



An Roinn Iompair  
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt  
Department of Transport,  
Tourism and Sport

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# ROADS Services Training Group

## LOCAL AUTHORITY ROADS CONFERENCE and EXHIBITION - 2019

Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny, May 2019.

# LOCAL AUTHORITY ROADS CONFERENCE and EXHIBITION – 2019

## Managing road openings

**Tom Leahy** (Irish Water) & **Des Foley** (Meath CoCo)



**Joint co-chairs**



**JULA (Joint Utility Local Authority) User Forum**



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# Content

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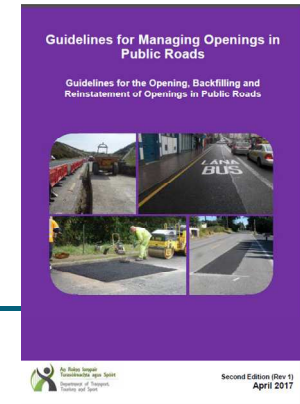
- **Background**
- **JULA role and work**
- **Objectives and Outcomes**

# Background



- ❑ The **Guidelines on Managing Opening, backfilling and Reinstatement of openings in Public Roads** (aka the purple book) was first published in 2002 by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTAS).
- ❑ A revision was proposed in 2014
- ❑ Between 2015 and 2017 extensive engagement took place to ensure the revised version took on board the specific needs of Utilities (Gas, ESB, Water, Telecoms) and Local Authorities.
- ❑ **April 2017** publication of new guidelines  
Second Edition (Rev 1).

# Background



- ❑ **Section 1.13** of the Guidelines sets out that there would be a **Joint Utility/Road Authority Working/User Forum (JULA)**
- ❑ Allow for user **feedback** and **dialogue** between applicants/licence holders and road authorities.
- ❑ **Forum** would seek to address **matters of a significant nature relating to road openings and licensing** such as:-
  - Guidelines for Managing Road Openings
  - Training
  - MapRoad Licensing (MRL) system
  - Charges and Deposits
- ❑ The forum should meet at least four times per year unless otherwise agreed by all parties.

# Joint Utility Local Authority Forum (JULA)



- ❑ First meeting November 2017 convened by DTTAS
- ❑ **Joint co-chairs elected in 2018**
  - Tom Leahy ( Irish Water) representing the **Utilities sector**
  - Kieran Keogh (Laois CoCo) representing the **CCMA (Replaced by Des Foley in 2019)**
- ❑ **Five meetings held in 2018** (including major workshop on charges)
- ❑ **JULA Membership:**
- ❑ **CCMA (Local Authorities):** Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown County Council (DLRCC), Laois County Council, Dublin City Council, Meath
- ❑ **Utilities:** Telecommunications and Internet Federation (TIF), Gas Networks Ireland National Federation of Group Water Schemes, ESB Networks, SIRO, Irish Water, Virgin, Eircom
- ❑ **Other** TII, LGMA, RMO,CIF , Ibec

# Stakeholders

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- **Customers** (Domestic & Commercial) who rely on critical infrastructure
- **Government Departments**
- **Local Authorities**
- **Utilities**
- **Contractors**
- **Representative bodies**
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# Joint Utility Local Authority Forum (JULA)

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- ❑ **Terms of Reference** agreed **Jan 2018**
- ❑ Standard agenda agreed including
  - Update on Purple Book Implementation
  - Update on Green Book Implementation
  - Consideration of Objectives
  - Issues

## UTILITY AND ROAD AUTHORITY LICENSING USER FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1 INTRODUCTION:

This document sets out the Terms of Reference for Joint Utility / Road Authority Licensing User Groups / Forum.

### 2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM:

The purpose of the User Forum is to:

- Allow for user feedback
- Allow for dialogue between applicants/licence holders and Road Authorities
- Address matters of a significant nature relating to road openings and Licencing.

To achieve this objective the forum will:

1. Monitor the implementation of Guidelines for managing road openings including current road opening and licencing practices to ensure their effectiveness supporting innovative ways to reduce disruption, improve safety, sustainability and quality of all works and processes to meet customer needs.
2. Support implementation of good practice within utilities and road authorities by promoting the Guidelines along with supporting training, software and appropriate standardisation.
3. Monitor and seek to have addressed, if required, ongoing operational issues relating to the MapRoad Licencing system.
4. Monitor and seek to have addressed, if required, ongoing operational issues relating to charges and deposits.
5. Monitor and seek to have addressed, if required, issues relating to:
  - a. The Purple Book and any subsequent guidelines that support it's use
  - b. The Green book and any subsequent guidelines that support it's use.
6. Strengthen the working relationships between Road Authorities and Utilities through discussion and joint problem solving.
7. Identify matters that it deems necessary for the Road Openings Monitoring Committee, CCMA or other groups or bodies to consider.

The User Forum is not intended to be an appeal, referral or arbitration group for individual licences or disputes.








# Joint Utility Local Authority Forum (JULA) – Agreed Objectives

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- ❑ Local Authority Charges
- ❑ National Deposit Scheme
- ❑ Notifications
- ❑ Reinstatement Training
- ❑ Reporting of Data
- ❑ License Turnaround times
- ❑ Standardisation of Conditions
- ❑ Licenses granted to third parties under utility's name




# Joint Utility Local Authority Forum (JULA) – 2018 Progress on Objectives

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- Standardised methodology for charges agreed. Further discussion on LTI 
- Standard application fees agreed implemented June 2018 
- National Deposit Scheme agreed implement 2019 applications from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 
- Utilities commencing implementation of notifications as per guidelines 
- Utility uptake on Basic Trench Reinstatement Course 

# Local Authority Charges – Major progress by JULA in 2018

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- 3 National Charges proposed in 2017
  - **Standard National Application fees** agreed in 2018 and implemented in 2018 
  - **National Deposit scheme** agreed in 2018 and operative from January 2019. 
  - **Long term impact charges** policy/principles agreed in 2018 
    - Implementation planned in 2019

# Training – DTTAS Circular RW 05 of 2019

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6<sup>th</sup> February 2019

RW 05 of 2019

Re: - Guidelines for Managing for Managing Openings in Public Roads (2017)

- ❑ Suitably trained personnel on site (**Basic Course**) **mandatory** from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- ❑ Oversight and certification of works in accordance with Purple Book (**Advanced Course**) **mandatory** from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- ❑ Details on training courses available from LASNTG
- ❑ **Sincere thanks to LASNTG** for arranging courses – Very positive uptake both from Utilities, Local Authorities and wider contracting sector.

# Rollout by RMO – Major improvement arising from JULA

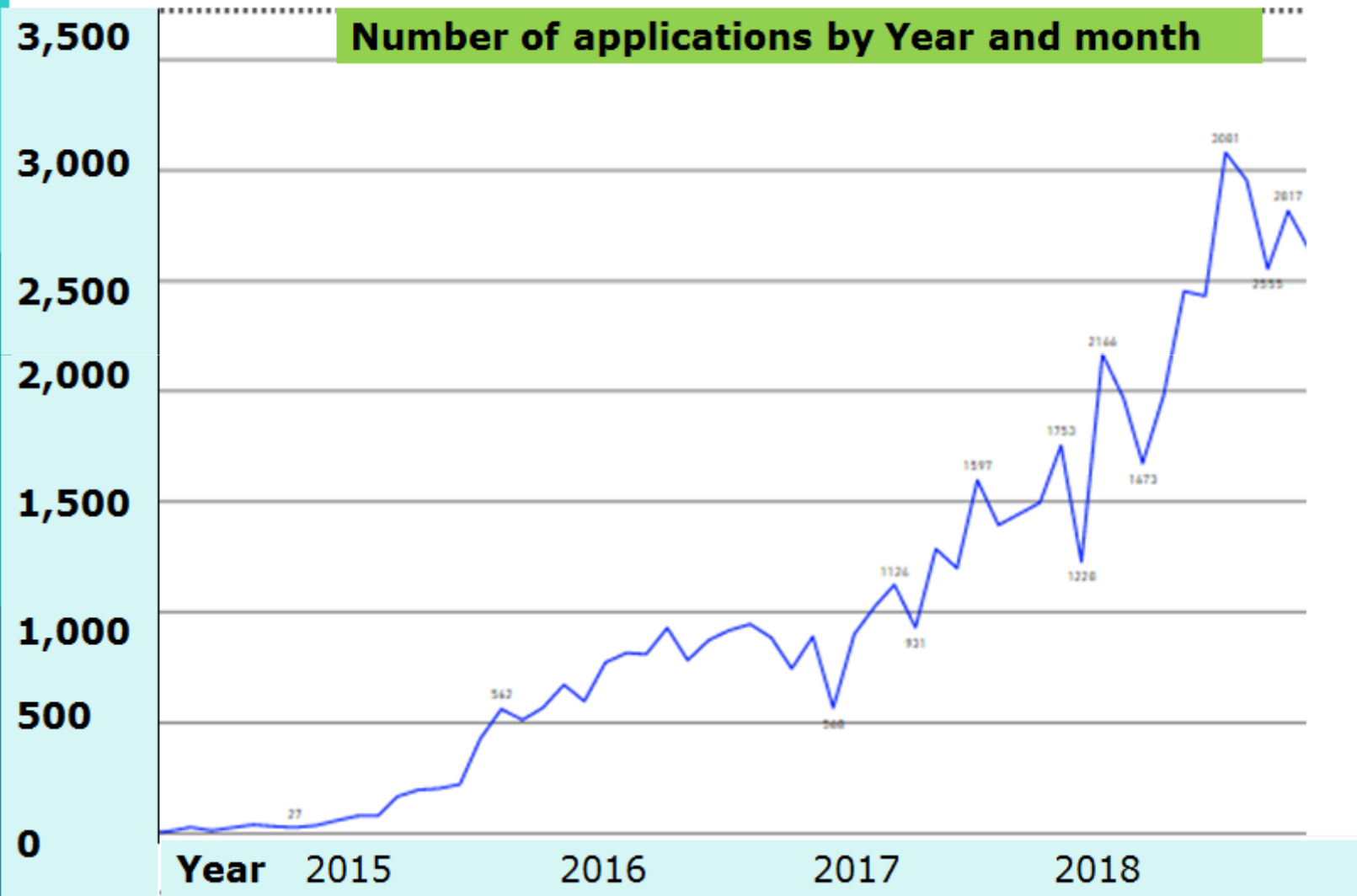
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- ❑ Increasing engagement with RMO and use of system for License applications
- ❑ Increasing use of T1 **advance notification of major works** to streamline works
- ❑ Identification of volume of works (Increasing due to infrastructure demands from growing economy)

# Meeting customer needs



# Increasing engagement with RMO and use of system for License applications (2015-2018)





# Increasing use of T1 **advance notification** of **major works** to streamline works

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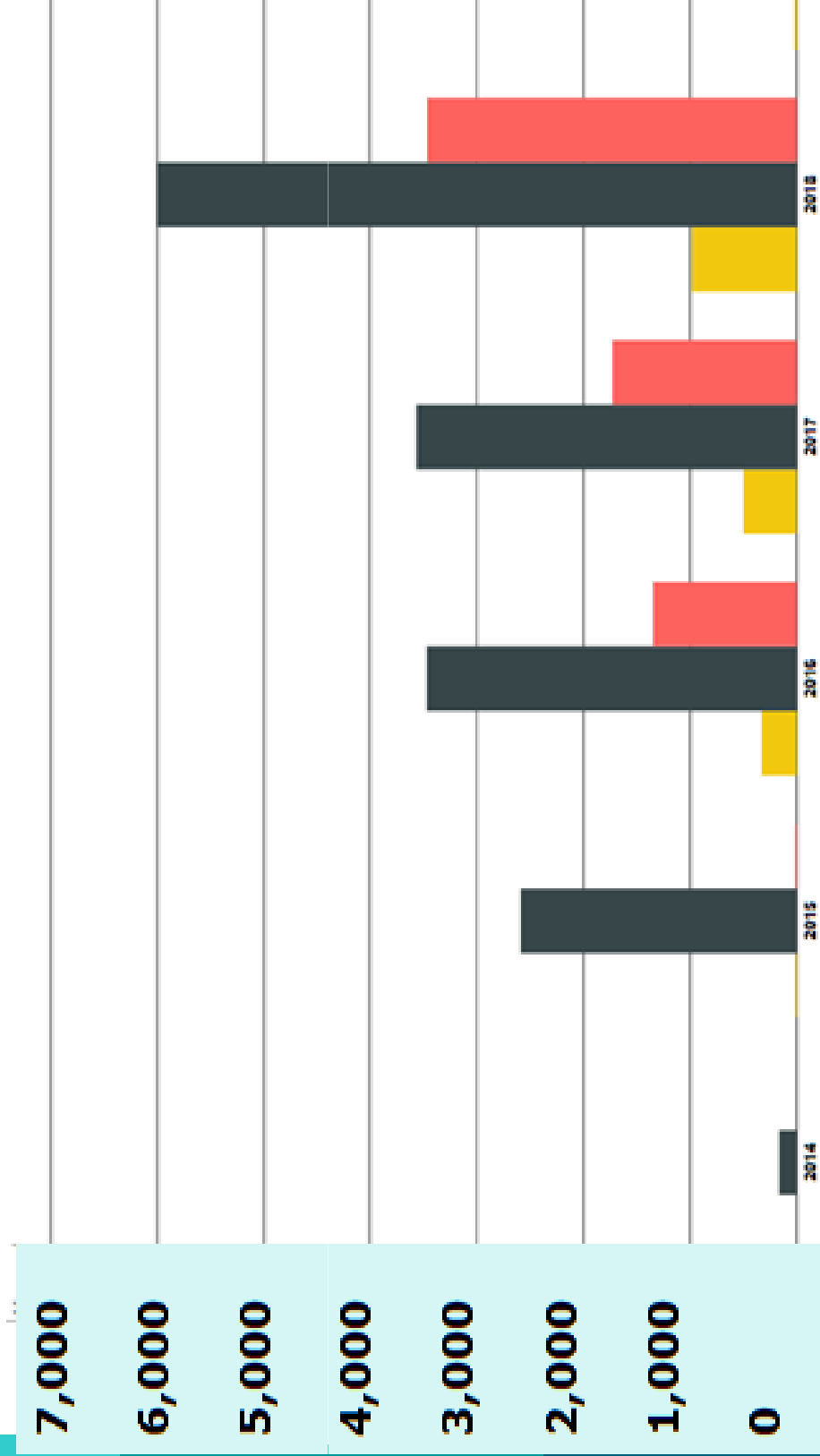
**T1** – Major works  
**notification**

**T2** - High impact  
Works

**T2**<sup>1</sup> -T2 license  
covering multiple  
openings issued  
following a  
T1 notification

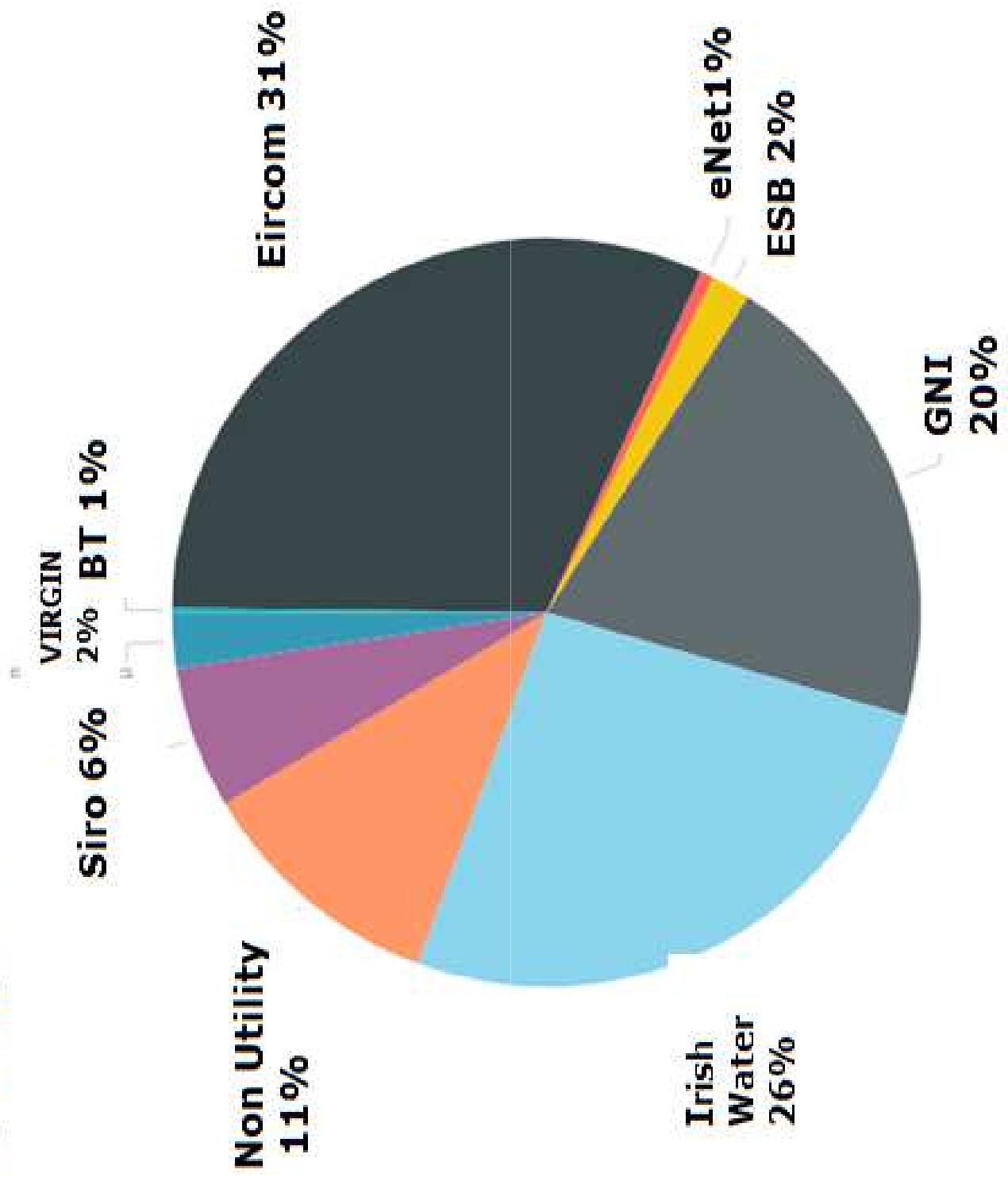


# License Types (2014-2018)



2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

# Licenses by Utility 2018



# Joint Utility Local Authority Forum (JULA) – 2019 Objectives

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- ❑ **Reporting of Data** – Improve during 2019
- ❑ **License Turnaround times** – Automation of T3 Licenses (major customer benefit)
- ❑ **Standardisation of Conditions T3 Licenses**-general and specific directions to be issued
- ❑ **Licenses granted to third parties under utility's name** – to be implements as part of new module in MRL
- ❑ **Commence start/stop notifications**
- ❑ **Implement training** to meet mandatory date (September 2019) and to meet user needs
- ❑ **Introduce retrospective monthly billing for Utilities** (better service for customers)
- ❑ **Develop support training** for system users to improve standards and efficiency.
- ❑ **New System reports** – Develop formats to meet user and customer needs

# JULA performance “Scorecard”

## 2018-2019 Summary

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- ❑ All parties have moved from a confrontational type arrangement to **collaborative working**
- ❑ Objective of **focussing on shared outcomes to**
  - **Improve customer service and response times**
  - **Improve road restoration quality**
  - **Reduce potential for accidents/claims**
  - **Agree a schedule of charges, which is fair and reasonable to all parties.**
  - **Improve training**
- ❑ **Assist in steering RMO work**
- ❑ **Demonstrated progress on key issues e.g. charges**
- ❑ **Focus on improvements to Customer**





# Keep up the good work

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**JULA Meeting** – February 2019 - Hosted by ESB in Portlaois

# LOCAL AUTHORITY ROADS CONFERENCE and EXHIBITION – 2019

## Thank you

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Utilities + Local Authorities



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