

## Minutes of GIRS Providers Forum



LRQA Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Venue: Microsoft Teams

### Attendees:

| Name                    | Name                           | Name                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Karl Miller (KM)        | Daniel Scott (DS)              | Lee Hewett (LH)       |
| Les Thomas (LT)         | Danny Dunstan (DD)             | Mick Carter (MC)      |
| Alan Shaw (AS)          | Dave Wilkins (DW)              | Murray Richards (MR)  |
| Andy Bunten (AB)        | David Gronow (DG)              | Paul Mason (PM)       |
| Andy Ginn (AG)          | David Morgan (DMo)             | Peter Burnage (PB)    |
| Andy Holland (AH)       | Dean O'Dee (DO)                | Philip Henderson (PH) |
| Angela Fry (AF) - EUSR  | Debbie Mitchell (DMi) -<br>EUA | Rachel Dickinson (RD) |
| Ben Brownbill (AB)      | Eric Dodd (ED)                 | Robert Beavis (RB)    |
| Ben Webb (BW)           | Fergus Kaye (FK) – EUSR        | Rupinder Sandhu (RS)  |
| Bobby Strachan (BS)     | Hollie Richardson (HR)         | Sarah Parker (SP)     |
| Carl Evans (CE)         | Ian Haynes (IH)                | Sheila Lauchlan (SL)  |
| Cassie McCaffrey (CM)   | Ian Mumford (IM)               | Steph Marvin (SM)     |
| Charlotte Berryman (CB) | Ian Wilson (IW)                | Stephen Maggs (SM)    |
| Christian Crackle (CC)  | Kevin Wilkinson (KW)           | Steve Richards (SR)   |
| Claire Pape (CP)        | Kyle Lemon (KL)                | Thomas Oakley (TO)    |

### 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 45 attendees and thus deciding to forgo the customary individual introductions.

#### 2. Review and acceptance of Previous Minutes Dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The minutes of the January 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. Weekly Whereabouts

There was an open action for the development of a central repository on an LRQA SharePoint site for whereabouts to be submitted.

The forum agreed to close the action relating, as there is no short-term prospect of implementation and it is not currently a priority.

### **2.a.2. Cadent Quotes for Mains Cut-Offs**

An update was provided on ongoing Ofgem workshops concerning gas disconnections, costs, section 50 constraints, and safe methods of service cut-off. This is likely to roll on for some time, hence the forum agreed to close this action and to await Ofgem's follow-up document before bringing the matter back for further consideration.

### **2.a.3. EUSR SHEA – CSCS relationships**

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.

LT informed the meeting that as part of a recent ISO55001:2014 assessment, LT and some iGT management were recently asked to undergo the group induction using the APP, none of the team's EUSR References were considered valid by the App. LT used his Professionally Qualified Person CSCS card. Following instruction by the Site Manager, the iGT staff gained access by stating they were delivery drivers. PH indicated that he had used the APP and his EUSR reference number was acceptable. LT and FK agreed to investigate specific cases and to provide further clarification on role exemptions and card recognition.

## **2.a There were no more matters arising**

## **3. Review and acceptance of Previous GIRSAP Minutes January 2026**

### **3.1. Weekly Whereabouts**

Discussed in 2.1 Above

### **3.2. EUSR SHEA – CSCS Qualifications**

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).

The forum was advised that older qualifications may initially be rejected, but cases can be escalated for individual review.

It was noted that many people gained their qualifications over 15 years ago. To meet CSCS licence requirements without preventing long-standing registrants from working, a weekly case-by-case review process has been introduced to resolve issues.

To start a review, application details should be sent to [enquiries@eusr.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eusr.co.uk) for the attention of Fergus Kaye. Members were reminded to include full supporting evidence for EUSR panel escalation.

### **3.3. 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.

Apologies, LT only sent Peter Tootell the addresses yesterday PM.

### **3.4. 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, ahead of three-year recertification, LRQA may request completion file performance evidence from GTs. At GIRSAP, it was agreed that LT would propose an amendment to A1.6 of GIG 2.

The forum discussed adding wording to GIG2 to confirm that LRQA will request performance information from Network Owners during three-year recertification, supporting a fairer two-way review of completion file quality, timeliness, and rejection handling. The proposed wording drew no objections.

*UIPs are reminded that the three yearly reaccreditation process requires LRQA to request UIP performance information from all Network Owners prior to recertification. The responses are used to inform the assessment in relation to conformance with Network owner requirements.*

### **3.5.a SCO10**

#### **Network Inconsistencies**

LT reported that GIRSAP confirmed the new SCO10 form is only needed for new applicants joining the SCO Register under a GIRS-registered company, or for existing registrants seeking additional categories. For annual confirmation where registrations remain valid, the letter on page 38 of the SCO10 process is sufficient.

GIRSAP also clarified that column P, the number of operations submitted as evidence, applies only to new entrants or changes to existing registrations and should reflect the number of mentored ROs or NROs submitted with the application.

Members raised concerns that SCO10 is being applied inconsistently across networks, with some networks requesting full applications, multiple work examples, network-specific evidence, and lengthy submission processes even for what should be an annual review.

DMo, recently appointed Responsible Engineer at Indigo, said its requirement for SCO10 and connection evidence during what would normally be an annual review is driven by regulatory scrutiny and missing legacy competency records. Many historic records cannot yet be found, and those located are in SSE's name rather than Indigo's, so AE and CP evidence is being requested again.

DMo added that, as he is handling the applications alone, delays in clearing the backlog are likely.

He reiterated that Indigo would accept connection evidence from other networks and asked UIPs needing urgent AE or CP registration for upcoming work to send application packs to [dave.morgan@indigonetworks.co.uk](mailto:dave.morgan@indigonetworks.co.uk), which he will prioritise and respond to as soon as possible.

An attached Indigo letter sets out the information required for this document cleanse. See SCO-review-Letter-07.05.2026.docx.

#### **Email issues**

Members also highlighted problems experienced as a result of the when applying for registration activities, the submissions require large email attachments (3 examples of each RO or NRO type. 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 such as google drive, or “We Transfer” were discussed, although compatibility with network security controls remains uncertain.

GIRSAP is requested to confirm that the networks will adopt the standard approach as documented in accordance with the SCO 10 process, and also to ensure that email restrictions are removed such that a zip file, Google File, or we transfer link can be used to transfer the information in one email.

CB 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.

#### **Cadent acceptance of AE and CP evidence of Mentored ROs and NROs on other networks**

The issue of Cadent rejecting evidence of mentored ROs and NROs on other networks was queried. CB and SL clarified that an email has been received for Karl Brayson on the May 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 that stated: \_

*We reviewed your query on Tuesday, and the preference is 3x mentored evidence on a Cadent network as our internal policy and procedures slightly differ to the other gas distribution networks.*

*However, 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*

Cadent are requested to confirm its stance to the wider UIP community.

### **3.5.b Future Home Standards Discussion**

LT advised that the Future Homes and Buildings Standard 2026 has now been confirmed and published.

The enabling legislation is The Building Regulations etc. (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/335).

The new Approved Documents (Parts L, F and O) and the Home Energy Model (HEM) now form the compliance basis for new homes.

Implementation is from 24 March 2027, when all new homes must comply unless transitional arrangements apply.

Transitional arrangements apply per plot, not per site, and determine whether a dwelling can remain under Part L 2021, where gas is permitted, or must meet the Future Homes Standard 2026, where gas cannot comply.

To stay under Part L 2021 (and therefore still use gas), BOTH conditions must be met:

#### **1. Plot Registration Deadline**

Plots must be registered before 24 March 2027; later plots fall under the FHS.

#### **2. Start-of-Work Deadline**

Each plot must see a meaningful start within the transition period.

In short, plots registered before 24 March 2027 must start within 12 months to remain under the old standard.

This is reducing connection workloads, making it harder to provide three examples of each connection type and risking the loss of operative competency.

It was noted that operatives can be registered for limited scopes, such as PE end-to-end straight connections. However, concern was raised that experienced gas operatives in multi-utility UIP/SLP companies may still be deemed not competent to follow an approved step-by-step process that has been prepared, authorised and checked.

SL noted that several GDNs now use Mineral Blue for the SCO database and asked whether qualification data could be shared across network owners, including IGTs, since competence relates to the individual rather than the company or network.

GIRSAP was asked to consider whether this would be possible.

### **3.6 Energy Utilities Alliance Presentation**

DMi gave presentation on the role of the Energy & Utilities Alliance (EUA) and in particular the area she manages, which is the EUA Networks. The EUA was founded in 1905 as a trade association for the gas industry and has continued its development through various identities such as the SBGI. It is a not-for-profit trade association, representing manufacturers, network operators, and technology providers across the UK energy sector.

EUA has an active involvement and participation in hydrogen discussions with the government and core activities include policy and regulation, industry representation, government engagement, and influencing energy policy.

The alliance has a unique advantage of leveraging leadership with political experience (e.g., ex-MPs) to access both Labour and Conservative networks. Engagement with all major political parties to understand and seeks to influence future energy strategies.

The EUA is structured into six specialist groups, each representing a distinct part of the UK heating, hot water, and energy-network ecosystem.

#### **1. Utility Networks (UN)**

Represents the UK's gas and wider utility network operators and associated supply-chain partners.

Focus: safe, secure, resilient energy distribution.

#### **2. HHIC – Heating & Hot water Industry Council**

Represents domestic heating and hot-water manufacturers and stakeholders.

Focus: boilers, controls, standards, consumer heating policy.

#### **3. ICOM – Industrial & Commercial Heating & Hot Water**

Represents manufacturers and specialists in non-domestic heating and hot-water systems.

Focus: commercial boilers, industrial heat systems, compliance.

#### **4. HWA – Hot Water Association**

Represents the hot-water storage sector.

Focus: cylinders, storage systems, safety, performance standards.

#### **5. MARC – Manufacturers' Association of Radiators & Convectors**

Represents radiator and heat-emitter manufacturers.

Focus: system performance, emitter efficiency, product standards.

#### **6. MEHNA – Manufacturers of Equipment for Heat Networks Association**

Represents companies supplying equipment for heat networks.

Focus: HIUs, network components, efficiency, compliance.

The presentation centred on the support that the EUA can provide to members that were stated as being

- Offering support for business strategy, membership benefits, and industry networking.
- Weekly newsletters and updates to inform members about policy, industry news, and supply chain changes.
- Organizing workshops on digital recognition, LinkedIn enhancement, and business promotion for small organizations.
- Hosting annual events, forums, and platform meetings for members to showcase innovations and network.

Finally contact details for those companies seeking further information were provided.

Debbie can be contacted as [debbie@eua.org.uk](mailto:debbie@eua.org.uk).

#### **4. LRQA YTD Report 2026**

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

There are 156 Companies Listed on the Web site (-5)

##### **Company Info**

**The following companies have been removed from the register**

Johnson Utility Solutions Ltd

KLT Utilities Ltd

McLaughlin Kent Ltd

Vital Energi Utilities Limited

WaterWise Utilities Ltd (formerly DS Construction (Scotland) Ltd )

#### **4 Company's accreditation are currently Suspended**

Generally, these are companies that have left their Partial Accreditation Status Lapse

- ACS Multi Utility Ltd - MURS accredited
- Adroit Utilities
- Anparo Ltd
- Mac Civils Ltd
- Nexus Utilities
- Skanska

#### **2026 YTD LRQA have completed**

71 on site Surveillance Visits }  
15 Design Surveillance Visits } (225 total in 2025)

9 Recertification visits (16 total in 2025)

7 Partial Assessments (15 total in 2025)

1 Partial to full Assessments (12 total in 2025)

##### **On Site Deficiencies Identified**

0 Major Deficiencies (8 total in 2025)

31 Minor Deficiencies (99 in 2025)

41 visits with no deficiencies (147 During 2025)

### **Design Deficiencies Identified**

1 Minor Deficiencies (3 reported in 2025)

14 visits with no deficiencies (Not reported 2025)

### **3. Bulletins Issued / Info raised Since Last GIRSAP**

- Cadent Safety Information S\_I\_35 V2 - FABA Nevis Face Mask

### **4. AOB**

#### **a) Standardisation of FM144 forms**

CB of Aptus asked if the Network Owners would consider standardising FM144 communication forms across the companies to increase efficiency. If the owners cannot agree on a standard form, As Aptus rationalises their structure and systemises the issue of various forms, would the Network Owners accept a UIP generated form that would have all the information they require, but in a UIP\_ based format?

#### **b) AE Access to company mapping systems**

DW requests easier access to mapping systems and highlighted difficulties with current login processes and lack of centralized information. He uses a MAC and does not have consent to access Cadent Maps. The log on process for UIPs was explained, however for independent AEs the need to access Cadent maps is necessary when considering contingency plans etc.

Addendum to meeting

*LT asks could access to maps be linked not only to companies with the final connections agreement, but also for individuals, could access be linked to SCO registration as an AE?*

#### **c) Network Owners relationships with Design houses**

CP (DACI) said Cadent requires design organisations to hold PM accreditation to submit designs. DACI said it is accredited for design, not site management, and believes design houses are better placed to manage design than construction-focused UIPs.

This approach pushes construction-accredited UIPs into managing design work outside their experience and accreditation. DACI said this prevents accredited design houses from submitting designs directly while requiring UIPs to oversee work beyond their expertise.

LRQA stated that Network Owners can only deal with a company that holds the final connections agreement, so they cannot deal directly with a design house that has no control over construction.

LRQA added that, without a network connections agreement, DACI has no contractual relationship with the network owner. For direct communication, a design house would need PM accreditation and responsibility for construction quality.

### **5. Next Meeting Details**

The agreed dates for 2026 meetings are:

GIRS Forum – 15<sup>th</sup> September

GIRSAP – 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> September