Minutes of GIRS Advisory Panel Meeting

Microsoft Teams Meeting

6th October 2026 10:00 am

Attendees

Leigh Keegan (LK)	leigh.keegan@sgn.co.uk (Chairperson)
Gareth Arnold (GA)	gareth.arnold@indigonetworks.co.uk
Steph Marvin (SM)	steph.marvin@eemu.co.uk
Geoffrey Harle (GH)	GHarle@northerngas.co.uk
Jemima Mitchell (JM)	Jemima.mitchell@cadentgas.com
Paul Aldridge (PA)	paul.aldridge@cadentgas.com
Karl Miller (KM)	Karl.Miller@lrqa.com
Andrew Fitzgerald (AF)	Andrew.Fitzgerald@wwutilities.co.uk
Dean O'Dee (DO)	dean.odee@me.com
Alex Green (AG)	alex.green@espug.com
David Lee (DL)	david.lee@lastmile-uk.com

	ACTION BY
1. Welcome introductions and apologies for absence. Leigh Keegan welcomed everyone to the third GIRSAP meeting of 2026 commenting that a number of the members were unavailable including Les Thomas. Karl Miller facilitated the meeting with Leigh Keegan as Chair. **Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Les Thomas, Keith Johnston and Paul Leighton **2. Acceptance of previous minutes & matters arising** The previous minutes dated 2nd June 2026 were accepted as a true record of events. **2.1. The outstanding Actions from Previous Meeting were discussed as follows.** **2.1.1. EUSR SHEA – CSCS Qualifications** An update was provided on EUSRs new process where CPs were losing above 180mm and Distribution qualifications during EUSR ratification. This impacts candidates holding an early City & Guilds certificate (6029 or earlier). LK advised the panel that older qualifications may initially be rejected, but cases can be escalated for individual review. While EUSR did not attend the meeting for comment, it is understood that they convene panels to discuss individual cases. LK advised that there was to be a Face-to-Face meeting of the USRO group on the 22nd of October at the Clancy Docwra offices where these issues will be raised further with EUSR.	KM/LK

Alex Green commented that some UIPs are facing challenges over AE and CP registrations. The G14 requirements are very prescriptive over competency, and this has led to engineers deciding not to renew due to the time and effort involved particularly when they only have a few years left before retirement.	
2.1.2 EUSR SHEA – CSCS relationships	
In the UIP forum, the discussion centred on the inconsistent recognition of EUSR and CSCS numbers within site induction systems, including issues on a recent Persimmon site where a general induction is required using the Persimmon Way App.	
At the UIP forum Pete Humphries reported he had successfully accessed a Persimmon site through its app using EUSR details and Sheila Laughlan reported that her EUSR details were accepted at a recent Redrow/Barratt site after she renewed an expired induction. This suggests the system is improving and EUSR reference numbers are now being recognised by the major housebuilder's on-line induction systems.	
KM stated that no comments had been received by EUSR yet regarding any exception for Site Auditors.	KM
2.1.3 Body Vent Requirements At the last GIRSAP, it was agreed that LT would send Peter Tootell the email addresses of the GIRSAP members so that Peter could send a draft design for their approval.	
At the UIP Forum, Peter Tootell confirmed that this is ongoing and that he had sent Leigh Keegan of SGN a draft design for their approval.	
LK confirmed receipt of the draft design which needs to be reviewed and commented on. Paul Aldgridge stated that Cadent IP GL5/G17 documentation requires body vents to be at a nominal depth and if used at an angle the valve is generally dug out. Each installation is reviewed by Cadent on a case-by-case basis.	LK
2.1.4 UIP performance At the UIP forum, LT confirmed that, ahead of three-year recertification, LRQA will be requesting completion file performance evidence from GTs and as instructed in the January GIRSAP, LT has prepared an amendment to A1.6 of GIG 2.	
LT also reminded the UIP forum that GIG 2 was updated in May, and that ahead of three-year recertification, assessors must now request UIP performance information from all network owners and use the responses to inform the assessment.	
Peter Humphries asked how assessors obtain the information? and who do we contact? It was confirmed that the assessors would need to contact the GIRSAP panel using the GIRSAP contact email addresses recorded on the GIRSAP Minutes.	

2.1.5 SCO10 Arrangements At the UIP Forum the UIPs raised concerns that SCO10 is being applied inconsistently across networks, with some networks requesting full applications, multiple work examples, network-specific evidence, and a lengthy submission processes even for what should be an annual review. GIRSAP were requested to reiterate requirements. The UIP forum were informed that the network owners wished to remind UIPs that applications often contain incorrect or incomplete information, which leads to significant time being spent requesting the evidence they consider necessary At the UIP forum, there was a consensus that the process becomes straightforward once familiar, but clearer guidance on the required information would be helpful, particularly for first-time submissions. There was an acceptance that it takes longer to sign people up to the SCO process than previously under the old requirements, candidates are requested to plan and allow more time for this process to conclude. SM stated that there are still some inconsistencies between network requirements and that she would like further guidance. GH stated that GL6 contains suitable guidance. JM confirmed that Cadent do not have any specific guidance, however their process is considered straightforward to complete. Wales and the West expect to see additional information including a job role stated. Processing the information is the main issue, it was suggested that this should be referred back to the GIRS forum in order to identify who the issue is with. GH to discuss this at the Network Controller's forum to establish if there are outliers. **Email issues** The UIP forum highlighted problems experienced when applying for registration activities, as the submissions require large email attachments (3 examples of each RO or NRO type etc.). Clearly there are mailbox restrictions, which prevent emailing a single file and this is resulting in an administrative burden as the UIP has to send evidence across multiple emails. Alternative file-sharing methods are being considered however most networks are restricted by their own IT cyber requirements. **Data Sharing** The UIP forum highlighted that as many of the GDNs are using the Mineral Blue system could the system be used to transfer data. At the last GIRSAP the UIPs had asked whether qualification records, permits and registration history held in Mineral Blue could be shared between gas transporters, network owners and other authorised users. It was reported that the system may support this type of data sharing, subject to agreement from all relevant parties, the individual's permission and compliance with GDPR requirements.	LT/GH

SL offered to ask whether a representative could attend a future forum meeting to present the system and explain its data-sharing capabilities. The UIPs agreed that this would be useful. GH confirmed that he has an expert that may be able to present, however his availability is restricted for the next few weeks. **2.1.6 SCO10 Service Level Agreements** The UIP forum has requested that if the Network Owners are requesting large amounts of documentation and the UIPs diligently supply it, that there should be a service level agreement for a response, as it seems not all network owners are looking at their mailbox. **Is there an SLA and if not, what does GIRSAP feel is reasonable?** GH stated that the Responsible Engineers approve the people to work on their network and as such want to sign them off when they have seen sufficient evidence. The high workload can impact their availability. JM confirmed that Cadent have a 10-day SLA for new registrations. AG does not have an SLA in place but sets expectations when registrations are received. **2.1.7 F.H.S. and the impact on the GIRS Scheme** At the previous GIRSAP, LT gave an update on The Building Regulations etc. (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/335), which were published on 24 March 2026 and come into force on 24 March 2027. As requested LRQA have drafted an initial Risk Register to start the discussion which was tabled for consideration and comment in readiness for approval in September. The Risk Register has not been reviewed although it was confirmed to have been sent with the minutes of the last GIRSAP. KM to arrange a meeting with LT and LK with a view to sending this to the INA for their review. **3. LRQA Report** **3.1.1. Surveillance visits Annual Report for Year-to-Date 2026** The surveillance visit detailed results were included as an attachment to the meeting invite and are summarised as follows: There are 159 active companies listed on the web site, two have been removed from the list and 5 new clients added. Four clients remain suspended having let their Partial Accreditation Status Lapse. 37 remain at partial accreditation.	GH KM/LK/LT

3.1.2. Discussion of Findings raised – 2026

142 on site Surveillance Visits
- 18 Design Surveillance Visits } (227 total in 2025)

- 9 Recertification visits (15 total in 2025)
- 7 Partial Assessments (15 total in 2025)
- 1 Partial to full Assessments (7 total in 2025)

During the surveillance visits the following deficiencies have been identified:
- 2 Major Deficiency (8 total in 2025)
- 54 Minor Deficiencies (99 in 2025)
- 103 visits with no deficiencies (147 During 2025)

Design Deficiencies

- 1 Minor deficiency (3 in 2025)

A breakdown of the sections with the highest findings was provided that demonstrated most findings are raised under section 7.

4. Review of UIP Forum Minutes dated 15th September 2026

4.1 EUSR SHEA – CSCS Qualifications
Discussed in 2.1.1 above

4.2 EUSR - CSCS relationships
Discussed in 2.1.2 above

4.3 Body Vent Requirements
Discussed in 2.1.3 above

4.4 The right of a GT to complain to LRQA where a UIP is not meeting their obligations in GIG2 and how that complaint should be received/actioned.
Discussed in 2.1.4 UIP Performance above.

4.5 SCO10
Discussed in 2.1.5 above

4.6 SCO10 Service Level Agreements
Discussed in 2.16 above.

4.7 Future Homes Standard Discussion
Discussed in 2.17 above.

5. Next meeting dates LK thanked everyone attending and for their open participation in the discussions. The agreed dates for 2027 meetings are: GIRS Forum – 19th January, 18th May and 7th September GIRSAP – 2nd February, 1st June and 21st September	