

— OFFICE OF THE —

SCOTTISH ROAD WORKS COMMISSIONER

MONITORING AND IMPROVING COMPLIANCE – No. 2

PERFORMANCE TARGETS – UNPLANNED WORKS AND EARLY/LATE STARTS

This document sets out the Scottish Road Works Commissioner's (SRWC) Performance targets in line with improving practice across road works in Scotland.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

The SRWC is an independent public official established under Section 16 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 and is accountable to the Scottish Ministers and ultimately the Scottish Parliament.

The functions of the Commissioner are laid out by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 and are as follows:

- Monitoring the carrying out of road works in Scotland;
- Promoting compliance with the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (the Act); and
- Promoting the pursuit of good practice by those persons who have functions conferred on or permissions granted to them by the Act.

The Commissioner has powers to impose financial penalties on roads authorities who systematically fail in their duty to co-ordinate road works and on utility companies who systematically fail to co-operate when undertaking road works.

The Commissioner's powers are laid out by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 and are as follows:

- “do anything calculated to facilitate the discharge of any of the Commissioner's functions.
- require a road authority or an undertaker to provide the Commissioner with such information relevant to their respective functions and activities as the Commissioner reasonably requests.
- provide an independent body which can impose penalties (up to £50,000) when systematic failure of duties under the 1991 Act occurs by either road authorities or undertakers”

This document has been created in line with promoting compliance with the 1991 Act and the pursuit of good practice.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The SRWC adopts a variety of mechanisms to improve performance across the sector. Quarterly and annual monitoring is undertaken by the SRWC office and breaches are normally highlighted early using the quarterly dashboard. The SRWC and his team work with organisations to improve performance and compliance, offering advice and awareness sessions.

Following on from targets set in previous performance reviews, the SRWC has now set targets for Unplanned Works and Early Starts:-

R9A PERCENTAGE OF UNPLANNED WORKS – UTILITY COMPANIES

The SRWC has reviewed current practice and in connection with sector discussions has now set targets for Unplanned Works:-

Indicator and Description	Utility Companies - Expected Performance	Green	Amber	Red
R9a Percentage of Unplanned Works	Electricity	<30%	30% - 35%	>35%
	Gas	<27%	27% - 32%	>32%
	Telecoms	<10%	10% - 15%	>15%
	Water	<35%	35% - 40%	>40%
	Others	<10%	10% - 15%	>15%

R10 EARLY STARTS – ROADS AUTHORITIES & UTILITY COMPANIES

The SRWC has reviewed Early Starts across the sector and recognised that Early Starts is a good co-ordination tool, however, should not be used excessively as this highlights poor works management. The SRWC has set the following targets for both roads authorities and utility companies:-

Indicator and Description	Expected Performance	Green	Amber	Red
R10 Early Starts	10% - 15%	<10%	10% - 15%	>15%

TARGET REVIEW

In summary, the water sector are expected to improve their 2018/19 unplanned works performance by 21%, the electricity sector by 13% and the gas sector by 9%. The expected improvement in the gas sector is less than others as major gas transporters are currently more compliant.

In parallel with the expected reduction in unplanned works, the utility companies early start target has been relaxed by 5%, as it is reasonable to expect a small increase in their registration of 'planned' works.

COMPLIANCE MONITORING

Compliance across all organisations will continue to be summarised in quarterly performance dashboards. However, organisations are encouraged to self-monitor using standard reports available directly from the Scottish Road Works Register (SRWR).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should your organisation require further information on this matter, please contact the SRWC office at: enquiries@srwc.gov.scot

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