



From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State

28 APR 2011

Department for  
**Transport**

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Cllr Peter Box  
Chair, Economy & Transport  
Programme Board  
Local Government Association  
Local Government House  
Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HZ

5 April 2011

Dear Peter

### **STREET WORKS - NATIONAL UNDERGROUND ASSETS GROUP**

I am writing to draw your attention to the work being led by the National Underground Assets Group (NUAG) to promote better access to records of pipes, wires and other apparatus buried in the street. This should reduce the costs, safety risks and extended disruption to traffic that result where those working in the street encounter unexpected apparatus underground. The aims of this project are therefore in the common interests of utility companies and local government, and I would encourage LGA members to look carefully at how NUAG's work could benefit them.

When utility companies or local highway authorities are planning to carry out works in the highway, they will wish to consult existing records of apparatus in the street. This typically involves a two-stage process: identifying which organisations might hold apparatus in the street in question, and then approaching each organisation individually for copies of their relevant records. The NUAG work will provide a single web-based portal, enabling those carrying out works to identify relevant asset owners and obtain information from them much more easily than they can at present. It may therefore offer significant cost savings for utility and highway authority works alike.

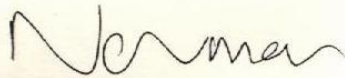
NUAG have recently announced a trial of this new approach within the M25 area, beginning in April 2011. Local authorities and utilities elsewhere in the

country should have the opportunity to participate within a few months of the start of the trial.

I have publicly indicated my support for the aims of the NUAG trial, and I hope you will feel able to join me in doing so. I am also writing to the utility sector to urge them to look seriously at how NUAG's work can help to further our shared objectives.

If you or LGA members require it, further information and contact details are available on the NUAG website – [www.nuag.co.uk](http://www.nuag.co.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman', written in a cursive style.

**NORMAN BAKER**