation of SRWR

Fees and Amounts

All Organisations have been informed of the estimated sum they will be invoiced for on 1st April to enable them to issue purchase orders and be ready for an early payment in April when the Invoices are issued.

Vault

The Commissioner met recently with a group from Atkins who are working for the Geospatial Commission on their NUAR project. They are interested in Vault and asked if some of the R.As and S.U.s using Vault as well as those providing data to it would be prepared to discuss their experience with them. As such RAUC(S) are asking for volunteers to talk to Atkins. Please contact I.R. to record an interest.

J.F. and J.G. offered their assistance with the meeting with Atkins.

R.A. volunteers are requested to contact I.R. to assist in the meeting. **Action – R.As**

SRWR User Satisfaction Survey

To help the Commissioner gauge the effectiveness of the Scottish Road Works Register a questionnaire has been circulated to all users of the Register. It's relatively simple and should only take about 6 minutes to complete. All Organisations should encourage their users of the SRWR to complete this questionnaire.

The link can be found in the Aurora Portal under News. Or via: -

<https://forms.office.com/r/6KtLj5Ngfi>

New Undertakers

Forbury Assets Limited (Electricity) and Broadway Telecoms have been given access to the SRWR.

Proposed SRWR Inspection Reports

I.R. gave the following presentation to the members: -

The reason for the change is to monitor defects are being dealt with timeously and the records of progress are kept up to date, and improve compliance with Code of Practice for Inspections on the SRWR

The new reports will provide information on defects awaiting repair and outstanding follow up inspections.

Operators will no longer be able to clear automatic prompts.

When a R.A. clears a D/1 prompt the Register will automatically prompt a D/2 to be carried out.

Recording the result of a D/2 or DA2 will prompt another D/2 or DA2 (respectively) to be carried out within 17 working days.

Where a S.U. registers a remedial phase of works, D/1, D/2 and DA2 prompts are removed and a D/3 or DA3 (respectively) is prompted to take place.

Where a D/3 is recorded as a Fail (original defect not repaired) a D/1 will be prompted to take place in 10 working days.

Where a D/3 or a DA3 is recorded as a Pass or Abortive all prompts are removed.

Where the original reason for failure is retrospectively changed to a pass, or where the original defect inspection is withdrawn, all prompts are removed.

Where an Inspection is not possible due to a parked vehicle it should be recorded as a D2 Abortive.

The last Notice should record all the reasons for the Inspections.

The Commissioner expects that the following 3 requirements will be followed correctly in all cases from 1 April 2022.

- to record a D/3 or DA3 result following every defect remediation.
- to record a D/2 or DA2 within 6 months of the prompted Due Date, and
- to carry out remedial repair within 6 months of reporting

On that date any R.A. D/2, D/3, DA2 or DA3 prompts with a Due Date before 1 April 2021 will be automatically cleared from the Register.

Following the clear down of inspection prompts any S.U. Inspection Awaiting Assessment due before 1 April 2021 will also be cleared down.

Inspection Results recorded late

An inspection report is considered late if it recorded later than the day following the Inspection Date on the Notice. A new report will keep track of how often an authority records inspection results late.

Category A Sample Inspections with Reinstatement Defects

Where a reinstatement defect is found while carrying out a Category A Sample Inspection it is expected that the undertaker will remedy the defect during the course of works. This means there is often no need for a remedial phase of works and no need for further inspection by the R.A. Following this change the same method of operation for S.L.G. failures will be used in these cases.

Should the authority believe the problem was not fixed during the course of the works, the authority may manually prompt for a D/2 follow-up to take place which will then allow the works to progress through the follow up inspection process in the normal way.

If there are any queries, they should be directed to Iain Ross via enquiries@roadworks.gov.scot

9. A.O.C.B.

a. Street Occupations

Street Occupations were agreed under guidance issued during the Covid outbreak to allow cafes and bars to open with service provided in the open air. Proprietors are now looking for these occupations to be given permission to remain in place. The R.As were not consulted originally and now require the applications to be reviewed and possibly refused.

Whatever occupation is agreed conditions must be added to ensure that access is available for R.A. and S.U. works. This may in some cases require the removal of structures which have been constructed.

K.Q. commented that some guidance documents which were issued during the outbreak are now being rescinded and this may be one of them.

R.As need to discuss these sites with their Planning Departments and agree the way forward ensuring that the R.A. / S.U. requirements are included in all application extensions.

b. Roads Expo Scotland 2022

M.P. reminded the Committee that Road Expo 2022 will be held on 29th and 30th November in the SEC Glasgow.

The event includes commercial stands and a series of presentations over the two days on various topics related to Roads and Bridges.

All (R.A. and S.U. Representatives) should try to attend the event including the presentations relevant to their field of work

c. Agenda Setting

Item No.4 on the Agenda should only include sub items for Working Groups which are meeting and have reports to submit.

d. Members Retiring and / or Moving to New Posts

The Committee noted that Alex Rae, Duncan Carrick and Elaine Stewart were all retiring. On behalf the Community the Committee thanked them for all their input to RAUC(S) and wished them all a long and happy retirement.

Stephen Finch is moving to a new post in Openreach and Ian Dalrymple is leaving SGN to take over from Stephen. The Committee wished them both best wishes in their new posts.

10. Dates of Next Meetings:

J.F. thanked all for their attendance and input to the meeting and indicated that the next meetings would be held as follows: -

AGENDA MEETING

RAUC(s) Meeting

Wednesday 15th June 2022

Wednesday 29th June 2022

The Venues for the two meetings will be MS TEAMS.

Future Meeting Dates: -

RAUC(s) Agenda

RAUC(S)

Setting Meetings (Venue MS TEAMS)

Meetings (Venue MS Teams)

Wednesday 12th October 2022

Wednesday 26th October 2022

The Venues for the meetings will be MS TEAMS or as agreed.

The meeting Closed at 13.15