Minutes of GIRS Providers Forum

LRQA Tuesday 15th September 2026
Venue: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Name	Name	Name
Les Thomas (LT)	Mark Davey (MD)	Peter Humphries (PH)
Alex Thomson (AT)	David Gronow (DG)	Peter Tootell (PT)
Andrea Wright (AW)	Dean O'Dee (DO)	Robert Beavis (RB)
Andy Bunten (AB)	Deborah Keedy (DK)	Rupinder Sandhu (RS)
Andy Ginn (AG)	Eric Dodd (ED)	Mark Russell (MR)
Andy Holland (AH)	Graham Cocksey (GC)	Samantha Malin (SM)
Ben Brownbill (BB)	Hollie Richardson (HR)	Sarah Parker (SP)
Benn Wassell (BW)	Ian Humphries (IH)	Alan Shaw (AS)
Charlotte Berryman (CB)	Ian Wilson (IW)	Sheila Lauchlan (SL)
Chris Roberts (CR)	Katie Drewery (KD)	Steph Marvin (SM)
Claire Pape (CP)	Lee Hewett (LH)	Steve Richards (SR)
Daniel Scott (DS)	Martin Peters (MP)	Warren Hawkins (SH)
Daniel Worman (DW)	Murray Richards (MR)	
Danny Dunstan (DD)	Pat Hyndman (PH)	
Dave Wilkins (DW)	Paul Mason (PM)	

Apologies / attendees at recent meetings:
The meeting request was issued to over two hundred potential attendees. Numerous apologies were received but have not been listed due to the numbers involved.

Minutes of Meeting

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
   The chair extended a welcome to the new and regularly attending UIP representatives at the UIP Forum. He then proceeded to outline the agenda for the day, noting the presence of 42 attendees and thus deciding to forgo the customary individual introductions.

2. **Review and acceptance of Previous Minutes Dated 19th May 2026**
   The minutes of the May meeting that had been issued previously were accepted as a true record of events.

   a) **Matters Arising from previous meeting.**
   The main matters arising were discussed as follows:

   2.a.1. EUSR SHEA – CSCS Qualifications
   At the May UIP Forum an update was given on EUSR and CPs losing above 180mm and Distribution qualifications during EUSR ratification. This impacts candidates holding an early City & Guilds certificate (6029 or earlier).

   LT reminded the panel that older qualifications may initially be rejected, but cases can be escalated for individual review.

   There is no representative from EUSR, and no one commented on any current issues.

2.a.2. EUSR SHEA – CSCS relationships

The initial inconsistent acceptance of EUSR-linked CSCS numbers experienced while undertaking housebuilder's online site inductions was discussed. It was reported that initially, some systems had rejected an EUSR number while accepting other CSCS cards, and that one workaround had been to register a visitor as a delivery driver.

PH reported he had successfully accessed a Persimmon site through its app using EUSR details and SH 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.

2.a.3. Body-vent design process

PT confirmed that this is ongoing and that he had sent Leigh Keegan of SGN a draft design for their approval. LT asked whether members had any other experience of the process for designing body vents on a valve/IP system. PT confirmed the context, but there was no further discussion.

2.a.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

LT reminded the 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.

The change is intended to provide a more balanced view of UIP performance at the time of recertification, including network-owner experience of completion-file delivery, rather than relying only on successful files presented during an office visit.

PH asked how do assessors gain the information? and who do we contact?

LT responded that the assessors would need to contact the GIRSAP panel using the GIRSAP contact email addresses recorded on the GIRSAP Minutes.

2.a.5. SCO10 - Network Inconsistencies

The forum discussed inconsistencies in how the SCO10 process is being applied. LT informed the forum that at the last GIRSAP it was confirmed that the SCO10 matrix applies to new entrants and extensions to existing registrations. Wales & West Utilities clarified that, for renewals, SCO10 should also be used where the principal qualification supporting a registration reaches its renewal point, for example, when an NCOG qualification expires after five years. At this time, updated information must also be submitted.

Annual notifications

It was noted that SGN and Cadent issue standard annual-review notifications, whereas other network owners do not consistently follow this approach.

Information requirements and processing

At GIRSAP, network owners acknowledged that they understand the process is new and said they are working to guide applicants through it. However, they want to remind the UIPs that applications often contain incorrect or incomplete information, which leads to significant time being spent requesting the evidence they consider necessary.

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.

Using the SCO10 form
Members reported that the form can be difficult to complete because selecting "No" may block the entire CP application. Where an activity is outside scope, applicants have found that selecting "Restricted" and explaining the limitation in the comments field is more likely to allow the submission to proceed.

Although the process was initially unclear, support from colleagues helped users understand the required approach, and several applications have since been accepted. The forum agreed that the form would benefit from clearer guidance and more intuitive response options.

Mineral Blue data sharing
The forum discussed 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.

Members noted that shared access could reduce repeated evidence requests, allow authorised users to review relevant history and make applications more straightforward. Mineral Blue now sits within Nucleus following changes at QEM.

SL offered to ask whether a representative could attend a future forum meeting to present the system and explain its data-sharing capabilities. It was agreed that this would be useful.

File-sharing constraints
The forum asked if the GTs could consider the use of Google Drive, WeTransfer and / or compressed files for submitting evidence. The GDNs advised that cybersecurity controls prevent them from using some external file-sharing services, while compressed files may also create technical or security issues.

Leigh Keegan informed the GIRSAP that SGN are experimenting with SharePoint that will allow external organisations access to secure file structure such that they can upload files. As part of the trials, he would look at the how the system could work for other scenarios such as the SCO data and would report back

Alex Green reminded the meeting that whilst the GDNs may be adopting Mineral Blue, this was not necessarily the case for iGTs, and the existing arrangements would need to continue.

Network-owner response times
The forum had requested a service-level agreement where UIPs are required to submit substantial documentation. The GIRSAP response was that a fixed SLA is not currently available because network-control teams can be delayed and access to the responsible engineer remains difficult. It was also noted that any response period would begin only after receipt of a valid, complete submission pack.

CB reported needing to chase Cadent and GTC for responses; in her experience, a response was received after follow-up but took approximately two to three weeks.

2.a.6. Indigo Update

The recent staffing change at Indigo was described and it was clarified that Dave morgan is no longer the Responsible Engineer. John McCluskey has been providing temporary support by reviewing SCO10 submissions and requesting evidence for historic registrations and there was a consensus that he has been helpful and has issued an instruction that permits and related activities should not be delayed while certificates are pending following assessment.

The forum understood that this review work was progressing well. However, it was not known whether John would remain involved on a reduced basis.

GC informed the meeting that Mike Erskine has taken over as head of Gas Networks and Health and Safety at Indigo.

2.a.7. Cadent's requirements for 3x mentored evidence on a Cadent network

At GIRSAP Geoff Harle (Northern Gas Networks) stated that due to the reduction in the new connection workload, NGN allow evidence of mentored connections on other networks and Peter O'Neil agreed that he would take up the issue and clarify Cadent's position.

It was reported that Cadent have confirmed that whilst the preference is to have evidence of 3 mentored connections on their network, mentored evidence from other networks will be accepted due to the reduction in IGT works, and that the assessment will be conducted on an individual basis to ensure mentored evidence reflects the required standards for the Cadent network.

2.a There were no more matters arising

3. Review and acceptance of Previous GIRSAP Minutes May 2026

3.1. EUSR SHEA – CSCS Qualifications

Discussed in 2.2 above.

3.2. EUSR SHEA – CSCS Relationships

Discussed in 2.2 above

3.3 Body Vent requirements

Discussed in 2.3 Above

3.4. UIP Performance

LT confirmed that, ahead of three-year recertification, LRQA will be requesting completion file performance evidence from GTs for use in recertification assessments. An amendment to A1.6 of GIG 2was published in June and applies from September 1st 2026.

3.5. SCO10 Arrangements

Discussed in 2.5 above

3.6. Future Home Standards Discussion

The impact of the Future Home Standard on the gas connection market is likely to be significant and introduces risks to the gas industry due to the possible move from high-volume low-value activities to low-volume High-value activities

GIRSAP are considering the risks to the scheme and the adoption process and the appropriate mitigation measures.

NOTE the FHS does not affect I&C connections which will continue.

As it stands, as of March 24 next year, we can't put gas in as a primary source of heating unless it is part of a transitionary arrangement. And that transitionary arrangement means that the house must be substantially complete by 28th of March 2028.

Implementation timetable
From 24 March 2027, gas cannot be installed as the primary source of heating unless the development qualifies under transitional arrangements. Under those arrangements, the home must be substantially complete by 28 March 2028.

Scheme risks and mitigation
GIRSAP is considering the potential risks to the scheme and the adoption process, together with appropriate mitigation measures. The effect on LRQA is expected to be limited because most GIRS assessors work on a contract basis; assessment activity can therefore adjust in line with demand without creating a direct staffing risk.

GIRSAP will continue to review the emerging risks and the mitigation measures being considered by gas distribution networks and gas transporters.

Completion-file controls
A decline in the number of active UIPs could create a risk that a provider completes a job and then leaves the market without submitting the full completion file. One possible mitigation is to require a certification file before a gas connection proceeds.

Work unaffected by the standard
The Future Home Standard does not affect industrial and commercial connections. Biogas projects, data-centre connections and other large-scale I&C work are expected to continue.

4. LRQA YTD Report 2026
The surveillance visit detailed results for 2026 (see attached Report) were presented summarised as follows:

There are 159 Companies Listed on the Web site (+3)

Company Info
The following company has been removed from the register

Prestige Utilities

The following Companies have been added to the register

Broughton Contracting and Utility Services Ltd, Dig & Connect Water Services Ltd., Trust Utility Management Limited, and Wingnut Utilities.

PowerTek have been re-branded as TSG PowerTek Ltd

4 Company's accreditation are currently Suspended
Generally, these are companies that have left their Partial Accreditation Status Lapse

Anparo Ltd
Mac Civils Ltd
Nexus Utilities
Skanska

These companies have been suspended for some time and will be removed from the register

2026 YTD LRQA have completed

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)

On Site Deficiencies Identified
2 Major Deficiencies (8 total in 2025)
54 Minor Deficiencies (99 in 2025)
103 visits with no deficiencies (147 During 2025)

Design Deficiencies Identified
1 Minor Deficiencies (3 reported in 2025)
17 visits with no deficiencies (Not reported 2025)

3. Bulletins Issued / Info raised Since Last GIRSAP

- No Bulletins issued this cycle

4. AOB

4.1 UIP representative appointment

The forum invited volunteers to serve as the UIP representative following Dave Morgan's change of role. Sheila Lauchlan indicated that she would consider the position but encouraged others to volunteer.

Steph Marvin volunteered, noting her recent experience as Chair of IGEM TD/101 and her understanding of the relevant processes from both perspectives. Sheila seconded the nomination, and no objections or alternative nominations were raised.

Decision: Steph Marvin was appointed as the UIP representative and will be included in future meeting invitations.

4.1 Cadent Repair Query

CB Informed the forum that recently, a developer had damaged a main on a housing site and called the national emergency number. In response to the Public reported escape, Cadent attended site and made safe.

The network owner made arrangements for the UIP to carry out the repair, but when the UIP attended the site it was found that a permanent repair had been made.

Following discussion with the developer, it was confirmed that somebody from "National Grid" had turned up carried out the repair after having been paid in cash.

The network owner is continuing their own investigations, but CB asked if any other UIP had experienced such an issue. There was no response from any of the UIPs in attendance.

5. Next Meeting Details

The agreed dates for 2027 meetings are:

GIRS Forum – 19th January, 18th May and 7th September
GIRSAP – 2nd February, 1st June and 21st September