

Representing the Scottish
electrotechnical industry

cabletalk

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
2025 | £4.50

He's a one-hit wonder!

The team from Member firm MIE Electrical Services are all smiles as Terry Stewart hits a hole in one at the 2025 President's Cup

ALL THE ACTION: PAGES 26-31

→ Roadshow's final miles to the isles
Our Toolbox Talks finish with adventures on Lewis, Shetland and Orkney

A healthier and happier approach
Advice and support to protect your physical and mental wellbeing

Cutting through the uncertainty
Exploring when it's permitted to remove a distributor's cut-out fuse

125
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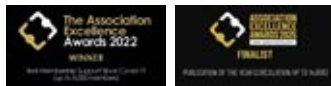
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Contents

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

Regulars

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 05 OPINION | 06 NEWS |
| 50 PROZONE | 58 DIARY |

Features

- 14** The Toolbox Talks team takes our roadshow out to the islands
- 16** The facts about some common myths around prostate health
- 18** Where to get help when gambling is affecting your mental health
- 20** More politicians sign up to back our campaign for regulation
- 22** New and updated certificates added to the SCO-CERTs system
- 23** Book your ticket to join the party at 125th Anniversary Grand Ball
- 24** SELECT's footballing hot shots take on industry five-a-side rivals

Technical

- 32** Spotlight on whether to remove distributor's cut-out fuses

Training

- 38** The courses improving skills across the wider industry



**WIN
£200 OF
Megger®
TEST EQUIPMENT
PAGE 59**

12

**MEET SELECT'S MOST
NORTHERLY MEMBER**

**"APPRENTICESHIPS OFFER
A FANTASTIC PATHWAY TO
CAREER ADVANCEMENT"**

// PAGE 5

Health and Safety

- 40** Protecting workers from the risk of manual handling injuries

Industry Insight

- 42** Opportunities and challenges in the transition to net zero
- 44** What new law on moveable property could mean for you
- 45** Free webinar highlights key areas of Best Practice Guide

SECTT Update

- 46** Talented Apprentice of the Year winners for 2025 revealed

SJIB Bulletin

- 49** New three-year pay agreed for National Working Rules



26

**ALL THE ACTION
FROM THIS YEAR'S
PRESIDENT'S CUP
GOLF COMPETITION**

OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY PARTNERS



3000 SERIES

FULL CIRCLE PROTECTION

Simple and intelligent, the 3000 Series provides whole property coverage.

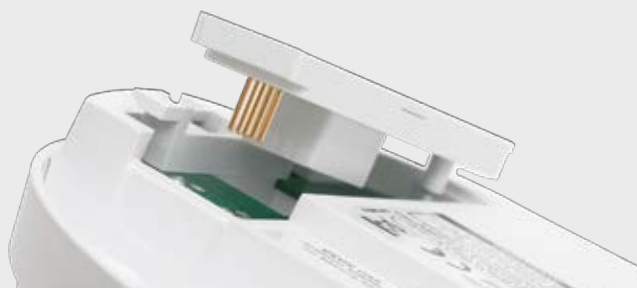


The technologically advanced 3000 Series includes both **Multi-Sensor** and **Single-Sensor** alarms, detecting **Fire** and **Carbon Monoxide** from just one range, while maintaining the simplicity that installers love.

Smart, connected and future-proof.



Add the Ei3000MRF for wireless interconnection and data extraction via the Ei1000G Gateway



We know the value of apprenticeships – so let us run them properly

MAKE no apology for returning to the subject of apprenticeships. It's clear that our electrical installation apprenticeship programme stands as a testament to the industry's commitment to cultivating a skilled workforce and driving economic growth.

Over the past 10 years, the industry has recruited almost 8,000 apprentices and adult trainees, with more than 800 already recruited in 2025. This equates to 40% of the current electrotechnical workforce.

Qualified electricians undertake vital work in electrifying our society and also make a significant financial contribution to government coffers via tax and NI contributions.

The financial implications of investing in apprenticeships are significant: for every £1 of public money spent on apprenticeship training, approximately £4 to £5 is returned in tax revenues. Moreover, employers contribute around £10 for every £1 of public investment, indicating a strong commitment from the private sector.

This co-investment not only alleviates the financial burden on the government but also ensures that training remains relevant, tailored to current industry needs and – politicians please note – meets employer demands!

Despite this, the programme seems to be under constant pressure from a host of bodies who seem determined to undermine it.

The latest attack came from politicians in Holyrood who seemed to suggest that managing agents such as SECTT are getting a “cut” from public funds which are used to facilitate the apprenticeship programmes. What nonsense!

The amount of grant – or contribution – from Skills Development Scotland (SDS) has not been increased in eight years and in real terms has decreased in value by almost 30%.

Maybe if politicians took the time and trouble to visit electrotechnical employers who employ apprentices they may

**“THEY OFFER
YOUNG PEOPLE
A PATHWAY
TO CAREER
DEVELOPMENT,
FINANCIAL
STABILITY AND
SOCIAL MOBILITY”**

realise the true value of what our training body actually does.

SECTT plays a pivotal role in the electrical apprenticeship landscape, offering comprehensive support to employers and apprentices alike.

By covering training costs, providing course materials and facilitating on-site support through Training Officers, SECTT ensures that apprentices receive

quality education aligned with industry standards.

In turn, employers benefit from a pipeline of well-trained individuals who can be moulded to meet specific business needs, enhancing productivity and fostering growth.

Apprenticeships are vital for our sector and have proven to be a catalyst for improved business performance. Approximately 83% of employers report enhanced productivity as a direct result of incorporating apprentices into their workforce. This is particularly evident in small businesses, which constitute more than 90% of apprentice employers in Scotland. For the young people themselves, apprenticeships offer a fantastic pathway to career advancement, financial stability and social mobility.

As Scotland continues to navigate evolving workforce demands, apprenticeships remain a cornerstone of sustainable economic development and social advancement.

We know what do to improve it year on year. What we **DON'T** need is poorly informed people telling a hugely successful industry how to run its training programme. ■



WORDS
ALAN WILSON
Managing Director, SECTT

Save the date for your local Branch Update

Upcoming meetings, sponsored by Hispec, are the perfect chance for Members to have their say on a range of issues, listen to technical updates – and go home with great prizes

INDUSTRY issues and great giveaways will be on the agenda at our upcoming Branch Updates as Members gather for their second local get-together of 2025.

The autumn meetings will be sponsored by Associate Member Hispec, who will deliver a presentation at each on their range of products.

Thanks to Associate Member Megger, there will also be a prize draw at every update, with the chance to win a VF5 voltage stick and MST220 socket tester worth £50.

The usual updates on activity will also be delivered by a SELECT Director of Function and member of the Presidential Team, with a Training Officer providing the latest apprentice and adult trainee news from the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT).

Members will also have chance to ask questions and discuss local and wider industry issues with fellow contractors in a relaxed and informal setting. Attendees are

↓ Updates are a great way for
Members to come together
and discuss industry issues



encouraged to gather from 5.30pm onwards, with the meeting itself starting at 6pm and refreshments served at each event.

To book a place at your upcoming Branch Update, speak to your Member Representative, email memberservices@select.org.uk or call 0131 445 5577.



↑ You can win a socket
tester in the prize draw

Branch Updates October 2025

- 01 **Tues 7 October** –
Lanarkshire, The Electric
Heating Company,
Blantyre
- 02 **Thurs 9 October** –
Tayside, Dundee & Angus
College
- 03 **Tues 14 October** –
Aberdeen & North East of
Scotland, Tullis Training

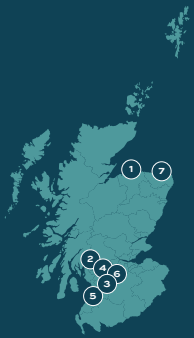
- 04 **Thurs 16 October** –
Dumfries & Galloway,
Dumfries & Galloway
College
- 05 **Tues 21 October** –
Ayrshire, Ayr College
- 06 **Thurs 23 October** –
Glasgow & West of
Scotland, Cardonald
College

- 07 **Tues 28 October** –
Edinburgh & South
East of Scotland,
Borders College
- 08 **Wed 29 October** –
Inverness & North
of Scotland,
Inverness
College



125
Branch
UPDATE
SPONSORED BY HISPEC





7 FIRMS HAVE BECOME SELECT MEMBERS SINCE 1 JUNE 2025

1. Macaulay Electrical Limited, Elgin
2. CSD Air Conditioning Ltd, Clydebank
3. Lakeside Electrics Limited, Kilmarnock
4. SFM Scotland Ltd, Glasgow
5. Advanced Integrated Solutions Ltd, Ayr
6. GLH Electrical Services Limited, Uddingston
7. Thomas Robertson Electrical, Fraserburgh

International get-together at SELECT HQ

SELECT welcomed colleagues from Europe and beyond recently as it hosted a meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Technical Committee 64.

Members of working group (WG) 48 spent three days together at The Walled Garden in July, during which they discussed the erection of stationary secondary batteries.

The delegates included representatives from Italy, France, Sweden, Norway and India, as well as the IET's Head of Technical Regulations, Mark Coles, and IET Associate Committee Manager Gary Gundry.

Bob Cairney, Director of Technical Services, said: "We were delighted to host IEC TC 64 WG 48 and hope they enjoyed sampling Scotland's legendary hospitality."

IEC TC 64 is responsible for the IEC 60364 series of standards, which cover low-voltage electrical installations. WG 48 is tasked with the safety



considerations for generating and storing electrical energy in a building, rather than relying on external power.

↑ Committee members were welcomed by SELECT MD Alan Wilson

"WE WERE DELIGHTED TO HOST IEC TC 64 WG 48 AND HOPE THEY ENJOYED SAMPLING SCOTLAND'S LEGENDARY HOSPITALITY"



↑ IEC members on the first day of their visit

Agreement is a show of support for trainees

SELECT has welcomed a new agreement which strengthens the ongoing relationship for electrical apprentice training in Scotland.

The Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB) and National Electrotechnical Training (NET) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) which cements their long-standing arrangement for assessment of apprentices and adult trainees.

The agreement confirms the bodies' roles and responsibilities for the Final Integrated Competence Assessment (FICA), which the SJIB operates under licence from NET at three recognised training centres across Scotland.

Catherine Gillon, SJIB Secretary and Director of Employment Affairs at SELECT, said: "We are delighted to have signed this important memorandum, which confirms our ongoing working relationship with our fellow training professionals at NET."

"The FICA is an integral part of the Modern Apprenticeship in Electrical Installation and this MoU reinforces the message that the final assessment can only be taken at a centre approved by the SJIB to ensure learners receive the required level of experience."

Carolyn Mason, Chief Executive of NET, added: "As well as demonstrating our harmonious relationship, this agreement shows that the industry is dedicated to delivering the very highest standards of electrical industry training in Scotland through the SJIB."

"The SJIB has made a substantial investment in developing and operating FICA in Scotland and this move will ensure that electrotechnical learners continue to follow the correct route to receive the competencies and skills they require to work safely and successfully."

NET is a registered UK charity that owns, manages and develops end point assessments and assessments of occupational competence for the electrotechnical industry. These are the AM2 in England and Wales and the FICA in Scotland.



↓ Catherine Gillon



UPDATE No23: APR-JUN 2025

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS



1,208
Full Members



18
Probationers



40
Associate Members

28,031
Viewers on YouTube



6,062
Followers on social media



TRAINING



53
training courses delivered to delegates across Scotland, with new e-learning module in business skills now available

TECHNICAL



86
Technical Inspections



245
BSG Health & Safety users



136
Technical Helpline calls

EMPLOYMENT AFFAIRS



First-time pass rate for FICA

67%



Resit pass rate for FICA

84%

868
ECS HSE assessments created

611
ECS HSE Assessments marked

131
Employment enquiries received

1,221
ECS Cards issued

THE FACTS ARE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The second SELECT infographic of 2025 has been released, showing the activity carried out by the association between April and June. The quarterly update shows our achievements in technical, training, membership, communications, employment and skills.

History of SELECT is up for top award

SELECT has received more good news in its anniversary year after its 125th timeline publication was nominated for a 2025 Association Excellence Award.

The comprehensive history of the association is up for Publication of the Year in the awards, which salute the vital work of trade bodies across the UK.

Released in January to mark the association's 125th anniversary,

the 36-page brochure charts the history of SELECT from its formation in Glasgow in 1900 to the present day, with key figures and milestones celebrated throughout.

The timeline, which was brought to life by SELECT's long-standing design partner Connect Communications, will now battle it out against eight other industry titles, with the winner to be

Funding fears for apprenticeships

Our MD Alan Wilson calls for more cash from the Scottish Government as he warns that a lack of investment in new talent could mean a shortage of skilled workers in the future

SCOTLAND could suffer the loss of a generation of highly skilled electrical workers because of a growing discrepancy in apprenticeship funding, SELECT has warned.

The association has reacted to the announcement of a 15% grant funding increase for English electrical apprenticeships which brings funding south of the border to £23,000 per apprentice – almost three times the size of Scotland.

SELECT Managing Director Alan Wilson said: “Funding for apprenticeships in Scotland hasn’t increased in more than seven years and, as a result of inflation, has actually reduced by more than 30% in real terms.

“We cannot begin to have a renewables future in Scotland without electricians, so the Scottish Government must find the cash. A two-tier system is entirely unacceptable.”

Skills England confirmed the funding rise in June to The Electrotechnical Skills Partnership (TESP), who described the move as



↑ Alan Wilson

“a very good result in the current climate”. However, Alan warned: “Scotland absolutely must not be left behind when it comes to apprenticeship funding.

“There is the clear danger of a two-tier system, with Scottish industry losing out to England’s, as well as a very real risk that we will lose a generation of skilled electrical talent when we can least afford it.”

“FUNDING FOR APPRENTICESHIPS IN SCOTLAND HASN’T INCREASED IN MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS”

SELECT’s warning comes after it previously described the UK Government’s tough new immigration proposals as a “ticking time bomb” for Scottish construction, with the risk of skilled contractors heading south to replace foreign workers.

The association said the proposals to raise the qualification standards for foreign workers could see a significant number abandoning the UK and returning home, with Scottish construction workers flooding south to fill the resulting shortage south of the border.

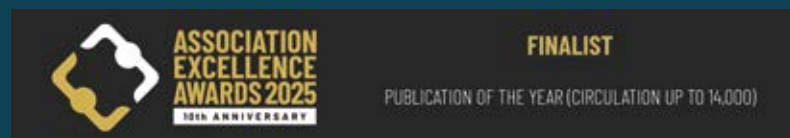
Alan said: “The construction sector is a vital pillar of the Scottish economy, supporting infrastructure development, housing delivery and the green transition, yet it is experiencing a persistent and growing skills shortage already.”

announced at the QEII Centre in London on 7 November. Iain Mason, Director of Membership, Events & Communications, said: “We are absolutely thrilled that our timeline has been nominated for this national award.

“As we continue to celebrate 125 years of excellence, this recognition is a fitting tribute to the many people who have shaped

the association and continue to help us empower electrical businesses across Scotland.”

The latest nomination follows SELECT’s triumph at the awards in October 2022, which saw it clinch the top prize for Best Membership Support Since COVID-19 in recognition of our ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic.



↑ The timeline is an excellent publication

Tributes paid to SELECT's Allan McCabe

Former Branch Chair and Membership Representative, who has died at the age of 75, will be remembered for the help and support he offered contractors down the years

SELLECT was saddened to learn of the death of former Branch Chair and Membership Representative Allan McCabe, who passed away on 12 June aged 75.

Allan helped Members in the Glasgow & West of Scotland Branch from 2010 until his retirement in 2023 and was a popular figure at our Branch Updates and Toolbox Talks.

Before joining SELECT, Allan was an electrical contractor and an active Member of the association from 1997 onwards, serving as Chair of the Glasgow & West of Scotland Branch between 2004 and 2006.

SELECT Managing Director Alan Wilson said: "Allan was a popular colleague at SELECT who helped countless Members during his time with the association.

"He is still fondly remembered and well thought of by everyone who knew him. Our deep condolences go out to his family and many friends and former colleagues."

Allan joined the electrical industry after leaving school at 15, working across the UK and overseas on commercial, industrial and domestic installations, including specialist projects across Europe and the Far East.

He also ran his own business, A McCabe Electrical Services, for 14 years, during which time he was a member of SELECT's Central Board between 2001 and 2010.

Allan also served on the association's Employment Affairs Committee and Registration Board and was Vice Chair of the Glasgow Branch from 2002 to 2004 and between 2006 and 2008.



↑ Allan McCabe

In his spare time, Allan enjoyed playing bowls and gardening at his home in Baillieston, Glasgow. He was also a keen Celtic fan.

Daughter Susie said: "Thank you to everyone in the electrical industry who has reached out – everyone I've spoken to has a story about my dad.

"He was the best spark I ever worked with and was a fountain of knowledge. To know he helped so many small businesses is amazing."



↑ Alan, far right, at the Professionals' Day in 2022



↑ Iain Mason with Brian Docherty

A SIGNIFICANT NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER!

Global lighting giant Signify has become the 40th industry expert to join the SELECT Associate Member scheme.

With around 29,000 employees and a presence in more than 70 countries, Signify global brands include Philips,

signify

Philips Hue, WiZ, Interact, ColorKinetics, Dynalite, Telensa, Signify myCreation, Signify BrightSites and Trulifi.

Signify Key Account Manager – Scotland Brian Docherty dropped into The Walled Garden last month to collect the company's membership certificate from Iain Mason, Director of Membership, Events & Communications.

Iain said: "We are delighted to welcome Signify as an Associate and look forward to working closely with them."



↑ Bob, far right, at Hager Training Academy

Bob enjoys a tour of Hager's HQ

Bob Cairney flew the flag for SELECT during a recent visit to Hager HQ by the ECA Technical Committee.

Our Director of Technical Services was among committee members who held a meeting at the Associate Member's facility in Telford on 11 June.

Hosted by Hager's Paul Chafers and Paul Collins, delegates enjoyed a guided tour of the factory, which manufactures electrical distribution and switchgear.

The committee also discussed cable support systems and reviewed RCD requirements for air source heat pumps.

Bob said: "We thoroughly enjoyed the tour, particularly the chance to see the testing carried out on products as part of Hager's extensive quality system."

Other delegates on the tour included the ECA's Roger Lovegrove, Gary Gundry and Darren Crannis and David Powell of Electrical Safety First.



↑ Members of the ECA Tech Committee during the tour

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Northern star is still going strong

As part of our 125th anniversary, we meet our most northerly Member, Ninian Johnson, who has been on the tools on the remote island of Unst for nearly half a century

WORDS
EMMA PATERSON
Membership
Representative



HI NINIAN. HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN THE INDUSTRY?

I started my training in 1976 because there was an opening with a local firm for an apprentice. At that time, I had a cousin who was an electrician and I thought it would be a good opportunity to get into a trade. I served my time down on the main island and did block release in Inverness, which was something new as I'd only been to the mainland once before and suddenly here I was with guys from all over Scotland.

WHEN DID YOU SET UP BY YOURSELF?

After serving my time I went back up to Unst in the early 80s and set up on my own in 1982. For the first few years I didn't really do that much as I was still farming on the family croft, so I spent a few years juggling everything. I mainly did domestic and light commercial and industrial jobs at first, then I got work at Remote Radar Head (RRH) Saxa Vord, which was an RAF base on Unst. They had their own electricians but as time went on they sub-contracted stuff out – mainly maintenance and small installs. I also did some basic agricultural work, such as sheds and outbuildings. Plus, I was in the retained fire service for 28 years too, so having some electrical knowledge came in handy there.

ARE YOU THE ONLY ELECTRICIAN ON THE ISLAND?

At the moment I am the only electrician on Unst, although there is another guy who concentrates more on renewables such as wind and solar – I'm getting too long in the tooth to get into that.

HOW HAVE THINGS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

Technology and training are the two most obvious things – you're forever learning and updating these days. Plus there's a lot more paperwork required for everything, as well as a lot more accountability.

BEING SO FAR NORTH, WHAT CHALLENGES DOES THE WEATHER BRING?

The winters can certainly be long and dark, plus for the last 20 years I've been a retained switcher for the DNO, which has had its moments. We can get called out at any time to locate faults and help switch the network around to restore as many customers as possible. One year we had hydro faults and street lights being blown over due to the weather, so the phone was ringing a lot then. The mobile phone has been one of the biggest curses for me!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF SELECT?

I joined the association in 2016, which coincided with me focusing on electrical work more as my son was working on the croft. The late Malcolm Duncan carried out my initial technical assessment.

HOW HAS THE ASSOCIATION HELPED YOU?

Training is the main thing – it's been good for keeping me up to date with requirements and regulations, and the interpretation of the regulations too. The Technical staff have been

QUICK FACTS

NINIAN JOHNSON
ELECTRICIAN

BRANCH:
Inverness &
North Scotland

BASED:
Unst, Shetland



↓ Ninian with Emma
at the recent Toolbox
Talk in Lerwick

"WE CAN GET CALLED OUT AT ANY TIME TO LOCATE FAULTS AND HELP SWITCH THE NETWORK AROUND"

excellent because, as I said before, there is just so much to be aware of now, but also there are things which may not be in black and white or are harder to find the answer to. So having regular interaction is invaluable, especially when you're working on your own. The Toolbox Talks have been great for that too.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU NOW?

At the moment I'm doing a fair bit of work for the local authority housing department, mainly reactive repairs. I also do regular work for a few building contractors, plus I cover the northern islands, so I've plenty to keep me busy. I'm 65 now, so at my time of life I'm done with crawling under floors – indoor jobs suit me just fine. I've always enjoyed fault finding and resolving issues; it's definitely the most satisfying part of the job.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

I'm hoping to retire next year. I have one son who's an electrician and works as a radar engineer at the RAF station, but he's too busy looking after the croft to take over. Another son is in the plant hire business and my daughter lives on mainland Shetland with her family, so they won't be taking it on either.

SO HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR RETIREMENT?

I have six, soon to be seven, grandbairns, so I'll be spending more time with them, plus doing a bit of travelling. The croft is around 2,500 acres and we have 1,200 ewes and eight Shetland ponies. Doing the early morning lambing shift when the weather is fine in early May is one of the most enjoyable ways of starting the day so hopefully I'll be able to continue that for a few years yet. I'll miss the job, but 50 years is a good shift. ■

➡ Toolbox Talks hit the islands: **Pages 14&15**



↑ The remote
island of Unst

Miles of smiles at talks on the isles

Rough seas couldn't stop our intrepid roadshow team on the final leg of this year's Toolbox Talks as they visited Members in some of the most far-flung corners of Scotland

V

ISITING the remote islands is always one of the highlights of the Toolbox Talks, but this year was far from plain sailing!

For the first time, we took the

ferry between Shetland and Orkney for the penultimate leg of our roadshow, sponsored by Aico – a decision some of us soon regretted.

It had all started so well too, with our crew landing in Lerwick on 17 June. There, Technical Advisers (TAs) Keith Hagan and Neil Sim delivered updates on BS 5839 Part 1, RCDs and earth fault loop impedance, and Members chatted with

Associates Aico, Scolmore and Megger.

The next day we boarded the boat to Orkney and that's where I and a few of my fellow shipmates discovered that life on the ocean wave was definitely **NOT** for us.

Five queasy hours later we arrived in Orkney and enjoyed some much-needed rest before the following morning's event, where we were once again joined by Members and our three Associate Members.

As in previous years, it was great to see most of the teams from local Member firms E Fraser Electrical and RS



↑ Prize winners in Stornoway

Merriman at the Pickaquoy Centre in Kirkwall, with the audience giving TA Keith a round of applause at the end of his last presentation before he retires.

A FITTING FINALE

Thankfully we chose air travel to make our way to the Isle of Lewis for the final tour date on 24 June, when more than 20 delegates enjoyed the event at Stornoway's Caladh Inn.

Once again, there were plenty of discussions for TAs Neil

WORDS
LINDA ROLFE
Events Manager



"THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART THIS YEAR. ATTENDANCES WERE UP AT NEARLY ALL 12 VENUES AND WE RECEIVED ALMOST 100% POSITIVE FEEDBACK, WHICH WAS FANTASTIC"



↑ There was a good turnout of Members in Shetland



↑ Linda with Bruce Simpson from E Fraser Electrical



↑ The crowd in Orkney saw Keith Hagan deliver his final Toolbox Talk



↑ The prize winners on Orkney

and Mark McLaughlin, with one question even stumping Aico brainbox Ryan Conway when it was time for his presentation on fire safety and renewables!

Now we're safely back on dry land, I'd like to say a huge thank you to Associate Members Dimplex, Ovia Lighting and Test Instrument Solutions, who donated prizes for the quickfire quiz that rounded off every event.

Thanks too to the generous folk at Megger, Aurora Lighting, Flexel, Fluke and at Instrument

Repairs & Calibration for giving goodies for our prize draws and Beat the Buzzer game.

I'd also like to thank everyone who took part in this year's roadshow, whether as an exhibitor, delegate or colleague. Attendances were up on last year at nearly all 12 venues and we received almost 100% positive feedback, which was fantastic.

With Amendment 4 on the horizon, we're already planning next year's Toolbox Talks, so let's hope the 2026 journey goes smoothly. Anchors aweigh! ■



A selectricians you're used to working with systems you can't always see – wiring that's hidden, faults that don't show up straight away, risks that build slowly over time. Your instinct is to get ahead of problems before they escalate.

At Prostate Scotland, we encourage you to use this same instinct to stay alert to any changes that happen to your prostate health.

Prostate disease and cancer can develop without obvious signs, so knowing the symptoms and getting checked by your GP really matters.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in Scotland. Every year, around 4,000 men across the country are diagnosed with it – that's more than 10 men a day.

This isn't about scare tactics, it's about awareness. When prostate cancer is found early, more than 90% of men live well for years. The earlier it's diagnosed, the better the outcome.

WHERE IS THE PROSTATE?

Think of the prostate as a small, walnut-sized gland that sits inside your lower body, just below your bladder, where urine is stored, and in front of your back passage or rectum. It wraps around the urethra, which is the thin tube that carries pee and semen out of the body through the penis. Because of

Use your instinct to stay healthy

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in Scotland, so here our guest columnist reveals what every man should know about prostate health – and why it's so important to get yourself checked out sooner rather than later

WORDS
ALISON WRIGHT
CEO, Prostate
Scotland



prostate
scotland

its tucked-away position, it can make it quite a tricky cancer to detect.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

You don't need to have symptoms to be at risk. Most early-stage prostate cancers don't cause any obvious signs. That's why proactive checks are vital – especially if you're over 50. Let's look at some common myths and facts.

MYTH 1: "I FEEL FINE – THERE'S NO PROBLEM"

Fact: Many men with early prostate cancer feel perfectly healthy. Symptoms like needing to pee more often,

a burning feeling when you pee, taking longer to empty your bladder, blood in urine or semen, or pain in your lower back often don't appear until the cancer has grown. By then, it can be harder to treat. A simple blood test, called a PSA test, could help pick up signs earlier.

MYTH 2: "I'M TOO YOUNG TO WORRY ABOUT IT"

Fact: Prostate cancer mainly affects men over 50, as the risk increases with age. However, if you have a family history of the disease or are of African or Caribbean heritage, your risk may be higher, so it's recommended to speak to your GP from age 45

Around

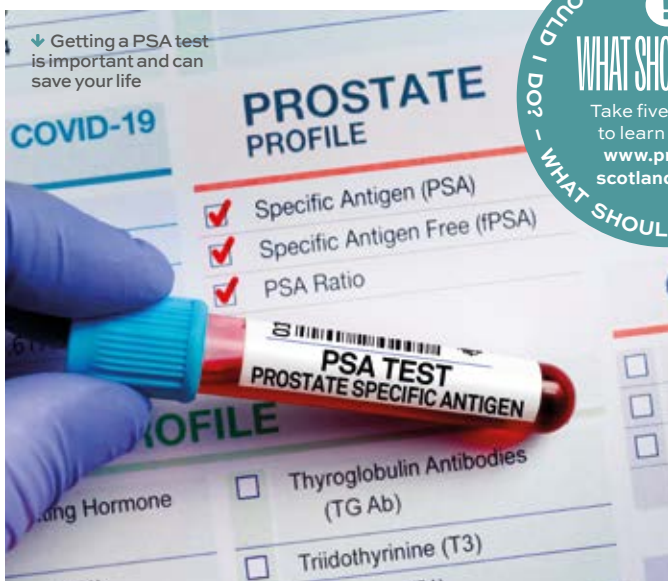
4,000

men across the country are diagnosed every year...

...that's more than

10

men a day



MYTH 3: "IT'S JUST PART OF GETTING OLDER"

Fact: An ageing prostate can cause some changes, but cancer is not a normal part of ageing. Ignoring symptoms or putting it down to getting older can delay diagnosis. If you notice something unusual, don't dismiss it or tough it out.

MYTH 4: "IT'S EMBARRASSING – I DON'T WANT TO GET CHECKED"

Fact: You're not alone. Many men put off seeing their GP because they think it'll be uncomfortable. Your GP will usually start with a chat and a simple PSA blood test. It's straightforward. There's no need to wait until something goes wrong.

MYTH 5: "I'D KNOW IF I HAD IT"

Fact: You might not. That's why it's sometimes called a silent disease. Men often assume they'd feel pain or see a change straight away. The truth is that early prostate cancer doesn't always give a warning sign. Early testing is key.

Electricians don't like leaving faults unchecked, so don't ignore this one. In your line of work, small faults can lead to big failures. You'd never walk away from a burning smell or buzzing outlet without investigating, and your health deserves the same care.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS

Prostate cancer is more common than most men realise. But with the right information, timely action and courage, it's something you can stay ahead of.

Early diagnosis saves lives. The sooner prostate cancer is found, the better the

"WHEN PROSTATE CANCER IS FOUND EARLY, MORE THAN 90% OF MEN LIVE WELL FOR YEARS. THE EARLIER IT'S DIAGNOSED, THE BETTER THE OUTCOME"

What puts you at higher risk?

- **Age** – if you're over 50, your risk increases
- **Family history** – if your father or brother had prostate cancer, your risk is higher, so get along to your GP from 45
- **Ethnicity** – men of African or Caribbean heritage are twice as likely to develop prostate cancer, so again, visit your GP from 45
- **Genetics** – a family history of BRCA-related cancers can raise your risk



HELP AND SUPPORT FROM PROSTATE SCOTLAND

Prostate Scotland's mission is for more Scottish men to be aware of their prostate, understand the symptoms of prostate cancer and disease, get to their GP earlier and receive treatment for what is a curable cancer in most men. The charity offers a number of free flagship courses that offer men a light when they need it most. To find out more, scan the QR code or go to www.prostate-scotland.org.uk/help-and-support-for-you



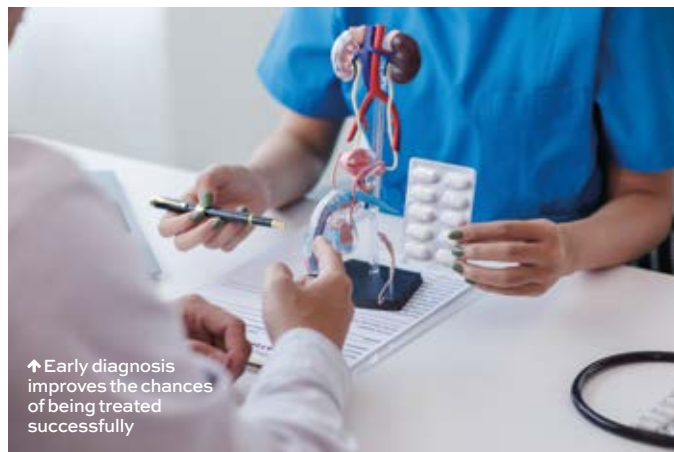
treatment options – especially when it's still confined to the prostate.

Many men can feel embarrassed to talk about their prostate and symptoms – it's a body function, not a sign of weakness. So learn about prostate health, spread the word and start life-saving conversations.

You don't have to become a medical expert – just be aware. If you're over 50, ask your GP about a PSA test now. And if you're younger and are high risk, ask from age 45. ■

➡ Don't gamble with wellbeing: P18&19

↑ Medical support and advice is available, so don't feel scared to reach out for help



↑ Early diagnosis improves the chances of being treated successfully

Don't gamble with your wellbeing

WORDS

JESS VAILIMA

Managing Director,
The Electrical
Industries CharityCELEBRATING
120
YEARS

Running a business is stressful enough without the added pressures when having a flutter gets out of control. Here we explore the link between mental health, financial worries and betting – and the resources and help that can support you when the chips are down

EVERY day our industry faces many of life's challenges, whether it's dealing with mental health concerns, financial issues or addictions.

The EIC is here to offer you a helping hand when things get tough, supporting you and your family with a variety of services.

We like to think of ourselves as an umbrella charity, so when everything feels like it's falling apart, we're here to provide the shelter and support you need to weather the storm.

Our services are free and confidential and we ensure that every person receives tailored support that's based on their unique needs.

We're also passionate about education, prevention and providing people with the tools and resources to help with understanding.

THE HIDDEN PRICE OF GAMBLING

Money worries affect millions of people – and they're not just about numbers.

Whether it's rising bills, mounting debt or the cost of living, financial stress can quickly take a toll on our mental health, causing anxiety, sleepless nights, depression and a constant sense of pressure that's hard to escape.

For some, gambling adds another layer to this cycle of stress. What might start as a bit of fun or a way to 'win back' money can quickly spiral into harmful habits, leaving people stuck in a dangerous loop of financial and emotional distress.

THE IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH

When money feels tight, it's natural to feel anxious or overwhelmed. However, ongoing financial stress can gradually take a toll, increasing the risk of depression, panic attacks and even physical health problems.

In some cases, the pressure can lead to harmful coping mechanisms, such as excessive alcohol use, isolation or gambling.



"WHAT MIGHT START AS A BIT OF FUN OR A WAY TO 'WIN BACK' MONEY CAN QUICKLY SPIRAL INTO HARMFUL HABITS, LEAVING PEOPLE STUCK IN A DANGEROUS LOOP OF FINANCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DISTRESS"

THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL

Gambling problems often go hand in hand with financial difficulty and poor mental health. The temptation to chase losses or win big can be strong, especially when money is already tight. But gambling rarely provides a solution – instead, it often makes things worse.

Many people caught in this cycle experience:

- Mounting debts and hidden financial problems
 - Strained relationships with friends and family
 - Anxiety, depression and low self-esteem
 - Feelings of guilt, shame and isolation.
- Sadly, gambling can often go unnoticed until the situation becomes overwhelming.

HOW TO BREAK THE CYCLE

If you're struggling with financial worries, gambling or the mental health effects of either, there is help available:

- **Talk about it** – reaching out to a trusted friend, family member or the EIC can ease the burden and help you feel less alone.
- **Seek gambling support** – free, confidential help is available through organisations such as GamFam, Betknowmore and Beacon Counselling Trust, which

offers advice, counselling and support for gambling problems.

- **Get financial advice** – services such as Citizens Advice Scotland, StepChange, Breathing Space and National Debtline can help you take practical steps to manage debt and regain control.
- **Prioritise your wellbeing** – taking care of your mental health through small daily habits such as regular sleep, exercise and mindful breaks can also make a big difference.

To find out more about any of these organisations and start getting help, scan the QR code on this page or go to the web address underneath.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Whether it's debt, gambling or mental health concerns, you don't have to face these challenges alone.

The EIC is here to help and reaching out can be the first step towards feeling more in control, improving your wellbeing and building a healthier relationship with money.

Contact us today via our online form at www.electricalcharity.org, email us at support@electricalcharity.org or call us on **0800 652 1618**.

And remember – no matter how bad things seem, you are **NEVER** alone and we are **ALWAYS** here to help. ■

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE EIC

Currently celebrating its 120th anniversary, the EIC is committed to building a stronger, healthier industry for all. If you need support, know someone who does or want to get involved in its work, visit www.electricalcharity.org to learn more.

WHERE TO FIND HELP



The Electrical Industries Charity
www.electricalcharity.org



GamFam
www.gamfam.org.uk



Betknowmore
www.betknowmoreuk.org



Beacon Counselling Trust
www.beaconcounsellingtrust.co.uk



Citizens Advice Scotland
www.cas.org.uk



StepChange
www.stepchange.org



Breathing Space
www.breathing-space.scot



National Debtline
www.nationaldebtline.org





FEATURE // WALL OF SUPPORT

↑ Jamie Halcro Johnstone popped by to say hello to Mike and Yvonne

↑ John Noble, party Chair Alasdair Locke, Dr Pam Gosal MBE and Yvonne Wilson

↑ Harriet Cross with Mike

↑ Craig Hoy also said hello at the conference

↓ Sharon Dowey with Mike and Yvonne

↑ Finlay Carson with Past President John

MSPs help to build our Wall



Our presence at this year's Conservative party conference really paid off, with ten more politicians adding their names to our growing Wall of Support

WORDS
YVONNE WILSON
Skills & Client
Relations Manager



AS SELECT celebrates its 125th anniversary at the forefront of the electrotechnical sector, we remain committed to protecting public safety and upholding the very highest standards.

This was demonstrated by our presence at this year's Scottish Conservative party conference, where we secured more valuable endorsements for regulation of the industry. MP Harriet Cross and

"WE ARE DELIGHTED TO SEE THIS CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR OUR CAMPAIGN, AS EACH NEW NAME ON THE WALL IS ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS A SAFER SOCIETY AND MORE PROFESSIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL INDUSTRY"



↑ Jackson Carlaw with Mike and Yvonne at the conference



↑ Miles Briggs signs up to the Wall with Mike

THE POLITICIANS' PLEDGE

"I AGREE THAT POOR QUALITY ELECTRICAL WORK CARRIES HUGE RISKS TO PEOPLE'S HOMES, BUSINESS AND LIVES. THAT'S WHY I'M BACKING SELECT'S CAMPAIGN TO INTRODUCE PROTECTION OF TITLE"



↑ Alexander Burnett catches up with Yvonne



↑ Tim Eagle meets President Mike



↓ Stephen Kerr chats with Mike

former Scottish Conservative leader Jackson Carlaw were among the politicians who added their names to our Wall of Support to show their backing for protection of title for the profession of electrician.

Other Tory MSPs who signed up at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh on 13 and 14 June were Miles Briggs, Finlay Carson, Sharon Dowey, Tim Eagle, Roz McCall, Liz Smith, Alexander Stewart and Sue Webber.

We are delighted to see this continuing support for our campaign, as each new name on the wall is another step towards a safer society and more professional electrotechnical industry.

FRONTLINE PERSPECTIVE

Joining me on the SELECT stand for the two-day event were President Mike Stark and Past President John Noble, who also helped share our manifesto for the 2026 Scottish Parliamentary election.

The duo gave politicians a frontline perspective on the many issues facing the modern contractor, providing the perfect demonstration of why SELECT is the voice of Scotland's electrotechnical

industry. It was also good to catch up with some longstanding supporters of SELECT, including MSPs Jamie Halcro Johnston, Craig Hoy, Stephen Kerr and Alexander Burnett, as well as meeting party Chair Alasdair Locke and MSP Dr Pam Gosal MBE.

All in all, it was an extremely productive and positive weekend, during which we raised the profile of electricians further and put forward the real issues that are affecting our Members across Scotland. ■

View the Wall

In addition to more than 40 MSPs and MPs from all five major parties, bricks have been added to the Wall of Support by professional bodies, housebuilders, surveyors and trade unions across Scotland. View the wall by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/wall-25



After a smooth transition from SELECTcerts earlier this year, the SCO-CERTS service is now preparing to launch new and updated digital certificates

THE SCO-CERTS digital service is being upgraded with a new resource for solar PV work and updated fire detection and fire alarm certification.

The impending update will see a new 'Certificate' category, which will provide access to renewables certification.

When adding a new certificate, the 'Renewables' option in the drop-down menu will now provide users with access to a new PV System Verification Certificate (PVSVC).

This has been developed to enable users who install solar PV systems to fully comply with BS 7671 and the BS EN 62446 series of standards.

Also coming soon will be updates to the current suite of BS 5839-1 certificates for users involved with the design, installation, commissioning and/or maintenance of fire detection and fire alarm systems.

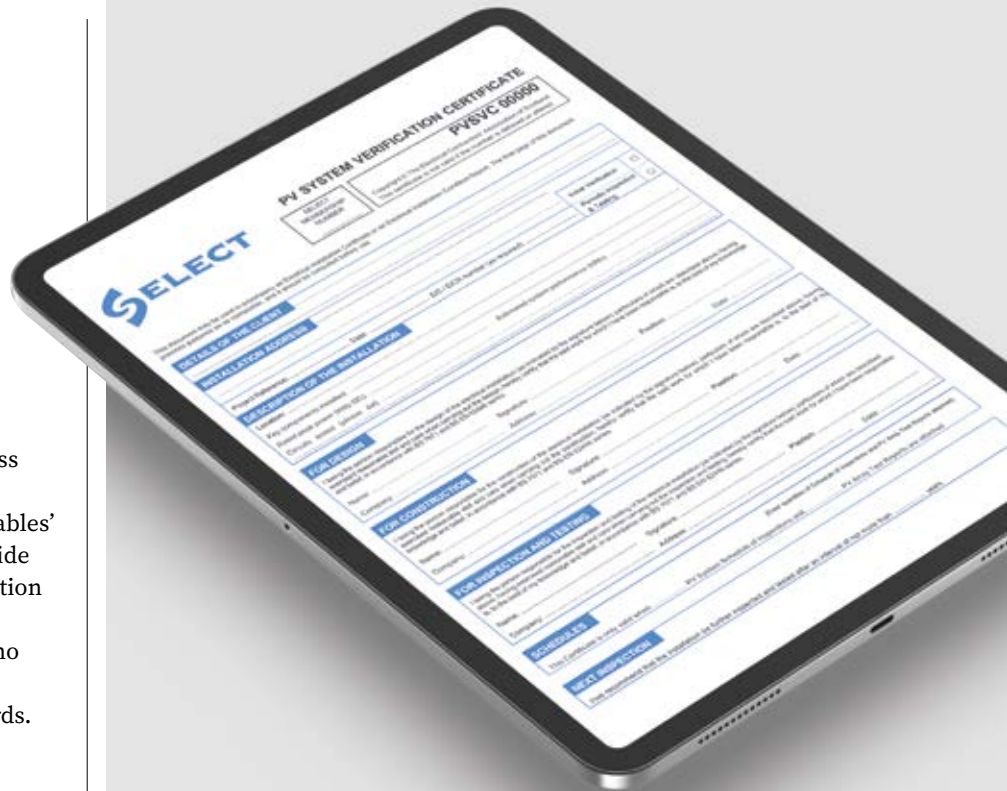
These are being updated to replace the existing 2017 versions and to reflect the content of the model certificates in Appendix G of the recently published BS 5839-1:2025 standard, which also includes a new extensions or modifications

certificate.

Mandie Smith of SCO-CERTS operator Computer Scene said: "These upgrades aim to keep the platform current, efficient and fully aligned with modern certification requirements."

"The new and updated certificates are

"USERS WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF ALL NEW FEATURES AND CHANGES AS THEY HAPPEN"



↑ The new certificates are easy to use and work well on tablet devices

Certificates are certain to make a difference

all user-friendly and designed to help contractors involved in the installation of relevant systems."

The rebranding of SELECTcerts to SCO-CERTS earlier this year saw minimal disruption for users and a series of updates, including:

- A fill-down functionality on desktop and mobile app versions
- A certificate template feature added to the mobile app
- A new circuit template feature on both desktop and mobile apps.

Mandie added: "Computer Scenes will continue to update SCO-CERTS to reflect changing industry needs and user feedback. Users will be kept informed of all new features and changes as they happen." ■

For all support enquiries, please call Computer Scene on 01638 563 442 or email support@sco-certs.co.uk



↓ Users can enjoy a range of new features

SELECT
125
GRAND
BALL
SPONSORED BY **Scolmore**
GROUP

Get ready for a night to remember

Glittering anniversary event is a great opportunity to celebrate our success with fellow Members and some very special guests. So don't miss out, get your ticket now!

WORDS
LINDA ROLFE
Events Manager



WITH just three months to go, space is filling up for our glittering 125th Anniversary Grand Ball, sponsored by Scolmore Group, so grab your ticket today!

Hosted by TV and radio comic Fred MacAulay, the black tie event will see Members gather at Glasgow's Marriott Hotel on Friday 14 November to toast Scotland's largest construction trade association.

A night of laughter, celebration and special surprises is planned as we look back on more than a century of service to the electrotechnical industry in Scotland and beyond.

As well as SELECT Member businesses, partygoers will include industry leaders, politicians,

manufacturers and other senior decision-makers from across the construction sector.

SELECT Managing Director Alan Wilson said: "We have been delighted at the response to our Grand Ball sale and are looking forward to sharing our special night with Members as we celebrate the founding of the world's first electrical trade association.

"I look forward to welcoming friends from across Scotland and beyond as we reflect on 125 years of service to the industry and look forward to a future of opportunity for the electrotechnical sector."

Tickets are priced at £125 each or £1,250 for a table of 10, so book **NOW** to save your space. We look forward to seeing you there! ■

BOOK YOUR TICKET

To secure your place, please call our Member Services team on **0131 445 5577** or email memberservices@select.org.uk

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Official Drinks
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Heroes denied by hot spot

Members and staff blaze a trail to final of charity football tournament during heatwave – only to be denied by penalties

WORDS
LINDA ROLFE
Events Manager



SELECT came agonisingly close to footballing glory in its anniversary year, finishing runners-up in an industry five-a-side tournament after a penalty shootout.

A team of Members and staff took to the field in sweltering conditions in Edinburgh on 20 June in a fundraising competition in aid of the Electrical Industries Charity (EIC).

Eleven teams from across the electrical industry battled it out at the event, which was sponsored by the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT).

Captaining the SELECT squad was **Michael McKenna** of Member firm McKenna Electrical Solutions, who currently plays midfield for semi-professional outfit East Fife.

Joining him in the line-up was:

- **Mike Campbell** of Member firm

Ross-shire Engineering, who is also Chair of the Inverness & North Scotland Branch

- **Keir Erskine** from Member firm Erskine Electrical Solutions
- **Paul Learmont** of Member firm Current Building Solutions Ltd
- **Alan Paul**, IT Systems Administrator at SELECT
- **Mason Renton** from McKenna Electrical Solutions, who has just completed the third year of his apprenticeship at Edinburgh College, Sighthill Campus.

Guest player Gregor McMaster also arrived for the later games, providing much-needed relief for the players who sweated it out under the blazing sun.

As temperatures nudged 26°C, the initial group stage saw SELECT face off against some familiar faces in the teams from SECTT and Scott Coppola.

After completing the double over SECTT and notching a win and defeat against Scott Coppola, SELECT finished

↓ SELECT's side with the other teams

MICHAEL MCKENNA
McKenna Electrical Solutions

KEIR ERSKINE
Erskine Electrical Solutions

↑ The SELECT squad lines up ahead of the tournament

↑ Keir takes his penalty in the shoot-out





↑ Keir in action against Scott Coppola



↑ The SELECT team in action

top of their group and faced ROBUS in the semi-final.

A tight game saw the boys in blue edge out our Associate Member, before taking a breather to watch Edmundson Electrical dispatch local Member firm AKD in the other semi.

RED AND BURIED

Just like the previous games, the final was a nip-and-tuck affair, with Michael and Mason drilling home the crucial goals and Paul performing heroics in the net at the other end.

Glory was in sight as SELECT led 5-4 with just a minute to go, but Edmundson scrambled home a late equaliser, sending the game to spot kicks.

Controversy then ensued when an Edmundson player missed his effort but was allowed to retake it because the referee hadn't blown his whistle.

When Michael protested, he was shown the red card before he could take his penalty and Edmundson went on to win 4-2.

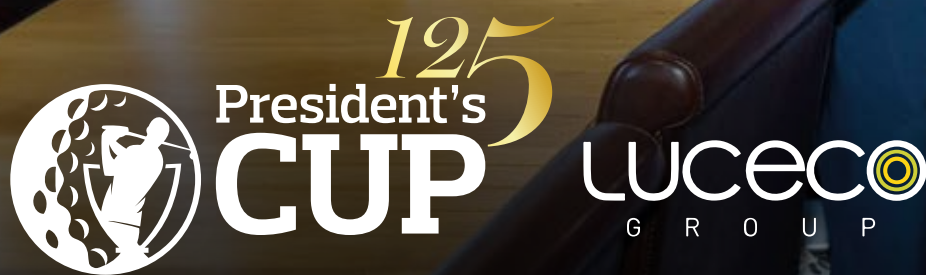
Afterwards, Mike said: "Although we were obviously disappointed to lose the final, the event was excellent, with a high standard of football and plenty of keen rivalry.

"Above all, it was great to meet up with so many colleagues from across the industry and raise much-needed funds for a cause that's close to all our hearts."

Other organisations who took part in the event included Aico, City Electrical Factors, Contract Heating, Harbour Homes and John G Mackintosh. ■



↑ The team with their runners-up trophies



Tee-riffic Terry is ace of clubs

The 2025 President's Cup, sponsored by Luceco Group, was notable for great golf, brilliant banter and even a hole in one by SELECT Member Terry Stewart as the East of Scotland team reclaimed the association's famous silver trophy in the sunshine at Dunblane



✦ The triumphant East team with the President's Cup

M

EMBER Terry Stewart was the toast of the fairways at this year's President's Cup as he hit a stunning

hole in one in our annual golf competition.

The West of Scotland team member earned himself a top-of-the-range industrial tester after

acing the 11th hole in this year's event, sponsored by Associate Member Luceco Group.

And Terry, who works for Kilmarnock-based MIE Electrical Services, followed it up a few holes later by claiming the nearest the pin prize on the 14th at Dunblane New Golf Club.

The double triumph was among the many highlights of the 2025 contest, which saw the East of Scotland team lift the prestigious trophy after a day of fierce but friendly competition.

Our largest-ever field gathered on the first tee in

WORDS
IAIN MASON
Director of
Membership, Events
& Communications



↑ A well-earned break for Alloa Electrical Contractors



↑ Escaping the bunker



↑ Eyeing up the green



↑ The team from Laplace Solutions take a breather

Perthshire on Monday 28 July as 64 golfers from across Scotland

battled it out for glory.

Split into the traditional East and West teams, the Stableford competition saw Member firms joined by guests and sponsors as they competed across 18 holes.

After an extremely narrow contest, the East team triumphed by 242 points to 238, with vice captain Andrew Macdonald collecting the trophy from SELECT President Mike Stark after high tea in the clubhouse.

Standing in for team captain Grant Stewart, the Member from Macdal Electrical Services in Blairgowrie also received a bottle of malt to mark the victory, with the three best performers on each team taking home various prizes as well.

Members also scooped goodies for the longest drive and nearest the pin, courtesy



↓ Lining up a tricky putt



↑ Keith Hagan watches it fly



↑ James McCreddie, David Sandilands and James Kelly share a joke



⬆️ West captain Ian Stewart and colleagues from Kirkton Controls



⬆️ East captain Grant Stewart tees off at Dunblane



⬇️ Dylan Mansfield looks pensive on the 15th



⬇️ The OCS team was out in force



⬆️ Playing uphill in the sunshine



⬆️ Steven Mitchell studies his score card



⬆️ SELECT's Stuart McKelvie, President Mike Stark, Past President Kevin Griffin and MD Alan Wilson on the first tee

of sponsors
Electrium and
Scolmore,
plus, as
always, there
was a special
endeavour award for the
highest round of the day for
both Members and guests.

And Terry received a
top-of-the range IMT 100
industrial multi-tester
worth £2,000, from Megger
Territory Sales Manager
Alastair Blyth to celebrate
his first-ever hole in one.

After presenting the
prizes, Mike said: "The
2025 President's Cup was
a fitting way to mark our
125th anniversary and
was an excellent event played
in exactly the right spirit.

"I'd like to thank Luceco
Group for sponsoring the
day and look forward to
welcoming friends and
colleagues back to the
fairways in 2026." ■

OUR SPONSORS

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TOP 3
EAST

EAST TEAM ☆ 1ST PLACE
Chris Turner, Ideal
Electrical Solutions (41pts)



EAST TEAM ☆ 2ND PLACE
Paul McMeeking, OCS
(38pts)



EAST TEAM ☆ 3RD PLACE
Mark Denholm, Ideal
Electrical Solutions (38pts)



☆ HOLE IN ONE
SPONSORED BY MEGGER
Terry Stewart,
MIE Electrical Ltd



☆ LONGEST DRIVE
SPONSORED BY ELECTRIUM
John Muir, MIE
Electrical Ltd



WEST TEAM ☆ 2ND PLACE
Colin Jeffrey, Kirkton Controls Ltd (39pts)



WEST TEAM ☆ 3RD PLACE
Steven Hyslop, RSE (37pts)



WEST TEAM ☆ 1ST PLACE
Stephen Brown, Laplace Solutions Ltd (40pts)



☆ NEAREST THE PIN
SPONSORED BY SCOLMORE GROUP
Terry Stewart, MIE Electrical Ltd



☆ PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR ENDEAVOUR (GUEST)
Alasdair Carroll, Scolmore Group



☆ PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR ENDEAVOUR (MEMBER)
DONATED BY DAIKIN
Jordan McDonald, RSE



☆ BEST GUEST SCORE
Jake Jacobsen, Scolmore Group

Technical

MORE INFORMATION
For further information on our
technical support and advice,
please call 0131 445 9218 or email
technicalhelp@select.org.uk

Don't blow a fuse over cut-outs

The issue of whether electricians are permitted to remove the distributor's cut-out fuse is one that causes huge debate, with multiple perspectives from contractors across the UK. Here, we explore the challenges, considerations and current options for electricians and clients looking to isolate domestic electrical installations for maintenance and installation works

WORDS
CALUM MANSELL
IENG MIET

Senior Engineer, IET



IET

HISTORICALLY, the only people permitted to withdraw and reinstate the cut-out fuse were the distribution network operator (DNO) who owns it, the meter operator agent (MOA) appointed by the property's electrical supplier and, in some cases, those given permission by the DNO.

This has been a source of frustration for electricians and clients who require the cut-out fuse to be withdrawn for activities such as consumer unit replacements and then reinstated upon completion.

The major push for electrical installations to encompass low-carbon technologies (LCTs)

– such as heat pumps, solar photovoltaics (PV) and battery energy storage systems – has only exacerbated this issue, with long lead times, unexpected costs and a complicated application process cited as negative experiences for electricians and clients, particularly those responsible for large housing stocks, i.e. local authorities.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DNO?

DNOs have a legal obligation to ensure the electrical equipment they own is safe, as per Section 24 of the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (ESQCR) 2002 as amended and Section 25 of the ESQCR (Northern Ireland) 2012.

The service cable, cut-out and distributor's earth terminal, when provided, all form part of this responsibility, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

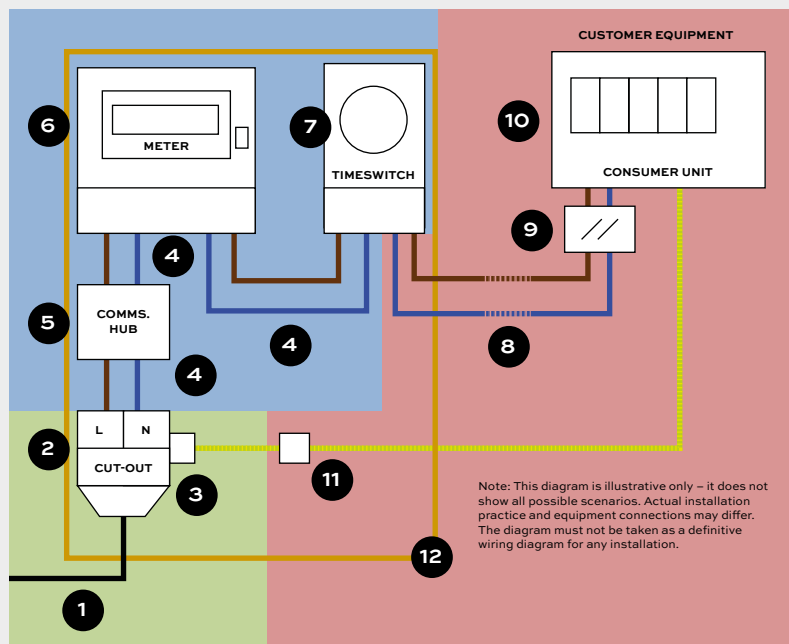
In some cases, DNOs such as Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) permit electricians who are members of trade associations to break the security seal, remove the cut-out fuse and, following the works being undertaken, reinstate it. The DNO would return afterwards to reseal it or provide the electrician with means to do so.

However, this is not an option offered by all DNOs, therefore electricians need to verify any

↑ The law states that those performing electrical work must have sufficient skill to know the risks involved



↑ Take all 'reasonably practicable' precautions to prevent harm to others



↑ Figure 1 – Diagram of equipment responsibility.
Reproduced with permission of the Retail Energy Code

specific procedures with the respective DNO before withdrawing a cut-out fuse.

At this point, it is important to highlight that this permission does not extend to the supplier's equipment, such as the meter.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

Those performing electrical work, or supervising such work, must have sufficient technical knowledge, experience and practical skills to

↓ Figure 2 – Diagram of equipment responsibility descriptors.
Reproduced with permission of the Retail Energy Code

DB Equipment	Supplier equipment	Customer equipment
1 – Service cable	4 – Meter tails (cut-out to meter and meter to timeswitch)	8 – Meter tails (between the meter/ timeswitch and the customer equipment)
2 – Cut-out (or main fuse or DB fuse)	5 – Communications hub if fitted (may be within the meter)	9 – Customer isolating switch (if fitted/ requested)
3 – DB earth terminal	6 – Meter	10 – Customer consumer unit
	7 – Timeswitch (if fitted)	11 – Customer earthing conductor (and earth block if fitted)
		12 – Meter board (and external meter box if fitted)

identify and manage the risks associated with electrical work.

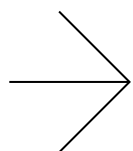
The privatisation of the electrical supply industry in Great Britain was implemented under the Electricity Act 1989. This provides a legal framework for activities such as restoration of supply, while setting limitations on customers attempting to restore their supply without permission. In Northern Ireland, the electricity supply industry is governed by legislation such as the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

In respect to the Electricity at Work Regulations (EAWR) 1989 or EAWR (Northern Ireland) 1991, the regulations are split into two categories:

- **Absolute** – the requirement must be met regardless of cost or any other consideration.
- **Reasonably practicable** – to prevent harm to others, you should generally take all 'reasonably practicable' precautions. To do this, the degree of risk must be balanced with the steps required to control the actual risk in terms of money, time or trouble. If taking action is disproportionate to the level of risk, you are not required to do so.

In respect of removing the distributor's cut-out fuse, four 'absolute' regulations stand out:

- **Regulation 12:** Means for cutting off the supply and for isolation
- **Regulation 13:** Precautions for work on equipment made dead
- **Regulation 14:** Work on or near live conductors
- **Regulation 16:** Persons to be competent to prevent danger and injury.



Isolation is essential for safety when working with or near electrical systems and protecting against electric shock, burns and other hazards.

Therefore, the process of safe isolation and competency are intertwined; it is important that the person withdrawing the cut-out fuse is adequately trained, experienced and has the knowledge to ensure the safety of themselves and others.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF BS 7671?

Regulation 110.2 indent (i) of the most recent version of BS 7671 excludes systems for the distribution of electricity to the public, apart from prosumer installations covered by Chapter 82.

Therefore, as the cut-out fuse is the property of the distributor, BS 7671 does not refer to its withdrawal, with the exception of Regulation 714.537.2.1.202, which states approval is required prior to the withdrawal of a distributor's cut-out fuse for highway power supplies specific to outdoor lighting installations.

However, this was not always the case, as the 17th Edition of BS 7671, Regulation 537.1.3, referenced the withdrawal of a distributor's cut-out fuse within the standard as follows:

"Each installation shall have provision for disconnection from the supply. Where the distributor provides a means of disconnection complying with Chapter 53 at the origin of the installation and agrees that it may be used as the means of isolation for the part of the installation between the origin and the main linked switch or circuit-breaker required by Regulation 537.1.4, the requirement for isolation and switching of that part of the installation is satisfied. Note: A cut-out fuse may be withdrawn only by a person authorised to do so by the distributor."

The standard also points to the responsibilities of those making additions or alterations to existing installations, to ascertain the rating and condition of any existing distributor's equipment, in Regulation 132.16 of the latest iteration of BS 7671.

Additionally, inspectors undertaking the periodic inspection and testing of an electrical installation are required to carry out a visual inspection of the external condition of the distributor's and supplier's intake equipment. The model form in Appendix 6 of the latest version of BS 7671 for periodic

"ORGANISATIONS AUTHORISED AS SIPS ARE PERMITTED TO WITHDRAW AND REINSTATE THE CUT-OUT FUSE AND, WHEN REQUIRED, ADJUST THE TERMINALS OF METERS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT, AND TERMINATE OR REPLACE THE CONSUMER METER TAILS ON THE METER"

inspection and testing refers to this – see Figure 3.

On the inspection schedule, item 1.1 is the only portion of the schedule which permits the inspector to record an X as opposed to a classification code. Recording an X does not affect the outcome of the

report, although this is not the case when access to live parts has been found.

When an inadequacy has been observed, the person ordering the report should be informed immediately and in writing. The person ordering the report should then notify the responsible party, i.e. the distributor or supplier.

It is common for electricians conducting activities such as periodic inspection and testing to identify cut-out fuses that have not been sealed.

Where the security seal is not in place or broken, the risk of exposure to live parts increases, as well as readily permitting unauthorised access for the purposes of meter tampering. Therefore, the person ordering the work should be notified and advised to contact the respective distributor.

SAFE ISOLATION PROVIDERS (SIPS)

The clear need for more authorised persons capable of isolating the incoming electrical supply has been heightened, not only by the installation of LCTs but also the smart meter rollout. Therefore, the role of SIPS has been created by the Retail Energy Code (REC).

Organisations authorised as SIPS are permitted to withdraw and reinstate the cut-out fuse and,

↓ Figure 3 – Intake equipment visual inspection

1.0	Intake equipment (visual inspection only)	
1.1	<p>Distributor/supplier intake equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service cable • Service head • Earthing arrangement • Meter tails • Metering equipment • Isolator (when present) <p>NOTE 1: When inadequacies in the intake equipment are encountered, which may result in a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation, the person ordering the work and/or dutyholder must be informed. It is strongly recommended that the person ordering the work informs the appropriate authority.</p> <p>NOTE 2: For this section only, when inadequacies are found, an 'X' should be put against the appropriate item and a comment made in Section K.</p>	
	Person ordering work/dutyholder notified (delete as appropriate)	Y / N / A
1.2	Consumer's isolator (where present)	
1.3	Consumer's meter tails	

when required, adjust the terminals of meters and associated equipment and terminate or replace the consumer meter tails on the meter.

This facilitates a single point of contact for customers to have electrical works completed without the involvement of the DNO or electrical supplier. SIPs can also install isolator switches at the same time to aid future necessity for isolation.

The role of SIPs is tightly regulated to alleviate concerns regarding meter tampering and provide traceability of those working on the intake equipment. Any organisations wishing to become a SIP must apply to do so and be an accredited MOA, recognised by the REC and an electrical metering operative (EMO).

All works undertaken by SIPs are under the instruction of the person who owns the building, as laid out in the Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement (DCUSA). A list of SIPs can be found on the REC Party Register via the REC Portal.

IDENTIFYING ISSUES WITH THE DISTRIBUTOR'S EQUIPMENT?

The Consolidated Metering Code of Practice (CoMCoP) sets out the requirements for the installation, operation and maintenance of metering equipment, whereas the Guidance for Service Termination Issue Reporting (STIRG) utilises an asset condition code for meter operatives to report defects and the asset condition of the distributor's equipment to the DNO.

The codes are divided into three categories similar to the classification codes stated within BS 7671, as shown in the table below, with example photographs provided along with useful guidance on next steps.

While STIRG is aimed at meter operatives, it does provide useful insight into how distributors prioritise the maintenance activities of the equipment under inspection.

The current version is accessible to metering equipment managers (MEMs) on the REC Portal,

Category	Action	Description
A	Emergency (immediate action required)	Distributor's equipment poses a danger of death or injury to persons and/or damage to property.
B	Remedial work (attention required; the installation should be left in a safe condition)	An issue was identified with the condition of the distributor's equipment that prevents work from being carried out (excluding a category A issue).
C	Asset condition (the DNO to be notified and appropriate action to be determined)	Distributor's equipment is not to current standards (neither a category A issue nor a category B issue).



and previously the document was produced under the Meter Operation Code of Practice Agreement (MOCOCoPA). However, since September 2021, REC has taken responsibility for STIRG.

JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN WITHDRAW THE CUT-OUT FUSE, SHOULD YOU?

As mentioned above, certain DNOs permit electricians who are members of trade associations to undertake the withdrawal of the cut-out fuse. While clearly this comes with benefits in terms of cost and efficiency, safe working practices should not be ignored.

DNOs have procedures in place for withdrawing and reinstating cut-out fuses, inclusive of when certain equipment or dangers are present, for example, SSEN requires its operatives to wear visors and electrically insulated gloves to withdraw and reinstate the cut-out fuse.

When interference with the security seal has been identified or signs of damage or distress are apparent, e.g. overheating, this should be reported to the DNO and withdrawal not undertaken.

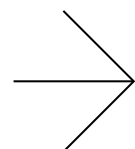
Electricians should be aware that while

permission may be granted by the DNO to remove the cut-out fuse, there are times when they will not be able to do so, due to the potential dangers present on existing equipment, such as the following.

SURFACE VOLTAGE FOUND ON PLASTIC CUT-OUTS

Phenolic materials used in black plastic cut-outs between 1967 and 1992 have been known to become conductive and/or produce excessive heat.

↑ The Retail Energy Code clearly outlines the role of safe isolation providers



"STAYING UP TO DATE WITH CURRENT INDUSTRY GUIDANCE AND BEST PRACTICES, AS WELL AS LOCAL DNO REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES, WILL ASSIST ELECTRICIANS IN VISUALLY INSPECTING AND WORKING SAFELY WHEN NEAR DISTRIBUTOR'S EQUIPMENT"

→ To create phenolic materials, phenolic resin was permeated into glass fibre, cotton or paper pulp, and bound via a combination of heat and pressure. Overheating can cause materials to break down and leave behind an ash-like residue, which can conduct when wet. Conductive pathways on the surface of insulators, termed 'tracking', can lead to short-circuits and fires.

The risk of surface voltages appearing on plastic cut-outs poses a risk of electric shock, therefore STIRG provides meter operatives with specific guidance around initially testing via a direct contact voltage indicator, followed by supplementary tests with a two-pole voltage indicator when a sustained voltage is present.

CUT-OUTS WITH A FUSED NEUTRAL

Generally installed prior to 1937, the ESQCR states that cut-outs with fused neutrals must not be retained and DNOs are required by the HSE to remove any within 28 days of identification.

The danger is that if the neutral cut-out fuse ruptures, the line conductor remains energised. Additionally, the loss of the neutral conductor can cause voltage fluctuations and damage to equipment.

ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS (ACMS)

Older distributors' equipment may contain asbestos, such as flash guards within rewirable fuse carriers. When disturbed, these extremely friable, loosely bound materials permit the release of fibres into the atmosphere.

DNOs have specific procedures for the replacement of ACMS, therefore the cut-out fuse should not be withdrawn and the DNO should be notified.

IDENTIFICATION

The identification of the correct cut-out fuse is essential prior to withdrawal, for example, ground-floor flats have been known to contain two cut-out fuses when the flat above is supplied at the



↑ Figure 4 – Intake position with two cut-out fuses

same intake position (see Figure 4). This is not only a safety concern but may also have financial consequences due to loss of supply, so it's important to check.

IN SUMMARY

The removal of the cut-out fuse is an essential part in safely isolating an electrical installation to undertake the installation and maintenance of electrical equipment.

Electricians can be authorised by the DNO to remove and reinstate the cut-out fuse in certain circumstances. However,

it should be remembered that it may not be practicable, or indeed safe, to do so in all cases.

The role of SIPs means there is another option for those requiring isolation of the electrical installation and clients and electricians should strongly consider the benefits of using a SIP. This includes formal accreditation, training for SIP operatives on the safe de-energisation and re-energisation of the electrical supply and application of established safe working practices to minimise potential hazards and legal issues.

Regulation 16 of EAWR requires persons working on or near electrical systems to be competent. Continued professional development equips specialists with the knowledge and skills to adapt to changes in their industry and environment, ensuring they remain relevant and competitive.

Therefore, staying up to date with current industry guidance and best practices, as well as local DNO requirements and procedures, will assist electricians in visually inspecting and working safely when near distributor's equipment. ■

Acknowledgements:
Bob Cairney, Mark Coles, Andy Coole, Joanne Flaherty, Leon Markwell, Craig O'Neill and Max Parella



FIND OUT MORE

For further information, scan the QR code to download the *Distribution Network Operator Cut-out Types & Ratings Guidance* from the Energy Networks Association, or go to www.energynetworks.org





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To enquire about SELECT's range of training courses, please call 0131 445 5577 or email training@select.org.uk



Electrical awareness

Developed in response to a request from a local authority, our one-day electrical awareness course – AKA module No205 – continues to be popular.

The course now provides non-electricians such as housing managers, inspectors, clerks of works and similar with a general awareness and knowledge of electrical systems.

The course aims to provide sufficient knowledge for people to be able to inspect new and existing installations and recognise defects, bad practice and situations that may require routine or urgent maintenance. To do this, it covers a wide range of topics, including:

- Fundamental electrical principles
- Electrical systems
- Wiring types and containment systems
- Circuit control and distribution
- Circuit protection and circuit identification
- Inspection procedures and techniques
- Accessories
- Earthing and bonding
- Rating of cables
- BS 7671 IET Wiring Regulations, as amended
- Installation inspection and testing and suitable forms
- Certification
- Electrical installation checklist.

Delivered by SELECT Technical staff and usually only available on an in-house basis, we now have a course date scheduled at The Walled Garden on Wednesday 27 August. The cost to SELECT Members is £185 + VAT.

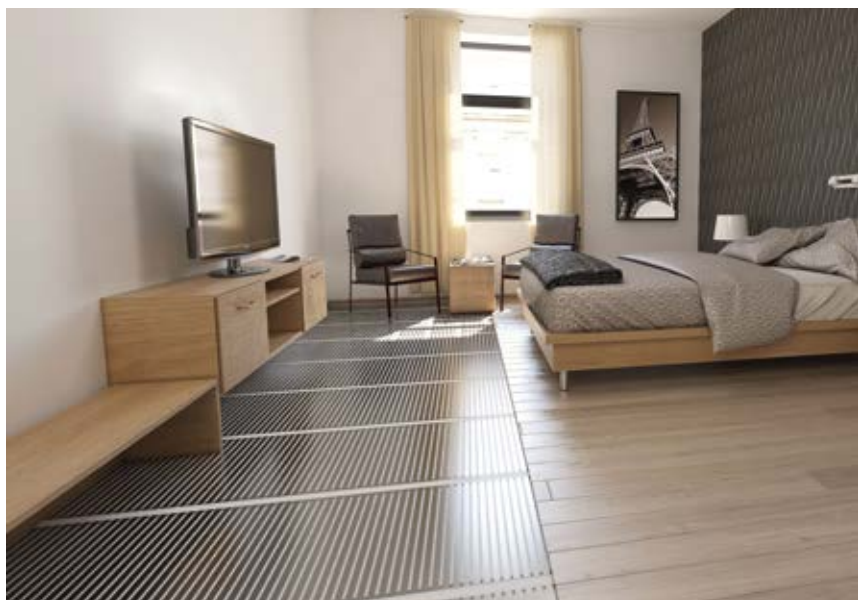


↑ Our course provides non-electricians with vital knowledge about systems

Sharing skills to build a better industry

Our Training team continues to deliver courses for a wide cross-section of the industry, including an upcoming free seminar on electric heating and popular modules in fire detection systems and electrical awareness

WORDS
JENNY CRYANS
Training Manager



Fire detection and alarm systems

Our new course in the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of systems in non-domestic premises continues to be popular, particularly after the recent update to BS 5839-1.

The new publication came into effect on 30 April 2025, with the previous version, BS 5839-1:2017, withdrawn from that date. This revision was conducted ahead of the schedule by FSH/12/1 to improve safety measures.

The SELECT course now covers the significant updates to fire detection and alarm systems in non-domestic premises in BS 5839-1:2025. During the session, you will learn about changes, including:

- Clause 4 being moved to the introduction and Clause 33 merged with Clause 31.
- New Section 7, which now gives guidance on extensions and modifications.
- Tighter controls of variations, with certain deviations from recommendations now explicitly prohibited in Clause 6. This is due to safety concerns following fatal fires. Recording of all variations from the standard must be logged in the site's fire alarm logbook, ensuring accountability and compliance.
- Simplified siting advice on manual call points.
- Improved guidance on fire detection in sleeping areas, with automatic fire detection preferred over heat detectors or sprinkler heads.



Design and installation changes covered include:

- Detection in new areas which now gives guidance on L2 systems must account for sleeping risks in addition to risk-assessed rooms. L4 systems which now requires detection at the top of lift shafts.
- Lockdown alarms, which can be integrated into fire alarm systems as long as the tone is distinct from fire alarm tones.
- Clarified guidance on handling ceiling obstructions to avoid interference with fire alarm systems.
- Signal monitoring in Category L systems must now occur within 90 seconds, with faults recognised within three minutes.
- Updated formulas for battery back-up sizing to provide additional clarity.

Familiarity with BS 5839-1:2025 is crucial to ensure fire detection and alarm systems are reliable, legally compliant and effective in safeguarding lives in non-domestic premises. The new standard reflects advances in technology and best practice, aiming to enhance fire protection and reduce risks.

Check the SELECT website for the date of the next course, which for SELECT Members costs £280 + VAT per delegate.

↑ The new update will help to improve safety

FIND OUT MORE

For further information and to book any of these courses, visit the Training section at www.select.org.uk, email training@select.org.uk or call 0131 445 5577.



↑ Get expert advice on heating from Flexel

Embedded electric heating seminar

SELECT has once again partnered with Associate Member Flexel to deliver a free seminar on the safe design, installation and verification of indoor and outdoor electric heating systems.

Scheduled to take place on Thursday 4 September at a venue

to be confirmed in Ayrshire, Training Development Adviser Stuart McKelvie will discuss:

- Overview of Section 753 of BS 7671
- Design, installation and initial verification of embedded heating systems for surface heating
- Introduction to electric heating, de-icing systems, frost protection and similar embedded applications
- Guidance on both indoor and outdoor systems.

The UK manufacturer's Scotland Regional Manager, Craig Herriott, will then give an overview of heating products and the scope and locations for successful use. He'll also discuss types of cable and provide a walkthrough of 10 heating systems.

The seminar will run from 8.45am to 1pm and delegates will receive a CPD certificate.



Health & Safety

Be smart and handle with care at work

Manual handling is a significant occupational hazard for electricians, with HSE statistics revealing that it accounts for a third of workplace injuries in the sector. Such injuries can have devastating immediate and long-term consequences for workers and businesses, so how can you stay safe?

WORDS
ANDY HARPER

Head of Technical and
CDM Support, BSG



BSG The Building
Safety Group

IN THE electrical trade, manual handling encompasses a wide range of physical activities, from transporting heavy cable reels and switchgear to working in awkward positions during installations.

The nature of electrical work often requires technicians to manage substantial weights in challenging environments, making them particularly vulnerable to injury risks.

Common manual handling tasks in electrical work present various challenges. Equipment transportation involves moving heavy cable reels, often weighing more than 50kg, distribution boards and various power tools.

Installation activities frequently require overhead work, operating in confined spaces and maintaining awkward positions for extended periods, all of which can strain the musculoskeletal system.

The primary risk factors can be categorised into physical and

environmental hazards. Physical hazards include managing heavy loads, performing repetitive movements and maintaining awkward postures.

Environmental factors such as uneven surfaces, adverse weather conditions and limited access points further compound these risks.

BE AWARE AND BE PREPARED

Health implications can be both immediate and long-lasting. Short-term injuries typically include muscle strains, back injuries and acute pain.

More concerning are the long-term effects, including chronic musculoskeletal disorders and repetitive strain injuries, which can lead to permanent disability and premature career termination.

"PREVENTION STRATEGIES SHOULD FOCUS ON COMPREHENSIVE RISK ASSESSMENT AND PRACTICAL CONTROL MEASURES"

↑ Taking care and wearing the right equipment is vital

HELPFUL RESOURCES

BSG manual
handling advice



HSE manual
handling guidance



↓ Workplace incidents can cause injury or even death, so it's essential to follow the rules



SIGN UP FOR FREE HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE

SELECT Members automatically qualify for **FREE** advice and practical resources from the BSG worth £750.

Signing up is quick and easy – all you need is your membership number. To find out more and get started, scan the QR code right.



Under the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 and Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, employers must conduct thorough risk assessments and implement appropriate control measures. Prevention strategies should focus on comprehensive risk assessment and practical control measures. This includes evaluating loads, tasks, individual capabilities and environmental conditions.

Best practices for manual handling include:

- Proper planning before attempting any lift

The prevention of manual handling injuries requires ongoing vigilance and commitment from both employers and employees. By following proper procedures and maintaining awareness of risks, electricians can significantly reduce their chances of suffering manual handling injuries and ensure a longer, healthier career in the electrical trade.

For further information and guidance, electricians should consult the HSE website, their union representatives, or their company's health and safety officers. Remember – no job is so urgent that it cannot be done safely. ■

- Using correct lifting techniques
- Employing appropriate mechanical aids
- Wearing suitable PPE
- Seeking assistance when required
- Taking regular breaks to prevent fatigue.

Training plays a crucial role in preventing injuries. All electricians should receive formal manual handling training, with regular refresher courses to maintain awareness and competency.

Documentation of training and regular competency assessments are also essential for legal compliance and risk management.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

01

Always assess risks before attempting manual handling tasks

02

Use available mechanical aids and lifting equipment

03

Follow proper lifting techniques

04

Report any concerns or injuries promptly

05

Maintain good physical fitness

06

Stay updated with current safety procedures

A deadly serious cause for concern

Latest HSE figures show that 124 workers were killed in work-related incidents in Britain last year, a decrease of 14 from the previous 12-month period.

The statistics, covering April 2024 to March 2025, show that the number of deaths remain broadly in line with pre-pandemic levels, and compare

to 223 in 2004-05 and 495 in 1981.

The industries with the highest number of deaths were construction (35) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (23), which continues to have the highest rate of fatal injury per 100,000 workers. The most common cause of fatal injuries

continues to be falls from a height (35), representing more than a quarter of worker deaths in 2024/25.

A further 92 people who were not at work were killed in work-related incidents in 2024/25, i.e. members of the public who were in a workplace but were not working there themselves.

The HSE has also published its annual figures for mesothelioma, a cancer caused by past exposure to asbestos.

Some 2,218 people died from the disease in 2023, a fall of 62 compared with 2022 and substantially lower than the average of 2,508 deaths per year between 2011 and 2020.

Industry insight

Turning net zero goals into reality

The ongoing transition to net zero offers a promising outlook for electrical contractors. Here, we outline the opportunities in some of the key areas on the road to a greener future – and the challenges that also lie ahead

WORDS
PAUL McDEVITT
Managing Director,
McDevitt & Co



McDevitt & Co

THE UK's legally binding commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 is fundamentally reshaping the electrical contracting sector.

This transition presents unprecedented opportunities in renewables, battery storage, data centres and AI-driven solutions, while simultaneously exposing critical challenges in skills, infrastructure and regulation.

Electrical contractors stand at the forefront of this transformation, poised to drive innovation yet also facing substantial hurdles in implementation.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BATTERY STORAGE

Renewable energy integration has become a core growth area, with contractors adapting to install solar PV systems, wind generation solutions and energy-efficient technologies.

The rise of 'prosumer' systems, when consumers both produce and consume energy, creates

demand for on-site generation installations and battery storage integration.

Incentives for electrical energy storage systems (EES) and smart energy management are accelerating this shift, enabling properties to feed surplus energy back into the grid. Contractors who master these technologies can capture new revenue streams, particularly through partnerships with renewable energy specialists.

Battery storage development is equally critical, allowing excess renewable energy to be stored during peak generation times for later use. This mitigates grid strain and enhances energy resilience.

Innovative contractors are already implementing storage solutions in homes and businesses, often retrofitting existing buildings with creative approaches such as rooftop solar arrays or facade-mounted panels. These projects not only reduce reliance on fossil fuels but also position contractors as essential enablers of the energy transition.

DATA CENTRES: A HIGH-GROWTH SECTOR

The exponential expansion of data centres represents a major opportunity, driven by AI proliferation and digitalisation. Building services contractors, particularly those specialising in mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) systems, are increasingly leading these projects.

"CONTRACTORS WHO MASTER THESE TECHNOLOGIES CAN CAPTURE NEW REVENUE STREAMS, PARTICULARLY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY SPECIALISTS"





Data centres now account for more than 60% of total project value in many cases, with the UK market projected to grow from £2.3 billion to £1.1 trillion by 2030. This sector demands sophisticated electrical expertise in power resilience, cooling systems and energy-efficient design, creating lucrative contracts for firms equipped to handle complex, high-value installations.

AI-DRIVEN EFFICIENCY AND CARBON REDUCTION

Artificial intelligence is emerging as a transformative tool for reducing embodied carbon in construction.

Software developed by institutions such as UWE Bristol uses machine learning to analyse construction materials and methods, identifying alternatives that lower carbon footprints during the planning phase.

This technology helps contractors meet stringent emissions caps while optimising project costs. AI also enables predictive maintenance for electrical systems and smart grid management, enhancing operational efficiency across renewable installations and storage networks.

CRITICAL CHALLENGES FACING THE SECTOR

Skill shortages and demographic pressures threaten to undermine progress in a number of ways:

- **High demand, insufficient supply:** The demand for electricians is outpacing supply, driven by ambitious infrastructure, housing and net zero targets. The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) forecasts that an additional 4,300 electrical installers will be needed each year by 2029, while the UK Trade Skills Index projects a need for 104,000 additional electricians by 2032.
- **Unfilled vacancies:** As of early 2025, there were nearly 10,000 unfilled electrician vacancies across the UK, making electricians one of the most sought-after trades. Despite strong apprenticeship interest, the shortage of qualified electricians jeopardises the workforce needed for renewable installations and EV infrastructure. Without urgent investment in adult retraining and youth recruitment, project delays and quality issues are inevitable.
- **Grid capacity limitations:** The UK's legacy infrastructure struggles with renewable

"CONTRACTORS WHO INVEST IN SPECIALISED TRAINING, ADOPT EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND ADVOCATE FOR STREAMLINED POLICIES WILL LEAD THE SECTOR'S TRANSFORMATION"

energy's intermittency, leading to curtailment during peak generation and shortages during low-output periods. Upgrading grids to handle distributed energy resources requires massive investment and regulatory coordination. Additionally, complex planning processes delay projects through lengthy environmental assessments and community consultations, increasing costs.

- **Regulatory uncertainty:** Net zero demands rethinking energy governance, with institutions such as Ofgem navigating tensions between innovation, consumer protection and infrastructure investment. The creation of the National Energy System Operator (NESO) aims to address this but requires clearer policy alignment to avoid conflicts in market structure and ownership models. Contractors need stable frameworks to justify large-scale investments in new technologies.

IN CONCLUSION

The net zero transition offers electrical contractors immense opportunities, positioning them as vital players in a sustainable economy. However, realising this potential demands urgent solutions to skills gaps, grid modernisation and regulatory coherence.

Contractors who invest in specialised training, adopt emerging technologies and advocate for streamlined policies will lead the sector's transformation.

As the UK accelerates toward its 2050 target, the electrical contracting industry must balance innovation with pragmatic problem-solving to turn ambitious climate goals into operational reality. ■

Paul McDevitt is Managing Director of McDevitt & Co, an experienced business consultancy that helps to inspire people, improve productivity and increase profits in the construction industry. Find out more and contact him at www.mcdevitt.co



↑ The new law should provide opportunities for businesses to grow

WORDS
DAVID WILSON
Consultant



MFR
MORTON
FRASER
MACROBERTS
LLP

David Wilson regularly advises on arbitration and adjudication matters, often providing legal advice to adjudicators. As a litigator, he has extensive experience of acting for pursuers and defenders in commercial disputes in the Court of Session

Moving forward

Changes to the law on moveable property should be welcomed as they will cut paperwork for businesses and improve efficiency

THE Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 came into force on 1 April 2025, introducing significant changes to the law on Scottish moveable property. Here, we outline the changes and explore their impact for businesses, including SELECT Members.

Moveable property in Scotland falls into two categories – corporeal moveables, including tangible items such as equipment and machinery, and incorporeal moveables, including debts and the right to be paid. Corporeal and incorporeal moveables are central to the new law, which introduces two key mechanisms for securing business finance: the Register of Assignations and the Statutory Pledge.

REGISTER OF ASSIGNATIONS

The old ways of assignation and intimation have been replaced with the Register of Assignations. This allows a party to register the assignation of invoices to a financier, allowing immediate finance.

The right to receive payment arises upon registration, as opposed to the old law which required intimating an invoice to each debtor. This

change will reduce admin and overall workload for businesses. The Federation of Small Businesses indicated that 3,500 small businesses in Scotland fail each year because invoices remain unpaid. In this sense, the register will improve financial efficiency by streamlining the process of receiving payment for debt.

STATUTORY PLEDGE

The process of securing finance under the old law required a high degree of formality, which caused practical problems if assets were used as security for obtaining finance. As the life of machinery and equipment is ever-changing for businesses, it was impractical to notify parties as to the change of any new assets as well as handing over possession of an asset to be used as security.

The new law provides a new form of security that can be granted over Scottish moveable property. A Statutory Pledge allows assets to be used as fixed security for finance without giving up possession. This allows businesses to continue trading and use equipment such as vans and tools while also using these assets as collateral to access loans more easily. In addition, by providing lenders with reliable security, lenders may offer more competitive interest rates and lower borrowing costs for businesses.

In summary, the Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 provides efficiency and opportunity for businesses. The Register of Assignations enables immediate finance while the Statutory Pledge provides businesses with increased borrowing opportunities, leading to more chance of growth. Its simplification permits business efficiency without disrupting day-to-day operations – overall, a welcome change. ■

**LEGAL
HELPLINE
0141 303 1111**



As a Member of SELECT, you have access to the Legal Helpline operated by Morton Fraser MacRoberts. This helpline covers advice and assistance on commercial, contractual and employment matters under Scots law which concern your business.

Tune in for an expert guide to the BPG

WORDS
LEN BUNTON
FRICS FCI Arb,
HON FRIAS
Contract Expert



WATCH IT NOW

To watch the new
CICV BPG webinar,
scan the QR code
or go to bit.ly/bpg-webinar



S **ELECT** continues to play a leading role in the Construction Industry Collective Voice (CICV), which has just issued more invaluable advice to help contractors.

The collective has recorded another in its series of free webinars, this time offering a step-by-step guide to its Best Practice Guide (BPG).

Recorded on 2 July, the session is hosted by construction consultant David MacDonald, with input from me and Ian Honeyman of the Scottish Building Federation.

During the hour-long recording we give a detailed walkthrough of the BPG, highlighting key areas and offering practical pointers to contractors.

Over the past two years, it has been heartening to see the interest in the BPG and this latest webinar is designed to provide clear and concise guidance to its main points.

Launched in February 2023, the BPG is designed to help contractors and sub-contractors improve cashflow and prevent costly and damaging disputes.

Compiled by more than a dozen industry experts, the in-depth guide offers a wealth of practical information, demonstrating how to take control and proactively deal with a range of issues to enhance the entire contractual chain.

The BPG was recently enhanced with a series of individual guidance notes, which all are free to download from the 'Guidance' section of the CICV website. ■

↓ The webinar covers key areas and includes practical pointers



Reaffirm your pledge to prevent conflict

I know that a number of **SELECT** Member firms have signed the Conflict Avoidance Pledge, so I just wanted to update you all on the latest developments.

To reflect rising interest in the issue, the Conflict Avoidance Coalition has launched a website, conflictavoidance.org, which came into effect on 16 June.

This new site lists the more than 90 leading organisations who are now working to promote cooperation and reduce disputes in construction and engineering.

These include public bodies, contractors, consultants and professional institutions, which are united in a shared mission to reduce the financial, reputational and relational costs of disputes through better conflict management.

The change means that it is necessary for those of you who have already signed the Pledge to go through the process again.

On the new website, simply go to 'Pledge' and re-enter your details under 'Sign the Pledge'. It's free to do so and you'll receive a confirmation email.

If you haven't already signed up I would heartily recommend it. Together we **CAN** make a difference!





SCOTTISH
ELECTRICAL
CHARITABLE
TRAINING
TRUST

SECTT Update

Awards for top talent of 2025

SECTT's Apprentice of the Year winners show the industry has a bright future as their skills, commitment and hard work are celebrated with annual prize-giving

SCOTLAND'S brightest apprentices once again had the chance to shine as SECTT rewarded excellence in its Apprentice of the Year competition.

Supported by their employers and parents, 21 1st Stage and 21 2nd Stage apprentices competed in three regional heats in the North, East and West.

Competition was extremely fierce as always as the talent of tomorrow battled it out at three colleges across Scotland. The North of Scotland

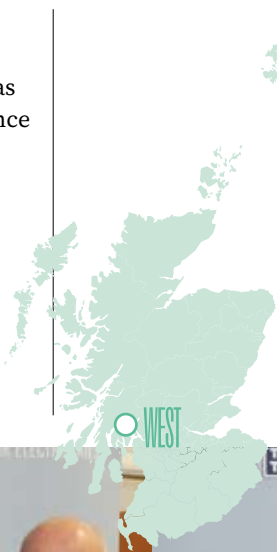
heat on 3 June was held at UHI Moray College, where Jake Mitchell of SELECT Member firm G&A Barnie Group Ltd took the 1st Stage prize, with Adam Souter of Member firm McDonald & Munro Ltd clinching the 2nd Stage trophy.

Next up was the East heat at Forth Valley College, Falkirk Campus, on 10 June, where James Woodhouse clinched the 1st Stage crown and Rhys Howey of SELECT Member firm W P Purves left with the 2nd Stage trophy.

The final heat at West College Scotland, Paisley Campus, on 24 June, saw plenty more keen competition among the West region.

Albie Fuller of SELECT Member firm FES Ltd eventually collected the 1st Stage prize, with Evan McBlain from Member firm Millar Electrics Ltd crowned the 2nd Stage winner.

Barrie McKay, SECTT Training & Development Manager, said: "These competitions are a brilliant way of recognising all the hard work apprentices are putting in."



↑ 1st Stage: Albie Fuller, Glasgow Kelvin College, FES Ltd



↑ 2nd Stage: Evan McBlain, Ayrshire College, Millar Electrics Ltd



↑1st Stage: Jake Mitchell, Inverness College UHI, G&A Barnie Group Ltd



↑2nd Stage: Adam Souter, Moray College UHI, McDonald & Munro Ltd

ABOUT SECTT

SECTT manages high-quality training on behalf of the SJIB. To find out more about SECTT and its work, call 0131 445 5659, email admin@sectt.org.uk or visit www.sectt.org.uk

"Once again the standard was really strong this year and it's heartening to see the talent coming through, both now and for the future of the industry."

All six winners will go on to represent their regions at the national finals in Edinburgh in December, when the top 1st and 2nd Stage apprentices will be selected.

Barrie added: "SECTT would like to thank Scolmore for sponsoring the competition and supplying equipment used across the heats and Megger for donating prizes."

"Their ongoing support helps make events like this possible and even more special for the apprentices." ■

Double delight for pitch ace Adam

SECTT Apprentice of the Year Adam Souter scored an amazing double by clinching another honour as he recovered from a serious football injury.

As well as being 2nd Stage North champion, the youngster is one of two SECTT learners who have made it through to the final of the UK SkilleLECTRIC competition.

And it completes a remarkable comeback for Adam, who suffered a broken ankle while playing for Forres Thistle in a Scottish Junior Cup match last September.

Joining him will be Ellis Stevenson of SELECT Member firm Campbell & McHardy Ltd and UHI Moray College, who finished top in the qualifying heats at Edinburgh College in June.

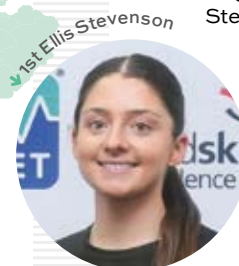
She and runner-up Adam went through to the final selection process with third placed Lewis Stevenson, who works for Member firm GSM Electrical (Fife) Ltd and attends Fife College.

And when the scores were collated from the other heats across the UK, Adam and Ellis were among the top eight performers who'll compete in November's final at Bridgend College.

SECTT CEO Fiona Harper said: "SECTT is delighted

to have two competitors going through to the final of this year's SkilleLECTRIC competition. We wish them the very best of luck."

SkilleLECTRIC is organised by National Electrotechnical Training (NET) in conjunction with WorldSkills UK and partners including Associate Members Scolmore Group and Megger.



↑1st Stage: James Woodhouse, Perth College UHI, James Woodhouse Electrical Contractors



↑2nd Stage: Rhys Howey, Borders College, W P Purves



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Our new dedicated UK range is tailored to meet British installation requirements. Every product is designed to make every installers job easier. A complete range that fits right into your daily work – because that's exactly what we built it for. For more information on this range visit www.ledvance.co.uk



Scan for details

SJIB Bulletin



14% pay rise deal over three years

NEGOTIATIONS are complete and the SJIB is pleased to confirm that SELECT and

Unite the Union have agreed a three-year deal for the SJIB National Working Rules.

Changes to the SJIB Rates and Allowances mean that operative and apprentice rates of pay will now increase as detailed in the tables on the right.

Effective from 5 January 2026, apprentices will be entitled to the Statutory Apprentice Rate for the first year of their apprenticeship if this is higher than the SJIB Stage 1 Rate.

SJIB additional sick pay will also increase from 3 January 2028. Paid to operatives and adult trainees in

Operative rates of pay will increase by:

3.95% on Monday 5 January 2026

4.6% on Monday 4 January 2027

4.85% on Monday 3 January 2028

Apprentice rates of pay will increase by:

0% on Monday 5 January 2026

2% on Monday 4 January 2027

3% on Monday 3 January 2028

in addition to statutory sick pay (SSP), this will rise by:

- £10 for all grades during weeks three to 24

- £5 for all grades during weeks 25 to 52. ■

Details of the three-year agreement are available in a SJIB circular. To download this, scan the QR code on this page or go to www.sjib.org.uk to find out more



Scottish rollout for ECS Card

The Electrotechnical Certification Scheme (ECS) last year launched the Signal Distribution Specialist ECS Card, designed for those who hold a Confederation of Aerial Industries (CAI) Foundation Diploma in Signal Reception for Aerial and Satellite Specialists.

The SJIB can confirm that from 4 August 2025 onwards, this card will also be available for those in Scotland who meet the criteria.

To be eligible, applicants must hold one of the following:

- CAI Diploma in Signal Reception
- NVQ Level 2 in Electrical and Electronics Servicing (City & Guilds 1687) – Signal Reception Pathway
- NVQ Level 2 in Aerial and Satellite Installation.

Applicants must also hold a current ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Assessment, completed within the past 30 months, or hold a valid, approved exemption.

To find out more, fill out the 'Contact Us' form at www.sjib.org.uk, which ensures your query goes directly to the team member responsible.

ABOUT THE SJIB

SJIB regulates relations between employers and employees engaged in the Scottish electrotechnical industry. To find out more about SJIB and its work, visit www.sjib.org.uk

Surprise sweet treat gratefully received by SJIB's 'Musketeers'

The SJIB team was delighted to receive flowers and chocolates from a recent applicant. Addressed to 'the SJIB Musketeers', the gesture was greatly appreciated and we'd like to thank all Members who understand the level of enquiries we handle daily. It's our pleasure to help!



ProZone



BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER

To inquire about becoming an
Associate Member, email
memberservices@select.org.uk

RELIABLE SAFETY TOOLS FROM SONEL

Electrical contractors play a crucial role in ensuring the safety of electrical installations. Effective surge protection is essential, but simply installing SPDs isn't enough – regular verification of their functionality is also needed.

Standards like IEC 60364-4-44:2024 and IEC 62305-3 emphasise the need for consistent SPD management.

However, visual inspections alone are sometimes not enough, as SPD varistors degrade over time. To guarantee reliable protection, thorough testing is vital.

Advanced tools such as the Sonel MIC-2511 insulation resistance meter simplify this process. The MIC-2511 features dedicated SPD testing capabilities, allowing you to quickly verify the maximum continuous operating voltage (Uc) declared by the manufacturer. It can differentiate between varistor and spark-gap based SPDs, completing a test in under a minute.

By utilising tools like the Sonel MIC-2511 and adhering to best practices, contractors can confidently ensure the long-term reliability and effectiveness of surge protection systems.

➔ Find out more at bit.ly/pqe-surge



➔ The Sonel MIC-2511 resistance meter

Link up with Sync's smart solution

SYNC Energy has launched Link, its smallest, most design-forward EV charger to date.

Featuring a unique, patent-approved two-part design, Link offers smart connectivity, ease of installation and sleek aesthetics in one intelligent charging solution.

The innovative design combines charger and EV consumer unit in one, meaning the outlet can blend seamlessly into the fabric of the building.

Available in Wi-Fi and 4G options, Link is engineered for durability with IP65 and IK10 ratings ideal for exposed installations.

Its modular, two-part design allows the socket outlet and control unit to be installed separately, giving installers flexibility – choose recessed in-wall installation for an ultra-minimalist appearance or surface on-wall mounting for faster, retrofit-friendly applications.

With 7.4kW dynamic charging via a Type 2 socket, Link is fully



➔ The EV charger combines great design with innovation and expertise

compatible with the Sync Energy App and supports OCPP 1.6J for seamless monitoring and control.

Built-in Type A RCD and integrated SPD ensure compliance with the latest regulations without the need for upstream devices or additional earth rods, resulting in a simplified installation. A three-year warranty and Sync Energy's UK-based technical support team also give peace of mind.

➔ Find out more at sync.energy/link

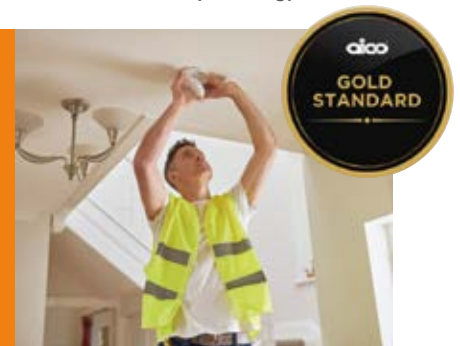
BECOME A GOLD STANDARD INSTALLER

Aico understands what a huge responsibility it is to provide home life safety devices into UK homes, which is why it holds both itself and the partners it works with to such a high standard. Gold Standard Installers are another way to ensure the safety of UK homes and their residents.

To become Gold Standard, installers need to fulfil the following criteria:

- Complete Aico's free FIA-accredited Expert Installer Training
- Join the rewards-based Installer Community
- Complete Aico's free City & Guilds Training
- Be a member of SELECT, NICEIC, NAPIT or FIA.

➔ For more information, call 01691 664 100, email enquiries@aico.co.uk or visit www.aico.co.uk



MEET OUR
ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS





↑ The CR range comes in a choice of natural-looking and stone-inspired finishes

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davidh@connectcommunications.co.uk

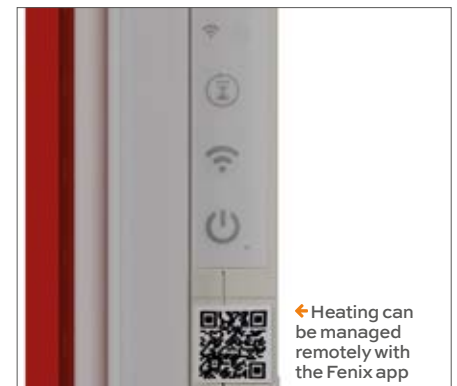
directly rather than the surrounding air. This method is not only more energy efficient but also reduces air circulation making it ideal for allergy sufferers.

With outputs ranging from 300W to more than 1000W there's a model to suit any room size or application.

Compliant with EU EcoDesign Regulation 2024/1103, the EcoSun WIFI panels deliver zero-carbon intelligent heating without compromising on style or performance.

Whether for homes, hotels or offices the EcoSun WIFI range offers a smart, sustainable solution that blends comfort, control and contemporary design without the need for a visible thermostat controller unit.

➔ For more details, email craig@flexel.co.uk or call 01592 760 928



Warm welcome for new EcoSun panels

FLEXEL has introduced its latest innovation in electric heating, the extended EcoSun range, which now includes two new panel types – the glass EcoSun GS WIFI and ceramic EcoSun CR WIFI.

Combining advanced technology with elegant aesthetics, these radiant panels are designed to deliver efficient and controllable heating for living areas.

Both new models are equipped with a built-in WiFi thermostat and an external RF temperature sensor, allowing smart control via the Fenix app.

Users can manage heating remotely, set schedules for weekdays and weekends and monitor energy use all

from their smartphone or tablet. The system supports cloud or direct ad-hoc connection, ensuring flexibility for different environments.

The EcoSun GS WIFI model features a sleek frameless glass surface available in white, black and mirror. It can be installed on walls or ceilings and even fitted with towel rails for stylish bathroom heating.

The EcoSun CR WIFI variant offers a more natural finish using sintered ceramic surfaces in stone-inspired textures such as Basalt Black, Beton, Calacatta and Mirage, ideal for contemporary interiors.

EcoSun heaters use infrared radiant heat which warms people and objects



↑ The GS panels provide a sleek, contemporary look



↑ Sureserve is the first Aico Platinum Partner to be recognised in the scheme

AICO PLATINUM PARTNERSHIP SETS STANDARD

Aico, the European market leader in home life safety, has launched its Platinum Partner initiative, a prestigious recognition programme designed to elevate industry standards and reinforce a commitment to excellence across its installer network.

Building on the Gold Standard Installer criteria, Platinum Partner status is awarded to elite organisations that demonstrate exceptional commitment to professional development, safety and collaborative best practices.

Aico Sales Director Steve Trafford said: "By recognising and supporting organisations that go above and beyond, we're promoting excellence and enhancing safety standards."

Sureserve was announced as the first Platinum Partner, reflecting its close collaboration with Aico to become a standout example of what the initiative was created to celebrate.

➔ Visit bit.ly/aico-platinum

Trust Acutest to save time and cash

FAULTY readings, failed reports and safety risks – the cost of uncalibrated or poorly maintained test instruments is hidden in plain sight, with contractors spending far more than they realise.

The smallest measurement errors can lead to misdiagnosed faults, unnecessary remedial work or failed compliance checks, costing hundreds, if not thousands of pounds in time and money, especially for contractors working to tight deadlines and strict regulations.

Acutest prides itself on its fast and reliable calibration service, possessing ISO 9001 and UKAS standards which

helps electrical professionals stay compliant and confident that their test results are accurate.

With service centres across the UK, national collection and delivery and optional on-site visits, Acutest is geared to minimise downtime and maximise accuracy.

Its hands-on customer support team also offers first-class technical support, helping contractors get the most from their equipment.

For those in the electrical industry, keeping instruments in top condition isn't just about ticking boxes – it's about delivering safer, smarter work.

➔ Find out more at www.acutest.net



↑ Acutest provides fast and reliable calibration to deliver safer work

BE INSPIRED BY ESPIRE'S LATEST ALARM ACCESSORIES

Following the successful launch of its Espire collection of domestic fire and CO alarms earlier this year, ESP has bolstered the Espire accessories range with the addition of a new sounder strobe with clear lens.

This high-visibility warning device features a transparent diffuser and white LED and will sit alongside the existing red lens option, providing installers with more choice when it comes to providing dependable fire alarm components that are compliant with industry standards.

Designed for reliability and performance, the IP65-rated sounder strobe is powered by a mains supply and offers four selectable

tones. Its white LED strobe provides a clear visual alert when an alarm system is activated, with an optional audible sounder for enhanced notification.

Its IP65 ingress protection rating makes it ideal for both indoor and outdoor applications, including harsh environmental settings.

The unit is engineered for flexible installation, featuring 2x20mm side-entry and 2x10mm rear-entry knockouts for easy wiring. With an output of up to 83dB, the sounder strobe delivers both power and adaptability.

➔ For the full range, visit www.espireuk.com



↑ The strobe gives a strong visual warning when the alarm is activated

Keep your skills up to scratch thanks to Signify

IN an ever-evolving industry, staying up to date with the latest technologies, skills and trends is crucial.

One of the easiest ways to stay abreast of innovations, standards and regulations is undertaking professional development and learning experiences through continuing professional development (CPD).

Whether you're just starting out in the electrotechnical industry or are already an expert, CPD is vital to help build on your strengths, as well as

developing yourself where they may be capability potential.

As a global leader in lighting, Signify offers a suite of content and resources aimed at the growth and development of skills in the electrical sector.

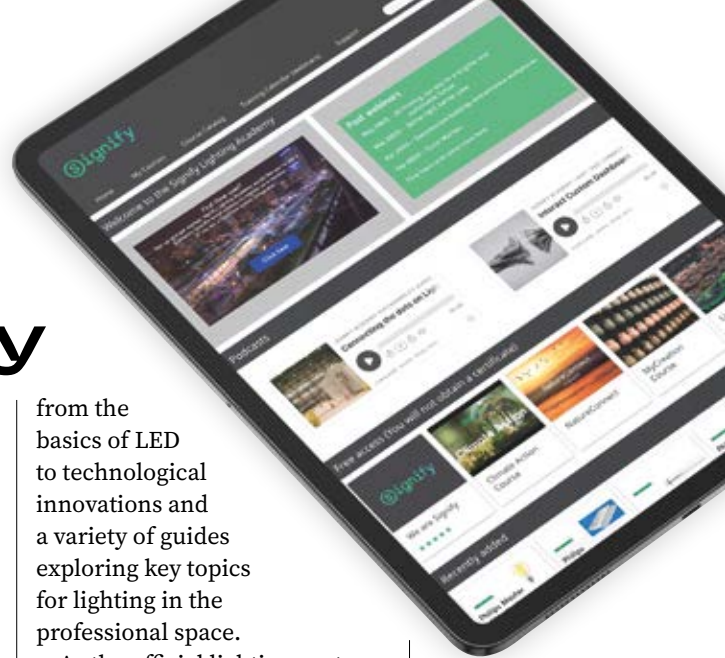
The Signify Lighting Academy is a learning platform that offers free certified educational resources all about lighting, with assessment tests and certificates at the end of each course.

The platform includes a range of publications, CPD-accredited courses and webinars featuring industry leaders through which you can easily learn all about lighting,

from the basics of LED to technological innovations and a variety of guides exploring key topics for lighting in the professional space.

As the official lighting partner of Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1, the academy even delves into the fascinating world of lighting design of F1 street racing tracks, redefining experiences while keeping sustainability a top priority.

➔ To find out more and get started, scan the QR code or go to learning.signify.com/sla/s



➔ The learning platform includes a wide range of useful resources



Sustainable success for Marshall-Tufflex

MARSHALL-TUFFLEX, a leading UK manufacturer of high-quality cable management solutions, has had its ongoing commitment to sustainable practices recognised by two prestigious industry awards – the Sustainable Stand award at CEF Live and the 1066 Business Awards' Sustainability Champion Award for 2025.

Marshall-Tufflex has taken many steps to minimise its environmental impact. This includes using recycled PVC-U from post-industrial windows in its production. In addition, its cardboard packaging is made from 100% recycled and recyclable materials. The company is also on a journey to net zero and has taken a number of important steps to reduce carbon emissions, already achieving an impressive 11% carbon footprint reduction in year two, followed by a 6.6% reduction in year three.

The sustainability award presented

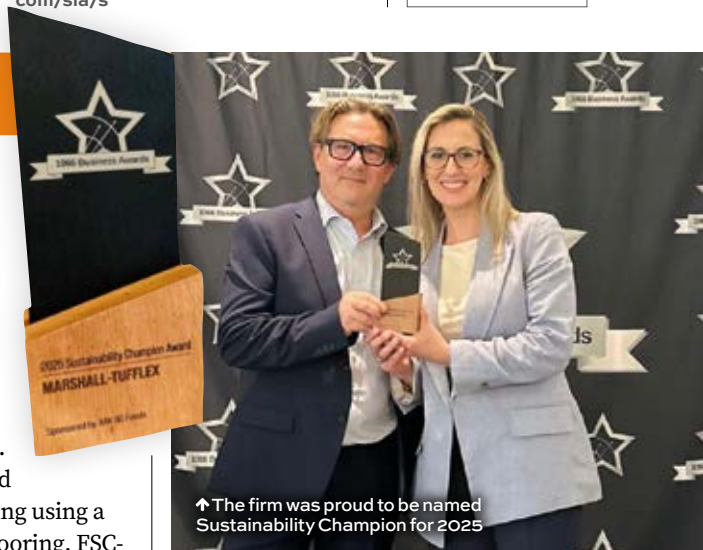
to Marshall-Tufflex at CEF Live for its stand, built by Focal Exhibitions, saw the company achieve full points in ten out of the 13 categories.

The company demonstrated best-in-class practices including using a reusable stand, sustainable flooring, FSC-certified timber, low-energy lighting and no single-use plastics. It also earned top marks for being paper-free and having a rated EcoVadis sustainability certification.

The 1066 Business Awards' annual Sustainability Champion Award recognises those organisations that demonstrate exceptional commitment to sustainability efforts.

The prize aims to honour businesses that implement impressive sustainable practices, drive environmental initiatives and inspire others.

Jon Chamberlain, Managing Director of Marshall-Tufflex, said: "Winning



➔ The firm was proud to be named Sustainability Champion for 2025

both accolades highlights our role as a leader in sustainable manufacturing. By integrating recycled material in our core product lines, engaging employees and suppliers in our net zero mission and transparently sharing environmental data with customers, the company is setting a benchmark for the electrical and construction industries."

➔ For more information on Marshall-Tufflex's sustainability journey, visit www.marshall-tufflex.com/sustainability or scan the QR code





↑ The devices suit a wide range of installations

ELUCIAN RCBOS ARE THREE AND EASY

Click Scolmore continues to expand its Elucian ranges and now offers three different RCBO devices: a 25A RCBO, a compact one pole and switched neutral (Type A) RCBO and a bidirectional RCBO.

The bidirectional RCBO is crucial for ensuring user protection in the event of a fault during a loss of supply. The device is commonly used with generating sets, where the current can flow in both directions, ensuring the installer is still protected under fault conditions.

There are three types of RCBO:

- Standard RCBOS, known as one pole plus unswitched neutral, were the norm. Uses ranged from socket circuits to lighting circuits.
- The second iteration included a switch neutral, quickly becoming the new norm for contractors.
- The bidirectional RCBO is the latest device and includes a switched neutral. These would be used where energy flow is possible in both directions from a generating set, as outlined in Regulation 530.3.201.

➡ For more information visit www.elucianuk.com



↑ The illuminated sign at Gasholder 1 in Granton

Thorn puts history in the spotlight

THORN was recently tasked with creating a lighting scheme that would enhance the visual impact

of the restored gasholder at the heart of Granton Gasholder 1 park in Edinburgh, while respecting its historic character and listed status.

Working closely with landscape architects Optimised Environments (OPEN) and consultancy Tetra Tech, Thorn specified a trio of architectural lighting solutions to bring the design vision to life.

Eroa inground luminaires were chosen to illuminate the gasholder's

Corten lettering, the option for internal anti-glare louvres and glare-control films made it ideal for the park's urban setting, balancing drama with visual comfort.

Contrast RGBW floodlights were mounted strategically on the gasholder itself and controlled via a DMX system, to add depth and versatility to the structure.

Lastly, Aerie column luminaires were installed along key pathways. Their soft, unobtrusive glow delivers high visual comfort and safety, helping to reduce energy use.

➡ Find out more at www.thornlighting.co.uk

↓ The lighting system offers thousands of stylish combinations



Get the freedom to create through ZIIGNA

ZIIGNA from ROBUS is statement LED linear lighting designed to transform.

Made up of continuous linkable light modules,

ZIIGNA is completely customisable in size, shape, colour, CCT and beyond.

Each linkable module is available in a choice of lengths, ranging from 0.6m to 3m, and can be continuously added to with versatile connectors for endless shapes and designs.

Wall, suspended and surface-mounted options are available, with compatible up/down illumination.

Choose your preferred lumen package, up to

4000Lm, and easily adapt to any setting with single-colour white in 3000K, 4000K or 5000K. Multiple dimming, emergency and sensor upgrades are also available.

The result is thousands of ZIIGNA combinations that add depth, dimension and a touch of sophistication to any space. When you want to wow, make a ZIIGNA with ROBUS.

➡ Find out more at www.robust.com/ziigna-linear-lighting



↑ The award-winning meter has been a top seller for Test Instrument Solutions

Clever clampmeter passes every Test

TEST Instrument Solutions is experiencing a huge increase in sales of its award-winning TIS 570 AC/DC Leakage Clampmeter, as the industry embraces the advantages of the product.

Not only does the instrument help in the crusade against nuisance RCD tripping and the detection of diverted neutral currents, but

it also has DC leakage measurement capability to 0.1mA in its locker.

DC leakage can originate from all types of electronic devices within electrical systems, but the real danger from it, if more than 6mA is left undetected, is the possibility of it blinding standard RCDs in fault conditions making this

setting a potentially life-saving feature.

As an added bonus, the TIS 570 also includes True RMS measurement of AC voltage, DC voltage and resistance with an audible output.

→ A live video demonstration can be found at bit.ly/tis-youtube and information about the product itself is at bit.ly/tis-570acdc

KEEPING UP TO SPEED WITH NEW MEDIA NEEDS

Click Scolmore is further enhancing its new media range with the launch of new CAT-6A modules, delivering high-speed data connectivity for today's increasingly demanding media and network installations.

The new CAT-6A modules are engineered for ultra-fast performance, supporting data speeds of up to 10Gbps over cable lengths of up to 100 metres. With a high-frequency operation at 500MHz, they are designed to ensure dependable, high-speed data transfer, even across extended distances.

Ideal for both residential and commercial projects, these modules offer installers a flexible and efficient solution for integrating data, audio and visual connections.

A single new media faceplate can be configured with multiple interchangeable modules to suit various media requirements.

The clip-fit design allows quick, tool-free installation into blank mounting plates.

The new CAT-6A modules are offered in three colours — black, white and grey.

→ For more information, visit www.scolmore.com or download the Scolmore Group app

↓ The modules are available in a choice of colours

NEW OVIA MOTION DETECTOR PANEL IS A GOOD MOVE

Ovia has expanded its Inceptor Slate Backlit LED panels range with the addition of a new version that offers an energy-saving PIR motion detector function.

Designed to offer improved specification on the existing Inceptor Slate Backlit range, the new panel with integrated PIR sensor delivers an impressive 140Lm/w efficacy and is power selectable between 22W and 30W and CCT selectable between 4000k, 5000k and 6500k.

Ideal for commercial environments, these panels offer a UGR rating of <19 for reduced glare, making them suitable for offices, schools and healthcare facilities.

The built-in PIR sensor ensures that lights are only activated when motion is detected — reducing energy use and operating costs, as well as boosting

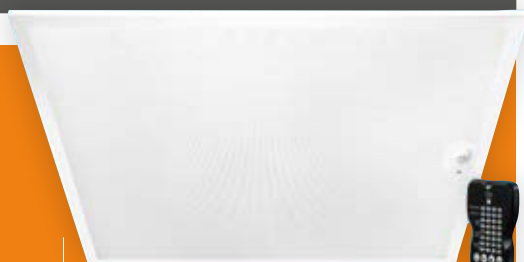
↑ The panels are perfect for a wide range of settings and a remote control is also available

sustainability. Available to order separately is an advanced remote control with a 15m range that allows users to tailor the lighting configuration.

To ensure a simple installation process and easy retrofitting with existing Ovia panels, the new panels come supplied with an LED driver and pre-wired with a CT101M male connector and a CT105-F fast-fit female connector.

The Inceptor Slate PIR Backlit Panel offers up to 50,000-hour hours of use and is backed by a five-year warranty.

→ Find out more at www.oviauk.com and the Scolmore Group app



UNICRIMP LETS YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE

Unicrimp, part of the Scolmore Group of companies, offers a range of IP66-rated, weatherproof junction boxes with semi-transparent lids. This allows you to see the inside connections without compromising the integrity of the enclosure.

The Q-Nect IP66 junction box is designed to make installations more efficient. It can house four of the three port lever connectors using the 360° detachable cradle and a curved lid provides additional space for wires. The semi-transparent lids are available on the IP66 weatherproof enclosure that is furnished with four three-way lever connectors.

The junction box features ten membrane entry points. Protection against moisture and dust is enhanced with the self-sealing membranes which provide a faster and more secure cable entry while at the same time maintaining the IP66 rating. Installers can use up to eight M20 cable glands with the junction box. The M20 threaded entries with membrane ensure that the IP rating is maintained without needing to use any tools or locknuts.

Multiple fixing options are available – either fixing directly to a wall or using the detachable wall clip.

The junction boxes with semi-transparent lids are available in a black or anthracite grey finish.

➔ Download a brochure from www.unicrimp.com or the Scolmore Group app



➔ The partnerships will make a positive difference to social housing providers



Partnerships for healthier homes

VERICON Systems has announced two significant partnerships set to transform safety and environmental management in the UK's social housing sector.

By teaming up with fire detection specialist Hispec and ventilation leader EnviroVent, Vericon is integrating advanced safety and environmental technologies with its intelligent remote monitoring platform, delivering a more proactive approach to property management.

Through the Hispec partnership, social housing providers can now monitor fire and carbon monoxide (CO) detection devices in real time, gaining instant alerts and actionable insights via Vericon's user-friendly online dashboard.

This enables landlords to move beyond scheduled inspections, ensuring that every property remains

compliant and issues are addressed long before emergencies arise.

The EnviroVent collaboration extends this forward-looking approach to indoor air quality, allowing landlords to monitor humidity, damp and mould risks using AI-driven analytics and remote sensors.

Supporting compliance with new regulations such as Awaab's Law down south, landlords can also access free property surveys and comprehensive environmental data to prevent problems before they escalate.

Bernard Cook, Managing Director at Vericon Systems, said: "These partnerships mark a new era for safer, healthier homes in social housing."

Hispec Managing Director Chris Loughlin added: "Together, we are bringing reliable detection technology

into a smart, connected ecosystem built for the future of property management."

envirovent

Vericon Systems

HISPEC

➔ Find out more at www.vericonsystems.com

Discover Daikin's Multi+ benefits

DAIKIN has expanded its efficient Multi+ heat pump range, giving households and small businesses more ways to heat, cool and provide hot water from one compact system.

The latest Multi+ includes a new outdoor unit that connects to up to four indoor units, plus a larger, floor-mounted hot water cylinder. This makes it ideal for larger homes or businesses needing extra capacity without taking up more space.

With top energy ratings – A+++ for cooling, A++ for heating and A+

for hot water – the Multi+ is a smart and sustainable choice. A variety of indoor units, from sleek wall-mounted to floor-standing or ceiling models, allows users to tailor the system to suit their space and style.

The Multi+ works with Daikin's Onecta app, so users can control heating, cooling and hot water from anywhere, even via Alexa or Google Assistant. It's also compatible with Daikin's Easyzone system, making zoned climate control simple and efficient.

➔ Find out more at www.daikin.co.uk



↓ The heat pumps have been awarded excellent energy ratings

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR NEW BUILDS

National Ventilation is leading the way in high-performance ventilation solutions for the new build sector.

With a comprehensive range including whole house mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, intermittent extract fans and continuous mechanical extract ventilation, it offers energy-efficient solutions that meet the latest Building Regulations and Part F standards.

National Ventilation's in-house design service offers bespoke system designs backed by expert technical support, ensuring optimal performance from specification to installation. It also works with house-builders, contractors and specifiers to simplify design and procurement, while meeting the growing demand for low-carbon, low-maintenance ventilation systems.

National Ventilation has won awards for outstanding customer service, showing a commitment to reliability, responsiveness and building partnerships. It is the trusted choice for new build ventilation projects across the UK.

➔ www.nationalventilation.co.uk



↑ The firm has won awards for its outstanding customer service

LEMACE HELPS YOUR BUSINESS CHARGE AHEAD

Boost your business with Lemac Power EV chargers, engineered for electricians and installers.

The range delivers reliable, compliant and easy-to-install charging solutions for homes and businesses and you can benefit from competitive

trade pricing and dedicated support.

Lemac Power chargers are designed to deliver efficiency and safety, meeting the growing demand for EV infrastructure. Expand your service offerings and capitalise on the EV revolution. Contact Lemac today for direct trade access, product details and to become a Lemac Power installer.

➔ Visit www.lemacpower.com or call 01620 828 738 to power up your trade



↓ Lemac chargers are reliable and easy to install

SELECT EVENTS 2025

Catch up with colleagues at Branch Updates and our other events.

CENTRAL BOARD

Wed 3 September, online
Thu 4 December, Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh

PROFESSIONALS' DAY



Thursday 18 September – V&A Dundee

BRANCH UPDATES



Tuesday 7 October – Lanarkshire, The Electric Heating Company, Blantyre

Thursday 9 October – Tayside, Dundee & Angus College

Tuesday 14 October – Aberdeen & North East of Scotland, Tullos Training

Thursday 16 October – Dumfries & Galloway, Dumfries & Galloway College

Tuesday 21 October – Ayrshire, Ayr College

Thursday 23 October – Glasgow & West of Scotland, Cardonald College

Tuesday 28 October – Edinburgh & South East of Scotland, Borders College

Wednesday 29 October – Inverness & North of Scotland, Inverness College

For further information, email memberservices@select.org.uk or call 0131 445 5577 to book



125TH ANNIVERSARY GRAND BALL

Friday 14 November – Marriott Hotel, Glasgow
Places still available, priced at £125 per ticket or £1,250 for a table of 10. Email memberservices@select.org.uk or call 0131 445 5577 to book

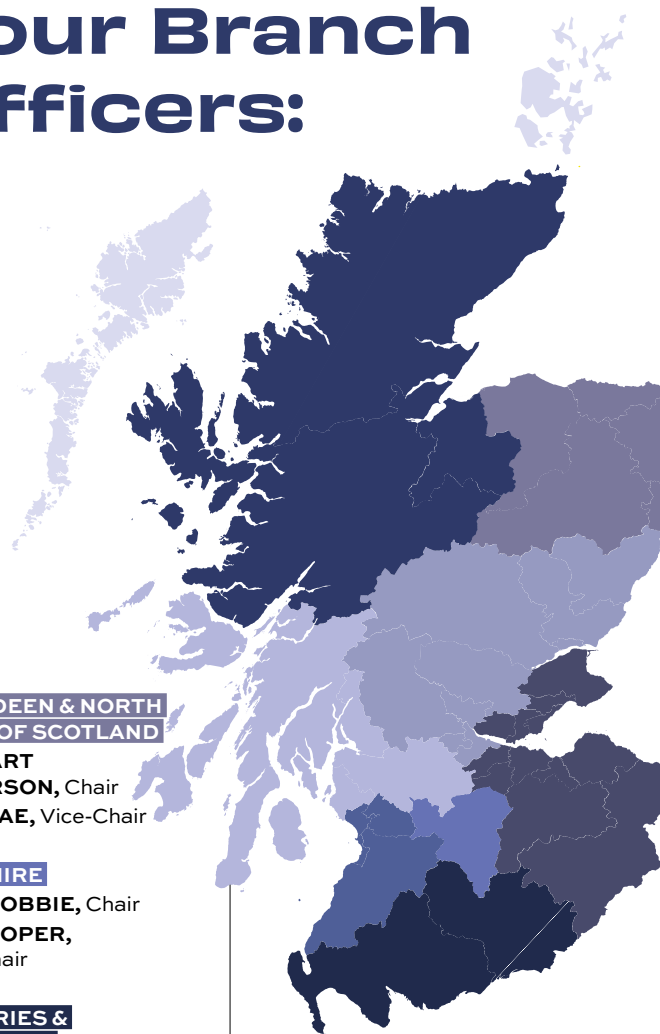


PAST PRESIDENTS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH
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PAST PRESIDENTS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday 4 December – Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh

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This easy-to-follow session demonstrates a method of calculation in line with the requirements of BS 7671.

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READING THE SMALL PRINT

Expert Professor Rudi Klein explains why it's vital to always check a supplier's terms and conditions.

Watch now at bit.ly/STV-TCs

HOME OFFICES & HOT TUBS

This special online Toolbox Talk was held on 7 July 2021, and saw Bob Cairney discuss the rise of hot tubs and home offices during lockdown.

Watch now at bit.ly/TTalk-3

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Music festival wordsearch

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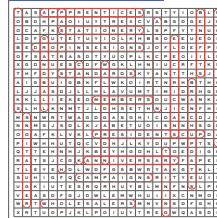
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Find all the words listed above then take a picture of your completed wordsearch and email it to memberservices@select.org.uk by 5 September. The winner will be drawn at random. Ts&Cs are online. Congratulations to June/July winner **Rob Gillies** from **R Gillies Electrical Contractors Ltd.**

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