



Annual Report

First for electrical safety information

Electrical Safety First is the UK charity dedicated to reducing deaths and injuries caused by electrical accidents. Our aim is to ensure everyone in the UK can use electricity safely.

We campaign on behalf of consumers and electrical trade professionals to improve safety regulation and make sure that safety messages are appropriate, up to date and well communicated.

We provide expert information and advice to help people protect themselves from faulty, damaged, sub-standard and poorly maintained electrical installations and electrical appliances.

We are recognised by government and industry as the leading campaigning charity and technical authority on electrical safety.

Electrical Safety First

Chairman's Introduction



My second year as Chairman of Electrical Safety First has seen our new brand go from strength to strength. As well as reaching a wider consumer audience through our increased campaigning activity, we have also worked in partnership with organisations like Shelter and the International Longevity Centre to produce research reports to support our campaigns, offering robust evidence and an insight into consumer opinion and attitudes.

As we begin to emerge from one of the worst recessions that we have experienced in many years, we have developed a new five year strategy that will take us to 2020, one that not only focuses on the campaigning aims of the Charity but also looks to engage new partners to invest in our future work. This inward investment will not only help to create a sustainable environment in which the Charity can operate, it will also give us the opportunity to invest back into the electrical industry.

As a part of the strategic development of the Charity, we took the decision to sell NQA, the global certification body, to NTS, previously its joint venture partner in the USA. The sale

of the business will allow us to invest in and enhance our charitable objectives as well as securing the long-term future of NQA itself.

This year we have also strengthened our partnership work with Certsure – working together to raise consumer awareness of Part P and the need to use a registered electrician. Last summer a new website was launched, electricalcompetentperson.co.uk, which carries details of all electricians registered with government-approved schemes in England and Wales.

I would like to thank the Director General of Electrical Safety First and all of the Charity's staff for their hard

work and support during the two years that I have served as Chairman. My thanks also goes to the Chief Executive Officer at Certsure and her team, whose support enables the Charity to continue to keep consumers safe from the dangers of electricity. Finally I would like to welcome incoming Chair, Diane Johnson, and wish her every success.

Bryn Walker

[The website, electricalcompetentperson.co.uk has made it easier than ever for consumers to find a registered electrician they can trust]

Director General's Introduction



2014-2015 has been a year of successes for Electrical Safety First. Operating under our new brand, the Charity has been in a better position to target consumers on a diverse range of safety issues including the private rented sector (PRS), Part P, and product safety. Indeed, one of our campaigns, 'Beauty Burns', which focused on hair straightener safety, received an industry award for its innovation and hard-hitting messaging.

Yet success this year has extended beyond our campaigning activity. The Charity has done some fantastic work with political and other key stakeholders to promote the electrical safety agenda. This work culminated in the introduction of mandatory, five-yearly electrical checks in Scotland as part of the Scottish Housing Bill.

Electrical Safety First's new brand was not the only change this year. 2014-15 also saw a shift in the political landscape in which the Charity operates. During 2014, the electorate spoke with a clear voice about the UK's relationship with the EU at the European Elections. Yet whilst the relationship with Europe is clearly of concern for some, we believe that the EU is a vital mechanism that helps to ensure the safety of UK consumers.

And following the General Election in May 2015, Electrical Safety First remains resolute in its commitment to working with the new Government in order to help keep people safe from the dangers that electricity can pose.

This commitment is best demonstrated by recent success in Scotland, where our efforts helped to secure the introduction of mandatory, five-yearly electrical checks. This is an enormous achievement for

the Charity and will go a long way towards keeping those living in rented accommodation safe from electrical dangers. However, there is more work to be done. We hope to use our success in Scotland as a springboard to press the Government at Westminster to introduce these mandatory electrical checks for private rented accommodation in England and for the Devolved Assembly to take the same positive step for Wales.

of previous years to make some real headway. Our Product Safety Conference, focusing on recalls and traceability, was held in November and attracted a host of distinguished speakers, including leading manufacturers, retailers, trade bodies, enforcement agencies and non-governmental organisations. Once again, the event was a great success, confirming its status as a key annual event in the industry calendar.

The 'Register My Appliance' website gives consumers a single place to register electrical products.

Our continued dedication to improving standards in the PRS was demonstrated by a report we produced on the subject in partnership with Shelter and British Gas. Entitled *Home Improvement: Tackling Poor Electrical Safety in the Private Rented Sector*, it was launched at an event in the House of Lords which was attended by MPs, Peers and key stakeholders. It was a tremendous occasion and helped to put the issue of electrical safety in the PRS firmly on the political agenda in Westminster.

Electrical Safety First is also committed to improving the electrical product recall process, an area where we have built on the successes

The year also saw the launch of AMDEA's 'Register My Appliance' website, where consumers can register their domestic appliances so that manufacturers can contact them in the event of a recall. Given our long-standing commitment to improving the product recall system, Electrical Safety First was delighted to see manufacturers heed our call for them to offer consumers a place to leave their details as a simple safety precaution, without concerns that these details would be used for marketing purposes. There is still much work to be done in order to improve the recall system, but this is certainly a step in the right direction.

Such industry collaboration has also been evident in our efforts to promote the use of registered electricians. Electrical Safety First has been working closely with all the government-approved scheme providers to promote the Registered Competent Person Electrical website, a database containing the details of all registered electricians in England and Wales.

This kind of collaboration amongst scheme providers is exactly what the industry needs, and I am delighted that they are working together for the benefit of consumers and the industry as a whole.

People are now living longer, and caring for the growing number of older people in our society is an issue of vital importance. In January 2015, the Charity added its expertise to this issue by commissioning a report called *A Shock to the System: Electrical Safety in an Aging Society*. The report highlighted that older people are often disproportionately at risk from electrical hazards and also set out recommendations for how these risks might be addressed. The findings were well received by stakeholders and the public, and it demonstrates Electrical Safety First's ability to adapt to new challenges as well as tackling those which are more established.

But no matter what the issue, our work is ultimately about keeping people safe. We will always remain committed to that cause, and as a result are constantly seeking new ways to help protect consumers. This is demonstrated in our decision to take over the secretariat of EuroSafe in 2015. EuroSafe is the European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety; a non-governmental organisation that represents companies and individuals across Europe who are working to prevent injury and promote safety.

I would like to end by thanking all of the staff at Certsure LLP and Electrical Safety First, whose contribution has made this year's success possible. Special thanks must also go to our Trustees, whose leadership and trust has once again helped the Charity to enjoy another successful year. Their guidance, coupled with the hard work of all the staff, will ensure that the Charity continues to go from strength to strength, helping keep people safe in the process.

Phil Buckle

Our campaign highlighted the fact that 1.2 million private renters are at risk from electrical hazards each year.

Raising Consumer Awareness

Our Campaigns

During the year our media and digital campaigns have encouraged safer behaviour in the home, in the garden and when undertaking electrical DIY. We have also addressed product safety, focusing on portable heaters for November's Electrical Fire Safety Week, as well as looking at substandard chargers and e-cigarettes.

Highlights

In June we launched a joint report with Shelter, examining electrical safety standards in the **private rented sector**. Jane Andain, whose daughter Thirza Whittall was tragically electrocuted in her rented home, spoke at the report's launch at the House of Lords, and shared her story in a short video.

www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/renting

As **students** returned to their universities and colleges in September, we launched a digital campaign to raise awareness of the electrical risks in rented accommodation – with simple advice for young people who are probably living away from home for the first time. We also ran an article on the 'Student Beans' website, which was viewed by nearly 16,000 people.

In October we warned consumers, "Don't Die for DIY" – our research highlighted a worrying reliance on online "how to" videos, with 44% of UK adults saying they would consider using them for **electrical DIY** advice. We urged people to use registered electricians through a media campaign that was supported by five spoof videos that showed exactly why you shouldn't trust everything you find on the internet.

www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/DIY

Improving the **product recall** process and consumer response rates continues to be a priority and in November we published a report that analysed consumer reactions to product recalls, and warned that although four million electrical appliances have been recalled by manufacturers in the past four years, the majority may still be in people's homes. We talked about the story on **Good Morning Britain** and immediately afterwards, our website received 6,000 visits to our online product checker.

www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/recall

As Christmas shopping fever took hold in December, we found that in the last year there has been a 15% increase in the use of social media to sell **counterfeit** electrical products. The story was supported by the second of our **Charley Says** videos, featuring David Walliams as the voice of the cat and little boy. The video has received over 200,000 views on YouTube.

www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/counterfeits

Promoting Registered Electricians

During the year we have promoted a new **single register of electricians** registered with government approved schemes, which enables householders to find an electrician they can trust, local to them. Our 'Little Cowboy' video took a humorous approach to ask the question "You wouldn't let a child fix your electrics, so why use an unregistered electrician?" and has had over 130,000 thousand views on YouTube.

www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/findanelectrician

The register can be found at www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk

As our 'Don't Die for DIY' campaign was so successful in England and Wales, we also promoted the videos in Scotland, directing people to the Scottish Government's register of electricians. Running from January to March, the videos had 12,000 views.

The Scottish register can be found at www.certificationregister.co.uk

In March we asked people to play our **Unbeatable Game** – which took them through some "simple" electrical DIY tasks. When the time ran out, the player was asked to sign a certificate to prove that they were qualified to carry out the work. Signing the certificate would prove to be impossible, as all of the tasks were notifiable under Part P of the Building Regulations and should be left to a qualified person, such as a registered electrician. People were then guided to our website for more information. Over 40,000 people have played the game so far with nearly half choosing to find out more about Part P.

www.diychallenge.co.uk

Public Affairs Progress and Successes

Westminster

This year, we continued to work with the **Communities and Local Government Select Committee**. As part of the Committee's report on '*Building Regulations certification of domestic electrical work*' we wrote to Clive Betts MP, Chair of the Committee, in order to update him and Committee members on increased awareness of Part P. The Committee had asked for consumer awareness of Part P to double within two years to 28%. We were able to report that current polling shows awareness at 20%. We were also asked by the committee to undertake a mystery shopping exercise on the accessibility of electrical products in hardware stores. This piece of work was commissioned by the Committee in order for them to understand the retailers' responsibilities and enforcement of Part P obligations. We submitted our report prior to the dissolution of Parliament in March 2015.

We have used **Parliamentary mechanisms** to increase awareness of the Charity's key policy issues. Jim Fitzpatrick MP tabled several Parliamentary Questions on our behalf on various issues concerning electrical safety. He also sponsored an Early Day Motion in

Parliament on counterfeit electrical goods, which was supported by 46 MPs.

We commissioned the **International Longevity Centre** to carry out some research on an ageing society and electrical safety and launched our report 'A shock to the system' at the House of Lords with Baroness Greengross (Crossbench) hosting the event. We received positive feedback from Peers who were in attendance and a willingness to work with us in Parliament on this prior to the General Election.

Welsh Assembly

The Welsh Government published its Renting Homes Bill in February 2015. Following consistent lobbying from us, the Welsh Government has decided to seriously consider five-yearly electrical checks in Wales. Significant support has been received for this from a cross party coalition of supporters, the voluntary sector and other stakeholders in Wales.

Scottish Parliament

Our campaign for improved safety in the Private Rented Sector (PRS) claimed its first major success. We convinced the Scottish Government to introduce mandatory five-yearly electrical checks, by a registered

[From December 2015, five-yearly electrical checks in privately rented homes in Scotland will be mandatory]

electrician, of the wiring and any electrical appliances supplied in privately rented homes. We helped the Scottish Government develop its official guidance for the new regulations and received funding to promote the new law through online campaigns and landlords' events. We were also asked to join a government-led working group to discuss proposals for a new cross-tenure house condition standard in Scotland.

Throughout the year we also stepped up our product safety work in Scotland. We hosted several events to engage stakeholders, and have seen growing support around our calls for improvements to tackle counterfeit electrical goods and the product recall system. We gained greater awareness for these issues in the Scottish Parliament through parliamentary questions and a successful motion which was supported by over 20 per cent of elected members.

Northern Irish Assembly

In our first year of work in Northern Ireland, we welcomed the launch of the Department for Social Development's review of the PRS which aims to improve regulation and raise standards. Our initial engagement has aimed

to gain support from key stakeholders in order to influence decision-makers' thinking around the need for mandatory five-yearly electrical safety testing throughout Northern Ireland's PRS. We have already received endorsements from the Housing Rights Service, RoSPA, Gable Shelter and RICS. In addition, we discussed our concerns with the Northern Irish government and civil servants and have been asked to take part in the stakeholder consultation process for the review.

Consumer Rights Bill

With government legislation passing through the House of Lords, Lord Toby Harris and Baroness Hayter took forward our amendment to the Bill to improve product safety and traceability of electrical products. This intervention provided a key opportunity for the Charity, and the Coalition Government came forward with an important review into the system of traceability and product recall led by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. We are making a full contribution to the review and look forward to the outcomes in late 2015.

[Consumer awareness of Part P has risen to 20%]

Raising Awareness - Working with Electrical Professionals

Electrical Safety First works with the industry and key stakeholders – including local and national governments - to improve best practice and consumer safety.

We engage with a host of specialist media to achieve news and feature coverage.

We have a regular presence across print and online trade press and titles representing the supply chain, from *Professional Electrician* to *Independent Electrical Retailer*.

We also underpin our public affairs activity through media coverage. A range of feature articles and opinion pieces on our call for electrical checks in the private rented sector (PRS) have been included in print and online publications such as *PRS Update*, *Landlord Focus* and *Landlord and Buy to Let*. Articles have also appeared in *Politics Home*, *Digital Politics*, *Scottish Housing News*, *Huffington Post* and the Local Government Association's *First* magazine. Interviews and comments on product safety and electrical safety for older adults have also appeared in *Age Action Alliance*, *Age UK* and the *Co-Op* magazine.

By raising our profile via selected communication channels, we have established our thought leadership credentials and ensured we are regarded as the leading voice for consumer safety on electrical issues.

Supporting Vulnerable People

Through our Home Improvement Grants Scheme, we awarded £60,000 in funding to Home Improvement and Care & Repair agencies that will be used to provide individual grants of up to £500, to be used for minor electrical works essential for electrical safety in the homes of older adults.

Improving Installation Safety Standards

We have published a new Best Practice Guide, 'Safe installation of retrofit LED lamps'. It highlights the potential dangers and risks associated with installing LED lamps as direct replacements for tungsten filament or compact fluorescent lamps, and converting fluorescent fittings to work with LED lamps.

We chaired the JPEL/64 project team and played a major role, working collaboratively with the London Fire Brigade and BEAMA, to develop a new regulation which will effectively require fuseboxes (consumer units) to be made of non-combustible material, such as metal, from 2016.

Improving Product Safety

Influencing standards

In September we convened and chaired a BSI working group tasked with developing a UK proposal to amend the product standard for hair straighteners and curling tongs, to help reduce the number of burn-related injuries, particularly to children.

Consumer Products Safety Regulations

Throughout the year, we lobbied on the Consumer Product Safety and Market Surveillance Regulation package. In May 2014 the European Parliament adopted a proposal that included our amendments on vulnerable consumers and product recall capabilities, but did not include proposals to extend traceability to the consumer. As member states could not reach agreement on the proposal that manufacturers should be required to mark all appliances with country of origin, a technical study has been commissioned to assess the potential impact on manufacturers and distributors. While this is undertaken, we have sought to increase our engagement with EU politicians to ensure that the issue does not affect what could be an essential way of protecting the public.

Safer products

As a result of a growing number of fires caused by the charging of **e-cigarettes**, we commissioned an investigation into the causes. Guidance for consumers was published on the Electrical Safety First website, including a warning that over-tightening of the screwed

connection to the rechargeable battery can cause mechanical damage which, in turn can create heat problems, product failure or injury. There has been extensive media interest in e-cigarettes this year due to the number of fires and accidents. Our own work has led to over 300 national and regional print stories.

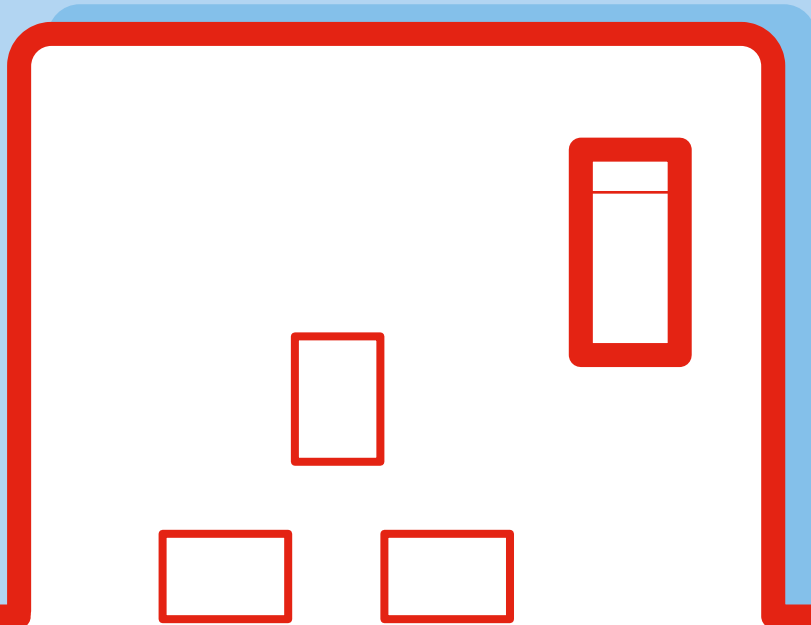
In June we tested the safety of **LED lamps**. Our investigation looked at samples purchased online and identified fake markings and raised serious safety concerns, with several samples presenting serious electric shock risk. The findings were shared with the LVD Administration Co-operation (LVD ADCO) Working Group to support an EU-wide investigation into the issue.

We developed plug gauges, initially to support Trading Standards Officers and help them when assessing the safety of plugs. However, due to their success they have been rolled out to buyers and retailers and will also be sent to every Fire and Rescue Service in the UK.

Events

In November we held our annual conference, **Product Safety First – Time for Change**, chaired by Declan Curry. This year's theme was the changing shape of product safety legislation, recall effectiveness, effective communications in recalls and the challenges and solutions for tracking and traceability. We were joined at the event by 150 senior representatives from organisations across the supply chain, including manufacturers, retailers, trading standards, fire and rescue, test laboratories, regulation and enforcement, and consumer safety organisations.

To follow up, we held a seminar in March, **Do you have an effective recall process?**, which focussed on risk assessment methods and included a mock recall scenario.



Certsure LLP

Certsure LLP, which operates the NICEIC and ELECSA brands, continued to support Electrical Safety First by providing funding for our charitable objectives.

Over the last year, the number of registrants on NICEIC's Approved Contractor roll continued to increase and energy and environment schemes also grew as more and more firms looked to diversify their business. Additional services included online certification, ELECSA insurance, an improved focus on customer services and greater access to training and the online direct store.

Registered Competent Person Electrical Website

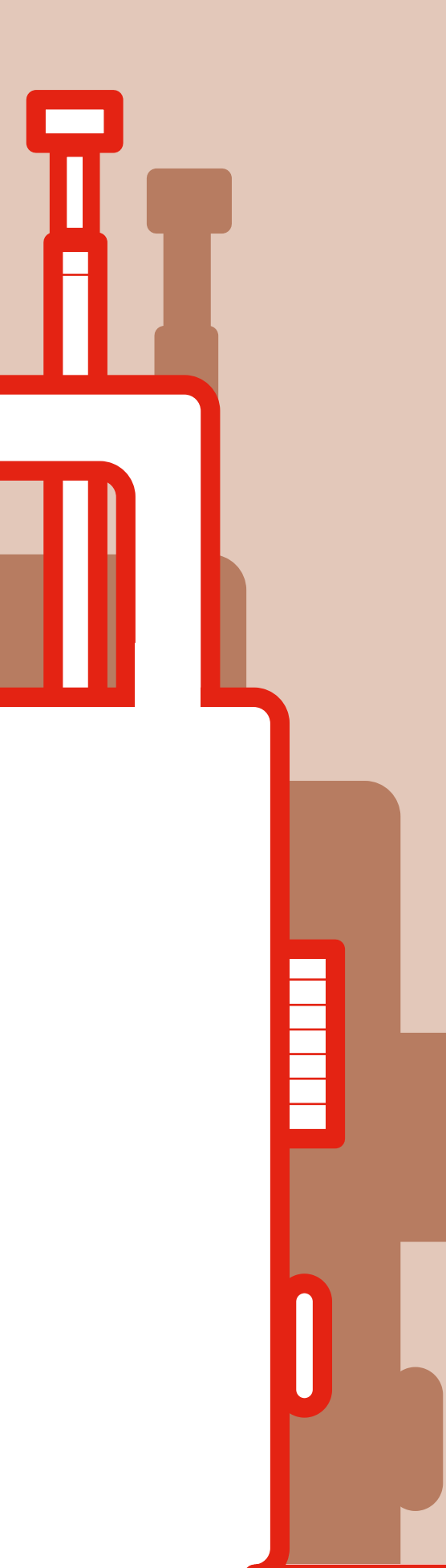
The newly launched website features an easy to use search facility, which makes finding a registered, competent, electrician easier than ever before. The site was officially unveiled by the Minister for Communities and Local Government, Stephen Williams MP, at the Palace of Westminster in July.

NICEIC in Scotland

In February the Scottish Government brought in new legislation (effective from 1st December 2015), which will require all landlords in Scotland to have electrical safety inspections carried out on privately rented properties at least every five years. Anyone carrying out the inspection on behalf of a landlord must be employed by a firm that is registered with NICEIC or a member firm of the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland (SELECT). In the lead up to the new ruling, NICEIC successfully put on four roadshow registration events throughout Scotland.

In addition to its Approved Contractor scheme, NICEIC continues to be a scheme provider for the Scottish Building Standards Certification of Construction (Electrical Installations to BS7671) Scheme.

Certsure worked with other competent person scheme operators to launch a consumer-focused website, electricalcompetentperson.co.uk



**The 3rd Amendment to
the 17th Edition of BS7671
was published on
1st January 2015.**

Training

As well as offering traditional electrical based courses such as the 17th Edition and safe isolation, NICEIC expanded its range of courses to reflect the changing nature of the market and now offers training in renewables, electric vehicle charging, home automation and data cabling as well as offering specialist bespoke packages.

Amendment 3

It is a requirement that all contractors carrying out electrical installations are compliant with the new regulations. NICEIC and ELECSA delivered more than 15,000 books and 3,000 training courses to registered contractors.

Products and Services

NICEIC and ELECSA continued to offer certification services, Building Regulations Schemes, products and support to electrical contractors and many other trades within the construction industry.

During 2014/15 NICEIC and ELECSA contractors issued more than one million Building Regulations Compliance Certificates to building control - the clear leader in the domestic market and reinforcing the power of the brands to win contractors more work.

Green Deal

NICEIC continues to be the leading certification body in the market for Green Deal installers with more than 1000 firms registered. In addition NICEIC was named Certification Body of the Year at the Green Deal Awards 2014.

Facts and Figures

Our website, www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk, was launched with our new brand in March 2014.

Statistics:

Unique visitors

878,136 (vs 789,558)

11.22% increase on 2013-14

Page views

2,138,345 (vs 1,987,888)

7.57% increase on 2013-14

Most Popular Pages

- RCDs Explained **100,629 views**
- Best Practice Guides **80,000 views**
- Overloading Sockets **77,483 views**
- Product Recalls **77,077 views**
- Find an Electrician **67,278 views**

(18.82% of total website traffic)

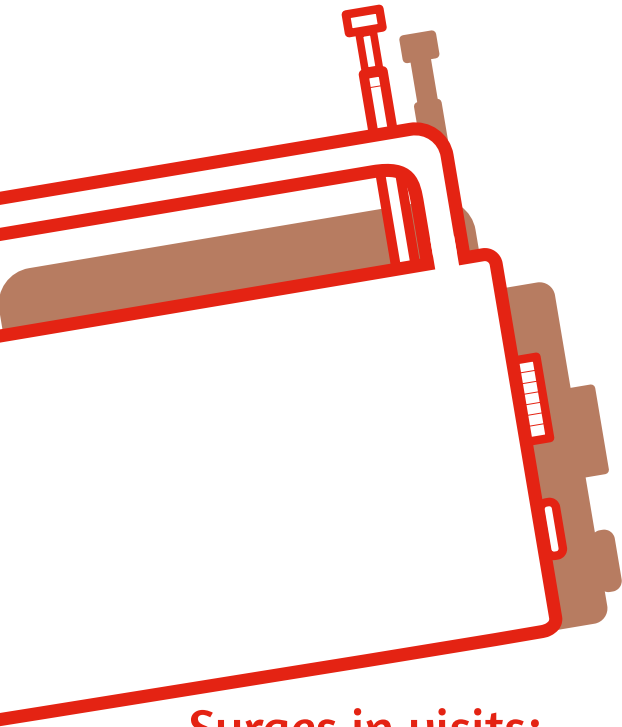
Downloads from the Website

67,486 in total

45,626 Best Practice Guides

Most Popular Consumer Leaflets

1. Landlords' Guide **5,802**
2. Landlords' Interim Checklist **4,082**
3. How Safe is Your Home? **2,027**
4. Electrical Safety for Tenants **431**
5. Fire Factsheet **308**



Surges in visits:

• 28th May 2014 – 4,429 unique visitors with 30,132 page views.

- 573 of these came from a link on the ITV website and over 50% from organic search (52.1%)
- 73.72% of the page views were related to product recall (22,213)

• 13th November 2014 – 98,335 page views

- 90,211 of these were related to product recall (91.74% of total).
- Over 90% of referrals that day came from Daily Mail, AOL Money, ITV and Telegraph
- We had over 6,000 visits to the site at 6.30am when Head of Communications, Emma Apter, appeared on Good Morning Britain talking about recall.

Search

Organic (driven by Search Engine Optimisation rather than paid advertising) traffic to the website increased by 26% year on year. We also saw a massive 146% increase in paid traffic (pay per click). This is largely down to the management of the monthly allocation of \$10,000 that Google grants to charities. As we have used this so successfully over the past year, Google increased our allowance to the top level of \$40,000 to spend each month in January 2015.

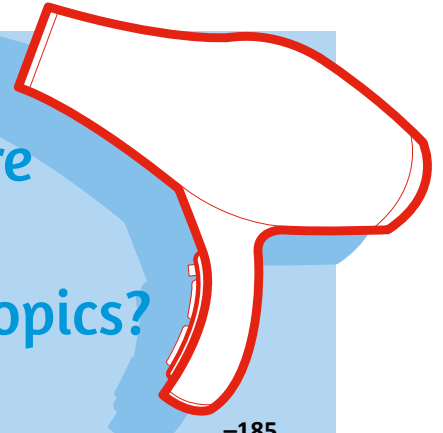
We have the number one keywords for “electrical safety”, “electrical fire safety” and “registered electricians” and are second for “find an electrician” and “product recall”.

Our Helpline

Number of helpline calls – **463**

Number of emails received – **1603**

What were the most popular topics?



Top 5 Email enquiries

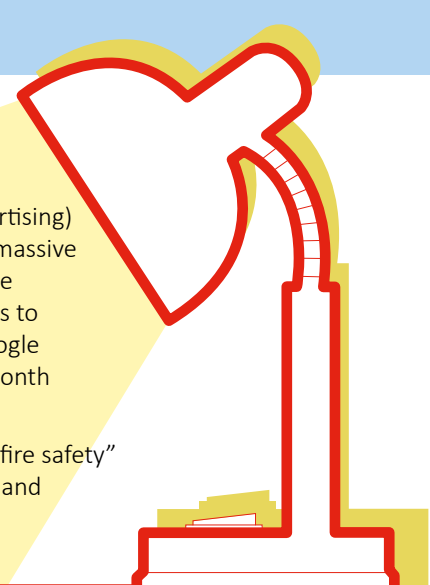
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Product Safety | –185 |
| 2. Registered Electricians/Part P | – 144 |
| 3. Our publications and materials | – 142 |
| 4. EICR/PIR | – 111 |
| 5. Landlords/Tenants | – 87 |

Top 5 Telephone enquiries

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| 1. Technical Help | – 98 |
| 2. Home Safety | – 78 |
| 3. Product Safety | – 47 |
| 4. Find an Electrician | – 45 |
| 5. Landlords/Tenants | – 22 |

Most popular leaflets

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Landlords' Guide | – 12,619 |
| 2. How Safe is your Home? | – 11,696 |
| 3. Electric Blanket Safety | – 7,778 |
| 4. Protect Yourself in your Rented Home | – 3,123 |
| 5. Using Electrical equipment outside | – 1,223 |



Finance Report 2014/2015

The summary group financial statements are not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to the group income and expenditure account, statement of total recognised gains and losses, consolidated balance sheet and cash flow statement, derived from the full audited Trustees' Report and financial statements of the Charity which were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 December 2015. The Auditor's statement under Section 496 of the Companies Act 2006 was unqualified. Copies of the full financial statement will subsequently be filed with the Charity Commission, the Office of the Scottish Charities' Regulators and Companies House.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of the Charity. The full audited Trustees' report and financial statements may be obtained on application to the Charity's head office.

Bryn Walker, Chairman

Independent Auditor's Statement to the Directors of the Electrical Safety Council on the Summary Financial Statements

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary consolidated balance sheet as at 31 March 2015, the summary, the summary group income and expenditure account, summary statement of total recognised gains and losses and summary cash flow statement for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Electrical Safety Council for the year ended 31 March 2015. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 18 December 2015. Those financial statements and the summary financial statements do not reflect the effect of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

This statement is made solely to the directors, as a body in accordance with the terms of our engagements. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the directors those matters we have agreed to state to them in this statement and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity's directors as a body, for our work, for this statement, or for the opinions we have formed.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law (United Kingdom General Accepted Accounting Practice). Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Electrical Safety Council.

Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements showing the line item caption headings and amounts from the full consolidated balance sheet, group income and expenditure account, statement of total recognised gains and losses and cash flow statement, together with corresponding amounts.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 – Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of the Electrical Safety Council for the year ended 31 March 2015 are consistent, in all material respects, with those financial statements, showing the line item caption headings and amounts from the full consolidated balance sheet, group income and expenditure account, statement of total recognised gains and losses and cash flow statement together with corresponding amounts.

Moore Stephens LLP
Statutory Auditor
22 January 2016

Overall Result

The Charity recorded net outgoing resources of £1,344k. This does not include the share of profits in joint ventures of £3,560k or the investment gains made over the year amounting to £374k. During the year the decision was taken to sell the worldwide NQA business to National Technical Systems Inc., the previous US joint venture partner of one of the Charity's subsidiaries. This sale resulted in a surplus of £11,660k.

Gift Aid of £10,559k (2014: £2,309k) has been generated by the Charity's subsidiaries.

Reserves have increased from £3,703k to £15,817k mainly as a result of the sale of the NQA business. These reserves are wholly unrestricted.

Income

The results show income from discontinuing operations separately. Total incoming resources of £10,754k comprised £7,980k from discontinued trading activities, £2,490k from continuing trading activities and £284k of investment income.

Expenditure

The discontinuance of some trading activities described under income has also impacted on the amounts shown as expenditure which are also split between continuing and discontinued operations.

Within the Group all trading activities were conducted in Ascertiva Group Limited with the exception of the joint venture activities undertaken by Certsure LLP and in China by SNQA. Via a wholly owned subsidiary the Charity is entitled to 80% of the profits, later reducing to 75%, of Certsure LLP. Via another wholly owned subsidiary, the Charity owns 50% of SNQA. The sale of the NQA business has resulted in Ascertiva Group Limited no longer undertaking trading activity and the sale of the 50% stake the Charity indirectly held in SNQA.

Charitable expenditure incurred in the Charity amounted to £2,080k (2014: £2,319k). Governance costs were in line with last year at £222k (2014: £225k).

Fixed Assets

The majority of the Charity's tangible fixed assets comprise the land, buildings, furniture, equipment and IT hard and software used in the Group or within Certsure LLP (via formal lease arrangements) on a daily basis. Following external professional valuations, the Charity recorded a reduction in the value of Freehold property of £2,736k.

Pension Scheme

The pension scheme was closed to benefit accrual in February 2013. The pension deficit impacts the Charity's cash flows by the funding arrangements agreed with the Pension Scheme Trustees which currently comprise annual payments of £1,250k, however the payments due up to March 2018 were made in advance before 31 March 2015.

Outlook

Although trading conditions remain difficult, the Group's financial position remains satisfactory, a detailed longer term financial forecast is due to be prepared before 31 March 2016.

Cash, Investment Policy and Returns

The Charity holds the majority of its reserves in a long term investment portfolio of £8.6m managed by two investment managers. Overall cash and investment balances have increased to £15,736k (2014: £12,981k) as a result of the increase in the value of the investment portfolio and the funds received following the sale of the NQA business.

- The Charity's investment policy has as its objective "to produce returns and be a vehicle for holding the agreed level of Charity reserves". The investment target return is once any income required has been taken to maintain and where possible enhance the real value of the portfolio without taking unnecessary risks. A total return approach to investment is taken i.e. generating return from income and capital gains and losses.

- The investment policy is maintained under ongoing review in light of changing Group funding requirements and portfolios are now balanced between equities, fixed interest investments, alternative investments and cash based on an intermediate risk profile. During the year the decision was taken to use income generated towards fulfilling the objects of the Charity.
- The balance of the Charity's investments relate to Certsure LLP, its joint venture with the Electrical Contractors Association.

Reserves and Risk Assessment

The agreed reserves policy has remained unchanged and states that reserves, which are defined as the Charity's and its wholly owned subsidiaries' cash and investment portfolio, amounting to two years pure / discretionary charitable expenditure be maintained after provision for the next three years' pension deficit payments

Charity reserves are currently approximately 2.7 times this target. The Charity Trustees are actively considering how best these resources should be used long term in fulfilling the objects of the Charity.

Risk management processes are embedded in the day-to-day operations of the Charity and risk registers are reviewed regularly by management to ensure completeness and that the risk ratings and impacts remain appropriate.

**Summary Group Income and Expenditure Account
for year ended 31 March 2015**

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Fees and operating income - Continuing operations	2,490	10,912
Fees and operating income - Discontinued operations	7,980	-
Cost of generating funds - Continuing operations	(185)	(9,363)
Cost of generating funds - Discontinued operations	(9,283)	-
Charitable expenditure	(2,080)	(2,319)
Governance costs	(222)	(225)
Other resources expended	(328)	(117)
Operating loss	(1,628)	(1,112)
Investment income	284	305
Group surplus loss	(1,344)	(807)

**Summary Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses
for year ended 31 March 2015**

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Loss for the financial year	(1,344)	(807)
Exceptional item - Sale of NQA business February 2015	11,660	-
Share of profits in joint ventures	3,560	1,567
Freehold impairment	(2,736)	-
Pension adjustment	600	(3,800)
Net investment gains	374	345
Net movement of funds	12,114	(2,695)
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April	3,703	6,398
Fund balances carried forward	15,817	3,703

Summary Consolidated Balance Sheet at 31 March 2015

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000 Restated
Fixed assets and investments	11,805	15,005
Investments in joint ventures: Share of net assets	1,044	2,019
Current assets	12,018	6,108
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,250)	(5,529)
Net current assets	10,768	579
Pension liability	(7,800)	(13,900)
Reserves	15,817	3,703

**Summary Cash Flow Statement
for year ended 31 March 2015**

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000 Restated
Net cash (outflow) from operations	(12,093)	(2,860)
Distributions from joint ventures	2,458	588
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	284	305
Capital expenditure and financial investment	(110)	(78)
Acquisitions and disposals	11,750	-
Net (decrease) in cash in the year	2,289	(2,045)

Principal Places of Business

Electrical Safety First Registered Office

Unit 331-3
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Telephone: +44(0)203 463 5100
Email: enquiries@electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk

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The Walled Garden
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Houghton Hall Park
Houghton Regis
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