

Street Manager

NEWSLETTER



Street Manager is a digital service by the DfT that is transforming the planning, management and communication of street and road works. Using open data and intelligent services, its aim is to minimise disruption – and improve journeys for the public.

Street Manager Newsletter 50 – 02/05/2024

Contents:

1. Intro
2. Private Streets
3. Inspection Units Update
4. Notes on Inspections
5. Webinars
6. Governance Group



1. Intro

Hello all, it was delightful for the DfT Street Manager Team to see some of you in person at the HAUC Event a couple weeks ago. We thought the event was a great success, thanks to all who organised.

Seeing as we enjoyed getting out there and meeting people so much, we thought we'd put on a few events of our own. Can't promise anything on the level of that Salted Caramel dessert, in fact we can't even promise dessert at all, but we'll be updating you on things like the present and future of Street Manager, Training and Accreditation, Lane Rental, the NSG*, NUAR and Digital Traffic Orders and much else.

We'll send invites out via regional HAUC Chairs in the first instance, so watch your inboxes but here are the dates we have so far.

Stevenage Council Training Rooms – 30 May

United Utilities (Warrington) - 7 June

TfL London office - 14 June

Lining up diaries with room availability is a tricky beast, so this exercise will continue after the summer holiday season. If you don't see your region here, do feel free to get in touch. Saying that we are in convos with National Highways (Birmingham) and Durham CC for those regions, so that covers half of them. We will get to every region guys, so no need to go booking a ticket to Stevenage if you're in the North East or anything like that. We will be sending out a link with further details and how to register your attendance to an event shortly.

*With a little help from GeoPlace

2. Private Streets

The next release of Street Manager is a big one for us, Private Streets will be launching in the User Interface. This means you'll no longer be able to send permits to private streets via Street Manager itself, but API users will still be able to until we deprecate V4 of the API sometime early in 2025. The eagle-eyed users who noticed they had a private streets tab will start to see this tab be populated. Who will send the first ever Private Street notice? How exciting. The DfT is offering a shiny new bicycle to the person who sends it, fastest finger first!* Just remember, notices and permits are equally valid on these streets for the next few months guys.

Look out for the video, which may “drop” as soon as next week.

*Not actually true.

3. Inspections Units - Update

Inspection Units - Updated version of Newsletter 49 text, New wording in italics.

Please note that promoters continue on from where they ended Q4. A promoter on 20% does not reset to 20% at the start of a new financial year. Equally one on 60% does not revert to 50% or indeed 30%. Note also that from Monday 29th May 2024 the bug in the User Interface around forcing HAs to enter an initial start date of 30% or 50% has been fixed.

The first thing to explain is how Inspection Units will work in Street Manager from April. Street Manager will generate the figure for 2023/24, based on the new duration-based method of calculation. This number cannot be edited. For 2021/22 and 2022/23, the HA will need to enter the figures themselves into Street Manager. Note, these years are prior to the duration-based method and will need to be calculated on the previous method.

Hopefully these figures have long been agreed between the HA and promoter, but if not, it is advised authorities ensure between now and March end, they agree these figures with the utilities concerned and ensure that the agreed figures are entered into Street Manager prior to starting the next quarter. In any event it would also make sense to confirm with the utilities concerned the figures that you are entering into SM to avoid any misunderstandings and confusion.

Lastly, it's worth saying HAs should go with previously agreed figures, not re-running reports and producing slightly different figures for previous financial years.

4. Notes on Inspections

The keenest among you may have spotted a recent change in Street Manager. Now if you withdraw a sample inspection within the quarter where it was carried out, Street Manager will generate a new inspection. This is progress, but still not perfect. The HA needs to do another inspection, and that will generally be extra work for them (unless they inspected the wrong promoter on the withdrawn sample) and it is another opportunity for the promoter to fail an inspection when rightly the correct original outcome of the inspection that got withdrawn would often be a pass.

The ideal solution is to add the ability to edit an inspection and that is something the Street Manager team needs to have another look into. We originally did withdraw rather than edit, as editing was a much bigger piece of work. In the meantime, it's probably a good idea for everyone to be pragmatic.

If an inspection gets withdrawn because it was incorrectly failed and that is only agreed in the next quarter, it seems reasonable to still pay for that inspection, the work was still done. Equally, an incorrect failure could potentially push someone up 5% in the next quarter and if that comes to light then the HA should aim to carry out and charge for the appropriate number of inspections.

5. Webinars

It was two for one on webinars at DfT this week!

For the Street Manager community, on Tuesday 30th April 2024, we had a webinar focused on changing to a new version of the API for Street Manager users. For those who are using the API integration with Street Manager and could not attend, the recording is available to watch at:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTk2MzliMTQtNjEzOS00YmViLTljNzktZjY1Mjk2NGE5NmM5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%2228b782fb-41e1-48ea-bfc3-ad7558ce7136%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22c940499d-0258-4d32-8fe8-8703ffea0597%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btype=a&role=a

Those who have an interest in TROs, the DfT hosted a webinar on the work we have been doing on the digitalisation of TROs and how this will be moving forward. It was on Wednesday 1st May 2024 and the recording is available to watch at:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTVmNjFLYzktNjQ4NS00YzcyLTk2NDItMDJkYzJiMjk1YWYw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%2228b782fb-41e1-48ea-bfc3-ad7558ce7136%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22c940499d-0258-4d32-8fe8-8703ffea0597%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btype=a&role=a

6. Governance Group

We would like to firstly thank all those who voted for their favourite candidates to be in the Street Manager Governance Group this year (April 2024 – March 2025). I would like to introduce you to your Street Manager Governance Group for this year:

Local highway authority members:

Sarah Widdows – Cambridgeshire County Council (standing member)
John Turner – Dorset Council
Kevin Ferguson – Durham Council
Jane James – Shropshire Council
Emma Crutchley – Staffordshire Council

Utility members:

Samantha Brothwell – National Gas Electricity Distribution (standing member)
Hannah Cook – Anglian Water
Luke Meaton – Open Reach
Richard Boissieux – UK Power Network
James Kenney – Cadent Gas

Utility Contractor member:

Tom Lambert – Morrisons Water

Highway Authority Promoter member:

Emma Oakley - FM Conway

The monthly meeting is also attended by DfT officials, subject matter experts and a National Highways and Network Rail representative. This group will be deciding what is being built in Street Manager and we will continue to develop and improve Street Manager in line with user need.