

Representing the Scottish
electrotechnical industry

cabletalk

AUGUST/
SEPTEMBER
2026 | £4.50



Captain Callum's West side glory

Callum Bassindale leads the West of Scotland
team to victory at this year's President's Cup

→ **Final stops for
2026 roadshow**
Toolbox Talks close
with fun-filled visits to
Highlands and islands

**Separating AI
fact from fiction**
Debunking artificial
intelligence myths and
uncovering the truth

**Better battery
management**
Understanding the risks
of lithium-ion batteries
and how to stay safe

SELECT



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SELECT
The Walled Garden,
Bush Estate,
Midlothian
EH26 0SB
t: 0131 445 5577
e: admin@select.org.uk

MANAGING EDITOR
Iain Mason
iain.mason@select.org.uk

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Connect Publications (Scotland) Ltd,
Studio 4015, Mile End, Paisley PA1 1JS
t: 0141 561 0300
e: info@connectcommunications.co.uk

EDITOR
Sarah Wolstencroft
sarah.w@connectcommunications.co.uk

DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Ryan Swinney

ADVERTISING
David Hughes
davidh@connectcommunications.co.uk
07767 407 402

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**MEMBERS JOIN THE
WORLD CUP PARTY**



**TOOLBOX TALKS HIT
HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS**



**ALL THE ACTION
FROM THE 2026
PRESIDENT'S CUP**

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

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Scotland captain
Callum Bassindale
with the President's
Cup and his RSE
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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026



**"WE'LL LOBBY MINISTERS AND MSPs
IN PERSON AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT
FOR REGULATION"**

// PAGE 5



VIDEOS PUT YOU IN THE PICTURE



SELECT TV keeps you updated with exclusive industry information and Member content



hours of on-demand content



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YOUR DESKTOP,
TABLET OR
SMARTPHONE**



exclusive videos
now hosted on
SELECT TV

**A wealth of invaluable technical updates
and expert commercial guidance**



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OR LOG IN TO MY SELECT AT SELECT.ORG.UK**



**energy
saving
trust**

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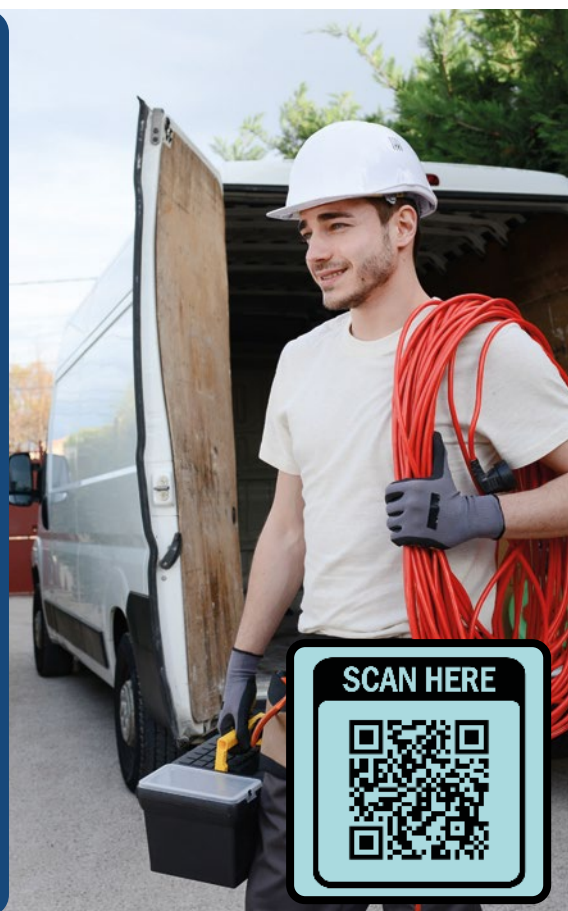
Low emission zone support fund:

Up to **£2,000** for the disposal of an older non-compliant vehicle.

Business charge point funding:

Grants covering up to **£5,000** towards the purchase and installation of a private electric vehicle charge point.

**Scan the QR code to see if you are eligible and
apply today.**



We're on the road to a bright future

In my role at SELECT, it's been a pleasure travelling around Scotland to meet our Members and share the latest news and updates with you. There's lots to look forward to in the months ahead!

OVER the past three months I've travelled the length and breadth of Scotland, joining Members on our annual Toolbox Talks roadshow. It was a real pleasure to get out and meet Members in person on their home turf, so thanks to everyone who took the time to attend.

Attendance was higher than ever this year, mainly driven by everyone taking the opportunity to receive an update on Amendment 4. Of course, if you weren't lucky enough to make the events, there's still time to get up to speed with one of our training courses.

My travels from the Borders to Shetland covered more than 3,000 miles to and from my home in Ayrshire. Regulation continued to be a hot topic of conversation as well as apprenticeships and the ongoing challenges of running a small business in the current economic climate.

The update on our new membership criteria was well received and we're already seeing growth in new Member numbers as a result.

HITTING THE TARGET

The Electrical Industries Charity (EIC) joined us on the road and our dartboard challenge raised more than £800 to fund the fantastic work they do providing support to anyone in the industry on issues such as mental health, bereavement and legal advice.

Mental health remains a huge challenge for our sector so if you know someone who's struggling, please encourage them to get in touch with the EIC by emailing support@electricalcharity.org or calling 0800 652 1618.

Our Associate Members were on the road too, providing not only sponsorship and prizes for quiz winners but also insights on the latest products and innovations. Hats off to Luceco and Flexel for making the gruelling 14-hour ferry ride to Lerwick and thanks to all the associates who attended, in particular Aico as our headline sponsor for 2026.

This year's devilishly difficult quiz questions were devised by our Training Development Adviser, Stuart McKelvie. Many of you will know Stuart, who has been a stalwart of SELECT for many years, delivering high-quality training across the country. He has recently announced that he will retire at the end of October and I'm sure you will join me in wishing him a long and healthy retirement. My thanks to Stuart for his long and dedicated service to SELECT – his encyclopaedic knowledge of the regs will be greatly missed!

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

Toolbox Talks are all about information sharing and relationship building. On our travels over the past few months, we gave out information on our Welfare Credit Scheme, which provides life insurance, sickness benefit and on-site accident or death cover to Members. It's the kind of thing you hope you'll never need but it gives your family support at a time when it's needed most, as well as a discount on your membership subscription.

The logistics and organisation needed to deliver the Toolbox Talks every

year is immense and is managed by our wonderful Events Manager, Linda Rolfe. Thanks to her and the wider SELECT team for ensuring this year's roadshow was the best yet.

Onwards to planning for next year. If there's something you'd like to see covered in a Toolbox Talk or you're an Associate Member who'd like to take part, please get in touch. As you'll see on pages 19 to 21, we trialled a new EIC charity challenge in Stornoway this year inspired by the World Cup. There's plenty of time to hone your keepie-uppie skills for 2027!

Toolbox Talks didn't stop our work on regulation and I was pleased to meet with the new SNP MSP for Cowdenbeath, David Barratt, recently. David has hit the ground running and already shown great support for our campaign, putting forward parliamentary questions to challenge the Scottish Government's position on regulation just a couple of weeks after he was elected. Preparations are also under way to attend to the SNP conference later this year where we'll lobby ministers and MSPs

in person, continuing the fight for regulation on your behalf. ■

WORDS
SHARON MILLER
Managing Director
SELECT



Apprentice survey says 'pitiful' funding deters recruitment

- 52% of respondents blame high wages and limited support for not employing apprentices
- 87% claim Scottish Government backing for apprenticeship training is inadequate or poor
- 86% of Members tell SELECT poll that four-year apprenticeship is still best route to industry

HIGH wages and lack of employer funding are the biggest obstacles to Scotland's electrical businesses recruiting apprentices, a new SELECT Member survey has revealed.

Some 52% of respondents to our poll said that the financial double whammy was the main reason for not employing an apprentice or adult trainee.

A massive 87% claimed that current government support was inadequate or very poor, with 21% saying that they don't plan to employ an apprentice over the next three years.

One Member told the survey: "The employer funding we get compared to other construction trades is pitiful, despite the high amounts we contribute."

Another added: "This is the first time in 13 years that we won't be taking on an apprentice due to the combined impact of wage increases, National Insurance and pensions."

The survey was undertaken to collate Member views and help SELECT paint an accurate picture of the current Modern Apprenticeship in Electrical Installation. Answered by businesses of all sizes across Scotland, its findings included:

- 67% claiming that the cost of funding should be shared equally between the employer and government
- 65% disclosing that they would support the introduction of a training levy to support apprenticeships
- 56% saying they would be willing to engage with local politicians to raise awareness of apprenticeship issues.

On the positive side, 79% of respondents also said the quality of education provided by colleges and training centres was good to excellent, with 78% giving the same verdict on their experience of working with the SECTT.

When it came to training itself, 86% said they thought the current four-year apprenticeship model was the correct length, while 57% said that the existing Modern Apprenticeship should be the sole route into the industry.

One respondent said: "The current route is the only one that has any value. Too many people are doing six-month courses and calling themselves an electrician."

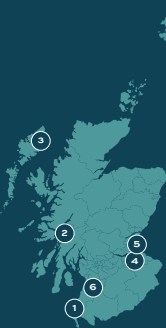
The survey invited respondents to provide honest feedback on other aspects of the current apprenticeship set-up in Scotland, along with suggestions of how to improve any issues.

One contractor said: "Apart from sorting wage rates, a requirement should be introduced that an apprentice has to remain with an employer for two years after qualifying."

Another respondent told the poll: "My main problem with apprentices is trying to get them to listen and learn – the mobile phone seems to be the main priority."

Sharon Miller, SELECT Managing Director, said: "These findings echo our own warnings that the cost of recruiting

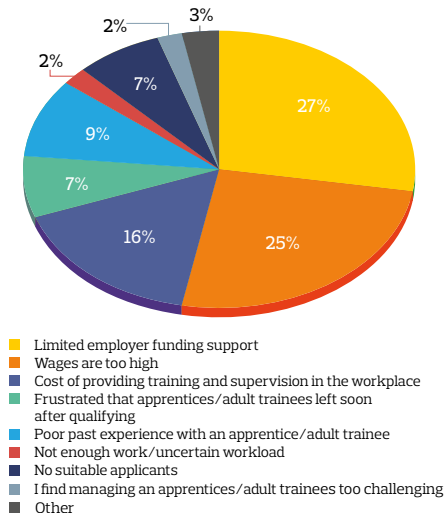




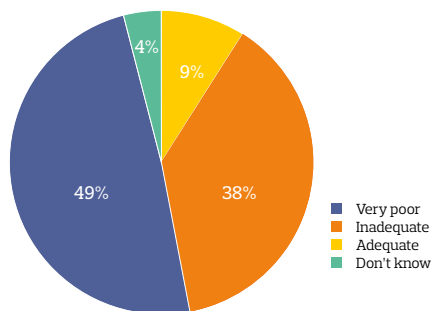
6 FIRMS HAVE BECOME SELECT MEMBERS SINCE 1 JUNE 2026

1. M Ayre Electrical, Stranraer
2. Steven Pennock Electrical, Oban
3. North Western Electrical Services Ltd, Stornoway
4. RP Slight and Son Ltd, Wallyford
5. Harrison Electrical (Angus) Limited, Arbroath
6. Sean Ellingford T/A Electrisean, Kilmarnock

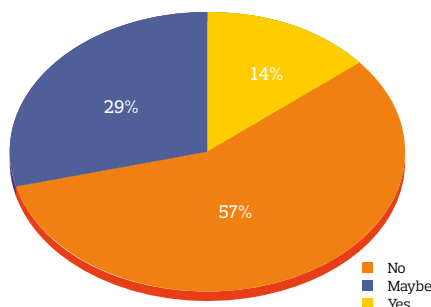
IF YOU DON'T CURRENTLY EMPLOY AN APPRENTICE OR ADULT TRAINEE, WHAT ARE THE MAIN REASONS?



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CURRENT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING?



SHOULD OTHER PATHWAYS INTO THE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION PROFESSION BE CONSIDERED BEYOND AN APPRENTICESHIP?



apprentices and adult trainees is becoming a big disincentive for employers.

"It's really worrying to see contractors say they are unlikely to employ a learner solely due to the outlay involved. Without apprentices coming through the ranks and being comprehensively trained, there will simply be no electrical industry in the future.

"We know the Scottish Government is currently reviewing contribution rates, so there is a clear opportunity to create a win-win. By increasing apprenticeship numbers and funding for the next five years, government could tackle both youth unemployment and the construction skills crisis, which in turn will increase economic growth across Scotland.

"We will therefore continue to work hard behind the scenes on our Members' behalf, speaking to government to drive a more positive approach to funding which is crucial if businesses are not to be discouraged from investing in our future skills base."

READ THE FULL REPORT

Download a full copy of the survey by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/appr-survey-26



↑ Allister, Iain and Kirk at The Walled Garden

Two more big names sign up as Associates

SELECT has welcomed two more industry experts to its ever-expanding Associate Member scheme, with NVC Lighting and Curv360 joining the line-up.

Established in 2007, NVC Lighting is a leading manufacturer of sustainable and innovative LED products and specialises in the education and healthcare sectors.

As part of global LED lighting leader NVC International, the Birmingham-based company serves the UK, Ireland and Norway directly and also manages subsidiaries in Finland, Denmark and Sweden.

NVC Northern Regional Sales Manager Allister Szczepanski and Business Development Manager Kirk Nicol visited The Walled Garden on 7 July to receive their membership certificate in person from Iain Mason, Director of Membership, Events & Communications.

Curv360 is a renewable energy expert that specialises in heating and hot water solutions as well as electric vehicle (EV) hardware. Based in Burton on Trent, its products include EV charge points, floor and wall-mounted air sourced hot water cylinders and a range of infrared heaters.

Iain said: "We are delighted to welcome Curv360 and NVC Lighting to SELECT and look forward to introducing them and their products to Members."



➔ President's Cup:
Pages 28-33

RHYS AND RYAN HEAD FOR UK SKILLS FINAL

Talented apprentices from two SELECT Member firms have reached the UK finals of the 2026 SkilleLECTRIC competition.

Rhys Howey, who works for W P Purves Electrical Ltd in Coldstream, and Ryan Whitford of Aberdeen-based N G Bailey secured their places after outstanding performances in the Scottish heats.

The duo – who attend Borders College and NESCOL Aberdeen respectively – will now battle it out in the SkilleLECTRIC UK Final at Bridgend College in November.

A third SECTT apprentice, Lee McLean of ADLIB Audio Ltd and Fife College (Dunfermline), will also represent Scotland as part of the WorldSkills UK National Finals.

Fiona Harper, CEO of the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT), said: “We are incredibly proud to have three Scottish apprentices in the final eight of this prestigious competition.

“Representing communities from across Scotland, their success is a testament to both their talent and dedication and the strength of the country’s electrical apprenticeship programme.”

Last year’s competition was won by Ellis Stevenson, who works for SELECT Member firm Campbell & McHardy Ltd in Elgin.

➔ SECTT
Update:
**Pages 48
& 49**

➔ Rhys Howey
of W P Purves
Electrical Ltd



➔ Ryan Whitford



Meetings shine light on solar PV

Our second Branch Updates of the year will feature the latest industry issues and topics, including practical advice on PV safety and installation from Associate Member Europa



↑ The Updates are a chance to meet other Members and discuss issues

SOLAR PV will be put under the spotlight at our second Branch Updates of 2026 as Members once again gather to discuss local and industry issues.

Our October meetings are being sponsored by Associate Member Europa, who will be on hand at each regional meeting to discuss PV safety and outline installation best practice.

Europa’s presence follows the launch of the PV safety booklet which has been developed in partnership with the association and which is available to download from the ‘Publications’ section of the SELECT website.

There will also be a prize draw at every update, with

the chance to win a range of practical electrical equipment, once again kindly donated by Associate Member Megger.

In addition, updates on activity will 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, with the potential for any local or industry issues to be escalated to the SELECT Central Board.

Iain Mason, Director of Membership, Events & Communications, said: “We would like to thank Europa for sponsoring the October events and would urge Members to take advantage of this opportunity to speak to their experts face to face. As always, the Branch Updates

**WED 28
OCTOBER**

Inverness & North
of Scotland,
Inverness College

**THU 15
OCTOBER**

Aberdeen & North
East of Scotland
Branch, Tullos
Training, Aberdeen

TUE 20 OCTOBER

Tayside Branch, Dundee
& Angus College,
Gardyne Campus

**THU 8
OCTOBER**

Lanarkshire
Branch,
New College
Lanarkshire,
Motherwell
Campus

**THU 29
OCTOBER**

Glasgow & West of
Scotland, Glasgow
Clyde College,
Cardonald Campus

**TUE 13
OCTOBER**

Ayrshire Branch,
Ayrshire College,
Ayr Campus

TUE 6 OCTOBER

Dumfries & Galloway
Branch, Dumfries
& Galloway College

**THU 22
OCTOBER**

Edinburgh &
South East of
Scotland, The
Walled Garden

will be an invaluable way for Members to come together, discuss topical issues and raise relevant questions with the association."

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

BOOK YOUR PLACE

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

↓ The new PV safety booklet



↑ The guide is packed with useful advice

Expert insight to grow your business

SELECT has released an exclusive collection of industry insights to help Members grow their business and become better leaders.

Entitled *Tools of the Trade*, the downloadable publication contains a range of practical advice designed to inspire people, improve productivity and increase profits.

Written by experienced business consultant Paul McDevitt, the 14 topics include:

- Tips for creating a top team
- How to train and retain staff
- Tackling tricky conversations
- Reducing the risk of burn-out
- Ways to foster business growth.

The publication also includes advice on how to keep employees engaged in the workplace and the importance of instilling them with the right values.

In addition, Paul advises contractors how to make people their priority and how

to keep them connected to ensure their business performs better.

Iain Mason, Director of Membership, Events & Communications, said: "As part of our ongoing work to keep Members informed with business advice, we are delighted to release this collection of articles that originally appeared in *cabletalk* magazine.

"Over the past two years, Paul has provided a wealth of invaluable business information, so this is a way to present it all in one place for easy reading.

"The publication is contained in the MY SELECT part of the SELECT website, so is not an open resource and is only accessible to Members."

→ Paul's column:
Pages 44 & 45

To download the publication, scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/tools-trade



MEMBER EXPULSIONS AGREED AFTER NON-PAYMENT OF FEES

The following Member companies have been expelled from the association for non-payment of their 2026 membership subscription:

- KMS Construction (Aberdeen) Ltd, Aberdeen & North East of Scotland Branch
- M Group Water (MEICA Projects) Limited, Glasgow & West of Scotland Branch
- Hugh Strain of Ayr Ltd, Ayrshire Branch
- Robert Allan Electrical Services, Edinburgh & South East of Scotland Branch.

The expulsions were agreed at a meeting of the association's Central Board on 4 June, with overdue firms given 28 days to arrange payment.

Plea to attract the next generation

With school leavers getting their exam results, SELECT, SECTT and the SJIB are encouraging them to consider rewarding and future-proof careers in the electrical industry

AS students across Scotland received their exam results this summer, SELECT and other electrotechnical bodies once again urged them to consider a “green, AI-proof and truly rewarding” career in the electrical industry.

With nearly 150,000 learners discovering their grades on August 4, SELECT, the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB) and Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) recommended an apprenticeship as the first step to a successful career.

Sharon Miller, SELECT Managing Director, said: “This is the time of year when students begin to contemplate their employment prospects and we would urge them to join the electrotechnical industry as a green, AI-proof and truly rewarding career pathway.”



“Our sector underpins every aspect of modern life, from heating and power to travel and business, and the people who will keep the lights burning and the wheels turning for years to come will be vitally important and in high demand.”

“A career as an electrician is personally and financially rewarding and also contributes to a greener future for us all as we transition to net zero.”

Sharon added: “Upskilling the next generation is more crucial than ever and training and workplace apprenticeships are a vital part of ensuring we continue to deliver high-quality work and excellence in skills. Electrical apprentices earn as they learn, so you can avoid student debt and gain a lifelong career at highly competitive rates of pay.”

Catherine Gillon, Secretary of the SJIB, added:



“SELECT Member companies are always looking for bright, enthusiastic recruits to enrich the talent pool and take the industry into a new phase of innovation and excellence.”

“While qualifications such as National 5s and Highers can provide a strong foundation, they’re only part of the picture. Equally important is a positive attitude, a willingness to learn and a determination to contribute to a society in which the future is electric.”

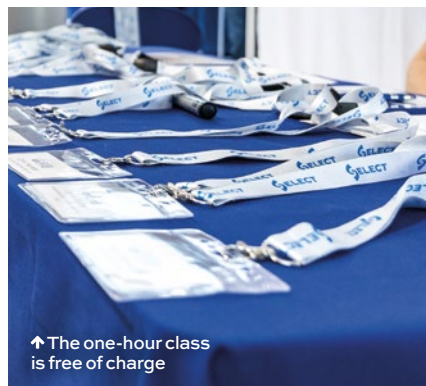
The duo’s optimistic message was backed by Fiona Harper, Chief Executive of SECTT, which delivers the Modern Apprenticeship in Electrical Installation in Scotland.



She said: “School leavers and their parents should be aware the electrical sector is an economically crucial, modern profession with increasing demand, especially in areas like renewables, electric vehicles and smart technology.”

“Apprentices coming through the ranks and being comprehensively trained ensure we continue to have a high-quality electrical industry for years to come, safeguarding the lives and infrastructure of our wider society.”

“SELECT MEMBER COMPANIES ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR BRIGHT, ENTHUSIASTIC RECRUITS TO ENRICH THE TALENT POOL AND TAKE THE INDUSTRY INTO A NEW PHASE OF INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE”



↑ The one-hour class is free of charge

UPDATE YOUR SKILLS WITH FREE MVHR WORKSHOP

Members are being invited to attend a **FREE** workshop in mechanical ventilation and heat recovery (MVHR) being delivered by envirovent at The Walled Garden.

Hosted at SELECT HQ on Wednesday 16 September, the one-hour session will cover the role of ventilation in delivering healthier and more energy-efficient homes.

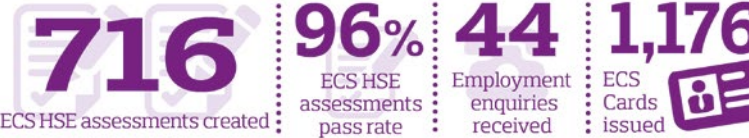
Topics will cover system design, specification best practice and

current regulations, with the choice of sessions at either 10am or 1pm.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the SELECT training team on training@select.org.uk or call us on **0131 445 5577**.

➔ For more free envirovent training, see ProZone on **pages 50-57**.

UPDATE No27: APR-JUN 2026



FIGURING OUT OUR LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS

SELECT's second infographic of 2026 has been issued, detailing our achievements between April and June this year. The regular update outlines association activity across employment, technical, training, membership and communications.

WORDSEARCH WINS POPPY £200 PRIZE KIT

Congratulations to **Poppy Carter** of Member firm Galligan Electrical Services in Dumfries, who won our wordsearch competition in the April/May issue of *cabletalk*. Poppy scooped £200 of test equipment, donated by Associate Member Megger.

➔ This issue's competition: **Page 59**



© Skully/Shutterstock



↑ The Kiltwalk is a fun way to raise money for an excellent cause

Step up to help EIC with 11-mile challenge

The Electrical Industries Charity (EIC) is still seeking Member companies to take part in the upcoming Edinburgh Kiltwalk.

Held in the capital on Sunday 13 September, teams are being sought to gather in their finest activewear and tartan combos to raise funds and take on the 11-mile challenge.

Find out more and register your company team by going to bit.ly/eic-kiltwalk or scanning the QR code

All money raised will go directly back into the industry, allowing those who need it to access mental health support, financial aid, bereavement services, legal support and much more.



Take charge of battery safety risks

Lithium-ion batteries are now an everyday part of every contractor's toolbox but, as recent events show, they also bring their own dangers. Here we outline how to use and store them safely – and how to dispose of them properly when they reach the end of their shelf life

WORDS
IAIN MASON
Director of
Membership, Events
& Communications



LITHIUM-ION batteries have become an essential part of modern electrical contracting. From cordless drills and impact drivers to inspection equipment, cable cutters, torches and testing instruments, rechargeable batteries help contractors work more efficiently and safely on site.

However, these batteries also present significant fire and environmental risks if they're damaged, stored incorrectly or disposed of improperly.

As the use of battery-powered equipment continues to grow, contractors have a responsibility

to ensure lithium-ion batteries are used, stored and disposed of safely.

Good battery management not only protects employees, customers and property, but also helps businesses comply with UK waste legislation.

HOW CONTRACTORS USE LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

Lithium-ion batteries power an increasing range of equipment used daily by electrical contractors, including:

- Cordless power tools such as drills, drivers, grinders and saws
- Test instruments and electrical measuring equipment
- Portable work lights

- Communication devices and tablets
- Battery-powered access equipment and specialist installation tools.

Their high energy density, lightweight construction and fast charging capabilities make them ideal for demanding site work. However, these same characteristics mean that damaged or mistreated batteries can become unstable.

THE RISKS OF IMPROPER STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Although lithium-ion batteries are generally safe when used correctly, they can fail catastrophically if damaged, overcharged, short-circuited or exposed to excessive heat. This can lead to 'thermal runaway', a chain reaction that causes the battery to overheat rapidly, produce toxic fumes and ignite.

Battery fires burn extremely hot, can produce toxic gases and are often difficult to extinguish using conventional firefighting methods. Even batteries that appear undamaged may ignite hours or days after suffering an impact.

Improper disposal also presents serious environmental hazards. Lithium-ion batteries contain valuable metals that can be recovered through recycling, but they also contain hazardous materials that can contaminate the environment if sent to landfill or incinerated.

Discarding batteries in general waste bins also increases the risk of fires in refuse collection vehicles, waste transfer stations and recycling facilities. Battery-related fires at waste sites have become increasingly common across the UK, causing significant disruption and damage.

BEST PRACTICE FOR SAFE BATTERY USE

Safe battery management begins with everyday working practices.

↓ Damaged batteries should be packaged and disposed of safely



© jupiterimages/Shutterstock

This means you should always:

- Use batteries and chargers supplied or approved by the equipment manufacturer
- Inspect batteries regularly for damage, swelling, corrosion or signs of overheating
- Remove damaged batteries from service immediately
- Allow batteries to cool before charging if they have become hot during use
- Charge batteries in well-ventilated areas away from combustible materials
- Follow the manufacturer's charging instructions
- Report damaged batteries so they can be isolated and disposed of safely
- Train employees to recognise defective batteries and understand emergency procedures
- Always stick to a reputable retailer or manufacturer when shopping for battery-powered devices. Avoid online marketplaces and substandard versions.

Simple precautions can significantly reduce the likelihood of battery failure, so you should also avoid:

- Using batteries that have been dropped or physically damaged
- Attempting to repair or dismantle battery packs
- Using counterfeit or incompatible replacement batteries
- Leaving batteries charging unattended for extended periods where this can reasonably be avoided
- Exposing batteries to excessive heat, direct sunlight or water
- Carrying loose batteries alongside metal objects such as screws, nails or keys that could short-circuit the terminals.

"LOOSE BATTERIES SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT ROLLING AROUND IN VANS OR TOOLBOXES WHERE THEY MAY BE CRUSHED OR SHORT-CIRCUITED BY METAL OBJECTS"

© Virenhub99/Shutterstock



↑ The batteries power equipment such as cordless drills

SAFE STORAGE ON SITE AND IN VEHICLES

Storage arrangements play an important role in reducing fire risks. Where possible, batteries should be stored in a cool, dry location away from direct sunlight and sources of heat.

They should be protected from impact and kept in their original cases or purpose-designed storage containers. Battery terminals should be covered where practical to prevent accidental short circuits.

Damaged, swollen or defective batteries should be isolated immediately from other batteries and combustible materials. Many organisations now use dedicated fire-resistant containers or quarantine boxes until arrangements can be made for specialist disposal.

When transporting batteries

HOW TO DISPOSE OF BATTERIES



Segregate waste electrical equipment and batteries from general waste



Ensure they're transferred only to authorised carriers or approved facilities



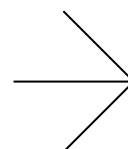
Retain appropriate documentation where required

between jobs, you should ensure they're secured to prevent movement or damage. Loose batteries should never be left rolling around in vans or toolboxes where they may be crushed or short-circuited by metal objects.

SAFE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

Lithium-ion batteries should never be placed in general waste or mixed recycling bins. Instead, you should arrange for them to be recycled through authorised collection schemes or licensed waste contractors. Many manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers that supply professional power tools also provide battery take-back services.

Before disposal, battery terminals should be taped or otherwise protected to reduce the risk of short circuits during transport. Damaged batteries may require additional packaging or handling



THE SELECT VIEW

ROBERT McGOOGAN

Director of
Technical Services

Lithium-ion batteries have become an indispensable part of modern electrical contracting. From cordless drills and impact drivers to test instruments and power storage systems, they help us work more efficiently. However, with that convenience comes responsibility.

We should never underestimate the importance of buying from reputable sources. Counterfeit or cheap products may appear to offer value but often lack the testing, quality control and safety features that reputable manufacturers provide. A battery failure can have serious consequences, from equipment damage to devastating fires.

Safe use and storage are equally important. Batteries should always be charged using the correct charger, protected from physical damage and stored in cool, dry conditions away from combustible materials. They should never be left charging unattended or exposed to excessive heat, moisture or direct sunlight. A few simple precautions can significantly reduce the risk of thermal runaway – the rapid overheating that can lead to difficult-to-extinguish fires.

Finally, contractors must think carefully about disposal. Lithium-ion batteries should never be placed in general waste or skips. Damaged or end-of-life batteries can ignite during waste handling, putting refuse workers, recycling facilities and the wider public at risk. Instead, they should be recycled through approved collection and recycling schemes.

Professionalism is about more than delivering quality work. It means protecting your workforce, your customers and the environment. By purchasing quality products, following guidance and disposing of batteries responsibly, contractors can help ensure lithium-ion technology remains a safe and reliable asset rather than becoming a preventable hazard.

→ Robert
McGoogan



↑ Electrical operators should take care when working with lithium-ion batteries

arrangements because of the increased fire risk. Keeping batteries separate from other waste streams also helps maximise the recovery of valuable materials such as lithium, cobalt, nickel and copper, supporting the UK's circular economy objectives.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Electrical contractors should be aware of their obligations under UK waste legislation.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2013 (as amended) establish the UK's system for collecting, treating, recovering and recycling waste electrical and electronic equipment.

While the regulations place many of the primary obligations on producers, importers

"ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER UK WASTE LEGISLATION"

and distributors, businesses that generate WEEE – including contractors – have responsibilities to ensure waste electrical equipment is managed appropriately. In practice, this means you should:

- Segregate waste electrical equipment and batteries from general waste
- Ensure WEEE is transferred only to authorised waste carriers or approved treatment facilities
- Retain appropriate waste transfer documentation where required.

Simply disposing of battery-powered equipment in skips

destined for landfill is unlikely to meet these obligations.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment, etc.) Regulations 2025 updated and refined the UK's WEEE framework following previous legislative changes.

The amendments are intended to maintain an effective producer responsibility regime and support the continued collection and recycling of waste electrical equipment across the UK.

Contractors should ensure their waste management arrangements continue to comply with the current regulatory framework and any contractual requirements imposed by clients or principal contractors.

It is also important to remember that lithium-ion batteries removed from electrical equipment may be subject to separate waste battery requirements, meaning they

should be collected and recycled through appropriate battery recycling channels rather than disposed of with general electrical waste.

BUILDING SAFER WORKING PRACTICES

For electrical contractors, effective battery management is now an important part of everyday health, safety and environmental management. By purchasing quality batteries, following manufacturers' guidance, storing batteries correctly, removing damaged units from service promptly and using authorised recycling routes, contractors can significantly reduce fire risks while helping recover valuable materials.

As battery-powered tools become increasingly common across the industry, developing clear procedures for battery inspection, storage and disposal is no longer simply good practice – it's an essential part of protecting people, property and the environment while demonstrating compliance with current UK waste legislation. ■



USEFUL LINKS

Electrical Safety First report into lithium-ion battery fires



Electrical Safety First battery safety campaign



Electrical Safety First guidance on DIY tools



Guide to the WEEE Regulations



Scottish Fire and Rescue Service battery guide

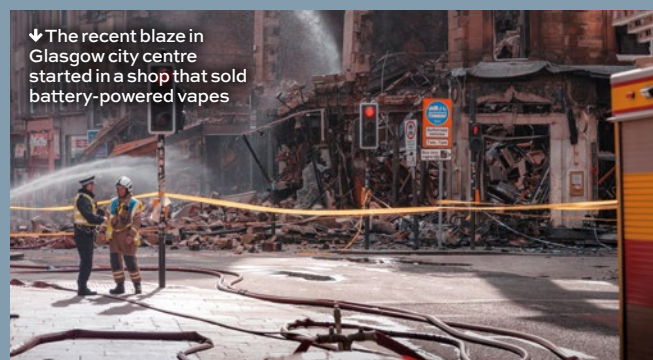


Battery fires are a burning issue in the UK

Figures show that fire brigades across the UK are tackling lithium-ion battery fires at a rate of one every five hours.

Data gathered by business insurer QBE revealed that firefighters were called to 1,760 fires linked to the batteries in 2025, equating to 4.8 fires a day – a rise of 147% in three years.

Researchers found that e-bike fires made up nearly



a third of all lithium-ion battery fires nationally, with 520 callouts in 2025 compared with 149 in 2022.

Collating data received from 46 out of 52 fire brigades across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, QBE also found that nearly

half (46%) of all lithium-ion fires took place in people's homes.

Incorrect disposal of the batteries has also resulted in serious fires in bin lorries and at UK recycling plants, the cost of which is now estimated annually at more than £1 billion. In March,

a blaze that devastated a historic building beside Glasgow's Central Station is believed to have started in a shop selling vapes, which are powered by lithium-ion batteries.

A National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) spokesperson said: "We are working with fire and rescue services, government and partners to improve research, guidance and public awareness, but this is a rapidly evolving area where regulation and guidance have not kept pace with technology."

"We believe stronger action is needed to ensure industry takes responsibility for product safety and that clear, consistent guidance is available to protect lives and reduce fires."

Five myths about AI

...debunked by someone who sells it

Our guest contributor builds AI for trade businesses, which makes him exactly the wrong person to trust on it. In the first of a two-part series, he gives you the questions you should be asking to catch out people like him...

WORDS
DRU MCPHERSON
Founder, Whoza.ai

LET me get my conflict of interest out of the way first: I run a company that sells artificial intelligence (AI) to trades. That makes me an interested party. It also means I've spent two years watching my own industry oversell itself, so I know roughly where the bodies are buried.

Here are five things you've probably been told about AI – some of them by people like me – and what's actually true.

I'd rather you finished this article better able to interrogate a vendor than better disposed towards one. If my advice is any good, the second tends to follow the first anyway.

MYTH 1: AI IS COMING FOR THE TRADE

No. It can't pull a cable, terminate a board or sign off an installation and it's not about to. What it genuinely **CAN** do is the paperwork you're still doing at 9pm – turning a voice note from the van into a written quote, drafting the customer email you've put off for three days,

answering the phone when you're up a ladder with both hands full, chasing the review you'll never get round to asking for.

It's admin and communication: the jobs that eat your evenings, not the ones you trained for. Treat it as a tool that clears the desk rather than a threat to the trade and you'll take the measure of it quickly.

MYTH 2: YOU CAN ASK IT ABOUT THE REGS

This is the dangerous one, so I'll be blunt: Ask a general AI assistant a question about BS 7671 and you'll get an answer that reads exactly like a correct one – confident, fluent, properly punctuated – but may be completely wrong.

The machine has no idea it's wrong. Worse, it will never tell you; sounding certain is the one thing these systems are genuinely good at. That is a hazardous property in a trade where being wrong has consequences, sometimes fatal ones.

So draw a hard line and put it on the wall: **NEVER** let AI near anything where being wrong is unsafe. Not regs. Not calculations. Not certification. Not the judgement of whether something is compliant. Use it for the paperwork around the job, never the decision inside it.

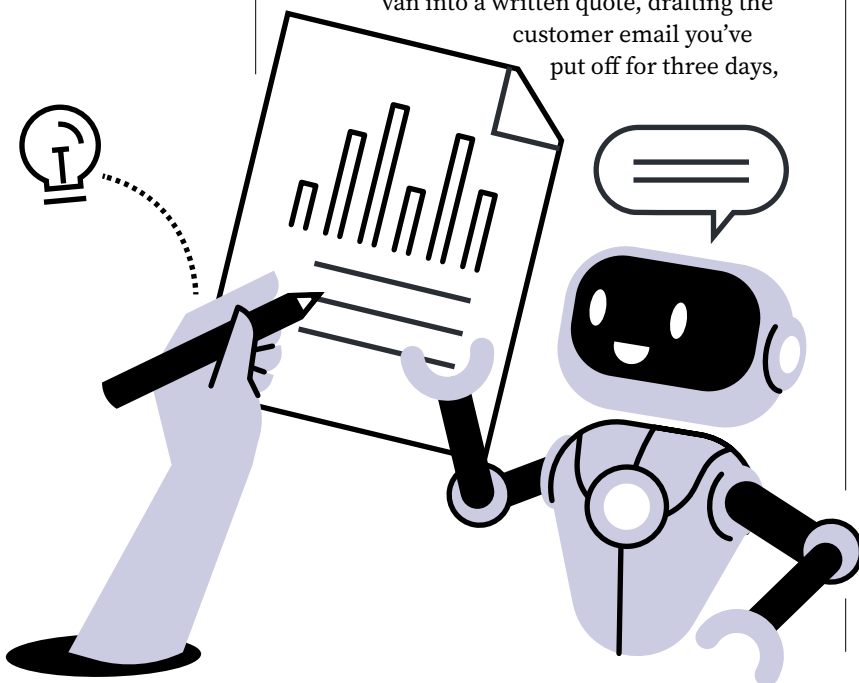
MYTH 3: IT'S EITHER TOO EXPENSIVE OR IT'S FREE

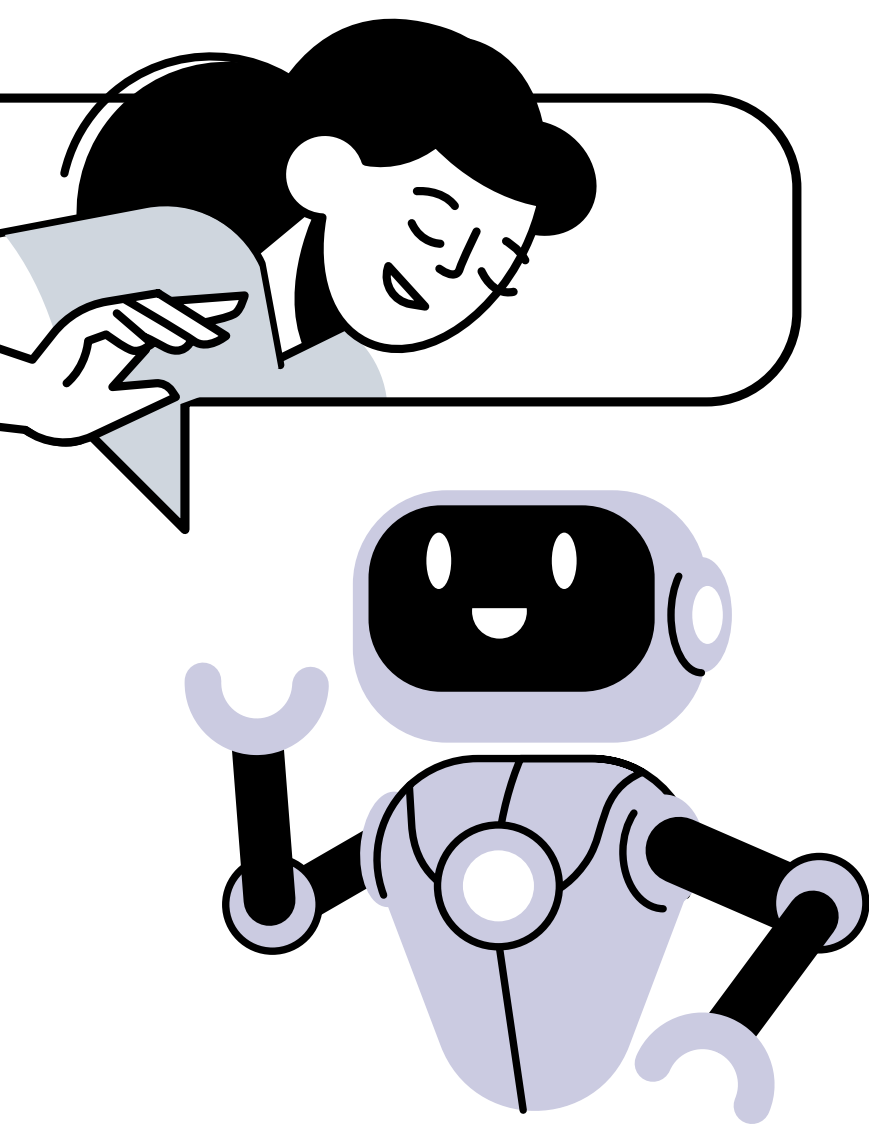
Both and neither. The headline tools are cheap – a tenner here, 20 quid there – which is exactly the trap. Subscription creep is real and it catches small firms hardest: three or four tools you signed up to on a Sunday night, half of which you use twice, quietly adding up to a couple of hundred pounds a month.

And the "free" ones usually aren't – you're paying with your data. If you're feeding customer names, addresses and photos of their homes into a free chatbot, you have a data protection problem. Audit what you're actually paying for every quarter. If you can't remember what a subscription does, that's your answer.

MYTH 4: IT UNDERSTANDS YOU

Not necessarily – not if you're Scottish. Almost every voice AI on the market is built in America





and trained largely on American and south of England speech, and there's peer-reviewed work on what happens next.

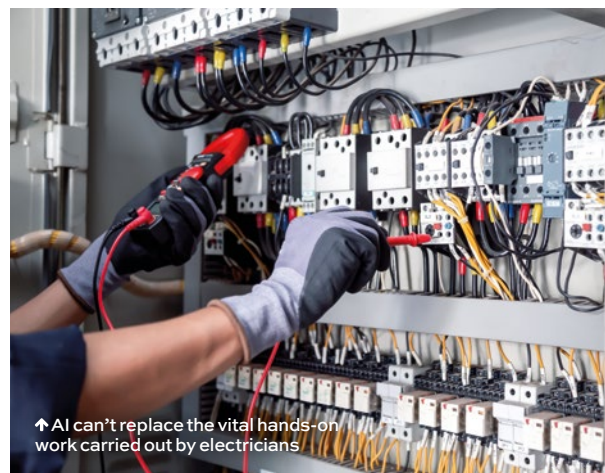
A University of Bath study last year ran OpenAI's Whisper over real phone calls to two Scottish public-service organisations. On clean, scripted speech it managed a word error rate of 3.6%. On the real Scottish calls, 22% and 34%. Some of that gap

"THE USEFUL ATTITUDE TO AI, FOR A FIRM OF TWO OR THREE, ISN'T EXCITEMENT AND IT ISN'T SUSPICION"

Whoza.ai builds AI phone answering and revenue teams for UK trade businesses. It answers every call 24/7, works out whether it's a real job, and sends the details straight to your WhatsApp – booking it into your diary if you let it. Built in Scotland. From £59/month, no contract. To find out more, visit whoza.ai, email dru@whoza.ai, WhatsApp +44 7463 141750 or scan the QR code.



↑ The tech can help take care of time-consuming admin tasks



↑ AI can't replace the vital hands-on work carried out by electricians

is the phone line and the fact that nobody talks like a script – but some of it is us.

A contractor in Aberdeen or Glasgow buying an off-the-shelf AI phone system is buying one that works measurably worse for his own customers than it does for a firm in Surrey. Your members aren't imagining it, and nobody in California is going to fix it, because Scotland is a rounding error to them. It isn't their market, so it isn't their bug.

MYTH 5: IF IT'S MARKETING AS AI, IT IS AI

A great deal of what's sold as artificial intelligence is a glorified auto-responder with a good landing page, and the gap between the two is the gap between a tool that helps and one that quietly annoys your customers. A few simple questions separate them, and you should ask every one before you pay:

- What exactly does it get wrong? (Anyone who answers "nothing" is selling you something).
- Can you show me it failing?
- What happens when a customer with a broad Doric accent phones from a windy site?
- And what happens to my data if I cancel?

A vendor who answers those straight is worth talking to. One who bristles has already told you what you need to know.

I'll hold myself to that standard, since it's only fair. Our own system mishears postcodes on a bad line and still stumbles on a very strong accent in the wind – which is why it reads details back to confirm them and takes the number on the keypad as a backstop. I'd rather tell you that here than have you find it out on a Tuesday.

The useful attitude to AI, for a firm of two or three, isn't excitement and it isn't suspicion. It's the one you already bring to a new supplier: What's it good for? Where does it let me down? And what's it going to cost me by Christmas? Ask those three and you'll do fine. ■

➔ NEXT ISSUE: How AI can help YOUR business

You don't have to face cancer alone

In our latest update, we reveal how Prostate Scotland can help if you're struggling with a prostate cancer diagnosis

HEARING that prostate cancer has been found can be overwhelming. You may experience feelings of anxiety, depression and isolation. Furthermore, once treatment starts, you may suffer side-effects, including fatigue, urinary symptoms and erectile dysfunction.

The good news is that you don't have to suffer alone and there are many sources of help, including the services offered by Prostate Scotland.

Formed in 2006, the charity's trustees, staff and volunteers have worked across Scotland for 20 years, supporting men who are impacted by prostate cancer and disease in a variety of ways.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

Seeking out extra information can help you feel more in control. The charity has a range of booklets designed to inform at every stage of your journey.

Whether you have questions about your results, are struggling with a

treatment decision or looking for advice on staying well during treatment, there's a resource available.

You can either download a PDF from the Prostate Scotland website or receive a printed version by calling **0131 603 8660**.

SUPPORT SERVICES

If you're looking for extra support to help you navigate prostate cancer, the charity offers a comprehensive range of free services through its COMPASS project. These are designed

to complement the care received from medical experts and are aimed at all men, no matter where they are on their cancer journey.

LIVING WELL WITH PROSTATE CANCER

The Living Well with Prostate Cancer six-week course is run in partnership with



Maggie's Centres across Scotland, as well as Ayrshire Cancer Support.

Men meet others in a similar situation, while hearing from experts on all aspects of living

with prostate cancer, from managing urinary problems to financial advice and everything in between.

PROSTATE FFIT

The charity has teamed up with the SPFL Trust to run its unique Prostate FFIT (Football Fans in Training) 12-week health and wellbeing programme.

It's an invaluable opportunity for men to share experiences and learn about exercise, diet and nutrition in a relaxed, fun environment.

GETTING INVOLVED

Prostate Scotland is a small charity which receives no government or local authority funding, so its work is only possible through the support of its amazing donors, fundraisers and volunteers. Donations are made from people of every background, often in memory of loved ones, with fundraisers ranging from marathons to quiz nights and its volunteers working tirelessly to distribute leaflets and deliver awareness talks. ■

For more information on resources, support services and how to get involved with the charity, visit www.prostatescotland.org.uk or email info@prostatescotland.org.uk



↓ Prostate Scotland Communications and Supporter Care Manager, Morag Idan, right, with a fundraiser at the Edinburgh Marathon



↓ Participants and instructors from the December 2025 Prostate FFIT programme at Pittodrie in Aberdeen

Buckets of fun!

The final Toolbox Talks of 2026 saw the SELECT crew head to the furthest corners of Scotland to deliver essential technical updates to Members – and enjoy plenty of laughter too

SELECT'S new bucket hats were a smash hit as we set sail on the last leg of this year's

Toolbox Talks to visit Members in the Highlands and Islands.

The natty new headgear was snapped up by contractors as we criss-crossed Scotland for the final five dates of our 2026 roadshow, which was once again sponsored by Aico.

Following the first eight events in May, our final mainland Talk of 2026 was held in **Oban** on 10 June, with a packed auditorium at The Corran Halls as we welcomed contractors from a range of local Member companies.

On the agenda were four technical presentations, starting with Amendment 4 to BS 7671 and its potential impact on Members' work. This was followed by an in-depth look at model forms and the revised SELECT membership criteria, along with an update on home life safety by Russell Virtue from Aico.

The event also saw the final leg of our final darts challenge in aid of the Electrical Industries Charity (EIC), with Jamie MacFarlane of Westech

WORDS
LINDA ROLFE
Events Manager



↓ Melanie Smith and
Shaynee Moar from
RS Merriman in Orkney



↑ There was another full house as Members enjoyed the event in Orkney



↑ MD Sharon Miller with the Islay winners



↓ Amy Garrick-Wright from AEGW Electrical won prizes from Flexel at the Shetland event



Sponsored by **aico**



↑ Winners with Bob Cairney in Stornoway



↑ Bruce hands quiz winner Jonathan Parr from Merrimans his TIS safe isolation kit at the Orkney session



↑ Member Rep Emma Paterson hands over Megger prizes in Shetland to Connor Sinclair from Ness Engineering Ltd



↑ Charlie Corsie from E Fraser Electrical won KSR downlights in the Orkney quiz



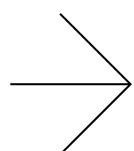
↑ SELECT MD Sharon with Oban quiz runner-up Connor Howe from Westech Electrical



↑ Linda levels with Bruce Simpson from E Fraser Electrical in Orkney



↑ Members kept the TIS stand busy with questions in Stornoway



Electrical hitting the day's highest score of 95 to finish joint fifth on the overall leaderboard.

ISLAND ADVENTURES

Next on the calendar was our most northerly event as we boarded ferries and planes for Lerwick in **Shetland** on 17 June, where we were joined by intrepid Associates Luceco and Vectaire.

Once again there were plenty of prizes up for grabs in our fastest-finger-first quiz, with eventual winner Bryden Irvine of Westside Electrical Ltd donating his Test Instrument Solutions (TIS) safe isolation kit to one of his apprentices.

There was more island-hopping for our

next event in **Orkney** on 23 June, where once again we welcomed most of the teams from local Member firms E Fraser Electrical and RS Merriman to the Pickaquoy Centre in Kirkwall.

Also joining us on our second island jaunt was former Director of Technical Services Bob Cairney, who came out of retirement especially to help deliver the technical presentations alongside Technical Services Manager Bruce Findlay.

Next up was The Machrie on **Islay** for our penultimate event on 30 June, where our smallest roadshow was attended by representatives from G Palmer Electrical and Iain Woodrow Electrical Contractors.

For our final event in **Stornoway** on 2 July, we were once again joined by Bob,

"ATTENDANCES WERE UP MORE THAN 20% ON 2025, WITH MORE THAN 600 DELEGATES REGISTERING FOR THE 13 EVENTS AND ALMOST 100% POSITIVE FEEDBACK"



↑ MD Sharon welcomes Members to our final event in Stornoway



↓ Eddie Murphy from Kenneth Ferguson Electrical Contractors won Luceco downlights at the Oban event



↑ Bryden Irvine from Westside Electrical Ltd is handed his quiz first prize by Technical Director Robert McGoogan in Shetland



↑ Jamie MacFarlane of Westech Electrical hit 95 in Oban to win the darts competition



↑ Bob runs through his presentation to Orkney delegates



↑ Jamie Anderson from Maurice Lockhart Electrical Contractor was an Oban prize draw winner

who received a well-deserved round of applause after delivering his final technical presentation and answering questions from Members.

To celebrate the World Cup, we also held a special keepie-uppie competition to win prizes donated by Megger. Some excellent footwork eventually saw Ryan Macleod from Alex Murray (Construction) Ltd take home the goodies with an amazing 81 touches!

A WINNING TEAM

As we review this year's event, I'd like to thank Associate Members Flexel, Luceco Group and TIS, who donated prizes for our quickfire quiz. Thanks also to the quick-thinking SELECT staff who helped saved the day when the quiz tech didn't work to plan!



↓ Stornoway keepie-uppie winner Ryan Macleod from Alex Murray (Construction) Ltd

A massive thank-you also goes to the generous folk at Fluke, Ovia, ROBUS, Scolmore Group and Vectaire for donating goodies for our prize draws, and to Megger for giving prizes for the darts challenge, which raised more than £800 for the EIC.

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 more than 20% on 2025, with more than 600 delegates registering for the 13 events and almost 100% positive feedback.

As always, we won't rest on our laurels and are already planning next year's Talks. See you out on the road! ■



★ Passivhaus design aims to reduce home heating demands

WORDS
RUTH MacEACHERN
Product Manager,
envirovent



Ready for the homes of tomorrow

Scotland's own Passivhaus standard is due to be introduced in 2029. But what exactly does it mean? What are the implications for new build housing? And what opportunities should electrical contractors prepare for now? Our guest columnist is here with an overview...

THE Passivhaus standard – sometimes referred to as Passive House – is a German standard that focuses on thermal efficiency, comfort and accurate design of a property.

Commonly used in new build properties, it aims to reduce a home's heating demand by up to 90% using techniques including thermal insulation, airtightness, thermal bridge avoidance, shading and appropriate ventilation. Examples of existing

Passivhaus construction in Scotland including Tigh na Croit in the Highlands and Riverside Primary School in Perth, which aims to support “a healthy and innovative learning environment and prioritises connections to the outdoors”.

For existing buildings, EnerPHit is the Passivhaus standard for retrofitting. It applies the same strict physical principles of a new-build Passive House but relaxes criteria slightly to accommodate structural limitations, such as existing orientations and thermal bridges.

HOW HAS THIS COME ABOUT? AND WHERE IS SCOTLAND AT?

In 2022, Labour MSP Alex Rowley proposed a Bill for all new build housing to meet the Passivhaus standard, or a Scottish equivalent, as part of improvements to energy efficiency and thermal

"SCOTLAND IS PAVING THE WAY IN TERMS OF THERMAL EFFICIENCY AND COMFORT LEVELS AND COULD SET A PRECEDENT FOR THE REST OF THE UK TO FOLLOW"

performance of dwellings. This was confirmed to be brought forward under future legislation as part of minimum design standards for new build housing in Scotland.

During a discussion regarding the Domestic Building Environmental Standards (Scotland) Bill and Passivhaus in 2023, Patrick Harvie, the then Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active, Travel and Tenants' Rights, said: "If we had done what some other northern European nations have done, our retrofit challenges now would be far more manageable."

However, he did note that progress had been made and that lessons could be taken from works that have been undertaken.

A year later, the then Minister for Housing, Paul McLennan, penned a letter to Mr Rowley providing an update on the progress of adding the new Bill into practice.

This detailed the process of working towards the final proposal and recognised the strong support to the consultation to amend Standard 6.1 (energy demand) to recognise Passivhaus certification as an alternative means of compliance.

The new Scottish Passivhaus standard is voluntary at present but is set to be formally implemented in autumn 2029, following a Stage 2 consultation that can be found at bit.ly/passiv-consult and closes on 16 October.

This will provide a sufficient gap to allow developers, contractors and designers the ability to upskill and learn how to meet the standard, as well as to ensure the availability of components.

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR NEW BUILD HOUSING IN SCOTLAND?

While it hasn't been confirmed exactly what Scotland's version will include, properties are

PASSIVHAUS PROPERTIES



Thermal insulation



Triple-glazed windows



Air tight construction



No thermal bridges



Effective ventilation

expected to follow the five key principles in the existing Passivhaus standard:

- High levels of thermal insulation installed in the walls, floors and roof space to ensure a steady internal temperature is maintained throughout and that any heat loss is minimised.
- Triple-glazed windows or similar high-performance options to reduce heat loss as much as possible. These may also include specific frames and coatings that have been designed to perform during all climates from mitigation of overheating in summer but also to capture the solar gain in winter time.
- High levels of airtightness, removing any gaps and leakage points around light switches, sockets and other gaps within the envelope. This could be achieved by using airtight seals and grommets, vapour control membranes and other solutions.
- A construction that prioritises the removal and minimisation of thermal bridges to prevent heat loss as much as possible. These often occur during poorly insulated junctions between elements, leaks and gaps within the thermal envelope, and issues with insufficient insulation in floors.
- Well filtered ventilation using certified mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) units, helping to create a healthy indoor environment. The enhanced filtration can help with the removal of pollen, dust and other particles in the air, plus high airtightness levels ensure a good level of indoor air quality.

Although the main detail and specifics are yet to be announced, this signifies Scotland is paving the way in terms of thermal efficiency and comfort levels in future buildings and could set a precedent for the rest of the UK to follow suit.

To find out more about systems, materials and other components suitable for use in Passivhaus construction, a certified component database is available on the envirovent website at envirovent.com/services/passivhaus, with products often shown with a specific logo denoting them under this certification. ■

➔ MVHR units like the envirovent energiSava® 300 can help to create a healthy indoor environment



Associate Member envirovent is a UK manufacturer of sustainable, low-energy ventilation systems that improve indoor air quality and create healthier homes. The company provides high-performance MVHR solutions, specialist ventilation design, CAD drawings and expert technical guidance. Supporting projects from planning to installation, envirovent helps ensure compliance, performance and confidence. Find out more at www.envirovent.com

envirovent

On the ball in

Members party with the Tartan Army at this summer's World Cup – but still find time to keep an eye on Stateside installations and compare notes with local electricians

WORDS
EMMA MCKELVIE
Membership
Representative



LIKE electricians everywhere, Nicky McKissock and Calum Houston found it hard to switch off from work on holiday – even in the middle of Scotland's biggest football party for 28 years!

Nicky, MD of NHM Electrical Services Ltd in Ayrshire, was among an estimated 50,000 Tartan Army footsoldiers who crossed the pond to cheer on their heroes in their first World Cup since 1998.

Accompanied by dad John, who is a former SELECT President and Ayrshire Branch Chair, the duo attended the 4-0 warm-up win against Bolivia in New Jersey on 6 June before travelling to Boston to see the 1-0 victory over Haiti the following week. As well as watching Scotland, the duo enjoyed a tour of the East Coast, visiting Atlanta, Philadelphia, Washington DC and New York, where they posed with a copy of *cabletalk*.

During their time in Boston, the duo also bumped into an electrician who ran his own business and compared notes on life for contractors either side of the Atlantic.

Nicky said: "It was interesting to hear him say that there's currently a high demand for residential and commercial work in Boston, while solar work is slower.

"He also mentioned difficulties in finding electricians in general as well as increased competition from lower cost contractors, although he did say it's a protected profession in America so it can be regulated more easily."

STATESIDE STORIES

Calum also took a break from the family business in Campbeltown to join the Tartan Army Stateside – and, like Nicky, ended up discussing all things electrical with the locals.



↑ Father and son with a copy of *cabletalk* in New York



↓ John and Nicky fly the flag for NHM in Philadelphia



↑ Calum compares notes with American electrician in Boston

QUICK FACTS

**ARCHIE HOUSTON
ELECTRICAL LTD**

BASED:
Campbeltown

BRANCH:
Glasgow & West
of Scotland



**NHM ELECTRICAL
SERVICES LTD**

BASED:
Maybole

BRANCH:
Ayrshire

the USA



↑ John, left, and Nicky got a warm welcome from the US cops



↑ Calum and pals cheer their heroes in Boston



↑ Calum, left, and pal Keith at the Morocco game



The director of Archie Houston Electrical Ltd

cheered on Scotland against Morocco in Boston on 19 June before travelling south to Miami to watch the final match against Brazil in the fan zone five days later.

He told us: "I met an American electrician in Boston and we discussed the differences between the USA and UK, mainly in cable sizing and the way we wire domestic properties. He wasn't familiar with ring circuits and the reasoning behind them – all he could understand was radials.

"The training in America also seems to be less than we have in Scotland and the back-up and support we receive from SELECT was something else he was impressed by.

"WHEN ELECTRICIANS GO ABROAD WE LOOK AT EVERY INSTALLATION AND I WAS NO DIFFERENT"

"At the game itself I also bumped into a former colleague of mine from Campbeltown called Keith, who now works for Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), so we watched the match together and had a good catch-up about all things electrical."

Calum said: "As every electrician will admit, when we go abroad we look at every installation and I was no different. The main thing I noticed was the industrial-looking distribution boards in hotel rooms and apartments, with larger MCBs which weren't great to look at.

"The electrical outlets in bathrooms and next to basins also give me cause for concern compared to our regulations, with what seemed like zero zones! It just brought home how Scotland and the UK have some of the safest installation methods and regulations in place." ■

Membership offers you major value

For Scotland's largest electrical contractors, membership of SELECT is about far more than industry recognition. It is about influence, representation and having a genuine voice in shaping the future of the electrotechnical sector

WORDS MIKE STARK

Immediate Past
President and UK&I
Technical Director,
OCS



THROUGH both my day job and my role in the association, I've seen at first hand how SELECT

provides major contractors with a direct route to help shape the policies, standards and decisions that affect businesses every day.

From workforce development and technical standards to influencing national and local government policy and employment conditions, membership offers companies the opportunity to play a meaningful role in determining the future direction of the industry.

KEY CONNECTIONS

One of the most significant opportunities comes via SELECT's long-standing involvement with the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB), which plays a central role in determining wages and terms and conditions for electricians in Scotland. Through SELECT's

representation on the SJIB, major contractors have the opportunity to contribute to discussions on issues that affect their business. Rather than simply responding to industry changes, they can help shape them, ensuring practical commercial experience informs decisions that have a lasting impact for the sector.

The same influence extends to skills development and the future workforce. The industry's continued success depends on attracting, training and retaining talented apprentices, and SELECT works closely with both the SJIB and the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT), which delivers Scotland's electrical apprenticeship programme.

Major contractors understand the skills required on today's projects and those that will be needed in the future. Through SELECT, they can help shape apprenticeships so they reflect the realities of modern construction,

emerging technologies and changing client expectations.

This ensures apprenticeship programmes produce highly skilled electricians equipped for increasingly complex working environments while helping employers secure the talent needed for long-term growth.

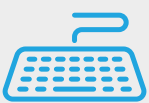
SHAPING SKILLS

SELECT also represents Members' interests through its role as a key stakeholder in BSE Skills, the organisation responsible for developing the National Occupational Standards that underpin electrotechnical apprenticeships and skills development training in the UK.

These standards define the knowledge, skills and competence expected of the industry's workforce. By contributing to their development, major contractors can help ensure future training reflects real-world requirements, supports

↑ Members can help shape the industry's workforce

Other Member benefits



Technical support



Essential training



Health and safety advice



Free risk assessments



Employment advice



SCO-CERTS service



Welfare benefits



Legal advice & free helpline



© Dazem Zieg/Shutterstock

innovation and prepares the next generation for an evolving sector.

For larger businesses with experience across commercial, industrial and infrastructure projects, this ability to influence the skills agenda is both an opportunity and a responsibility.

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Technical leadership is another area where SELECT membership delivers significant value.

The pace of change within the electrical industry has never been greater. Advances in renewable energy, battery storage, EV infrastructure, smart technologies and building performance continue to reshape the profession, while new regulations and standards require businesses to adapt quickly.

SELECT provides major contractors with opportunities to contribute to technical committees, working groups and consultations that help inform

new guidance and standards. Members can share their practical expertise, highlight operational challenges and ensure new technical requirements are realistic, workable and beneficial for both contractors and clients.

By helping shape technical policy rather than simply implementing it, larger firms reinforce their position as leaders within the industry while ensuring their knowledge contributes to raising standards across Scotland.

A STRONG VOICE

Equally important is SELECT's role as the industry's voice with government – both locally and nationally – as well as with other key stakeholders.

The association actively engages with ministers, civil servants, regulators and public bodies to ensure Members' interests are represented whenever legislation, regulation or procurement policy is being developed.

This advocacy gives major contractors confidence that their concerns are being communicated through a respected and influential organisation with established relationships across government.

Whether campaigning for fairer procurement practices, promoting prompt payment throughout supply chains or responding to proposed legislation, SELECT works to improve the operating environment for electrical contractors across Scotland.

Just as importantly, it provides a collective voice that individual

"THESE STANDARDS DEFINE THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCE EXPECTED OF THE INDUSTRY'S WORKFORCE"

companies, regardless of size, would struggle to achieve alone.

By engaging constructively with policymakers, SELECT also helps protect Members' reputations by ensuring industry issues are addressed professionally and proactively before they become barriers to business.

For major contractors whose reputation is built on quality, professionalism and long-term relationships, this representation carries significant value.

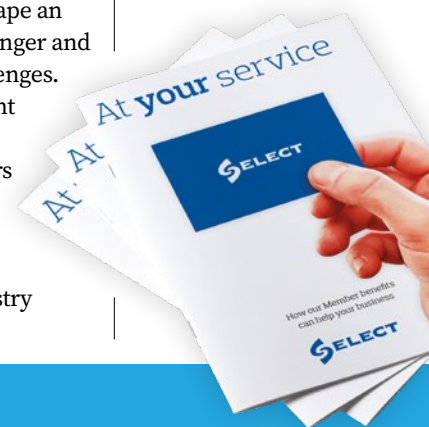
CENTRE STAGE

Ultimately, membership of SELECT reflects the standing of larger electrical contractors in Scotland's industry. It recognises not only their technical expertise and commercial success, but also their commitment to improving the wider sector.

By contributing to decisions on employment, apprenticeships, technical standards and policy, major contractors can shape an industry that is safer, stronger and prepared for future challenges.

For businesses that want more than just a trade association, SELECT offers something far more valuable – a seat at the table where the future of Scotland's electrical industry is being decided. ■

A full list and further details of Member benefits can be found in our *At Your Service* brochure. To download it, scan the QR code or go to the 'Publications' section at www.select.org.uk



Medical insurance



Exclusive PI insurance



Publications and stationery



Promotional assistance



Commercial fleet support



Company workwear



Estimates and quotations



SELECT TV service



President's
CUP

LUCECO
G R O U P

Raising the par at our golf day

Bunkers and banter were well to the fore as Members and guests battled it out on the fairways for the 2026 President's Cup, sponsored by Luceco Group, with the West of Scotland team reclaiming our famous silver trophy



SELECT

✦ Captain Callum Bassindale holds the trophy aloft with the winning West of Scotland team

All images ©Mark Jackson

UBILANT Callum Bassindale was all smiles as he hoisted the President's Cup aloft following a day of fierce but friendly competition at our annual golf competition.

The West of Scotland captain accepted the prestigious trophy from new SELECT President Darren Crockett after an extremely close result at Dunblane New Golf Club in Perthshire.

Sponsored once again by Associate Member Luceco Group, a packed field gathered on the

first tee on Monday 27 July, before 60 golfers from across Scotland battled it out for glory.

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

After a nip-and-tuck contest, the scorecards were pored over by our adjudicators, Training Development Adviser Stuart McKelvie and his son, Membership Representative Mark.

With the scores checked and rechecked, it was announced that the West team had triumphed by 320 points to 310, with captain

WORDS
LINDA ROLFE
Events Manager



✦ The weather stayed dry... mostly



✦ Chipping in from the rough



✦ Novelty club covers were the order of the day

Callum presented with the trophy after high tea in the clubhouse. The Member from Ross-shire Engineering (RSE) received a selection of whisky to help toast the victory, with the three best performers from each team taking home prizes too.

Members also scooped up goodies – courtesy of sponsors Vectaire and Curv360 – for the longest drive and nearest the pin and, as always, there was a special endeavour award for the highest round of the day by a SELECT Member.

A separate endeavour award for our guests, sponsored by Daikin, was won by Bobby Armstrong from Emtec Group.

After presenting the prizes, Darren said: “The President’s Cup is the highlight of the year for many Members and we enjoyed a superb day of golf, played in the right spirit with plenty of friendly rivalry.

“I’d like to thank Luceco Group for sponsoring the day once again and I’m sure the East team will be looking for revenge when we return in 2027.” ■

OUR SPONSORS



✦ Past President Kevin Griffin, RAS Crockett's Liam Forsyth, President Darren Crockett, outgoing MD Alan Wilson and Bruce Findlay



✦ Ewan MacDonald from OCS tees off on the first



✦ Linda and the Daikin team shelter from a passing shower



✦ Mark McKelvie and dad Stuart tot up the scores



⬆ Dunblane provided a picturesque backdrop



⬆ The Ideal Electrical Solutions team of Chris Turner, Andy Macdal and Craig Gordon



⬆ Vectaire's Steve Thompson gives competitors a lift



⬆ The SELECT brollies came in handy



⬆ Former Technical Director Bob Cairney was among the competitors



⬆ Thumbs up from envirovent's Sead Kahrmanovic, Danny Ferrie and Stuart Renton, along with KSR's Kevin Handling



⬆ Kevin Griffin sinks a putt, watched by Bruce Findlay



⬆ Keeping a keen eye on the ball



EAST TEAM ☆ 1ST PLACE
Paul McMeeking, OCS
Tech Services (40pts)



EAST TEAM ☆ 2ND PLACE
Chris Turner, Ideal
Electrical Solutions (36pts)



EAST TEAM ☆ 3RD PLACE
Jamie Brown, Ness
Electrical (32pts)



☆ NEAREST THE PIN
SPONSORED BY CURV360
Alan Gordon, Exi-tite Group

☆ LONGEST DRIVE
SPONSORED BY VECTAIRE
Ryan Fortnum, BS Electrical



WEST TEAM ☆ 1ST PLACE
Ryan McCallum, Stirling
Council (35pts)



WEST TEAM ☆ 2ND PLACE
Ewan MacDonald, RSE (34pts)



WEST TEAM ☆ 3RD PLACE
Steven Cameron, Laplace
Building Solutions (North)
Limited (33pts)



☆ PRESIDENT'S PRIZE FOR
ENDEAVOUR (MEMBER)
Ross Findlay, Laplace Building
Solutions (North) Limited

☆ BEST GUEST SCORE
Alan Gordon, Exi-tite
Group (38 pts)

PRACTICAL ADVICE AND GUIDANCE
TO EQUIP YOU WITH THE ESSENTIAL
KNOWLEDGE TO TAKE ON ANY TASK

Technical

MORE INFORMATION

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



Members! Your Electrotech Committee needs YOU!

Want to make your voice heard and play a leading role in shaping the future of our industry? SELECT is looking for new recruits to join the ranks of its influential Electrotechnical Committee

WORDS
ROBERT McGOOGAN
Director of
Technical Services



S **ELECT'S** Electrotechnical Committee gives Members a unique opportunity to help influence technical policy, review changes to industry standards and regulations and ensure that the views of electrical contractors are represented on the issues that matter most.

As the industry continues to evolve at a rapid pace, with new technologies, changing regulations and increasing demands on contractors, the committee's work has never been more important.

By bringing together experienced professionals from across Scotland, it provides a forum

↓ Committee members discuss the latest trends and technology across the industry





↑ The committee enjoys regular visits to manufacturers

"MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE GIVES MEMBERS A GENUINE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THEIR VOICES HEARD"

← Committee meetings are chaired by Past President Kevin Griffin

where Members can discuss emerging issues, share practical experiences and contribute to the development of the industry's future direction.

Chaired by Past President Kevin Griffin, committee meetings are held quarterly via Microsoft Teams throughout the year and consider a wide range of technical

matters affecting electrical contractors.

Members review proposed changes to standards and guidance, discuss technical queries raised by contractors and provide valuable feedback that helps inform SELECT's responses to consultations from government, standards bodies and other industry organisations.

The committee also plays an important role in identifying emerging trends and highlighting areas where contractors require additional guidance or support. This ensures that SELECT remains at the forefront of technical developments while continuing to represent the interests of its Members.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Participation in the committee offers benefits that extend well beyond the committee room.

Members gain an early insight into forthcoming changes to standards and regulations, allowing them to better prepare their businesses for future developments. They have the opportunity to exchange ideas with fellow contractors from across Scotland, discussing common challenges and sharing best practice with some of the industry's most experienced professionals.

The committee's work also provides an invaluable opportunity to develop professional knowledge. Whether discussing amendments to the Wiring Regulations, considering the practical implications

of new technologies or examining changes to legislation, Members gain first-hand knowledge of developments that will shape the industry's future.

Another popular aspect of the committee's programme is the opportunity to visit manufacturers and suppliers to see the latest innovations in action.

These visits provide Members with exclusive access to the development of new products and technologies before they become widely adopted across the industry. They also offer the chance to meet technical specialists, learn more about product design and manufacturing and understand how innovation is helping contractors work more safely and efficiently.

From advances in renewable technologies and energy storage to developments in electrical protection, smart systems and digital solutions, these visits help Members stay ahead of the curve and better understand the products and technologies that will influence their businesses in the years ahead.

A POSITIVE INFLUENCE

Most importantly, membership of the Electrotechnical Committee gives Members a genuine opportunity to have their voices heard.

The practical experience of contractors working on projects every day is invaluable when considering changes to standards and guidance. By sharing their knowledge and highlighting the realities of working on site, committee members help ensure that decisions affecting the industry are informed by those with real-world experience.

The committee welcomes Members from businesses of all sizes and from every part of the electrotechnical industry in Scotland. Whether representing an SME or major contractor, every Member brings valuable experience and perspectives that contribute to balanced, informed discussions.

SELECT is keen to hear from Members who have an interest in technical issues and who want to play an active role in helping shape the future of the electrotechnical industry.

Joining the Electrotechnical Committee is not only an opportunity to contribute to the wider profession but also an investment in personal and business development, providing insight, knowledge and contacts that can benefit companies long into the future. ■

To get involved with the SELECT Electrotechnical Committee or find out more, email Committee Secretary Robert McGoogan at robert.mcgoogan@select.org.uk or Chair Kevin Griffin on logicsystemsfs@gmail.com

⚙️ Gear up for LV assembly: Pages 36&37

New update to protective earthing code

Members should be aware of the publication of BS 7430:2026, the code of practice for protective earthing of electrical installations, which was published on 31 May 2026.

This new publication supersedes BS 7430:2011+A1:2015, which has now been formally withdrawn.

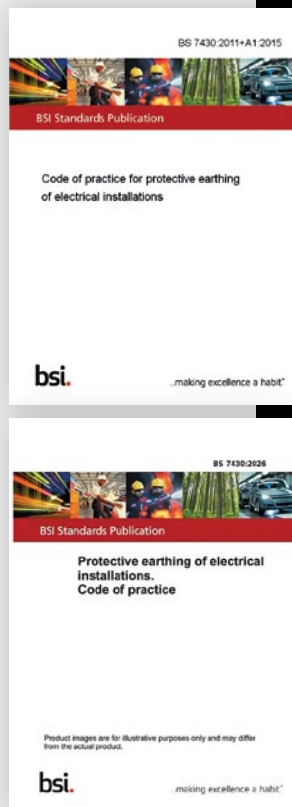
BS 7430:2026 provides recommendations for earthing of electrical installations which includes the following:

- Protective earthing of low voltage (LV) installations
- The interface between LV and high voltage (HV) sub stations
- Protective earthing arrangements for generators running in parallel with distribution network operators or a private HV/LV transformer supplying LV installations
- Protective earthing and changeover switch arrangements for an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) and generators supplying LV installations
- AC supplies derived from DC supplies, e.g. solar, batteries, wind.

The new code of practice has been fully revised, with the principal changes including:

- Updated recommendations for earthing of HV-derived LV supplies, i.e. from public/private transformers
- Updated recommendations for generators
- Updated recommendations for installations having particular considerations for earthing
- Updated recommendations for earth electrode systems
- Removal of recommendations for special locations.

SELECT Director of Technical Services Robert McGoogan said: "As electrical installations become more dynamic and incorporate renewable technologies for generation, storage and distribution, it is fundamental for safety that the recommendations for protective earthing given in this code of practice are followed."



SAVE 25% ON THE NEW STANDARD

As SELECT is an official distributor for the British Standards Institute (BSI), Members can enjoy a 25% discount on the full price when purchasing BS 7430:2026. Simply email orders@select.org.uk for details and to order your copy.



↑ The practical guidance will help you comply with regulations

Gear up for LV assembly with booklet

Free guidance developed by the BEAMA LV Switchboard Technical Committee will equip you with the knowledge you need for specification success

HOW do you ensure that you've specified and procured a low voltage (LV) switchboard or controlgear that meets the required standards and legislation?

The technical experts on the BEAMA LV Switchboard Technical Committee have

developed **FREE** guidance for the specification and procurement of such assemblies.

The new guide, *Specifying a Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear Assembly*, is an essential resource for professionals involved in the specification and procurement of electrical assemblies. The publication

DOWNLOAD OUR TOOLBOX TALKS PRESENTATIONS

If you missed this year's Toolbox Talks – or need a refresher on what was discussed – the three SELECT presentations are now available for download.

Complete with in-depth presenter notes, the PDF contains the three technical

updates that were delivered:

- **Amendment 4** – an overview of the latest update to BS 7671, outlining the main changes and their potential impact on Members and their work.
- **Model forms** – an in-depth look at the changes to forms in Appendix 6 of the new BS 7671.
- **Electrotechnical Assessment Specification** – an introduction to the main points of EAS and how it aligns with SELECT's own revised membership criteria.



assembly specification, from understanding conformance and design verification to addressing environmental conditions and marking requirements.

By drawing attention to real-world challenges and offering actionable advice, the BEAMA guide empowers you to make informed decisions that enhance safety, efficiency, and reliability in electrical distribution networks.

Nick Hayler, Head of Building Electrical Systems at BEAMA, said: "Correct specification of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies is critical to ensure safety, performance and efficiency.

"This new guide draws attention to practical and safety-critical considerations, empowering specifiers and procurement teams to make informed choices that go beyond compliance."

provides clear, practical guidance on the critical considerations for specifying LV switchgear and controlgear.

It is designed to complement existing standards, such as the BS EN IEC 61439 series, by highlighting additional safety and performance factors that are vital for ensuring assemblies are both compliant and fit for purpose.

This guide will help you navigate the complexities of

To download the new guide, scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/ct-beama-spec

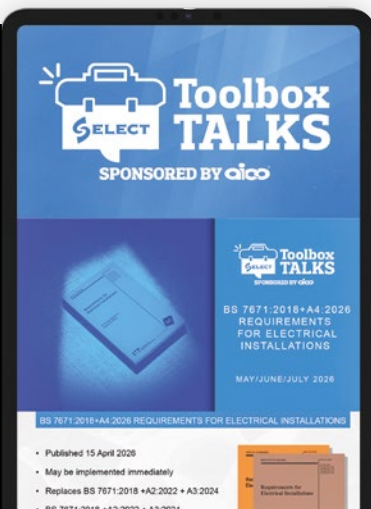


"CORRECT SPECIFICATION OF LOW VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR ASSEMBLIES IS CRITICAL TO ENSURE SAFETY, PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY"

The presentation is contained in the MY SELECT part of the SELECT website and is not an open resource for non-Members.

If you have any follow-up questions, feel free to contact your Technical Adviser or Membership Representative.

To download the presentation, scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/tbt-download



BS 7671 TRAINING COURSES AVAILABLE



Modules now available in line with the current edition of the IET Wiring Regulations, as amended:

- REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS (218)
- INSPECTION AND TESTING, INCLUDING PERIODIC INSPECTION (214)
- INITIAL VERIFICATION (209)

TO BOOK, CALL

0131 445 5577

www.select.org.uk



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COURSES TO BOOST YOUR SKILLS AND
KEEP YOUR KNOWLEDGE UP TO DATE

Training

MORE INFORMATION

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



WORKING
at height
can have
many risks,
which is why
our latest
training partnership is designed
to give Members the lowdown
on mobile elevating work
platforms (MEWPs).

The International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) 3a and 3b dual training course is designed for anyone who supervises, manages or uses powered access.

It aims to provide an understanding of the need for safe operational procedures, the prevention of accidents, emergency descent operations and employee and employer responsibilities, when using cherry pickers, scissor lifts, aerial work platforms and trailer-mounted booms.

WHAT IS IPAF?

IPAF is the industry-recognised body and authority for MEWPs and powered access equipment, including cherry pickers, scissor lifts, push around verticals (PAVs) and access platforms.

WHAT IS IPAF 3A AND 3B TRAINING?

IPAF 3a and 3b cover the operation of mobile vertical lifts and mobile boom lifts. Category 3a relates to mobile vertical lifts – usually called scissor lifts – while category 3b is relevant to mobile boom lifts, i.e. self-propelled booms, AKA cherry pickers.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE COVER?

The IPAF boom and scissor lift training course consists of both theory and practical instruction, including:



Course hits heights of excellence

In its latest exclusive partnership, SELECT has teamed up with TrainingPlus to offer Members a one-day course in working with elevating platforms such as scissor lifts and cherry pickers

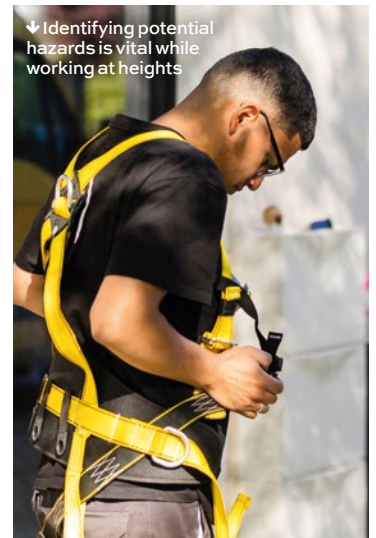
WORDS
JENNY CRYANS
Training Manager



- Theoretical aspects of the operation of an access work platform
- Understanding and identification of operational hazards
- Procedure, benefits and requirements of pre-operational inspection
- Benefits and procedures of full function testing
- Identification and procedures of specific hazards on site.

The course will also help you understand the limitations of machine application, apply and understand the correct

↓ Identifying potential hazards is vital while working at heights



"THE GUYS SAID IT WAS THE BEST COURSE THEY HAD DONE. THEY REALLY ENJOYED IT AND SAID THAT THE INSTRUCTOR WAS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE. WE ARE KEEN TO USE TRAININGPLUS AGAIN FOR FUTURE BOOKINGS"

– PAUL, GLASGOW

starting procedure and identify the proximity of all hazards, including overhead.

In addition, the course explains how to put the platform in the correct position while travelling, how to position the machine correctly in relation to the task, how to level the machine and deploy the stabilisers and how to stow equipment and tools safely.

Other areas covered include:

- Safety harness use
- Correctly lowering and raising the platform
- Travelling and slewing correctly
- Dismounting and mounting the machine correctly.

CERTIFICATION

At the end of the IPAF theory session, you'll take a short theory test which, if you pass, will allow you to take the practical session in the afternoon.

A practical assessment will follow, which, after successful completion, will entitle you to an IPAF Powered Access Licence (PAL) Card, valid for five years. This card is the proof provided to all persons who successfully complete training and testing on an IPAF machine-based course.

WHO KEEPS THE CARD AND CERTIFICATE?

IPAF suggests that the operator should always have the issued card on his/her person at all times when working with MEWPs, while the employer should keep the certificate.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Personnel who will be

responsible for the safe use of powered access platforms, scissor lifts, booms and/or cherry pickers should attend the IPAF dual training course.

Category 3a – scissor lifts only – and 3b – boom or cherry picker lifts only – are recommended for single use categories.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

Candidates are required to bring suitable PPE with them on this course. This includes a safety harness, hard hat, steel-capped boots, high-visibility vest and safety gloves.

YOUR SKILL LEVEL

No formal qualification or experience is necessary for the IPAF 3a and 3b training course, but it would be beneficial if you have a basic understanding of Work at Height Regulations and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

PRESENTERS

Delivered in partnership with TrainingPlus, this course is available in Glasgow and Bathgate, West Lothian. Alternatively, SELECT can source other training providers in

WHAT TO BRING

- ✓ Safety harness
- ✓ Hard hat
- ✓ Steel-capped boots
- ✓ High-visibility vest
- ✓ Safety gloves

different locations if required, although the cost may differ.

COSTS AND HOW TO BOOK

TrainingPlus Limited can deliver this course on most days during the week provided it has a lecturer available. The cost for SELECT Members is £225 plus VAT, which is £270.

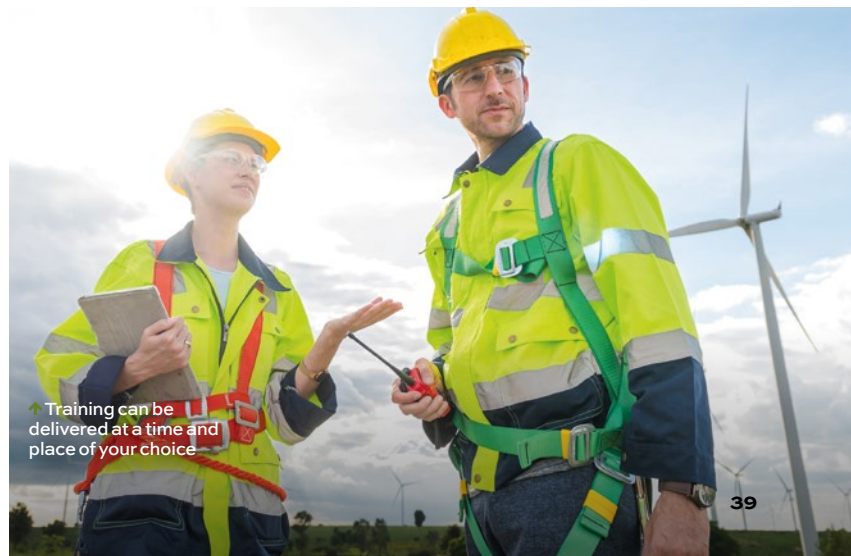
TRAINING ON-SITE

The IPAF training can also be done on-site if suitable facilities and equipment are available. If this would be your preferred option, please email the TrainingPlus team directly at sales@trainingplus.com or call them on **0845 872 3411**. ■

For further information and to book, please visit the Training section on the SELECT website at www.select.org.uk, e-mail us on training@select.org.uk or call the Training team on **0131 445 5577**.

↑ The training will cover how to operate a platform correctly

TrainingPlus
a Briggs Equipment company



↑ Training can be delivered at a time and place of your choice

Health & Safety

Hot and bothered? Here's what to do

With recent heatwaves sending temperatures soaring, our expert outlines how electricians can stay safe while maintaining productivity during extreme weather conditions

WORDS
CHRIS MAY

Regional Manager,
BSG



BSG The Building
Safety Group

↓ It's important to
stay hydrated during
the warm weather

As heatwaves become increasingly frequent and intense – even in Scotland – electricians are facing distinctive challenges that demand careful attention to heat safety protocols.

The nature of electrical work – often conducted in confined spaces such as loft conversions, electrical cabinets and poorly ventilated areas – combined with mandatory PPE requirements and physically demanding tasks, creates heightened vulnerability to heat-related illness.

Beyond the immediate health concerns, heat stress significantly impacts concentration, decision-making and overall safety when working with potentially lethal electrical systems.

UNDERSTANDING HEAT-RELATED HEALTH RISKS

Electricians must recognise the warning signs of heat-related illness to protect themselves and colleagues.

Heat exhaustion manifests through dizziness, excessive sweating, nausea, muscle cramps and profound fatigue. Without intervention, this condition can rapidly escalate to heat stroke – a medical emergency characterised by confusion, loss of consciousness and, paradoxically hot, dry skin as the body's cooling mechanisms fail.

Dehydration compounds these risks by impairing

**"ENSURE ADEQUATE
WATER SUPPLIES ARE
AVAILABLE – A MINIMUM
OF ONE LITRE PER HOUR
OF PHYSICAL WORK IN
HOT CONDITIONS"**

concentration and motor skills, creating dangerous conditions when working with live electrical systems. Even mild heat stress increases the likelihood of errors in testing, installation or isolation procedures.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, both employers and self-employed electricians have legal obligations to assess and mitigate heat-related risks, making heat safety not merely advisable but legally mandated.

PRE-WORK PREPARATION AND PLANNING

Effective heat safety begins before arriving on-site. Monitor Met Office heat warnings and adjust schedules accordingly, prioritising demanding tasks such as consumer unit installations or extensive rewiring during cooler morning hours.

Risk assessments should be modified to account for extreme temperatures, particularly for work in roof spaces or other high-risk environments.

Ensure adequate water supplies are available – a minimum of one litre per hour of physical work in hot conditions. Check ventilation provisions in advance and communicate heat safety protocols with clients, explaining that the pace of work may need adjustment.

Prepare emergency response procedures, including knowing the location of the nearest medical facilities. Vehicle preparation is equally important: verify air conditioning functionality and store additional water supplies.



© Jack Tamming/Shutterstock

ON-SITE HEAT SAFETY PRACTICES

Hydration represents the cornerstone of heat safety. Drink water regularly throughout the day, before thirst develops – by which point dehydration has already begun.

Avoid alcohol and excessive caffeine consumption, which exacerbate fluid loss. For prolonged work in extreme heat, consider electrolyte replacement drinks to maintain mineral balance.

Clothing choices require careful consideration. Where PPE regulations permit, opt for light-coloured, breathable fabrics beneath arc-rated protective equipment.

Implement structured work-rest cycles, taking breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas every 45-60 minutes during peak temperatures. Recognise when conditions necessitate stopping work entirely – no deadline justifies risking heat stroke.

Improve ventilation using portable fans and air movers, and open windows where this doesn't compromise safety. Cooling aids such as damp cloths for the neck and wrists, or purpose-designed cooling vests, provide additional relief.

Establish a buddy system to monitor colleagues for heat stress symptoms, as affected individuals often fail to recognise their own deteriorating condition.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ELECTRICAL WORK

Electrical work presents unique heat-related challenges. PPE requirements cannot be compromised, necessitating additional vigilance in managing heat stress beneath protective equipment. Exercise extreme caution in roof



© Juice Flair/Shutterstock

spaces and loft conversions, where temperatures can exceed 50°C during heatwaves. When working inside electrical cabinets or poorly ventilated plant rooms, take frequent breaks and ensure adequate air circulation.

Heat fatigue significantly increases the risk of error during critical tasks such as testing, isolation verification or connection termination. Temperature extremes may also affect testing equipment calibration and the integrity of temperature-sensitive materials including certain cable insulation and adhesives. Communicate

proactively with clients about potential delays, explaining that maintaining safety standards may require extended timescales during extreme weather.

IN CONCLUSION

Heat safety represents a fundamental professional responsibility for SELECT Members, requiring the same rigorous attention as electrical safety protocols.

Prioritising health over deadlines protects not only individual wellbeing but also maintains the professional standards upon which client safety depends.

By implementing proper hydration strategies, scheduling adjustments, appropriate work-rest cycles and enhanced monitoring procedures, electricians can work safely even during extreme temperatures.

For comprehensive guidance, consult the Health and Safety Executive website's resources on temperature and thermal comfort in the workplace.

BSG also provides comprehensive support materials, including a dedicated toolbox talk on sun protection and a detailed Heat Stress risk assessment accessible via the BSG Hub. ■

USEFUL LINKS

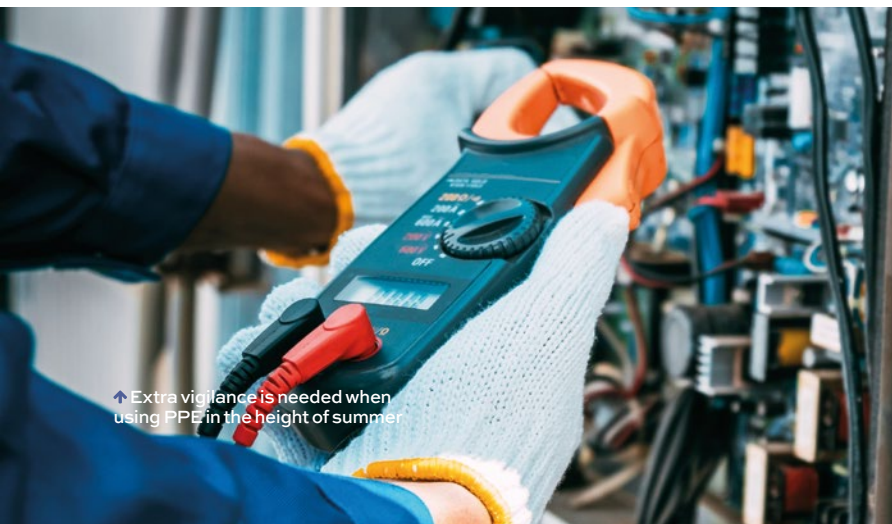
↓ BSG sun protection toolbox talk



↓ BSG heat stress risk assessment



↓ HSE thermal comfort in the workplace



↑ Extra vigilance is needed when using PPE in the height of summer

© Northair Stock/Shutterstock

YOUR FREE HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE

SELECT's partnership with the BSG gives every Member free access to a wealth of benefits worth £750 via the BSG Hub, including risk assessments and method statements. All Member companies are enrolled automatically – just use your membership number to get started. To find out more, scan the QR code.



Industry insight

Counting the cost of poor health

WORDS

ROB LOW

Business Development
Executive, EC Insurance
Services Limited



In this issue, our expert explores the real-world benefits of keeping people healthy and asks: Is employee health an expense or a business priority?

LAST year, UK workers lost 148.8 million working days to sickness or injury. It's a striking figure from the Office for National Statistics, but numbers like that can feel a long way from day-to-day business.

So forget the national picture for a moment. Think about your own business.

Imagine one of your most experienced electricians is signed off work by their GP for six weeks. The work still has to be done. Someone else picks up the urgent jobs. Overtime gets approved. Programmes get reshuffled. Routine maintenance slips down the list and quotations take a little longer because everyone's focus is

on keeping existing customers happy. From the outside, the business looks like it's coping. Hopefully, your customers never notice a thing.

Behind the scenes, it's a different story. Management time disappears into replanning. Pressure builds. Margins come under strain. The business misses new work because everyone is focused on delivering what's already been promised.

None of it gets traced back to the absence, yet it all has a cost.

That's the real cost of poor employee health. Not just the salary paid while someone's away, but everything that happens because they're not there. And that's where the thinking needs to change. Employee health has long been viewed by managers primarily as a wellbeing issue. But it's a business issue too.

LOOKING BEYOND THE OBVIOUS COST

Every business owner understands why some spending makes business sense. A new van. Better equipment. An extra employee. Business owners don't

judge this spending simply on price. It's judged on the business outcomes it could support: could it improve efficiency, create capacity, reduce costs, or help the business grow?

Employee health deserves the same level of business consideration. Not because it's fashionable and not because competitors are doing it, but because poor health already carries a cost. The real question is whether the potential to address that disruption is supported by a strong business case. That's a genuinely different way of thinking about employee health.

The cost doesn't end when someone goes off sick.

One of the biggest challenges facing employers isn't simply that people become ill. It's everything that has to happen before they're well again: getting seen, getting a diagnosis, starting treatment and

"EMPLOYEE HEALTH DESERVES THE SAME LEVEL OF BUSINESS CONSIDERATION. NOT BECAUSE IT'S FASHIONABLE AND NOT BECAUSE COMPETITORS ARE DOING IT, BUT BECAUSE POOR HEALTH ALREADY CARRIES A COST"



@ GoodStudio/Shutterstock

recovering. None of it happens as quickly as businesses hope.

According to NHS England, around 7.2 million referral-to-treatment pathways remain open. At the same time, more than 122,000 patients have waited over a year to begin treatment. These figures aren't a criticism of the NHS. They simply reflect how long that pathway, from getting seen to getting well, can take.

For businesses, delays to diagnosis or treatment extend the uncertainty. Employees may remain absent for longer or return on reduced duties, while projects continue. The knock-on effect grows with every additional week. Employers can't control NHS waiting times. But they can decide whether to offer support that potentially gives employees faster access to diagnosis and

treatment. The question is simple: If there's enough business benefit in addressing that disruption, what level of spend is commercially sensible? That's a business question before it's ever a product one.

START WITH THE PROBLEM, NOT THE SOLUTION

Businesses identify problems before choosing solutions. The same principle applies to supporting employee health. Before anyone looks at what might fix it, it's worth asking what absence, delay and disruption are actually costing the business, and whether there is a strong business case for taking steps to address that disruption.

According to CIPD, 77% of organisations now link employee benefits to at least one strategic

business objective. That suggests many employers now ask what they want to achieve before deciding which benefits to offer.

A clear objective makes decisions around supporting employee health more focused.

Before committing any spend, four questions are worth asking:

- What problem are we trying to solve?
- What is it currently costing us?
- Which approach is most likely to improve outcomes?
- How will we know whether it has worked?

THINKING DIFFERENTLY

None of this diminishes the importance of looking after

people. What needs to change is how employers think about employee health. Not simply as part of a benefits package, but as one of many spending decisions competing for the same budget.

That's a significant shift. When employers consider employee health alongside other business spending, the question changes.

It's no longer: "Can we afford to spend on employee health?"

It becomes: "Can we afford not to understand what poor employee health is already costing the business?"

Once that question is answered, businesses can weigh up which approach might help. Faster access to diagnosis and treatment, for example, can shorten the time an employee is away and reduce the uncertainty that follows. Like every other business decision, the right choice depends on the problem you're trying to solve and should be assessed against the business objectives it is intended to support, not simply on cost.

Before deciding which health solution is the right choice for your business, ask a simpler question: What impact is poor employee health already having on your business? ■

HOW ECIS CAN HELP

As a leading chartered insurance broker, ECIS has been organising and managing SELECT's exclusive personal medical insurance scheme through Bupa for decades. Find out how ECIS can help you at www.ecins.co.uk, by emailing ecis@ecins.co.uk or calling 0330 221 0241.

Inclusion is the key to ensure everyone wins

SMEs are the backbone of today's construction sector but are frequently excluded from the benefits of growth they help create. If the industry is serious about improving productivity, delivering net zero and strengthening resilience, it must move towards more 'win-win' relationships and rethink how SMEs are engaged, valued and supported

WORDS
PAUL McDEVITT
Managing Director,
McDevitt & Co



M
McDevitt & Co

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

UK construction is heavily led by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), who employ around 2.7 million people and represent 99% of the industry.

In sectors such as electrical contracting, mechanical services and specialist fit-out, SMEs are not just contributors, they're the essential ingredient to project delivery and play a vital role in innovation as early adopters of new technologies.

Yet despite this, SMEs rarely enjoy the same level of security, influence or reward as their larger counterparts.

THE REALITY OF SME TREATMENT

SMEs face a consistent set of challenges that undermine their ability to operate sustainably. These include:

- Payment terms that stretch cashflow, often far beyond agreed timelines
- Risk transfer mechanisms disproportionately placing liability on smaller firms
- Limited visibility of pipelines, making it difficult to plan resources and invest
- A transactional approach to procurement, where lowest price still dominates
- Lack of meaningful engagement in early-stage project planning.

These issues aren't new, but they are becoming more critical. The result is a supply chain that's reactive rather than strategic, as SMEs prioritise survival over innovation and relationships become adversarial rather than collaborative.

WHY WIN-WIN RELATIONSHIPS MATTER

A 'win-win' approach is not about being idealistic – it's about improving performance. Projects delivered through collaborative relationships tend to achieve better outcomes in terms of cost certainty, programme reliability and quality.

When SMEs are treated as partners rather than expendable suppliers, several benefits emerge, including greater transparency, improved quality, increased innovation, stronger workforce stability and a more resilient supply chain.

For Tier 1 contractors and clients, this isn't just a moral argument, it's also a commercial one as a supply chain that's financially unstable or disengaged will ultimately impact delivery.

THE BARRIERS TO CHANGE

Several structural barriers continue to hold the industry back, including:

- Procurement models that prioritise cost over value
- Contract structures that incentivise risk transfer rather than collaboration
- Cultural norms that view SMEs as interchangeable rather than strategic partners
- Limited accountability for poor payment practices or unfair terms.

In major sectors such as MoD infrastructure, where long-term frameworks and repeat work are common, there is a significant opportunity to lead by example. Yet even here, SMEs often report inconsistent experiences.

Changing this requires leadership from clients, Tier 1 contractors and industry bodies, however, SMEs also have a role to play.

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR SMES

SMEs can help to position themselves for stronger, more mutually beneficial relationships.

1. Move beyond price-led positioning – Competing purely on price is rarely sustainable. SMEs should focus on clearly articulating their value, whether technical expertise, delivery reliability or specialist knowledge. Demonstrating outcomes,

not just capabilities, helps shift conversations away from cost alone.

2. Strengthen commercial awareness – Understanding contract terms, risk allocation and payment structures is critical. SMEs should seek to improve their commercial capability through training or external support.

3. Build relationships early – Engagement at the earliest possible stage of a project can significantly improve outcomes. Look for opportunities to contribute during pre-construction phases increases the likelihood of being seen as a partner rather than a commodity.

4. Invest in collaboration skills – Technical capability alone is no longer enough. SMEs that can demonstrate strong communication, problem-solving and collaborative behaviours are more likely to secure repeat work.

5. Leverage digital and data – SMEs that can capture and present data effectively will stand out. This could include tracking performance metrics, demonstrating compliance with sustainability targets or using digital tools to improve efficiency.

6. Be selective where possible – SMEs should aim to work with organisations that align with their values. Identify partners that demonstrate fair practices, transparent communication and a commitment to long-term relationships.

MAKING THE SHIFT

SMEs can't drive this change alone and clients and Tier 1 contractors must take responsibility for creating environments where win-win relationships are prized.

This includes implementing fair payment practices, engaging SMEs in early project stages, moving towards value-based procurement and creating frameworks that support long-term collaboration. There is also a role for government and industry bodies in setting standards and holding organisations accountable. Doing so would support SMEs and improve project delivery.

The move towards win-win relationships requires a shift in mindset. Construction can't continue to operate as a series of disconnected transactions if it is to meet the challenges ahead.

The transition to net zero, the need for increased productivity and the pressure on skills all demand a more integrated approach, with SMEs at its centre.

Treating them fairly isn't just about ethics – it's about building a stronger, more capable industry where everyone wins. ■

**"WHEN SMES
ARE TREATED
AS PARTNERS,
SEVERAL BENEFITS
EMERGE, INCLUDING
INNOVATION AND
A MORE RESILIENT
SUPPLY CHAIN"**



SCOTTISH CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT 2026

To find out more about fixing your commercial model, attend the **FREE** Scottish Construction Summit on 22 October at the SEC in Glasgow. Visit www.scottishconstructionsummit.com

When an adjudication win doesn't stick

WORDS
DAVID WILSON
Consultant



MF
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

ON 10 June, the High Court issued a judgment in the case of Premier Modular Limited v Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, refusing to enforce an adjudicator's decision on the grounds of natural justice.

While this decision does not change the way parties to construction contracts should approach disputes or adjudications, it serves as a reminder of one of the limited circumstances in which the courts may refuse to enforce an adjudicator's decision.

BACKGROUND

In 2023, a construction contract was entered into between the two parties for the design and construction of a standalone theatre for a hospital. A dispute arose relating to a potential compensation event under the contract and resulted in an adjudication decision in favour of Premier Modular Limited (PML). The adjudicator's decision was based on a position that had not been argued by either party and was contrary to the parties' common position regarding the accepted programme. Further, the adjudicator did not put the basis of the decision to the parties before issuing the award.

WHAT THE COURT SAID

PML sought to have the £1.65 million adjudication award upheld. The NHS trust challenged this on the basis that enforcement of the decision would breach the principles of natural justice. The court accepted this argument and refused to enforce the decision.

The decision was based on the authority of *Cantillon Ltd v Urvasco Ltd* [2008] BLR 250, which sets out circumstances in which a breach of natural justice may arise in adjudication proceedings. Importantly, *Cantillon* states that "if the adjudicator goes off on a frolic of his own, that is wishing to decide a case upon a factual or legal basis which has not been argued or put forward by either side, without giving the parties an opportunity to comment..." a breach of the rules of natural justice will be engaged.

In the present case, the court found that this was precisely what had occurred and determined that "the adjudicator did not neglect a matter under pressure of time. Rather, he sought to create a case



↑ Adjudication decisions can be contested in court

for PML which PML had not made and with which the Trust had no proper opportunity to deal, even by the hectic standards of adjudication".

WHY THIS MATTERS

The judgment does not change how parties should approach adjudication, but it does highlight one of the limited circumstances in which the courts may refuse to enforce an adjudicator's decision.

The court was careful to reiterate that adjudication decisions would, and should, ordinarily be upheld. Adjudication is intended to provide swift interim resolutions to disputes and judicial intervention should remain exceptional. In this case, the court emphasised that it was dealing with a narrow natural justice exception to that general principle.

Notably, where an adjudicator's decision is challenged, the courts have recently adopted an overwhelmingly fast-track approach. Businesses can therefore continue to rely on adjudication and its swift nature. Nevertheless, parties should be aware that, where there is a clear disparity between the decision reached and what is fair, the courts can refuse to enforce an adjudicator's decision. ■



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.

SJIB Bulletin

Adult training is heading for the fast track

Change means that trainees can complete their FICA sooner, which will allow them to progress their careers and become key members of staff for employers

THE SJIB and SECTT have recently introduced a change to the Adult Training Scheme that could allow some adult trainees to reach the Final Integrated Competence Assessment (FICA) sooner than previously expected.

With immediate effect, the minimum Stage 3 site-related work experience requirement has been reduced from 12 months to six. All other eligibility requirements remain unchanged.

Before an adult trainee can be put forward for FICA, they must have:

- Successfully completed the inspection and testing week
- Completed the required Stage 3 on-site e-portfolios

- Received employer sign-off confirming they are ready to undertake the assessment.

As before, the decision to put an adult trainee forward for FICA remains with the employer.

The change may particularly benefit trainees who began their training in 2023 or 2024, as some may now become eligible to undertake FICA and complete the scheme earlier than previously anticipated, provided all eligibility requirements have been met.

Employers with adult trainees approaching Stage 3 may wish to review their progress and consider whether the revised eligibility period could affect planned completion dates.

Any employer or trainee requiring further information should contact their SECTT Training Officer. ■

FILLING IN THE FORM IS HOW TO GET THINGS DONE

We're always happy to hear from Members and operatives and speak to people on the phone, as sometimes a quick call is exactly what's needed. However, some enquiries aren't straightforward and can't always be answered there and then.

In particular, we're seeing an increasing number of calls about SJIB National Working Rules (NWRs), pay matters and employment-related issues. These types of enquiries often require us to check the details, review the relevant rules or agreements and, in some cases, discuss the matter internally before providing advice.

For that reason, we ask that these enquiries are submitted to us in writing via the Contact Us form on the SJIB website at www.sjib.org.uk. This helps ensure we have all the information we need from the outset and allows us to provide a clear written response that you can refer back to.

The form also routes enquiries directly to the team member responsible for dealing with that particular subject, which is especially important given the size of our team.

When submitting an enquiry relating to SJIB NWRs or pay, please select 'General Enquiry'. When submitting an enquiry relating to employment matters, please select 'Employment'. This can include things like:

- Contracts of employment
- Disciplinary matters
- Grievances
- Workplace disputes
- Redundancies
- General employee concerns.

Of course, if you're unsure where your enquiry fits, give us a call and we'll point you in the right direction.

But where possible, for NWRs and pay and employment-related queries, sending the details through the Contact Us form first will help us investigate the matter properly and provide the most accurate response.

↑ 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



↑ Adult trainees can complete their assessments sooner than expected

SECTT Update

Rising stars are examples of excellence

The regional heats for this year's SECTT Apprentice of the Year Award once again delivered inspiration and expertise in equal measure as Scotland's brightest young sparks battled it out for glory

WORDS
BARRIE MCKAY
Training and
Development
Manager, SECTT



THE three regional heats of the SECTT Apprentice of the Year are done for another 12 months – and once again Scotland's electrical apprentices showed exactly why the industry's future is in good hands.

Across three days in June, the very best 1st and 2nd Stage apprentices from all 22 of our approved training centres went head-to-head in the North, East and West regional heats – the qualifying rounds for the national Apprentice of the Year final in Edinburgh.

Every competitor faced the same challenge – a demanding three-and-a-half-hour practical installation, marked to a strict standard on measurement, fabrication, termination and function, followed by a one-hour written theory paper covering

health and safety, the wiring regulations, installation standards and electrical science.

It's a serious test of nerve as well as skill – and the standard this year was excellent!

These apprentices aren't entrants, they're nominees. Each was put forward by their SECTT Training Officer and college lecturers on merit, chosen for consistent excellence in attendance, attitude and the quality of their work both at college and on site.

WEST

📍 New College
Lanarkshire



JACK BRYNES
West 1st
Stage winner



CHLOE MAXWELL
West 2nd Stage winner





 **CONNOR WOOD**
North 1st
Stage winner

JAKE MITCHELL
North 2nd Stage winner 

After some high-quality competition, the winners of the North heat, held at UHI Inverness on 2 June were:

- **1st Stage Winner:** Connor Wood – Diageo (Scotland) Ltd, Moray College UHI
- **2nd Stage Winner:** Jake Mitchell – G & A Barnie Group Ltd, Inverness College UHI

The winners of the East heat, which was held at Dundee and Angus College on 17 June, were:

- **1st Stage Winner:** Noah Erkes-Gray – South Scotland Solar Ltd, Borders College
- **2nd Stage Winner:** James Woodhouse – James Woodhouse Electrical Contractors, Perth College UHI

And emerging triumphant in the West heat at New College Lanarkshire on 25 June were:

- **1st Stage Winner:** Jack Brynes – H F Electrical Ltd, Glasgow Clyde College (Cardonald Campus)
- **2nd Stage Winner:** Chloe Maxwell – Auchenlarie Holiday Park, Dumfries and Galloway College.

The regional winners from each heat now

go forward to the national final in Edinburgh later this year, where a panel of judges will put them through a final interview to decide the overall SECTT Scottish Apprentice of the Year titles for both stages.

The standard across all three heats was a real credit to the apprentices, their employers and their lecturers. Every one of them earned their place here and watching them rise to the challenge is one of the best parts of the job.

Our thanks go to host colleges UHI Inverness, Dundee and Angus and New College Lanarkshire, the college staff and the SECTT Training Officers who made the heats run smoothly.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Scolmore Group and Electric Centre for generously sponsoring the regional heats and above all, to the employers who back these young people every step of the way.

Best of luck to all our finalists heading to Edinburgh! ■

← 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

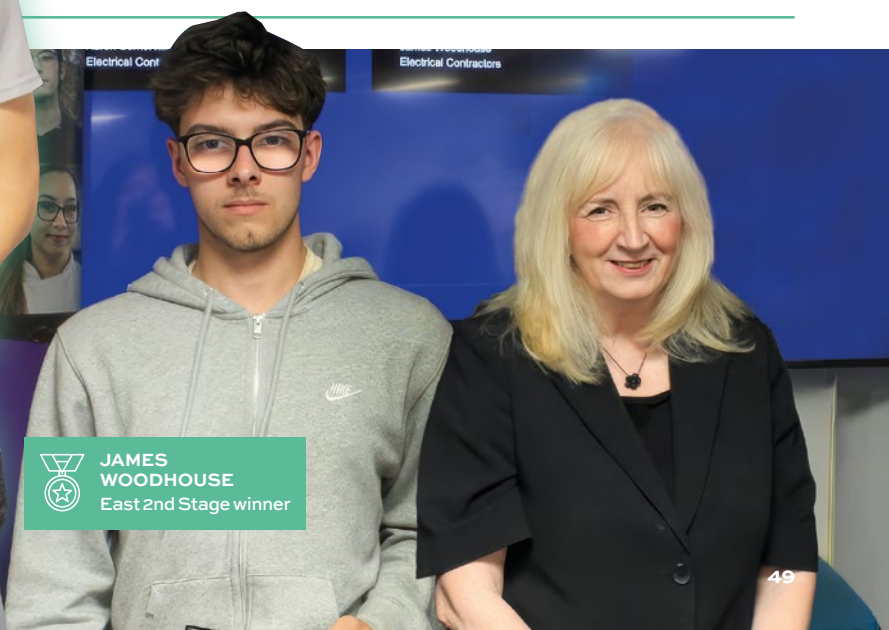


EAST

◆ Dundee & Angus College



 **NOAH ERKES-GRAY**
East 1st
Stage winner



 **JAMES WOODHOUSE**
East 2nd Stage winner

ProZone



**BECOME AN
ASSOCIATE MEMBER**
To inquire about becoming an
Associate Member, email
memberservices@select.org.uk

ELUCIAN LASERS IN ON BESPOKE BRANDING WORK

Elucian, launched by Scolmore Group in 2021, offers a bespoke in-house laser etching service for single phase consumer units and Click Scolmore GridPro modules.

Using advanced laser technology, the service creates precise, permanent branding, logos, QR codes, technical details and circuit identification on product covers and finishes.

Each design is produced from a supplied logo or artwork file and etched at Scolmore Group's headquarters.

With almost 10,000 consumer unit boards completed across nearly 300 bespoke jobs, the service supports both high-volume and tailored projects, helping businesses achieve professional, durable and distinctive branded electrical installations across domestic and commercial applications.

Find out more at
www.elucianuk.com



↑ The service creates
durable and distinctive
branded installations

Projects keep you ahead of the CÜRV



↑ Take your electrification beyond
just EVs with Project CÜRV solutions

GOING electric shouldn't stop at the car. Project EV and Project CÜRV are on a mission to make full electrification simple, seamless and affordable, covering everything from how homes and businesses charge their vehicles to how they heat their spaces and water.

Project EV provides industry-leading EV charging solutions across a comprehensive range of outputs, from 7.3kW all the way up to 1MW, making it a versatile partner for residential properties, commercial premises and large-scale fleet operations alike.

Whether it's a single home charger or an extensive multi-bay fleet installation, Project EV delivers the infrastructure to keep things moving. Complementing

this, Project CÜRV takes energy efficiency a step further with smart infrared heating and hot water heat pump solutions.

Together, the two projects form a powerful and cohesive ecosystem that addresses the full picture of a property's energy needs, not just transport, but warmth and hot water too.

As the demand for cleaner, smarter energy solutions continues to grow, Project EV and Project CÜRV are well positioned to support homeowners, businesses and fleet operators in making the transition to full electrification without compromise.

Their combined offering ensures that switching to electric is no longer a piecemeal process, but a complete and considered solution.

Find out more at www.curv360.com

MEET OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS





CONTACT OUR TEAM TO SHOWCASE YOUR GREAT NEW PRODUCTS HERE

David Hughes: 07767 407 402
davidh@connectcommunications.co.uk

work must not begin before a written funding offer has been issued.

Interest from oil-heated households creates opportunities for electrical contractors. Their knowledge of electrical systems, controls, safe working and fault-finding provides a solid foundation for developing heat pump skills.

Specialist training remains essential. Contractors need to understand heat loss calculations, system design, product selection, installation, commissioning and customer handover.

Daikin offers heat pump training at its Glasgow training centre in Paisley. Across its Altherma programme, courses cover standard installation, advanced installation and commissioning, and service and fault finding, helping electrical businesses broaden their skills and prepare for customer demand.

➔ Find out more at www.daikin.co.uk/training

Daikin delivers essential training on heat pumps

RECENT volatility in global oil prices has highlighted the uncertainty faced by households that rely on heating oil. For many Scottish homes without mains gas, arranging deliveries and managing fuel costs are familiar concerns.

An air-to-water heat pump offers an alternative. It takes heat from the outside air and uses electricity to

provide heating and hot water. Correctly designed and installed, it can provide efficient, lower-carbon heating while reducing dependence on oil deliveries.

Financial support may help with the upfront cost. Eligible owner-occupiers in Scotland can currently access grant funding of up to £7,500 through Home Energy Scotland, rising to £9,000 for qualifying rural and island homes.

Funded installations must use MCS-certified installers and products and

BREATHE MORE EASILY WITH VECTAIRE UNITS

Poor indoor air quality contributes to respiratory and allergy-related health problems. Inadequate ventilation also creates the ideal conditions for damp and condensation to develop.

As well as posing a health risk, these conditions can lead to a range of other issues, including unpleasant, musty odours, condensation on windows and walls, mould growth and the gradual deterioration of the building fabric. Less visible

problems may also arise, such as an increase in house dust mites, further affecting indoor air quality and occupant wellbeing.

Vectaire's MVHR units, available in both vertical and horizontal configurations, are designed to help control these problems effectively. All models are low-energy products fitted with EC motors and manufactured using the latest technologies to ensure optimum ventilation and improved indoor air quality, while maintaining low noise levels, low running costs and excellent specific fan power (SFP) ratings.

Suitable for installation in all types of dwellings, Vectaire

MVHR systems are designed to ensure that ventilation is delivered at the most efficient rate for the comfort of residents.

They provide continuous ventilation by extracting pollutants and excess humidity while maintaining a constant supply of fresh air, and help to meet the latest requirements for energy efficiency, environmental responsibility and cost-effective operation.

They save heat and energy in winter, help to keep cool in summer and ensure a home's indoor air quality is the best it can be.

➔ Find out more at www.vectaire.co.uk



➔ The MVHR units come in a range of sizes and suit all types of dwellings

ACCURACY YOU CAN TRUST WITH TIS CLAMP METER

Earth leakage presents three main problem areas: electric shock hazards, risk of electrical fires caused by the associated heat generated and nuisance tripping that causes installation power disruption.

These currents usually result from insulation degradation, filters in electronic systems and moisture or dust creating unwanted conductive paths.

Modern appliances with EMI/EMC filters allow a small amount of current to flow to earth. If too many of these appliances are on a single circuit, the total value of leakage can breach safety limits, as well as cause nuisance tripping.

TIS offers the TIS 565 for accurate AC leakage measurement. However, equipment such as EV chargers and solar inverters can also produce DC leakage. Critically, DC current can saturate the core of standard RCDs, causing them not to trip in a fault condition. Currently, the only commercially available AC/DC leakage clamp meter is the TIS 570.

Find out more at www.testinstrument solutions.co.uk

TIS clamp meters provide accuracy and reassurance



Sync's the smarter way to store energy

SYNC Energy's Flow all-in-one battery kits provide a flexible, modular solution to build energy storage tailored to your needs.

With 90% depth of discharge (DOD), IP65 protection and integrated fire suppression, they ensure safe, reliable performance.

Stack up to seven 5.12 kWh LiFePO₄ modules, pair with any Sync Energy hybrid inverter and maximise your energy savings with Tariff Sense while still enjoying smarter solar use, with fast, plug-and-play installation. PV-ready solar systems can be added at any time.

Key features include one app that unites home energy, EV charging and solar divertors in one easy-to-use intelligent system for total control. Monitor, control and optimise your grid, solar and battery usage effortlessly. Utilise Tariff Sense to see real-time costs integrating with 30,000+ UK energy tariffs

for maximum savings and maximum energy efficiency. The modular battery system is a flexible, future-ready solution for homes and light commercial use. Each 5.12kWh unit can be stacked in multiple configurations, delivering up to 35.84kWh of storage.

The Flow system uses cutting edge LiFePO₄ lithium-ion phosphate batteries, offering superior safety, stability and lifespan. Unlike traditional lithium-ion cells, they resist overheating, combustion and degradation over time and are free from cobalt and heavy metals, ensuring Sync Energy is the environmentally responsible choice in energy storage.

The 10-year manufacturer's warranty is also guaranteed for over 6,000 cycles. Plus with more than 80 years in the electrical industry, the group offers peace of mind with long-term product support and UK-based technical support adding to the reassurance for installers.

To find out more, scan the QR code or visit sync.energy



METAL CLAD PRO BLENDS STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

Metal Clad Pro from Click Scolmore is a robust new range of premium wiring accessories, designed to combine modern style with long-lasting performance.

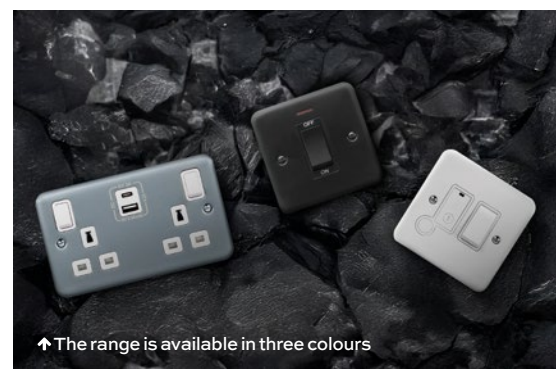
Featuring a contemporary curved profile with matching surface boxes, the range includes switches, socket outlets, modular plates, fused connection units, surface boxes and blank boxes in Metal Clad Grey, Polar White and Matt Black.

Built for demanding domestic, commercial and industrial installations,

Metal Clad Pro offers flexible configurations, ingot-style socket pins LED indicators, enhanced safety shutters and improved FCU features.

Electrophoretically coated plates and back boxes support durability, while a 20-year warranty and BS 1363 approval provide added reassurance.

For more information, download the full brochure or explore the new Metal Clad Pro range on the Scolmore Group website at www.scolmore.com or via the Scolmore Group app



The range is available in three colours



ZUMTOBEL WINS TOP ECO AWARD FOR SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS

The Zumtobel Group has been awarded an EcoVadis Platinum medal for the first time – the highest distinction from the independent sustainability rating platform.

Zumtobel has consistently been evaluated by EcoVadis across the entire group since 2016 and has progressed from Silver to Gold over the past ten years.

By achieving Platinum status, it now ranks among the top 1% of all companies assessed by EcoVadis. The continuous improvement in the overall score reflects the lighting group's sustainable development.

Zumtobel CEO Alfred Felder said: "The EcoVadis Platinum rating confirms Zumtobel's consistently pursued path; for us, sustainability is not a single project but an integral part of our business."

"This success is only possible thanks to the commitment of our teams and the continuous implementation of our sustainability strategy. It is an incentive to continue advancing our ambitions – in the interests of our customers and partners, our employees and the environment."

🔗 Find out more at www.thornlighting.co.uk/en-gb/sustainability

ORBIK SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON NEW EMERGENCY ILLUMINATION

Ovia, part of the Scolmore Group, has strengthened its OrbiK by Ovia emergency lighting portfolio with upgraded products designed to support innovation, performance and compliance.

A key addition is the Synex5 Five-in-One Exit Sign, offering ceiling and wall mounting as standard, with suspended, recessed and side-mounted options available through accessories.

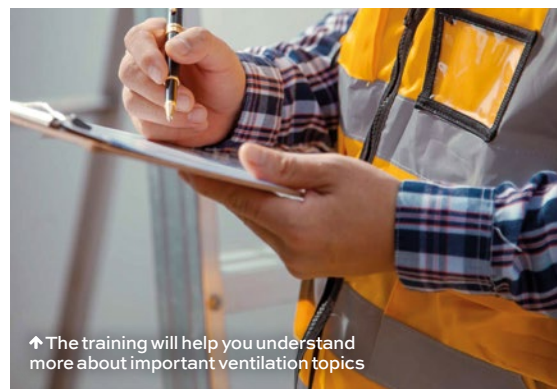
The wider OrbiK range includes exit signs, hanging signs, exit boxes, twin

spots, bulkheads, pin spots, control gear and accessories. Products feature enhanced self-test functionality, long-life LiFePO₄ battery technology, refined designs and a five-year warranty. Ovia also provides bespoke emergency lighting design schemes compliant with BS 5266.

🔗 For more information on the OrbiK emergency lighting range visit Ovia's website – www.oviauk.com – or download the Scolmore Group app



Update skills with National Ventilation CPD



ASSOCIATE Member National Ventilation is offering **SELECT** Members **FREE** one-hour CPD training on a range of ventilation topics.

Available in-house at your premises or office, these sessions include:

- **Building Regulations:** The need for compliance plus an insight into different ventilation systems, their applications and the key design considerations needed to ensure effective, efficient and regulation-compliant solutions.
- **Domestic legislation:** The critical role of ventilation in Building Regulations compliance, including an overview of Part F and Part L, a closer look at Part F in detail, ventilation systems and design considerations.
- **Domestic retrofit legislation:** How to tool up and stay ahead of evolving legislation, including compliance, energy efficiency measures, ventilation systems and system guidance.
- **Condensation and mould:** How ventilation can be a solution for residential properties, including positive input ventilation, decentralised continuous running fans and heat recovery retrofit solutions.
- **Part L and Part F:** An overview of the upcoming changes to the Building Regulations that are due to be introduced in 2027, including specific fan power (SFP) updates, installation and ducting design, static pressure and insulation requirements.

Successful delegates will receive a CPD certificate of attendance upon completion.

If you would like National Ventilation to deliver a free one-hour training session, please email Colin Hepplewhite on chepplewhite@nvagroup.co.uk or call him on 07979 497 860.

🔗 Further information about the courses can also be found at www.nationalventilation.co.uk/cpd-training

SCHNEIDER'S NEW SOLUTION FOR SAFETY

Schneider Electric has introduced a new three-phase residual current circuit breaker (RCBO) device with overcurrent protection, the latest addition to its Acti9 range.

The Acti9 iC60 H3 is designed to help commercial and industrial customers protect against overloads, earth faults and short circuits, allowing them to comply with BS 7671 wiring and low voltage solutions regulations.

With board space at a premium, the new RCBO requires only three modules compared with the previous seven, enabling a more efficient distribution layout.

It has been designed to be compatible with PowerTag energy sensors to deliver energy consumption monitoring. The data feeds into Schneider Electric's EcoStruxure Energy Hub systems, giving insights into energy usage on which can be used to maximise uptime and efficiency.

Other key benefits include Type A RCD technology for modern loads with electronic components, solid neutral and voltage-dependent technology and reduced wiring connections.

➔ Find out more at bit.ly/ct-se-rcbo

➔ The smaller size means only three modules are used



Keep your cool with Aico HomeLINK tech

THE recent heatwaves in Scotland highlight the growing challenge of overheating in UK homes.

With the Climate Change Committee estimating that 92% of existing homes could be at risk of overheating by 2050, social housing providers need greater visibility of conditions across their properties.

Overheating risk is influenced by factors including insulation, ventilation, solar gain, building design and resident vulnerability. A top-floor flat with south-facing windows, for example, may retain significantly more heat than other properties.

Measures such as shading, improved ventilation, reflective roof coatings and appropriate insulation can help, but landlords first need to understand where intervention is most urgent.

Aico's HomeLINK technology helps

housing providers identify and manage these risks. Environmental sensors continuously monitor temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide, with data displayed through the HomeLINK Portal.

This enables housing teams to identify properties experiencing high temperatures, assess patterns across their stock and prioritise action for vulnerable residents. Residents can also access live information and practical guidance through the HomeLINK app.

This insight will become increasingly important as Awaab's Law is extended in late 2026 to include excess heat where it presents a significant risk of harm.

By using property data to support proactive maintenance and targeted improvements, housing providers can prepare for changing requirements while creating healthier, safer homes.

➔ Find out more at www.aico.co.uk/homelink



↑ The technology makes it easier to monitor the indoor environment



SANGAMO THERMOSTAT PUTS YOU IN CONTROL

As installers prepare homes for winter, Sangamo is highlighting its three-channel programmable thermostat kit, designed to simplify zoned heating upgrades.

The Part L-compliant solution provides independent control of two heating zones and hot water, making it suitable for larger homes, refurbishments and extensions.

Supplied with two RF programmable room thermostats, flexible wall-mount or free-standing options and a clear back-lit receiver

display, the kit supports straightforward installation and reliable operation. Smart control via ClickSmart+ enables local or remote programming, helping homeowners improve comfort, reduce energy waste and manage heating more efficiently ahead of the colder months.

➔ The Sangamo range of heating controls and specialist time switches is distributed through Scolmore Group company ESP. Find out more at www.sangamo.co.uk and www.esbuk.com



↑ The devices are perfect for larger homes



↑ There's an ideal product for every project in the envirovent range

LEARN STRATEGIES, SKILLS AND STANDARDS

The experts at envirovent are offering **SELECT Members FREE** one-hour CPD training on ventilation strategies and best practice compliance.

Held at your premises or office, the CPD session will enable contractors to:

- Understand the health impacts of poor ventilation and the need for adequate ventilation
- Learn about the various ventilation strategies in the Building Standards Technical Handbook and their suitability
- Take on board the applications and responsibilities of the notifiable work for incumbent installers
- Be able to fully meet the needs of the consumer via the specification process, including long-term servicing requirements.

Presentations can be made using either the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) or Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) versions. After the session, attendees will receive a CPD certificate of attendance.

☞ If you are interested in holding a one-hour free training session at your premises, please contact Daniel Ferrie on dferrie@envirovent.com or call him on 07540 419 966.



↑ The free course covers best practice compliance

MVHR solutions are easy with envirovent

DELIVERING compliant, high-performance ventilation is essential in today's regulated building environment. Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) systems improve indoor air quality and support energy efficiency targets, and selecting the right solution for each project is key to achieving the best results.

Associate Member envirovent offers a comprehensive range of MVHR solutions, supported by specialist ventilation design services and industry-leading technical guidance.

From concept through to installation, its team works with electricians, developers, contractors and consultants to ensure projects meet building regulations and performance standards with confidence.

For properties up to three bedrooms and 130m², envirovent

has also introduced a new MVHR kit that provides a convenient one-stop solution for whole-house ventilation.

Designed for simplicity, the kit includes all required components, right down to fixings and sealant. Featuring 90mm Fast Track[®] ducting, it helps reduce installation time while supporting compliance and system efficiency.

Providing tailored designs, technical support and clear guidance on regulatory requirements, envirovent helps remove uncertainty and enabling professionals to deliver compliant, future-ready buildings.

With UK-manufactured MVHR systems designed for reliable performance, efficiency and air quality, it remains a trusted partner for ventilation specification, helping to streamline processes, reduce risk and achieve compliance without compromise.

☞ Explore envirovent MVHR solutions at bit.ly/ct-envirovent-mvhr



↓ Two finishes are available for easy identification

FIND THE PERFECT FIT WITH UNICRIMP'S RANGE

Unicrimp has expanded its bootlace ferrule range with the addition of 16mm and 35mm sizes, following feedback from installers and wholesalers. The new sizes complete the range, enabling customers to source a fuller selection from one trusted supplier.

Designed for safe, clean termination of multi-stranded cables, the ferrules help improve wire safety and installation efficiency. Available in Ivory French and Red French finishes, they align with industry conventions for clear identification and

are suitable for tri-rated cables.

The additions further strengthen Unicrimp's practical cable accessories offer.

☞ For more information, visit www.unicrimp.com or download the Scolmore Group app

Cut your costs with Energy Saving Trust

ARE you looking to reduce transport costs and prepare your business for an electric future? Energy Saving Trust offers a range of funding options to help Scottish businesses transition to cleaner, more sustainable transport solutions.

LOW EMISSION ZONE SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

Does your business operate within 40km of Scotland's Low Emission Zones (LEZs) in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen or Dundee? Sole traders and micro businesses with nine or fewer full-time employees can apply for a £2,000 grant when they dispose of a non-compliant vehicle through an authorised treatment facility. This funding can help your business adapt to LEZ requirements while avoiding future penalty charges.

BUSINESS CHARGE POINT FUNDING

Thinking about switching to electric vehicles (EVs)? Installing workplace charging can make the move easier and more affordable. The business charge point fund offers eligible microbusinesses and third sector organisations in rural and island areas of Scotland up to £5,000 towards the purchase and installation costs of EV charge points. This funding supports private charge points for staff and fleet vehicles, helping organisations lower running costs and switch to electric sooner.

HOW TO APPLY

Scan the QR code to check eligibility and apply. Both funds are limited and operate on a first-come, first-served basis.



↑ The right technology can boost your business

TCW digital tools give confidence in compliance

COMPLIANCE is not becoming more complicated – it is becoming more accountable. Across the housing and built environment sector, organisations are managing increasingly complex contractor networks while facing greater regulatory scrutiny and rising expectations around transparency.

Despite significant investment in compliance systems, many organisations still rely on fragmented contractor processes, manual certificate checks and disconnected reporting.

The challenge is often not a lack of data but a lack of confidence that contractor qualifications are current, documentation is complete and evidence will withstand scrutiny from regulators, auditors or residents.

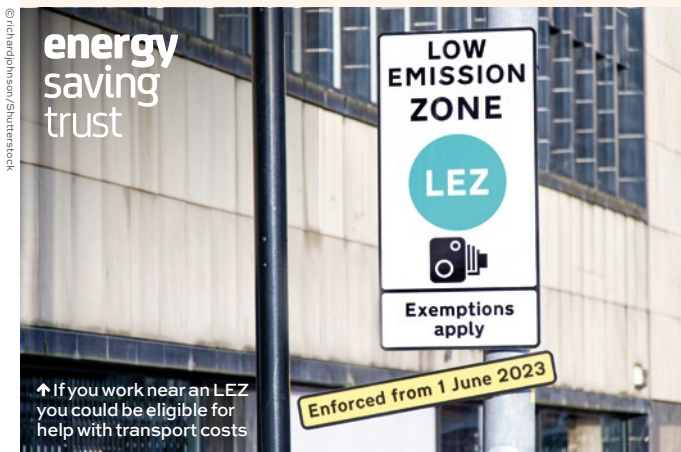
True digital transformation starts long before software. It begins by understanding how people, processes and data work together to create a connected, reliable view of compliance. Rather than replacing paperwork, the best digital solutions improve accountability, reduce duplication and provide confidence.

At TCW, digital transformation is viewed as a strategic process, not simply a technology project. By aligning people, processes and technology, TCW helps organisations create trusted supply chains, strengthen governance and deliver complete visibility across every contractor, every job and every certificate.

Automated compliance monitoring highlights missing documentation, approaching certificate expiries and outstanding actions, enabling organisations to identify risks before they become incidents.

TCW believes technology should support people and utilise their knowledge and experience, not replace them. By connecting contractor information, compliance evidence and asset data, organisations can move from reactive compliance towards proactive assurance, giving them greater confidence that compliance is current, evidence is complete and they remain in control, whatever challenges the future brings.

Find out more at www.tcwin.co.uk



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↑ If you work near an LEZ you could be eligible for help with transport costs

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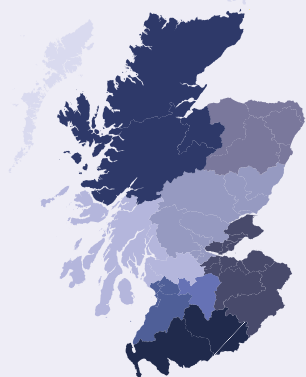
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Branch UPDATE

Sponsored by **EUROPA**

Tue 6 October – Dumfries
& Galloway Branch, Dumfries
and Galloway College

Thu 8 October – Lanarkshire
Branch, New College Lanarkshire,
Motherwell Campus

Tue 13 October – Ayrshire Branch,
Ayrshire College,
Ayr Campus

Thu 15 October – Aberdeen
& North East of Scotland Branch,
Tulloch Training, Aberdeen

Tue 20 October – Tayside Branch,
Dundee and Angus College,
Gardyne Campus

Thu 22 October – Edinburgh &
South East of Scotland Branch, The
Walled Garden

Wed 28 October – Inverness
& North of Scotland Branch,
Inverness College

Thu 29 October – Glasgow
& West of Scotland Branch, Glasgow
Clyde College, Cardonald Campus

CENTRAL BOARD

Wed 2 September –
The Walled Garden, Edinburgh

Thu 3 December – The Balmoral,
Edinburgh. Includes Past Presidents'
Christmas Lunch.

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



PROFESSIONALS' DAY 2026

Sponsored by **aico**
Thu 10 September
– Restoration Yard,
Dalkeith, Midlothian



SELECT PRESIDENT'S LUNCH

Sponsored by **LUCECO**
Fri 25 September – The
Balmoral, Edinburgh



PAST PRESIDENTS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thu 3 December –
The Balmoral, Edinburgh

SHOWING NOW ON SELECT TV

Get expert advice and
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huge range of videos
available for Members
on SELECT TV

01 HOME OFFICES & HOT TUBS

In 2021, Bob Cairney led
a special online Toolbox
Talk on the rise of hot
tubs and home offices
during lockdown.

➔ Watch now
at bit.ly/TTalk-3

02 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

£200 OF **Megger** TEST EQUIPMENT

Harlan Coben wordsearch

You could win a top-of-the-range Megger voltage tester and proving unit worth more than £200 with our prize wordsearch about Harlan Coben novels.

W	D	T	U	G	K	L	P	K	C	S	V	D	X	M	L	O	P	Y	G	T	F	D	E
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K	R	D	F	A	D	E	A	W	A	Y	A	D	A	R	K	E	S	T	F	E	A	R	A
L	V	F	O	H	A	H	O	D	L	C	D	F	W	G	P	X	Q	H	C	U	N	P	Z
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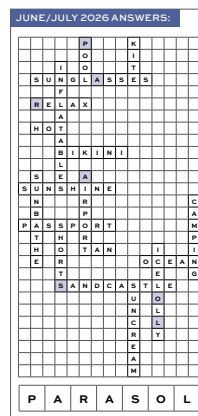
BACK SPIN
CAUGHT
DARKEST FEAR
DON'T LET GO
DROP SHOT
FADE AWAY
FOOL ME ONCE

FOUND
HOME
I WILL FIND YOU
JUST ONE LOOK
LIVE WIRE
LONG LOST
MISSING YOU

PLAY DEAD
PROMISE ME
RUN AWAY
SHELTER
SIX YEARS
STAY CLOSE
TELL NO ONE

THE INNOCENT
THE MATCH
THE STRANGER
THINK TWICE
WIN

Fit all the words listed into the grid and the shaded squares will spell out an extra word – email it to **memberservices@select.org.uk** by 11 September. The winner will be drawn at random. Ts&Cs are online. Congratulations to June/July winner **Craig Kirkwood** from **Active Energy Solutions Ltd.**



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03 BIDDING STRATEGIES

In this useful film, we offer exclusive guidance and practical advice on bidding strategies.

Watch now at bit.ly/STV-matbid

04 DESIGN LIABILITY

What is 'design'? When am I responsible for it? And what should I avoid? Our guide will help you navigate design.

Watch now at bit.ly/STV-design

05 CABLE SIZING

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

Watch now at bit.ly/STV-cable

06 EICR CODING

Three-part tutorial on Electrical Inspection Condition Reports (EICRs) and classification codes in line with BS 7671:2018.

Watch now at bit.ly/STV-EICR1, bit.ly/STV-EICR2 and bit.ly/STV-EICR3



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