Briefing 19-10 **February 2019**

Street Lighting: Trend analysis 2017/18

This briefing provides details on the performance information available from APSE's performance networks service looking at performance indicators and current policy issues for councils who deliver Street Lighting services.

Key issues

- The average cost of maintaining a street light (including replacements) is £88.77
- Energy cost per lamp continues to fall, mirroring the change to LED and now stands at £34.60. Time to rectify faults by the regional electricity supplier however continues to deteriorate –now standing at 16 days and only 77% within agreed timescales
- Overall investment (capital & revenue spend) remains high at £78.84 although revenue spend is declining rapidly – now at £26.19 a 34% decline over the last 4 years.

Overview

The APSE performance networks performance indicators for street lighting cover the cost, productivity and quality elements of the service. This analysis aims to provide participating authorities with an overview of service trends, what this infers and what further activity and analysis individual authorities and the APSE roads/highways, winter maintenance and street lighting benchmarking group could consider. The analysis in this summary is based on averages across all family groups.

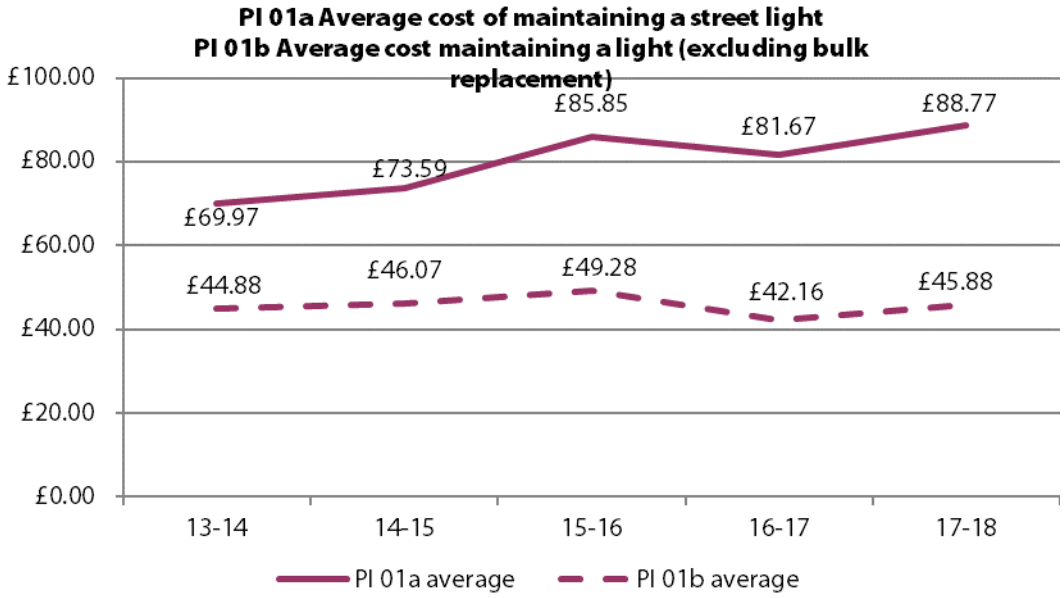
Cost measures

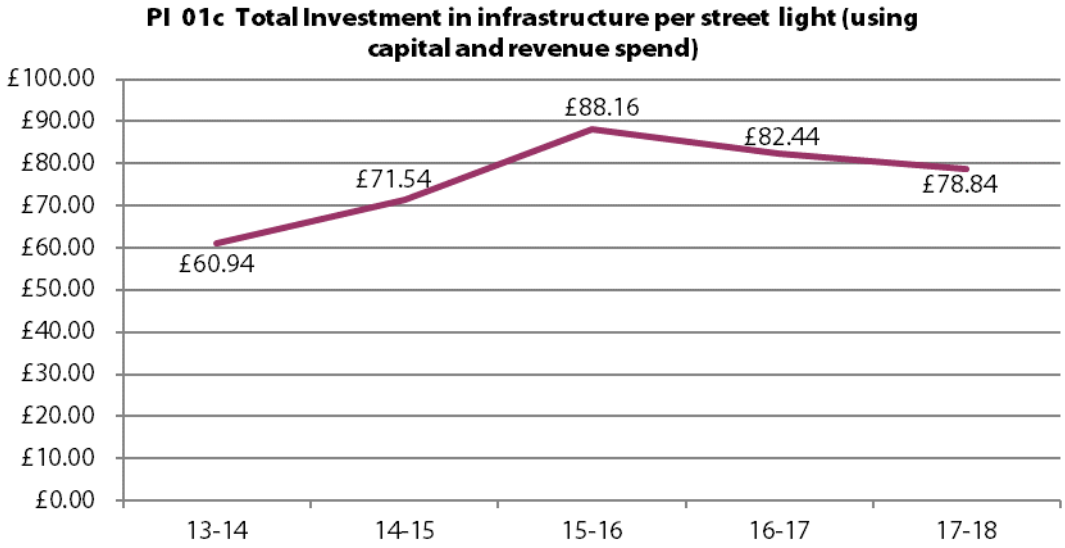
Headline figures:

In 2017/18,

The average cost of maintaining a single street light was £88.77

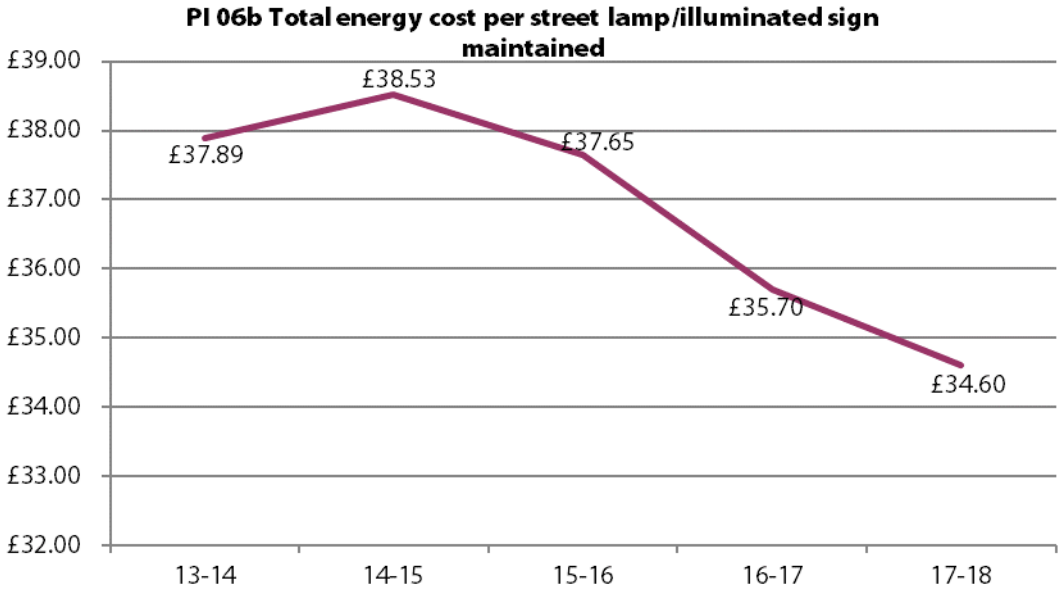
The average figure for investment in street lighting infrastructure was £78.84 per light.

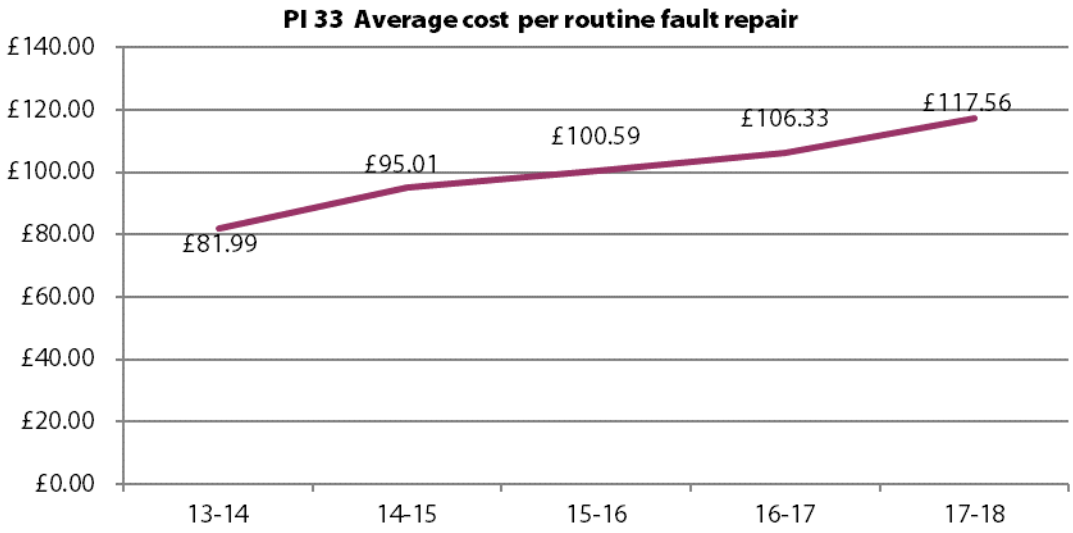




The total energy cost per street light/illuminated sign maintained was £34.60

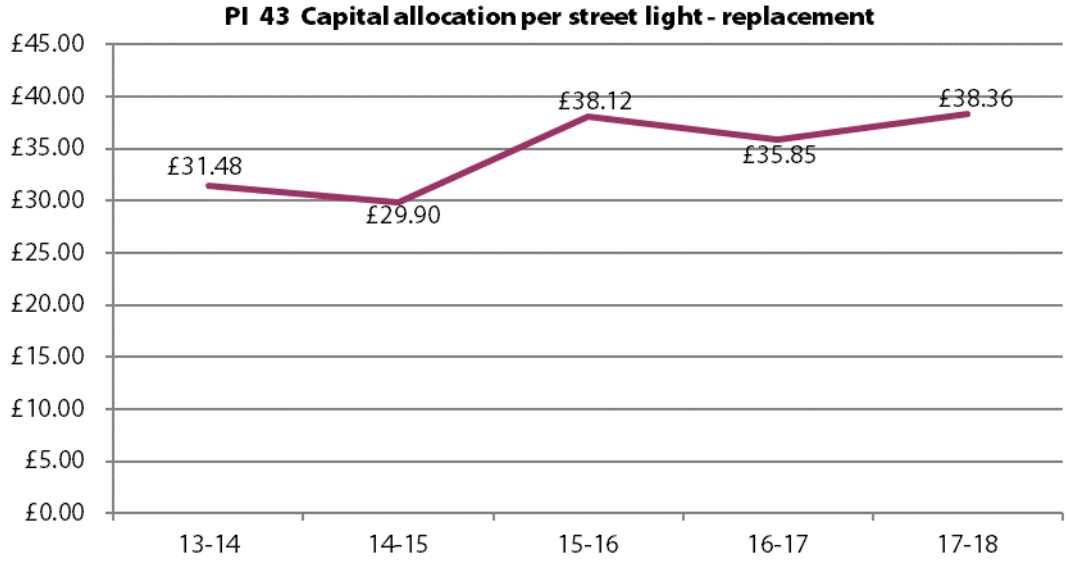
The average cost per routine fault repair was £117.56.

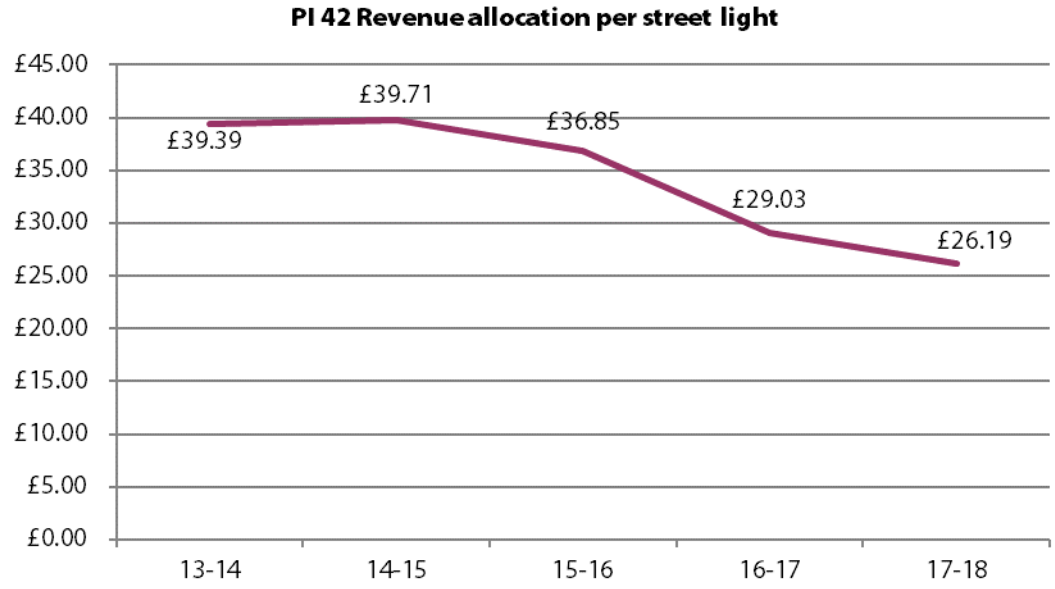




Investment:

The total investment in infrastructure per street light can be broken down into an average investment of £38.36 in capital expenditure and £26.19 in revenue expenditure. The average investment in revenue is exhibiting a significant downward trend, whilst the capital investment has slightly increased this year. This reflects the relative squeeze in revenue expenditure over recent years.





Costs of inspection:

Over recent years, there has been little variation in the individual cost of night inspecting a street light (PI 34b), which was £0.05 in 2017/18. The annual cost of night inspecting a street light (PI 34a) has fallen again in 2017/18 to £0.67, down from £1.42 in 2015/16, a 53% fall over two years.

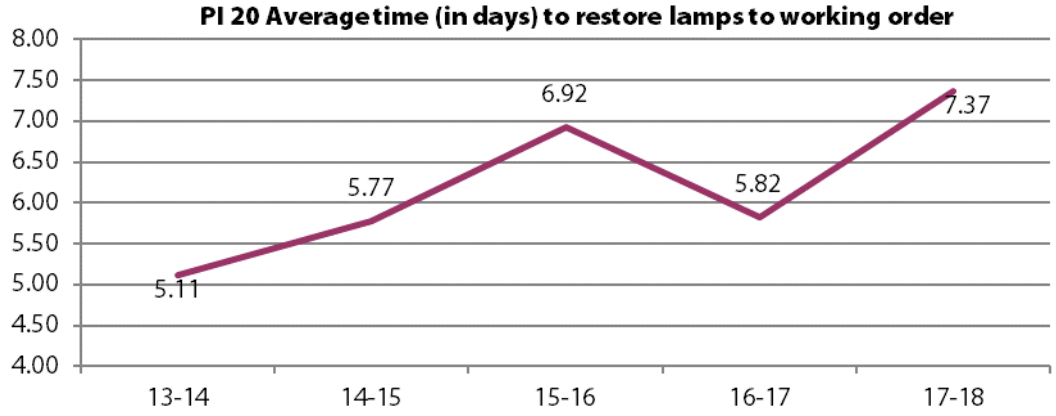
Overall, most cost measures are exhibiting a downward trend reflecting a reduced need for investment in lieu of recent stock upgrades and also, a reduced energy demand due to the implementation of LED lanterns.

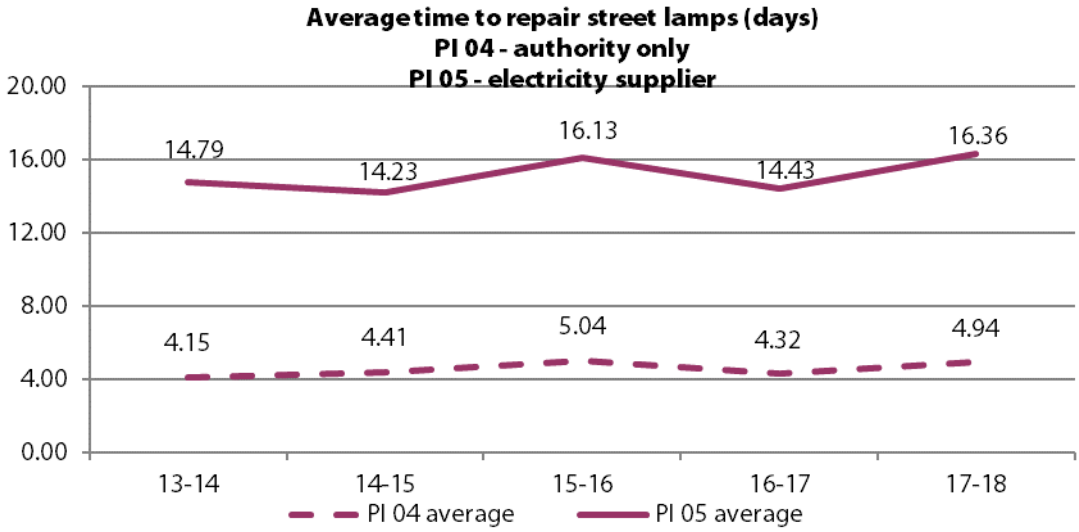
However, the average cost per routine fault repair appears to be on a significant upwards trend. This has increased every year for 5 years and the current figure, £117.56 represents a 43% increase since 2013/14. This may reflect that recent stock investment has led to higher costs of repair and that newer, more sophisticated technologies are costlier to repair.

Productivity

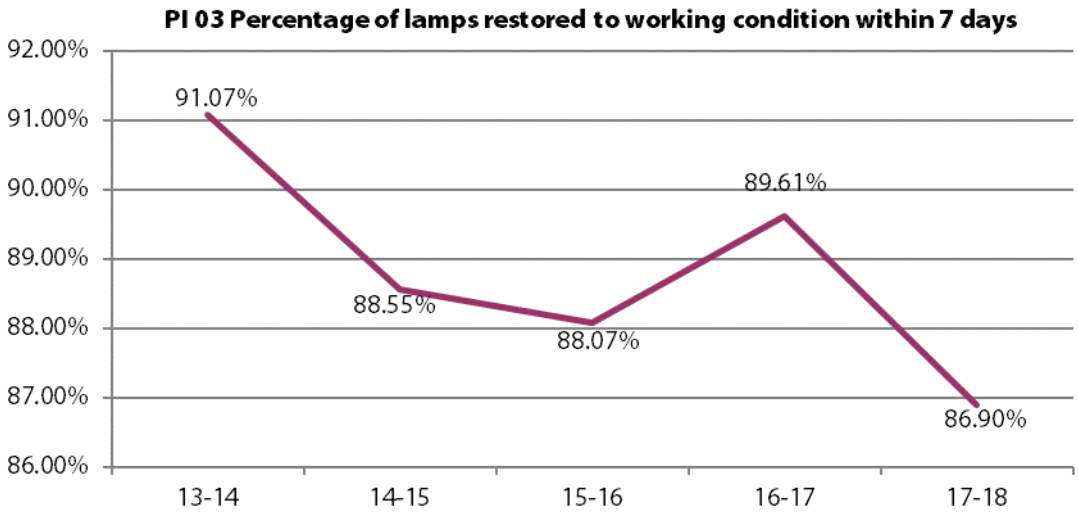
This year, we have seen an increase in the average number of days taken to restore a lamp to working order.

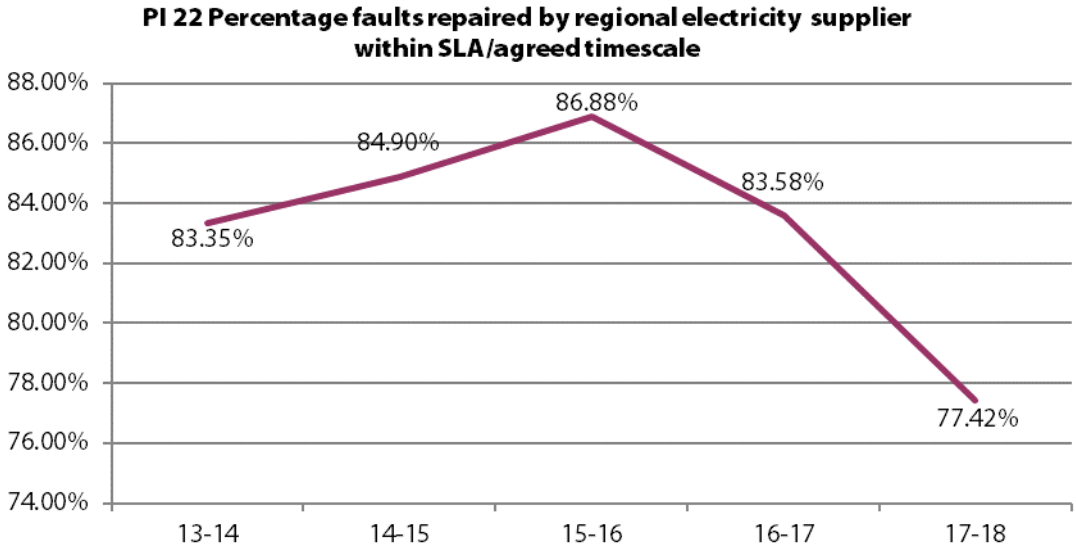
The first graph gives an overall picture of the data submitted this year and the second (overleaf) shows how this measure differed for those repaired by authorities and those repaired by electricity suppliers.





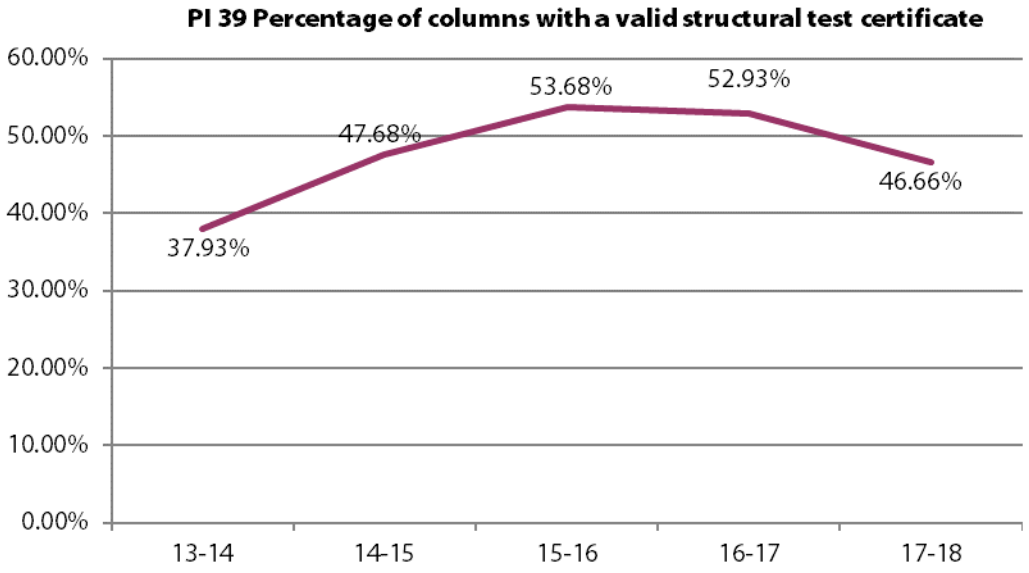
Alongside this, we have seen a reduced percentage of lamps restored to working condition within 7 working days and the percentage of faults repaired by the regional electricity supplier within the SLA/agreed timescale has reduced too.

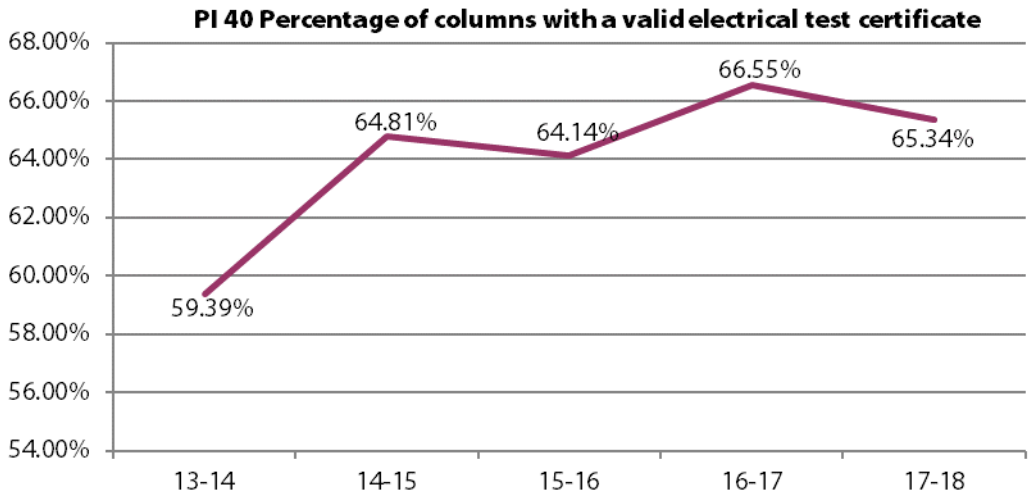




Quality

PI 39 "percentage of columns with a valid structural test certificate" and PI 40 "percentage of street lights with a valid electrical test certificate" have both slightly decreased this year. Figures currently stand at 46.66% and 65.34% respectively.





APSE local authority energy collaboration

APSE Energy works with over 80 local authorities who are seeking faster progress on the green economy in general and energy in particular. Their vision is the municipalisation of energy so increasing the role of the local authorities within the local energy sector. In other words, the public and community, as well as private, ownership and managerial control of local energy generation, distribution and supply as well as the delivery of energy efficiency works. APSE Energy provides capacity to its members to enable them to keep up to date with the rapidly developing energy agenda, has an advocacy role to promote the work of councils in this sector and can help with consultancy support for specific projects including street lighting projects. APSE Energy members have significant expertise within the energy sector and sharing this expertise is a function of the group.

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