

8 December 2022

Ms Katy Thorne KC
Coroner's Office
Reading Borough Council
Reading Town Hall
Blagrove Street
Reading
RG1 1QH

Dear Ms Thorne,

This letter is the response from Energy Networks Association ('ENA') to your Regulation 28: *Report to prevent future deaths*, dated 4th November 2022.

We would like to begin by sharing that we are deeply saddened by the tragic death of Levi Louis Alleyne and want to express our deepest sympathies and extend our condolences to his family and friends.

ENA was not represented (and did not participate) in the inquest which you held in this case, but we are happy to try to address the concerns you have identified.

ENA represents the companies which operate the electricity wires, gas pipes and energy system in the UK and Ireland. We help our members meet the challenge of delivering electricity and gas to communities across the UK and Ireland safely, sustainably, and reliably. Our members' duties are enshrined in many legislative provisions and in regulatory licence conditions issued by Ofgem, the industry regulator.

Our members include every major electricity and gas distribution network operator in England and Wales including some independent network operators and National Grid Electricity Transmission. For the purpose of this response, we are focussing on the electricity Distribution Network Operators (DNO) and Transmission Network Operators (TNO) in England and Wales.

ENA has considered your concerns as expressed within your report and we wish to share with you the actions ENA and its members are implementing with an aim to prevent similar future events from occurring.

As a result of the immediate actions undertaken by SSEN and South-Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) as documented within your report, on 8th November 2022 ENA met with all DNO and TNO member companies.

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ENA has asked each DNO and TNO to check and confirm that suitable and effective arrangements are in place to regularly communicate on an annual basis, their overall network boundaries at a regional level or equivalent with their local emergency services.

This will help maintain awareness of the appropriate DNO and TNO to be contacted in the event of an emergency involving overhead powerlines (OHPLs).

I can confirm that this review will be completed as soon as reasonably practicable and, in any event, no later than 31st January 2023. I will write to you again to confirm when this has been done.

ENA continues to promote awareness of the dangers associated with electricity networks with third parties and members of the public through its Public Safety Committee ('PSC') which includes the Health and Safety Executive ('HSE'). This includes promoting:

- best practice guidance such as ENA's '[Look Out, Look Up](#)' campaign material.
- HSE's Guidance Note GS6 *Avoiding danger from overhead power lines* and the need for third parties to undertake a risk assessment when working in the vicinity of OHPLs.
- the industry's [105](#) number (for reporting or gaining information relating to power cuts and to report safety concerns with electricity network assets) as another route for third parties to report safety incidents and receive advice.
 - o It is relevant to note that 105 is a simple number to remember which enables anybody, based on phone number matching with location of telecommunication masts, to automatically be put through to the local network operator (DNO) who can give relevant help and support. However, it does not and should not replace 999 as the primary route for reporting emergencies in which there is an immediate risk to life.

ENA has great respect for the work of the HSE and our relationship is a constructive one borne from shared goals. We will open dialogue with the HSE to see whether we can support them to further enhance contractor/site manager awareness through the HSE's guidance publications to industry and increase industry awareness of the emergency 105 number.

Referencing the concerns set out in your report, ENA will also review and update accordingly its safety leaflet entitled - *Safety advice for the Emergency Services*. Again, this will be completed by 31st January 2023 at the latest and I will write to let you know when it has been done.

Finally, we will also undertake an assessment of any changes or improvements that can be made to how we communicate with the public to promote the awareness of the dangers associated with electricity assets in the public domain.

We hope that you find this response provides a level of reassurance that ENA and its members have considered your concerns and we intend to take proactive steps to address the concerns you have identified in your Regulation 28 Report.

Yours sincerely




Chief Executive