

# Welcome to our new HAUC (UK) Newsletter.



**January  
2025**

## Introducing our HAUC (UK) Communication's team .....



**Julie Payne –  
HAUC (UK)  
Communications  
Manager**

In March 2024 Julie retired from SSEN after almost 36 years and held the post of Street works Manager for the last 9 years of her career.

She is now the dedicated HAUC(UK) Communications Manager primarily involved in coordinating messages to the Street Works community, updating the HAUC(UK) website, HAUC (UK) Linked-In site as well as many other admin and secretariat related tasks.

She remains secretary of SWHAUC and HAUC (UK) and is part of the Street works convention committee.

As a previous co-chair of the HAUC (UK) performance group and a member of the SWUK Operations EPG group and the ENA, she has an extensive background in utility works. However, she now concentrates on serving the

wider Street works community through her role as HAUC (UK) Communications Manager.



**Annie Bennett  
HAUC (UK)  
Community  
Support Assistant**

For the past 2 years Annie has worked as a Traffic Management Assistant in the Streetworks team at Gloucestershire County Council. Previously she worked for Transco as a despatcher.

Annie joins the HAUC(UK) family as our new Community Support Assistant and looks forward to creating good working relationships within the industry.



**Chris Powell –  
Joint Chair of  
the Comms  
Working Group**

**(City Fibre – Street Works Specialist)**

Chris brings with him 8-year Street works experience in various roles from within both a Highway Authority and Statutory Undertaker. Roles have included Street works coordinator, Street works inspector, Street Works advisor and Street Works Specialist. Chris has also been an active participant in the HAUC(UK) community being a member of numerous groups such as the Permit Conditions Training Working Group, HV30, SLG and Training working group



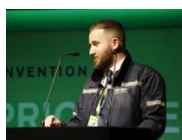
**Phil Cameron –  
Joint Chair of  
the Comms  
Working Group**

**(JAG Community Manager)**

Phil has recently left Gloucestershire County council, after completing 36-years service, most recently as Traffic Manager. Phil recently took on the newly created role as JAG( UK) Community Manager focusing on supporting the Local Authority Street Works sector and bolster the service JAG (UK) provides to its member across the UK, helping the industry to learn from the good practices that happen everyday on the highway network.

Phil remains co-chair of the Safety Code review working group, the performance

working group and communications working group. Phil represents JAG(UK) at both HAUC England and HAUC(UK). Previously Phil was chair of South West JAG and co-chair of South West HAUC for the past 17 years. Phil is keen to encourage working relationships that drive improvement whilst allowing works promoters to carry out their essential works on the highway.



**Adam Butler –  
North West  
Correspondent**

**(Electricity**

**North West Street Works  
Reinstatement Manager)**

Adam has been involved with street works since the age of 18, developing a deep expertise working for both highway authorities & statutory

undertakers, from Inspector through to Street Works & Reinstatement Manager. He manages and supports the delivery of Street Works for Electricity North West, assisting in the maintenance and upgrade of 13,000 km of overhead power lines and more than 44,000 km of underground electricity cables, to ensure we keep phones charged, TVs streaming and 2.4 million homes warm for our five million customers in the North West.

His involvement in HAUC working groups demonstrates commitment to the industry, best practice, collaboration & most importantly – young people. He currently supports the The Safety Code Working Group, HAUC App working group & HAUC Comms working group. He is also joint chair of the NW HAUC Materials & Innovation Group.

## What’s new for you :

- **DfT releases:**
  - [RPS247 – IBAA](#)
  - [Consultation response on Electric Vehicle charge point operators](#)
  - [SROH electric vehicle addendum](#)
  - [Consultation response on fines and lane rental surplus funds](#)
  
- **Consultations**
  - [Diversionary works Chapter 2](#) **Closes 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**
  - <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/8705/managing-the-impact-of-street-works/>  
**Closes 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025**

## Devolved Regional Reports from December 2024

### Scotland Report from Ainsleigh Brown (Transport Scotland)



**Roadworks Reform and Related Legislation** - Development of VAULT part two (what information is supplied and when) continues, while part one is now implemented (mandatory supply). We recently ran a live consultation aimed at the road worker experience of using plans. The analysis paper from the consultation should be published before the end of 2025. Happy to share this with HAUC once published. Parallel with the consultation, there have been on-going discussions with the PDG and focus groups. to gain general views what is considered required for safe digging and what information is deemed useful for identification. There are some minor amending SSIs/Orders being progressed, which support earlier primary legislation. In terms of the road works community these will have no impact on day-to-day work but will be the short-term focus of the road works policy team.

**Codes of Practice** - The redrafting of the Diversionary Works Code continues. The code contains a large volume of outdated material, and we support taking as long as is needed to fully review the existing content, given the long period since last review. Bill Lees and John Oneil have joined the UK wide working group for Scotland's interests. We continue to be pleased to note appropriate Scottish involvement on both UK wide groups (Safety and Diversions), which builds confidence that the resulting draft will be fit for purpose in all four nations. The final approval of both Codes sits with respective Ministers

**Scottish Government** - The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Shona Robison, recently set out the Scottish Budget and draft spending and tax plans for 2025 to 2026. All policy areas within SG including road works will take this into consideration for future policy plans.

### Wales Report from Gail Davies (South Wales Transport)



**Safety code** - things are still progressing in line with England. Diversionary work is currently ongoing, the group are liaising with experts from the utility industry to progress, with anticipation of completion next year. T & A , it has always been intention for Wales to follow suit, but with current considerations being given by other devolved nations, the decision has been made to wait to see what happens.

SROH - Working Group is now nearing completion of the first "run through" by consolidating the current Welsh / Scottish / English equivalents of the documents to meet the specific needs of Wales .

**Network Occupancy:** We are currently still in procurement stage, with completion expected April 2025.

### Northern Ireland Report from Nile Smith (NI Infrastructure)



**NIRAUC:** Department for Infrastructure NI (Dfi) attended NIRAUC meeting in September and December 2024 with the next meeting scheduled for March 2025. We continued to hold quarterly SWAG (internal Dfi group) and divisional DRAUC (Dfi authority / utilities group) meetings. These meetings continue to facilitate co-ordination and communication on Street Works issues.

**Performance Monitoring:** Dfi continued its programme of monitoring and reporting Key Performance Indicators based on coring / testing and data from the NISRANS noticing system.

**NIAO:** the report has now been published and is available at NI Audit Office Report - Road Openings by Utilities.pdf

**Working Groups:** Due to staff changes and constraints on staff resources it has not been possible to attend any HAUC working groups.

**NUAR:** DfI has continued to engage with Geospatial Commission in sharing data on underground assets. Following the change of UK Government a fresh discussion on the draft Data (Access and Use) Bill is taking place and how this could lead to amendments to the Street Works (NI) Order 1995.

## England Report from Peter Loft (Co-Chair HAUC England)



**Street Manager:** Meetings of the Governance Group and SME's continue. There were a number of DfT sponsored Webinars/F2F meetings in the year which were welcomed by practitioners in terms of better understanding.

Recent SM release in respect of non-compliance management is proving a challenge for practitioners in terms of system interfaces and consistency of status for both HA's and SU's.

**Inspections CoP** The HAUC Eng Insp's Operational Guidance document has been completed and is currently with the Department before issue to the Sector. As well as providing consistent operational guidance to all practitioners the document contains a FAQ section following recent queries raised. Liaison with the SM Project Team continues to ensure consistent advice and deliverability.

**DfT Stat Guidance for Permit Schemes and National Conditions** As a result of feedback from practitioners regarding the above a Joint Working Group has drafted a HAUC Eng Permit Scheme Operational Guidance document which is currently with the DfT for consideration and to ensure consistency, before circulation. In addition, the sterling efforts by the Joint SE/SW and London HAUC's Conditions Guidance document Team has resulted in first "train the trainer" sessions in the SW.

**DfT Consultations and Lane Rental.** Ministers and the Dept Officers have been briefed to encourage further, more widespread application of Lane Rental Schemes. The Dept is currently considering how deployment can be expedited. Officers have reviewed the views/comments/outputs etc. from the earlier consultations but currently there is no clear list of priorities for these matters.

**Safety CoP** First draft following review by the Group now with DfT Team for consideration/editing

## Interesting articles:

### 1) Best Practice to highlight Road Worker Abuse – collaboration sign

[Road closures: Workers facing knives, machetes and guns - BBC News](#)

[Road workers face abuse](#)



#### Highway workers still facing abuse with road work incursions on the rise.

There are calls from across the industry to crackdown on abuse from members of the public, following figures

highlighted by the BBC in a recent article, that show 541 cases of abuse towards highway workers were recorded by National Highways between 2020 and 2023. A number of undertakers, contractors, traffic management companies and local authorities are backing the Stamp It Out Campaign which is calling for a simpler incident reporting system and more public education.

The campaign group says more than 2,000 reports of

abuse towards staff were recorded in 2023.

The number of incursions into road closures is also on the increase. Figures released by National Highways suggest over 7,200 reports of incursions in the last three years. These include cases where vehicles enter the road works or breach rolling roadblocks.

[Reducing Roadworker abuse](#)

You can [Feedback any Roadworker Abuse that you know about](#) on the HAUC App

### 2) Street Works Charter saves 105 days of disruption in Lincolnshire



#### Great Collaboration in Lincoln

Three and a half months of roadwork disruption has been avoided on one set of roadworks alone. A huge 105 days of traffic hold-ups have been avoided because of

companies working together with LCC across one worksite in Lincoln. You can view the article here: [Lincolnshire Streetworks Charter](#)

### 3) Improving the customer experience – transport focus article



Being diverted away from your intended route, often late at night and perhaps in unfamiliar territory, is when roadworks present potentially the greatest challenge for road users. Think about the panic that you'll get lost 'in the middle of nowhere'; if you

were banking on being home in an hour to take medicine; or if you are a coach or lorry driver, perhaps not permitted to use satnav, coming across a diversion you weren't expecting. You can read the whole article here: [Improving the Customer Experience](#)

#### 4) Temporary Traffic Management



Interesting article on how temporary traffic lights work and the technology behind their use. You can read the whole article here:

[Temporary Traffic Lights: Understanding the Technology, Misconceptions, and Industry Insights](#)



A big thank you to everyone working in our industry for their help and dedication during the past flooding, snow and storms. Whether working on the highway directly or in supporting roles on the telephone to customers or in



Are they serious?



## Events for your Diary

[HAUC Convention](#) – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 Manchester Emirates Old Trafford – From Vision to Reality . Registration open now. [Register](#)

[Utility Week Live](#) – 20-21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 NEC Birmingham – you can register here:



UtilityWeek / **Live2025** / 20-21 MAY 2025  
NEC BIRMINGHAM

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