

Scottish Road Worker consultation (Transport Scotland)

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland. For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

1 Executive summary

Transport Scotland released a Scottish Road Worker public consultation to seek views on the road worker experience of using plans of underground apparatus to dig safely. Responses to the consultation will help to guide potential legislative guidance and provide Transport Scotland with a broader understanding of the 'Street Works Qualification' regime. Road works are necessary for repairing and maintaining underground pipes and cables to supply many different essential services such as telecoms, electricity, gas and water. Transport Scotland are inviting responses from all organisations and persons involved in the Scottish road works sector.

On 1 April 2024, it became a legal requirement for utilities and roads authorities to provide details of their above and below ground apparatus to the Scottish Road Works Commissioner, this was previously a voluntary process which has now become mandatory. There are currently no new rules on the type of information to be provided, in what format it should be provided and how often it should be provided. The consultation seeks clarity on what rules or guidance should be in place on this, and more generally on how the plans being used to work on Scotland's roads could be improved. This 'Vault' system has been in place since 2011, so Transport Scotland are keen to hear about the experiences of those using their system and those who are using alternatives.

The consultation closes on 3 October 2024. [Click here](#) to complete the consultation.

2 Consultation questions

The consultation questions are listed below:

1. Which of the following best describes your current role in relation to road works?
2. In terms of your experience of working on sites, in which sector have you mainly worked in (in any capacity)?
3. Have you worked directly on site in the last 5 years?

4. Thinking about your most recent experience with site work, can you tell us how you read the plans onsite when carrying out an excavation?
5. If you use an electronic device which allows you to view apparatus information (such as email, the vault app etc.) Can you tell us how you access this whilst on site?
6. Is the device you use to access the plans a company issued device or your own personal device?
7. When using electronic plans, do you use 'filters' that allow you to switch layers on and off?
8. When using electronic apparatus information, would you prefer to click on/select individual objects to read more information about them in a separate box, or would you prefer all the information (size, owner, pressure etc) regarding the apparatus to be on screen by default?
9. What specific information do you think is key to be able to carry out a road excavation safely?
- 10 (a). Is the traditional measure of 500 mm an appropriate degree of accuracy for you to feel safe when excavating?
- 10 (b). In your experience, how common are asset strikes, both minor and serious during site work?
11. Do you think service connections should be included in the plans?
- 12 (a) .Do you have any views on the current "Street Works Card" or any changes you would make to this?
- 12 (b). Do you have any views on training (for the "Street Works Card"?) or any changes you would make to this?
13. Do you hold a "Street Works card" (any level)?
14. Is it important for you to be able to work anywhere in the UK with your Street Works card?
15. Are there any other comments you want to make in relation to the road works sector and wish for us to consider in the future?

3 APSE Comment

APSE encourages our members to respond to this consultation, as it is important for local authorities views on the experience of road workers both as an employer and as an organisation with responsibility for delivering essential services.

APSE Scotland has a [Highways and Lighting advisory group](#) that meets regularly to share best practice on road works. This is free to attend for APSE members. More information can be found at APSE's website by [clicking here](#).

APSE also runs an annual national [Highways, Street Lighting and Winter Maintenance seminar](#) that took place in Glasgow in March 2024. Presentations from the event can be viewed [here](#).

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Advisory groups are a free service included as part of your authority's membership of APSE and all end with an informal lunch to facilitate networking with peers in other councils. If you do not currently receive details about APSE advisory group meetings and would like to be added to our list of contacts for your service area please email enquiries@apse.org.uk.

Our national advisory groups include:-

- FM and Building cleaning
- Catering (School Meals)
- Cemeteries and Crematoria
- Cost of Providing/Cost of Living Network
- Highways and Street Lighting
- Housing, Construction and Building Maintenance
- Local Authority Commercialisation, Income and Trading Network
- Parks, Horticulture and Grounds Maintenance
- Recovery and Renewal
- Renewables and Climate Change
- Roads, highways and street lighting
- Sports and Leisure Management
- Vehicle Maintenance and Transport
- Waste Management, Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing

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