

Statement of Support, UK Power Networks

The Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA) is the UK's largest trade association representing electrical, electro-technical and other engineering contractors in England, Wales and Northern Ireland at regional, national and European level. UK Power Networks (UKPN) has been a member of the ECA since September 1991.

UKPN have endeavoured to engage with all stakeholders through a variety of forums, established at regional level, within their South East, London and East region networks. These forums have been created to inform, educate, communicate and provide feedback from stakeholders, thus ensuring two-way communication that has been extremely useful to ECA members.

Prior to the establishment of the forums there was inadequate communication and much confusion regarding the role and responsibilities of either party. Since the forums have been running we now have a dedicated point of contact and far better communication between us. Our members now understand the relationship with UKPN and we are keen to further explore how we might work together. In addition to the forums, UKPN have presented at ECA conferences and regional meetings, provided dedicated information to ECA members regarding specific industry topics, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and hosted events at their high voltage training centre in Kent.

We are of the opinion that UKPN have made huge strides to engage with their stakeholders and have invested heavily to ensure that they have the widest coverage possible. Our relationship with UKPN is very strong and continues to grow and progress with the development of new technologies.

The expansion of new technology within the electro-technical industry is driving change at a rapid pace, with solar PV, EV charging, battery storage and infrastructure improvement at the heart of what UKPN is developing for the future. We do not believe that the penalty reflects the views of the majority of UKPN stakeholders and certainly not that of the ECA.