

HAUC(UK) – "one voice delivering excellence in road and street works" *Newsletter, April 2010*



Introduction by HAUC(UK) Joint Chairs Jerry McConkey and Mark Ostheimer

Welcome to the third HAUC(UK) Newsletter, designed to provide a news update to members.

A lot has happened within the road and street works community since our last newsletter, in particular the Department for Transport's Summit held last October. Following this we have seen Government pick up the pace on delivering current work streams, with a number of public consultations currently out for comment.

We are of course facing a general election in a matter of weeks, following which HAUC(UK) must continue to work with the Department as much as possible, offering technical assistance where needed, but also representing the position of members to ensure a fair deal for utilities and local authorities.

This edition includes an update on the last HAUC(UK) meeting, and details on personnel changes and upcoming events. The HAUC(UK) newsletters are added to the HAUC(UK) website www.hauc-uk.org.uk for easy access.

DfT Street Works Summit – October 2009

Following the Government reshuffle last summer, Sadiq Khan MP was appointed Minister of State for Transport, and soon identified road and street works as a key area of interest. As a result, a Summit was held in Birmingham in October 2009, with CEO-level representatives targeted from Local Authorities, Utilities, and Contractors.

The Minister addressed the meeting himself and gave the Government's view on how all those involved must deliver a collective step-change in performance over the coming months. There were also brainstorming sessions held throughout the day with attendees, although some participants have since voiced disappointment that not all the outputs were covered within the resulting report.

This report did however include a specific action plan with set timeframes, something HAUC(UK) had been requesting from DfT from many months, in order to better understand the Government's priorities for road and street works and the continuing implementation of the Traffic Management Act 2004. The action plan can be located in full at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/local/streetworks/streetworks-summit-report/>

The report includes Government's intention to:

- Consult on the implementation of a tenfold increase of overrun charges (up to £25,000 per day for traffic sensitive routes) - consult February 2010, implement October 2010.
- Implement the revised Specification for Reinstatement of Openings in Highways (SROH) - publish March 2010, commence April 2010. *HAUC(UK) understands that this is now not due for implementation until October 2010*

- Revise the Inspections Regulations and Code of Practice (consult February 2010, implement April 2011) and the Safety Code of Practice (consult March 2010, implement October 2010).
- Develop new proposals for lane rental, likely to operate on the most traffic sensitive roads in London - consult summer 2010, implement October 2011.
- Produce a good practice guide for utility and highway authorities on improving communications with road users and communities.
- Develop a self assessment road / street works toolkit for use by local authorities and utilities to help identify strengths and weaknesses and inform local action planning – launch October 2010.
- Deliver decisions on permit applications within 10 working weeks of receipt of complete applications.
- Develop a simple scorecard of street works sector performance including measures of planning, timeliness, and road performance.
- Open discussions with utility regulators on how high quality street works can be reflected in regulated charges and work with them to ensure that the performance indicators are taken into account when assessing the efficiency of regulated industries.

HAUC(UK) meeting – 21st January 2010

HAUC(UK) held its quarterly meeting on 21st January 2010 in London. Informative updates were received from the Working Groups, English regional HAUCs, Welsh HAUC, RAUC(S) and NIRAUC. Members can request copies of the minutes from the Secretariat. Of particular interest:

- The Joint Chairs met with DfT representatives on 11th January. The key message reported back to Committee members was that the Government want industry to self regulate as much as possible. Similar pre-meets with DfT will now be held prior to each quarterly HAUC(UK) meeting.
- No response had been received from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to HAUC(UK)'s request for a replacement for Steve Chandler as the WAG representative to Welsh HAUC / HAUC(UK). *Since the meeting, WAG has confirmed that the post is being re-advertised at a higher salary.*
- Permit schemes are now underway in Kent and London. However there have been some problems in the capital with boroughs interpreting the scheme differently. This is now being addressed by local authorities and utilities working together.
- Members raised concerns over differing interpretations of HAUC(UK) Advice Notes, which the Communications Group is now looking into.

- A new Working Group has been formed to focus on National Street Gazetteer related issues
- For 2010/11, the sample inspection fee is remaining at £50. Defect fees & investigatory inspection fees will also remain the same as last year, at £47.50 and £68.00 respectively.

HAUC(UK) Advice Notes

Since the last newsletter, a number of new Advice Notes have been published. These are all publicly available from <http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/category/2/>, and include:

- Guidance Note On Suspension Of Parking Bays During Street Works & Works For Road Purposes
- Guidance Note On Notification of Methods of Reinstatement using ETon
- Agreement on Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders
- Performance Management Process for Works in the Highway
- HAUC(UK) Dispute Resolution Procedure
- Special Engineering Difficulty
- Fixed Penalty Notices
- Charging for Approval for the Use of Multiway Portable Signals

A new Advice Note on diversionary works is currently out for comment – see consultations. In addition, Advice Notes are being considered on foam concrete and section 58 regulations.

Events for the Diary

HSC10 is taking place in Cardiff on 12 and 13 May. For details/to book, visit: <http://www.surveyorevents.com/hsc10/>

Other 2010 HAUC events include:

- South East HAUC, 14 July 2010, Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey
- North Wales HAUC, 17 June, Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse, Wrexham
- 3HAUC's, 8 July 2010, Wetherby Racecourse
- West Midlands HAUC, 14 & 15 September Staffordshire Show Ground

Do visit our joint HAUC(UK) stand to pick up your HAUC(UK) goodies and here about our plans for the future.

A one day conference entitled **Traffic Management 2010: Managing the Road Network More Efficiently** is being held on 29 April in London. For more details, visit: http://www.transportxtra.com/library/File/TM2010_flier.pdf

Consultations

The Department for Transport currently has three consultations out for comment, on increasing S74 overrun charges, and the revised safety and inspections codes of practice. Further information on these can be found at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-15/> <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-013/> <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-12/>

HAUC(UK) are also consulting on a new Diversionary Works Advice Note. To view the draft and to submit comments, please contact Dave Capon at manager@jaguk.org.

Other Updates

The latest **newsletter from the Scottish Road Works Commissioner** (January 2010) can be downloaded from: <http://www.roadworksscotland.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=539&SID=101>

HAUC(UK) has formed a small **Communications Group**, which is currently developing a structured programme of communications, as well as the production of HAUC(UK) 'Vision' leaflets for operatives.

Performance measures: Moving on from the HAUC(UK) Advice note on Performance Management Process published last year, the Performance Management Working Group has now been given a new remit to help deliver some of the policy aims outlined at the Minister's summit and subsequent action plan. Five key areas were identified:

1. Occupation
2. Co-ordination
3. Quality
4. Safety
5. Information

Personnel Notices

Since the last newsletter, **Nick Morris** has retired from HAUC(UK) as Highways-side Chair, and we wish him well in his next challenge. In his place, **Jerry McConkey** has been appointed to the role. In addition, in 2009 JAG(UK) elected a new Chairman, **Roger Culpin**, and Vice-Chairman, **Phil Cameron**. **Dave Capon** has also been appointed as JAG(UK) Manager and Highways-side HAUC(UK) Secretariat.

It was announced at the HAUC(UK) meeting in January that **Bob Bayley** would be stepping down from HAUC(UK), following his retirement from Transport for London. Bob has sat on HAUC(UK) for many years and contributed significantly to the work of the Committee. HAUC(UK) wishes him the best for his future ventures.

Changes have also taken place at the Department for Transport, with **Ellen Duffy** moving on from her position within the street works team, being replaced by **Matt Tyler**. All HAUC(UK) colleagues thank Ellen for her many years of hard work, and wish Matt the very best for the challenges facing his department in the months ahead. **Spencer Palmer** has also recently joined the street works team at the Department. As Head of Traffic Management Engineering, Spencer will be supporting Richard Buckley's team on the delivery of road and street works targets.

Finally, in Northern Ireland, Gerry Byrne has been appointed as Street Works Manager at the Department for Regional Development, where he replaces Aloysius Loughran. HAUC(UK) wishes Aloysius all the best in his position, and warmly welcome Gerry to the world of road and street works!

Contact HAUC(UK)

To contact HAUC(UK) or publicise a related event or personnel changes, please email the Secretariat at manager@jaguk.org & info@njug.org.uk. For Advice Notes / newsletters etc, please visit www.hauc-uk.org.uk.