



Minutes of the NERS Provider Forum

Microsoft Teams Meeting on 14th July 2026 10:00am

Attendees:

Aaron Lee	David Jones	Kevin Costello	Richard King
Alex Fernyhough	Davie Callaghan	Kevin Griffiths	Richard Proctor
Alex Parmley	Dean Rogers	Kevin Wilkinson	Robert Klubecz
Alina	Ed Griffin	Kyle Morgan	Robert Vernon
Alistair Cameron	Elizabeth West	Laith Alsoof	Russell Davis
Alistair Cameron Jnr.	Ephie Chalkateva	Lee Johnson	Sarah Standish
Andrew Pickering	Ernie Walker	Lee Ranson	Sathya
Andy Lund	Fred Harrington	Lisa Sandle	Shane Stewart
Antonio Gomes	Gareth Davies	Mark Bryant	Simon Berresford
Antony Harding	Gavin Walsh	Matthew Crittenden	Steve Johnson
Arun Karunakaran	Elena Gorman	Meabh Alrahan	Steve Pinson
Ben Brownbill	Ian Cowan	Mica Robins	Steven Orton
Ben Feltham	Ian Humphries	Michael Strachan	Syed Shah
Benjamin Lois	James Barker	Michael Waller	Tracey Taylor
Benn Wassell	James Burnett	Mick Beeby	Thomas Brooks
Beth Delvard	James Mitchell	Nathan Harvey	Tony Washer
Bethany Nicolson	Jamie Brown	Neil Crawford	Umer Amin
Bill Robertson	Jason Newman	Niall Bowler	Will Temperley
Caius Fernandes	Jason Reddin	Nick Schmidlin	William Strutt
Callum Killen	Jason Watkins	Paul Brunsdon	Zach Bullock
Callum Perrett	Jenny Salt	Paul Costelloe	Zoe O'Neill
Cassie McCaffrey	Jetmir Leka	Paul Dewan	
Chloe Roberts	Joanne Baldwin	Paul Greenham	
Chris Clark	John Dickson	Paul Ingram	
Chris Rogers	John Killen	Paul Sheldrake	
Christian Young	Jon Breeze	Pav Sangha	
Colin Fletcher	Jordan Crowther	Peter Lavender	
Coral MacFarlane	Joy Dean	Phil Clee	
Craig Elkins	Julia Cotogno	Philip Henderson	
Dan Franklin	Julian Harris	Sam Polley	
Danny Asser	Julie Tyrrell	Stephen Potter	
Darren Williams	Karl Miller	Richard Coleman	
David Daniels	Keith Aggett	Richard Furniss	

1. Introductions

Paul Costelloe (PC) of LRQA introduced himself, Karl Miller (KM) the LRQA Utilities Business Unit Manager and Ephie Chalakateva (EC) NERSAP Chairperson. PC thanked everyone for their attendance and reiterated that due to the number of attendees, formal introductions were foregone. The agenda was reviewed and the arrangements for this Teams Meeting were described. PC advised that the meeting was being recorded on Microsoft Teams for the purposes of accurately capturing discussions for the meeting minutes.

PC commented that previous attendees had expressed concerns about artificial intelligence (AI) note-taking apps operating during the NERS Forum meetings. These apps have been known to record audio and video without participants' permission and would then automatically invite themselves to all future meetings. PC advised that he would be removing any such apps from the participant list during the meeting. KM commented that he was aware of an instance where an AI note-taking app had completely mis-represented what had been said at a meeting. PC asked everyone to rely on the LRQA generated minutes rather than such AI apps. Fred Harrington commented that he was aware of instances where notes generated by such apps were entirely out of context and in fact, inaccurate representations of what was said. Paul Ingram commented that his organisation had recently updated their AI policy to reflect such risks and endorsed PC's comments about relying solely on the official meeting minutes as there is a risk of exposing businesses to risks that they are not aware of. Dave Daniels supported this viewpoint.

As this was a Teams meeting and there were no restrictions to numbers, 605 invitations had been sent and there had been 103 acceptances and 34 declined. With 120 attending on the day, due to the nature of the open invitation, only attendees are identified in the minutes.

2. Acceptance of previous minutes

The minutes were accepted as a true record of that meeting and a brief overview of the various topics documented in the minutes is provided in Section 4 of these minutes.

3. 'Right Card' Scheme (EUSR/CSCS)

PC advised that the implementation of the new scheme had been further postponed by EUSR to 1st October 2026 and invited any questions from the meeting which LRQA may be able to answer or at least pass on to EUSR for a response. No questions were received from the meeting. PC reminded that the process for applying for CSCS cards after 1st October 2026 for NERS accredited organisations should be simpler than for non-NERS accredited organisations. KM advised that discussion was taking place about the necessity or otherwise for assessors/auditors to have CSCS cards. Julia Cotogno asked how EUSR were communicating the forthcoming changes and PC replied that webinars and emails had been sent out and that EUSR's website would give details. PC offered to channel any questions arising from ICPs to EUSR.

4. Matters discussed at previous Forum Meeting on 11th March 2026

4.1 Number of attendees

PC advised that there had been 131 attendees at the previous Forum meeting on 11th March 2026 and that 100+ attendees was encouraging compared to face-to-face meetings held in the past where less than 12 people sometimes attended.

4.2 EUSR 'Right Card' Scheme

Covered in the agenda of this meeting above.

4.3 NERS Staffing by LRQA

PC advised that although a new starter joined LRQA in January 2026, one other Assessor left the business in March 2026. Also, one Assessor left LRQA in June 2026 and a new starter is due to join in September 2026. PC advised that LRQA is looking to recruit at least one more NERS Assessor.

4.4 Internal Meter Positions

PC re-iterated the general consensus of ICPs and those network operators who were present at the last meeting, that ICPs should not be connecting services to unsatisfactory meter positions against ENA standards, and by continuing to do so were undermining their own case for complaint.

4.5 Work Commencing Before Design Approval Obtained

PC confirmed that the NERS Requirements document would be amended per NGED's request to emphasise that construction should not commence before design approval is obtained. MB confirmed that developers were under time pressures and therefore this was passed onto ICPs leading to construction commencing before design approval is obtained. Alistair Cameron commented that Letters of Indemnity were a good tool to be used by ICPs where they are being pressured by developers to commence construction work before design approval is obtained.

4.6 Network Operator Audit Failure Rates

PC confirmed that a UKPN document giving guidance to ICPs had been circulated to attendees of the last meeting. PC agreed to circulate the document to attendees of this meeting although some attendees who attended the last meeting will already have received it.

4.7 Substation Civil Works NERS Accreditation

PC confirmed that LRQA had been requested in previous forum meetings and NERSAP to consider bringing the civil works associated with sub-station construction under NERS. PC advised that the present scope for Civil Works would perhaps be better re-named as this scope only covered civil works associated with cable laying and this was in some cases causing confusion. Mick Beeby asked about developers carrying out excavation works who were not accredited which whilst permissible, should the ICP responsible for the works have Project Management scopes. Steve Johnson asked if developers should be allowed to carry out substation construction as this was not always simply a 'bricks and mortar' job and he supported re-enforcing the ICPs responsibility in this respect. Darren Williams supported this viewpoint. KM commented that the cost involved for the ICP community for assessing additional scopes should not be ignored.

4.8 INA Substation Earthing

PC advised that LRQA had agreed to meet with INA to discuss this but that the INA had cancelled the meeting the day before it was due to take place. MB advised that INA would refer back to LRQA with a view to rescheduling this meeting once a working group had been set up.

4.9 NERS ICP Forum Invites

PC confirmed that LRQA are only inviting one person per ICP and that if that invitee cannot attend, LRQA would rely on the invite being forwarded to a deputy. Mick Beeby asked if two invitees could be invited. PC commented that the limitation in invites was imposed by Microsoft Teams and the invite list was already in excess of 600 and managing a bigger list would be impractical.

5 Matters Discussed at Previous NERSAP Meeting on 24th March 2026

5.1 NERS Requirements document v11

PC invited suggested changes, additions amendments for consideration in v11 of the NERS Requirements document.

5.2 NERS Passport Issues

PC advised that passport issues were in the top five findings on NERS surveillance visits. KM advised that where electronic passports were in use, it was not always possible to access them due to network constraints. Ian Humphries commented that a QR code would enable access to passports offline.

5.3 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

PC confirmed that this had been discussed at the last NERSAP meeting and that LRQA had received signed copies from all NERSAP members.

5.4 Near misses- shallow cables

James Barker (JB) confirmed that an initiative by the Highway Electrical Association to raise awareness of these near misses had commenced. JB agreed to update the meeting with findings and initiatives resulting from data collection in this area. HEA members are being asked to collate data on this.

5.5 Acceptance by DNOs of designs from Design ICPs

PC advised that he had made a proposal to the Competition in Connections Code of Practice panel to clarify that 'design-only' ICPs have no less ability to submit designs for approval than construction ICPs but the panel had asked for specific details (i.e. projects) where this had been an issue so that these instances could be investigated. Some information had been received from an ICP which enabled NPg to modify an internal process, but the complainant who referred to other DNOs had failed to substantiate their claim of unfair practice and PC advised that LRQA would not be pursuing this any further with the CiC CoP panel.

Alex Fernyhough commented that although designs may be approved by a network operator, they were then sometimes rejected later with a request for re-design and consequent re-submission. EC commented that depending on voltage level something at EHV could be approved at an early stage and then rejected at a later date where non-compliance was identified. Approval and subsequent rejection do not mean that identified problems should not be corrected and EC advised that it is the ICPs responsibility to make corrections.

Mick Beeby expressed concern that there could be difficulty in identifying liability if the construction provider did not also submit the design for approval. EC commented that from NGED's point of view both design and construction ICPs are responsible depending upon the issue and this is made clear in the Framework Adoption Agreements.

Kyle Morgan and Alex Fernyhough advised that their organisation would submit a design which was then approved and subsequently rejected. Julie Tyrrell commented that as a design organisation they have a contract with the construction ICP only and any contractual difficulties are between those two parties. Bill Robertson asked if some network operators were failing their license condition in approving and subsequently rejecting a design. EC re-iterated that if the reasons for rejection are part of a 'preference' then this is not allowable but if something has been missed it is nevertheless the responsibility of the ICP.

6 Governance of Design Competency Review

PC advised that he was still trying to obtain comments received by EUSR as well as an editable version of the document.

7 NERS Requirements Document

PC advised that v10 was published March 1st, 2025, and invited any suggestions for amendments, additions etc for V11.

- Clarification on when PM scopes are appropriate
- Construction taking place before design approval obtained

PC advised that the NERSAP Deputy Chairperson Dave Ellis has a list of proposed changes. KM commented that we should not make the NERS requirements too prescriptive, Mick Beeby commented that a new version is not necessarily required every year but only as and when required. James Barker agreed that a total 'end-to-end' review might be beneficial so as to remove any ambiguity and thus allow consistency in assessment.

8 LRQA Report

PC advised that the LRQA report would be submitted with the minutes of this meeting and presented the data collated for March, April, May and June 2026.

MB asked if a 'rate' of deficiencies per surveillance visit could be presented and PC agreed to produce a 'frequency rate'. Mick Beeby asked if a comparison of deficiencies compared to the last reporting period could be produced and PC agreed to add an additional column to the deficiencies slide.

KM commented that with the increase in NERS clients we are also seeing a fall in GIRS clients.

9 Any Other Business

Mick Beeby referred to an email he had sent LRQA some months ago about LRQA assessors who also have scheme-specific roles within ICP organisations and PC gave an assurance that no person was acting as an LRQA NERS assessor and also acting in a scheme-specific role for the same ICP. Mick Beeby agreed to re-forward the email concerned so that LRQA can address it fully.

Kyle Morgan commented regarding guidance G88 which specified maximum permissible separation between DNO and IDNO equipment which can push IDNO equipment into the carriageway which is not desirable. Mick Beeby responded that G88 is guidance but if it can't be avoided then it is the 'second comer's' responsibility to use branded marker tape/tiles.

EC commented that here understanding is that there is an ENA working group looking at this with a view to seeking some middle ground where maximum separation is not possible. Mick Beeby suggested a possible interim solution was to make the services DNO adoptable instead of IDNO adoptable. Matt Crittenden advised that whilst UKPN request observance to G88, they are resolving issues on a case-by-case basis. Julie Tyrrell advised that there was inconsistency in approach within the same DNO but nevertheless resolution could be found by discussion. Sarah Standish confirmed that her organisation was encountering similar difficulties which were resolve by using a DNO main and installing a transition joint.

Julia Cotogno asked about NERS training courses and PC advised that there is a course available which is being reviewed following a trial with an ICP. KM confirmed that the training might be useful to organisations which had undergone staff changes in IDNOs/DNOs and ICPs.

10 Dates of Next Meetings

- NERS Provider Forum 10th November 2026
- NERSAP 28th July 2026, 24th November 2026