

Electrical Safety First Annual Report 2022





About Us

Electrical Safety First is the campaigning UK charity dedicated to preventing deaths, injuries, and fires, caused by electricity. We are recognised by government and industry as the leading consumer protection and technical authority on electrical safety.

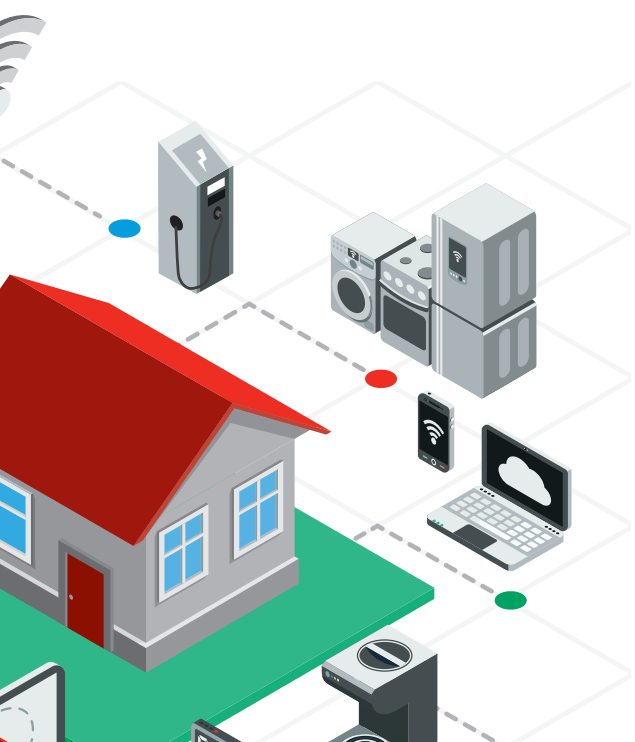
Our activities include:

- Collaborating with the UK and devolved governments, as well as local authorities, to develop effective policy and legislation around electrical safety and consumer protection.
- Campaigning on behalf of consumers, raising awareness of electrical risk and encouraging behavioural change.
- Developing an evidence base of in-depth research to support our policy recommendations and consumer awareness campaigns.
- Collaborating with key stakeholders to establish product safety standards.
- Supporting electro-technical professionals by disseminating best practice and helping to ensure consumer safety is always considered as a priority.

- Creating a range of tools, tailored guides, and advice, to help people protect themselves from electrical risk – including those arising from counterfeit, substandard, and recalled products.

Strength through Difference

Electrical Safety First is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace. We believe that the diversity of our team helps empower us to campaign on behalf of everyone in the UK, to keep them safe from electrical risk. In our small organisation, we respect the individual's unique experience and skills. We work to ensure that everyone's voice is heard, to help create a truly collaborative approach to achieving our mission. Our staff are valued and supported and by acknowledging the benefits of 'difference', we better represent the UK's diverse communities we are working to protect.





Chair's Introduction

Despite much still being in transition in the post-pandemic landscape, Electrical Safety First has managed not only to adapt to the 'new normal' but exceed expectations.

In the last year, the charity has seen significant progress in developing legislation which will help ensure everyone is electrically safe in their own home. For example, mandatory electrical checks will now be introduced for private and social housing tenants in Wales, and for the private rented sector in Northern Ireland. Whilst in response to our long-standing campaign, the UK Government announced similar draft regulations for England's social housing sector.

In Scotland, short-term accommodation (STA) such as Airbnb, has tripled in three years. Inevitably, this has given rise to safety concerns. Electricity causes around half of all domestic fires in the UK, with the fire risk increasing if a property has a high turnover of residents and lacks regular electrical checks. The charity's *Short-Changed* campaign led to the introduction of mandatory electrical safety checks for the sector in Scotland, ensuring STA guests will have the same level of protection as private and social housing tenants. Our work has also led to the Office for Product Safety and Standards establishing a consultation on protecting consumers buying electrical goods online.

In addition to established campaigns, Electrical Safety First is also providing support and advice on topical issues, such as the implications of the cost of living crisis, and the growing use of electricity for transport and heating as the UK tries to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The charity's highly effective media work has raised awareness of our safety messages, policies, and profile – and have made Electrical Safety First a 'go to' organisation for expert comment. All our integrated campaigns are underpinned by robust research and data, providing greater insights into our various audiences, and enhancing our targeted communications. You will find further information on this, and more, in the following pages.

Electrical Safety First is in a strong financial position and our robust fiscal management has it well placed to continue it's essential work protecting consumers from electrical risk. We remain mindful however, of the need to ensure we are making the best use of available resources to achieve our objectives.

I am immensely proud of the work of Electrical Safety First and it is with great regret that I had to resign from my role as Chair of

the charity's Board of Trustees in 2022, for personal reasons. From my initial appointment as Chair in October 2020, I have found the charity always 'punches above its weight', both in terms of raising awareness and in effecting key legislation. In addition to my own departure, this year has also seen a number of Board members – Alison Parkes, Nick Ratty, Paul Canning, Ali Damirchi, and Paul Hide – leave the organisation. I would like to thank them for all their hard work in making Electrical Safety First a name to remember. I also want to welcome our new Board members – Richard Olszewski and Sarah Frost. Sarah took up the mantle of Chair of Trustees in July 2022, and I wish her all the best in what I know will be an exciting future for the charity.



Andy Chaplin, Chair



CEO's Introduction

I arrived at the charity just before lockdown and 2021-2022 has been another pandemic impacted period. So a key priority for me this year has been ensuring the well-being of staff while delivering the charity's objectives.

Some colleagues had previously worked on a hybrid-basis but long-term, remote working for everyone during a pandemic, is much more challenging. The health and well-being of our people is crucial, so we provided continuous communication and support. In 2021, society and workplaces were opening up, shutting down again, and then re-opening, making people understandably anxious. We significantly enhanced the office environment, to ensure colleagues felt reassured it was safe, during a phased and cautious return. While embracing the efficiencies of online meetings, and the lessons learnt from the pandemic, we have relished opportunities to meet in person again.

The charity has achieved much this year, particularly with our campaign to address the 'tenure lottery', whereby renters in different parts

of the UK have varying levels of protection from electrical risk. Our work has helped establish new and expanded legislation, ensuring additional protection for millions. This involved securing five-yearly checks in both the private rented sector (PRS) and social rented sector (SRS) in Wales, and similar mandated checks for Northern Ireland's PRS.

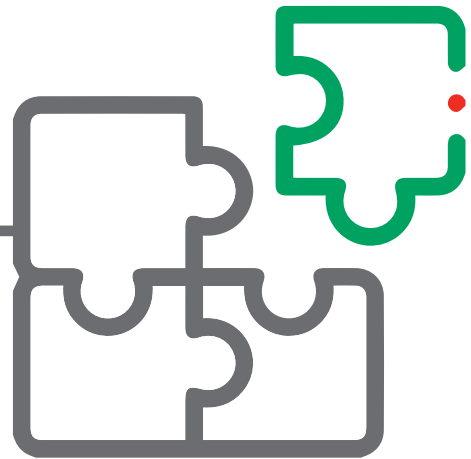
Another significant milestone was the UK Government's announcement of draft regulations for England's SRS. Currently covered by a patchwork of legislation, mandating electrical safety checks will save time, money and – most importantly – lives. In Scotland, we achieved our goal of electrical safety checks in short-term lets, such as Airbnb rentals. The Scottish Government agreed to introduce requirements for five-yearly portable appliance testing

(PAT) and electrical installation condition reports (EICRs). This new legislation is the first of its kind in the UK.

Activities to protect consumers from dangerous electrical items sold online have progressed. Our online petition, calling for better protection for shoppers using online marketplaces, now has 35,000 signatures. The publication of an open letter on the issue, sent to the UK Government, with a range of co-signatories, also gained considerable media coverage. Together with sustained, collaborative lobbying, it led to an Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) consultation on regulating online marketplaces.

We have also secured a Private Members Bill through the annual House of Commons Bill Ballot, which would ensure that consumers have the same protection shopping via an online marketplace as on the high street. The charity is committed to effective collaboration, to amplify our voice and impact. So, in addition to garnering support from recognised experts for our campaigns, we have also supported allies calling for better regulation of online marketplaces, such as the British Toys and Hobby Association.

OUR INTEGRATED CAMPAIGNS USE RIGOROUS RESEARCH AND HIGH-PROFILE MEDIA ENGAGEMENT, ACROSS ALL PLATFORMS



TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT – THE ONGOING IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC, THE WAR IN UKRAINE, VOLATILE ENERGY PRICES AND A COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS – CREATES MANY RISKS FOR CONSUMERS AND WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING THEM.

Our integrated campaigns use rigorous research and high-profile media engagement, across all platforms, to encourage behavioral change and highlight our safety messages and policy aims. Over the last year, we have continued campaigning on key issues while also preparing for future challenges. This includes refreshing our strategy to ensure it remains fit for purpose and focused on the areas of highest electrical risk. Today's environment – the ongoing impact of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, volatile energy prices and a cost-of-living crisis – creates many risks for consumers and we have an important role in safeguarding them.

One certainty is that our homes will increasingly depend on electricity. Our report, *Future Homes*:

Electrical Safety in the Net Zero Home – published in October 2021 – considers some of the key technologies of tomorrow's home and recommendations to enhance electrical safety. We also developed a series of roundtables to build further support and collaboration for the report's recommendations, which provided valuable insight and help in prioritising activity and future research.

Despite the difficulties the pandemic and its aftermath have created, Electrical Safety First has risen to the challenge. In 2021-2022, the charity has made major steps forward in achieving its mission – to ensure everyone in the UK can use electricity safely. This affirms my belief that my colleagues are dedicated, hardworking and loyal. I

would like to thank each of them for their contribution.

Our excellent Board of Trustees provide their time and expertise for the satisfaction of keeping people safe, not financial reward. I would like to thank them all, but particularly Andy Chaplin, our Chair, for his invaluable support and guidance during this last year. I want also to welcome and thank Sarah Frost, who took up the role of Chair of Trustees in July 2022. Electrical Safety First may be a small organisation but our reach and impact defies our size. With electricity set to become an increasingly important low carbon energy source in our route to net zero, our mission has become more important than ever.



Lesley Rudd, Chief Executive



Raising Consumer Awareness

In the post-pandemic, ongoing flux of 2021, Electrical Safety First continued to raise awareness of its mission through extensive media coverage. The charity has been name-checked in excess of a thousand news items since March 2021, across a range of platforms, including national and regional TV and national and local press.

All our media campaigns are supported by appropriate evidence-based research, including major consumer surveys and in-depth technical investigation of products. Over the last year, we maintained a focus on key issues through new and established campaigns, while also responding rapidly to the ever-changing news agenda.

Recalls and Registration

To support our long-standing call to increase registration rates for electrical products we continued to promote our smart speaker digital tool, which helps consumers check if an electrical product has been recalled. Now extended to include Google Home devices, as well as Alexa, it was referenced in various articles relating to the potential safety benefits of home technology – including LBC online, Yahoo, and regional media outlets.

Extensive local coverage was also gained by highlighting the human element in what can be seen as an abstract issue. We developed a case study on Angela Downer, a nurse, who was unaware her dishwasher had been recalled – until after a serious fire in her Oxford home.

Online Marketplaces

The charity has spearheaded the campaign for regulation of electrical goods sold via online marketplaces. Significant media

coverage was gained in response to an open letter – signed by various stakeholders, including the National Fire Chiefs Council and British Toy & Hobby Association – we sent to the Government. Initially provided as an exclusive to *BBC News*, the letter resulted in issues around the safety of electrical goods bought online – and Electrical Safety First – gaining widespread national exposure. Safe shopping online was also our theme for Electrical Fire Safety Week, which takes place annually each November.

Guidance for England's Private Landlords

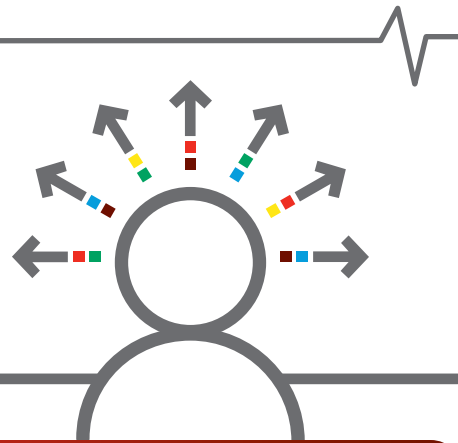
In April 2021, new landlord legislation – spearheaded by Electrical Safety First – came into effect. It requires private landlords in England to undertake regular, mandatory, electrical safety checks, or be heavily fined. Our guidance and warning to landlords – to hit the legal deadline for undertaking an electrical installation condition report (EICR) for their rental properties – was

SIGNIFICANT MEDIA COVERAGE WAS GAINED IN RESPONSE TO AN OPEN LETTER – SIGNED BY VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL FIRE CHIEFS COUNCIL AND BRITISH TOY & HOBBY ASSOCIATION – WE SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT

very well received. Coverage included *The Daily Mirror*, *Daily Telegraph*, and *Your Money*.

Safety in Scotland and Wales

Our Short-Changed campaign resulted in the Scottish Government announcing the



ALONG WITH RISING ENERGY COSTS HAS COME A GROWTH IN PRODUCTS CLAIMING TO HELP REDUCE ENERGY BILLS.

introduction of new rules for hosts of short-term accommodation, such as that offered via Airbnb. The charity positioned itself as the expert voice in the field by highlighting the new legislation for hosts and secured national press in Scotland in the *Daily Record*.

In Wales, the Welsh Government announced legislation requiring mandatory, five-yearly electrical checks in both the private rented sector (PRS) and social rented sector (SRS). We welcomed the move and secured both trade and consumer coverage in, for example, *The National Wales* and *Inside Housing*.

Cutting Costs – Plug-In Heaters

Prior to Ofgem announcing its energy price cap, the charity undertook research into how financial pressures might impact on the way consumers heat their homes. We found millions more were thinking of using plug-in heaters, rather than turning on the central heating, if they were just using one room.

Synchronising with the Ofgem price cap announcement, we promoted safety messaging around plug-in heater use, supported by evidence from our survey. The story generated widespread national and regional coverage with more than 70 articles referencing our warning to consumers. *The Evening Standard*, *The Independent*, and *The Liverpool Echo*, were just some of the highlights.

Cost of Living Crisis & Energy Saving Devices

Struggling to make ends meet is not new for some in the UK but now record numbers are sharing that experience.

In response to the cost of living crisis and the likelihood of electrical safety being compromised by financial concerns, we established a resource to help consumers minimise risk when cutting costs.

Our dedicated web page acts as a portal to a host of safety tips covering a range of relevant topics, from plug-in heater safety to off-peak energy tariffs and running appliances overnight. We also offer advice on how to shop safely online and tips if buying second hand electrical goods. The portal was promoted on social platforms via the hashtag #savingsafely, and through a media campaign focusing on our review of products described as 'energy-saving devices'.

Along with rising energy costs has come a growth in products claiming to help reduce energy bills. We investigated these items

and found a number of dangerously substandard devices which claim – falsely – to help people save on their electricity. Our media work on the issue secured high profile coverage, including *LBC*, *London Live TV*, *BBC Radio Ulster*, *ITV News Online*, *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail* and *The Independent*. In total, the story was covered in over 70 articles across national and regional media.

Electrical Fire Safety Week

The charity helped establish this annual event, where we work in collaboration with the UK Government's Fire Kills campaign, to promote electrical fire safety in the home. In support of Electrical Fire Safety Week in November 2021, we ran a social media campaign on the risks associated with buying from online marketplaces. A stakeholder pack providing a range of promotional assets, including key messages, video links and graphics, was also shared with relevant bodies, including fire and rescue services.



Raising Consumer Awareness (continued)

Electrical Safety First Online

This year saw a rise of 8.2% in website visits, which had dipped during the pandemic. Indicative of the widening scope of our audience, is the fact that not only were there more visitors to the site but that they explored a wider range of topics. There was, for example, an increase in the number of people accessing our content on travel adaptors, reflecting the fact that global travel restrictions had been eased.

Other popular pages include the 'Your Questions Answered' material. Initially developed in 2020 and regularly updated, it gives visitors access to a wide range of electrical safety information and provides answers to their questions. In 2021-2022, it garnered over 125,000 views.

We also extend our reach through our continuing use of our Google Grants, which allows us \$40K per month to bid on advertising space related to key search terms. In 2021-2022 this generated over 225,000 visits to the website.

3,441,345

Total Website Visits

2,926,480

Unique Visitors

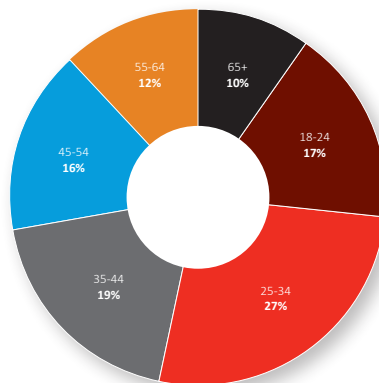
4,645,662

Page Views

Our Online Audience

Once again, the majority of visitors to both our website and our Facebook page came from the 25–34 year age group. The limited Facebook engagement from 18–24 year-olds is indicative of its decreasing popularity amongst this demographic, who are more likely to use other platforms for brand engagement. Stakeholders, and professional or industry contact, is better achieved via our Twitter and LinkedIn accounts. So we are in the process of developing additional visual assets to support a TikTok account, to improve engagement with younger people. Information for older and vulnerable groups is also offered through printed material and relevant channels, such as fire and rescue services.

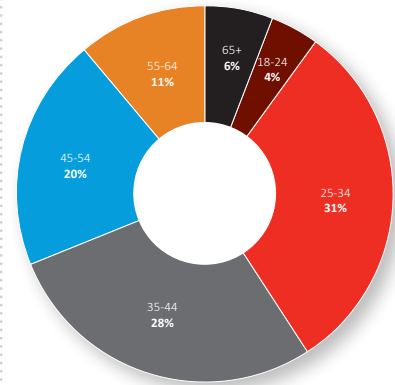
Our website visitors by age:



Twitter Followers:

24,827

Our Facebook audience by age:



Top Consumer Pages Visited on the Website

(Percentage relates to total website traffic)

Amps to Watts:

277,883

(6%)

Watts to Amps:

266,538

(6%)

Home Appliance Ratings:

243,239

(5%)

Homepage:

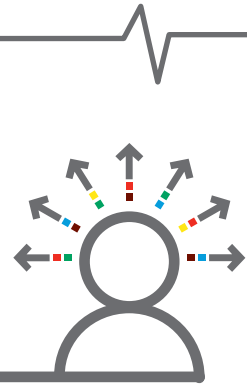
163,559

(4%)

RCDs Explained:

128,865

(3%)



Top Technical Pages Visited on the Website:

(Percentage relates to total website traffic)

Best Practice Guides:

65,536

(1.4% of total website traffic)

Wiring Regulations:

41,470

(New, Rewired and Similar: 1%)

Wiring Regulations
Landing Page:

17,238

(0.4%)

Wiring Regulations:

16,167

(Inspection, Testing, Certification
and Reporting: 0.4%)

Professional Resources
Landing Page:

15,034

(0.4%)

Top Resources Downloaded on the Website:

Best Practice Guides:

52,912

List of Hotpoint affected tumble
dryers:

5,085

Landlords guide to England and
Wales:

4,543

Guidance on Minimum Provision of
Sockets:

2,576

A5 Consumer Unit Technical Guide:

2,165

Technical Guidance Downloads

Electrical Safety First works closely with industry to improve best practice and ensure consumer safety is always a priority. In addition to industry events and training, we also provide guidance for electrical professionals on the charity's website. This year, there were 52,912 downloads of our Best Practice Guides, with the most popular being:

- Best Practice Guide 4: Electrical installation condition reporting: Classification Codes for domestic and similar electrical installations –

16,225

- Best Practice Guide 1: Replacing a consumer unit in domestic premises –

9,835

- Best Practice Guide 2: Guidance on the management of electrical safety and safe isolation procedures for low voltage installations –

6,354



Linked in:

2,546

Switched on Kids:

Switched on Kids is our educational resource for children aged 5-11 years and their teachers. This year the site obtained:

1,149,376

Unique Page Views

151,572

Visits

45,845

Downloads

Two Thirty Volts:

Two Thirty Volts is our educational resource for children and teens aged 11-13, and their teachers. This year, the site obtained:

54,561

Page Views

13,551

Visits

2,628

Downloads



Technical Expertise

The depth and breadth of our technical expertise provides a firm foundation for the effectiveness of the charity and informs a range of activities.

Supporting Standards and Collaboration

To support our aim of being a collaborative organisation, and to work as a facilitator of best practice, we have established – and host – various electrotechnical committees and groups. A wide range of areas are encompassed, from the safety of electrical installations and products to new technologies and the smart home. Membership of these groups is equally diverse, and includes representatives from throughout the supply chain, as well as lawyers, distribution network operators, fire and rescue services, and government and non-departmental government bodies.

Electrical Safety First established and chairs the following committees:

The Electrical Installation Safety Forum (EISF) takes an overarching review of anything from the safety of electrical supply intake equipment, to installer competence.

The Electric Vehicle Charge Point Installation Safety Working Group, was set up in collaboration with the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV), to improve the safety of EV charge point installations.

The Wiring Regulations Advisory Group (WRAG) provides guidance on frequently asked questions on BS7671 (the IET Wiring Regulations). The Group establishes a consensus response to queries on the standard, which is then added to the WRAG database and published on the Electrical Safety First website. This resource is highly regarded and well used, attracting around 3,500 visits per month.

The Electrical Safety of Products (ESOP) Committee reviews the safety of consumer electrical products which connect to mains voltage and extra-low voltage supplies. It considers changes in legislation and standards, reviews the charity's product screening activities, and has a watching brief on emerging issues impacting on consumer safety.

The Improving Product Registration and Recalls (IPRR) Working Group aims to develop collaborative solutions to grow low product registration and recall response rates.

The Smart Technology Product Safety Stakeholder Group is co-chaired by Electrical Safety First and the law firm DLA Piper. It aims to identify issues arising from new technology which could impact on consumer safety and promote good practice within the industry. The Group has been approached by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS), to comment on various projects and consultations.

The charity is also a member of various other key electrotechnical committees and forums, which provide the opportunity to influence improvements to

ELECTRICAL SAFETY FIRST HAS ESTABLISHED AND HOSTED A RANGE OF ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMITTEES



standards and to collaborate with relevant organisations. Electrical Safety First's Chief Executive is a member of ESSAC, the Electrotechnical Standardization Strategic Advisory Council, which provides the British Standards Institution (BSI) with high-level, strategic advice and guidance for the UK's electrotechnical industry. Other groups which we have membership of include the National Fire Chief's Council's Home Safety Committee, and the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) Smart Meter Operational Group and Smart Meter Safety Advisory Group.

In addition, Electrical Safety First is a member of multiple BSI committees. In 2021-2022, we helped establish the standards and publicly available specifications (PAS), listed below. (PAS are fast-tracked standards, often created in response to new technologies and innovative products being brought to market without – or with limited – established standards). Our long-standing work with OPSS has also continued, and our collaboration with international standard setting through the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC), is maintained via our membership of BSI committees.

- PAS 7050: Bringing Safe Products to Market. As members of the steering group for this standard, we were closely involved in its development and publication.
- PAS 7100: Supporting Better Product Recalls. The charity sits on the steering group for PAS 7100, which provides a code of practice for consumer product safety related recalls and other corrective actions.
- PAS 7055: Button and coin batteries. There have been several cases of children being killed or injured by swallowing these batteries, which can be found in many devices in the home. We are members of the steering group for PAS 7055 which is establishing new and specific safety requirements for these products.
- BS 6396: Electrical systems in furniture. The standard now includes new requirements for office furniture with electrical power distribution systems derived from batteries.
- BS1363 is the British Standard for plugs. The charity is undertaking ongoing work to update parts 1-5 of the standard, which will introduce new requirements for protected socket-outlets, such as those used in furniture. Our recommendations regarding specifications for T-bar adaptors will also be included in the revised standard.
- Identification of white goods: To help establish the cause of an electrical fire, and identify any electrical appliance involved, we are continuing to work on proposals for the identification of white goods following a fire. Electrical Safety First is part of the of BSI's CPL/61 and OPSS working group addressing this issue.
- Downlighters: Electrical Safety First has developed a proposal for a new, alternative, fire-resistance test for downlighters, which could be developed into a British Standard or PAS. Once industry agreement on the new test methodology has been reached, we will liaise with OPSS and BSI to gain the funding required to develop a PAS or BSI Flex. (The latter is a new approach to establishing standards, designed to address rapid technological and market changes). Anticipated timeline from receipt of funding to publication is an estimated 12 months.



Technical Expertise (continued)

TEST PRODUCTS INVOLVED IN OUR INVESTIGATIONS WERE RECALLED BY OPSS AND 145 SIMILAR PRODUCT LISTINGS WERE REMOVED FROM EBAY

The Office for Product Safety and Standards

Electrical Safety First continues to work closely with the OPSS. In 2021-2022, a key activity was responding to the OPSS call for evidence on the Product Safety Legislative Landscape. Its objective was to examine the current and future approach to product safety and how to ensure the regulatory framework is fit for the future. Our response emphasised the need for effective enforcement and cross-government collaboration. This has become increasingly important in a world where the transition to net zero, and the development of new technologies (including online sales platforms), cuts across government departments and regulatory responsibilities.

Product Research and Investigations

Our product safety screening programme allows us to identify and communicate potential safety issues to consumers and make a demonstrable contribution to

both market surveillance and standards development. We follow up all identified product failures, liaising with the retailers and manufacturers concerned, and ensure that the relevant authorities are informed of our findings and actions. Research outcomes are detailed in reports that support evidence-based policies, as well as informing our consumer awareness campaigns and best practice support for industry.

In the last year we have researched and tested a range of products and helped remove a number of dangerous and substandard items from the UK market. For example, as a result of our investigation into direct plug-in lamps, OPSS issued a recall notice for several of these items, which were readily available online. We also found a range of non-compliance issues with water pump controllers, leading to the removal of 117 of these product listings on eBay.

Our work on energy saving devices – inevitably of particular concern during a cost of living crisis, given

the current spike in energy bills – also had a successful outcome. Not only were the test products involved in our investigations recalled by OPSS but 145 similar product listings were removed from eBay.

As Electric Vehicles (EVs) start to become mainstream, public charging points are being established across the country. However, research indicates that charging an EV at home is much preferred. As well as being convenient, using a dedicated home-based EV charging point is usually cheaper than a public one – and safer and quicker than using a domestic plug socket. In response to consumer enquiries, we investigated the quality and safety of replacement EV home charging cables and sockets, which has raised various concerns. A report on the investigation is expected to be published in autumn 2022.



IN RESPONSE TO CONSUMER ENQUIRIES, WE INVESTIGATED THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF REPLACEMENT EV HOME CHARGING CABLES AND SOCKETS

Guides and Advice

The socket-outlet overload calculator is a popular consumer tool available on our website. This has been updated to include new products and reflect changes to power consumption, in line with technological advances. A guide to energy labels has also been produced, which details revised energy ratings, and explains how to convert Watts (W) to Amps (A).

Training

Electrical Safety First provides tailored training packages for a range of organisations. In 2021-2022, we began developing a training course in Managing Electrical Safety Risk for Local Authorities' housing inspectors.

The Expert Voice

Electrical Safety First is frequently used as an expert voice by national and regional media – as well as the electrotechnical industry – and beyond. Our technical specialists, in particular, are always in demand as speakers and panellists at a

variety of events. Between 2021-2022, these included: the Morgan Lambert webinar on electrical safety in social housing; OPSS's 'Fridge of 2050' on safety standards and the future of white goods; the UK's Revenue Protection Association (UKRPA), on EV

charging safety; and the Central England Trading Standards Authorities (CENTSA) on emerging issues in electrical safety. The charity also provided oral evidence to the Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Communities report on the Private Tenancies Bill.





Industry Events

Annual Product Safety Conference: The Connected Consumer

Each November, the charity hosts its high-profile product safety conference. Established to enhance consumer protection by sharing best practice and increase awareness of emerging trends, the event attracts an international and diverse audience. Delegates include retailers, manufacturers, test houses, government departments, product safety lawyers, consumer protection bodies, trading standards, and fire and rescue services.

More than half the world uses mobile devices to connect, research and purchase, goods. So it was fitting that in 2021, Electrical Safety First's 13th annual product safety conference had the theme of The Connected Consumer. The event, which had over 600 delegates, explored the connected consumer from the key perspectives of sustainability, designing for inclusivity, and the evolving legislative context.

As with the previous year, the 2021 conference was run online and free of charge – to ensure it was safe to attend and accessible to everyone during the pandemic and its aftermath. Held over two mornings, the conference was launched with a keynote speech from Paul Scully, the then Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets. The Minister outlined the Government's approach to product safety in the 21st century, and

the opportunities and challenges following the UK's exit from the single market.

The first day's agenda also included a regulators' panel with representatives from several government departments, including: the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS); the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS); and the Department for Transport's (DfT) Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV).

The second morning focused on the speed of innovation of connected products and related issues around security, safety, and interoperability. Our expert speakers included representatives from Google, Alphabet Core Engineering Solutions, the Alan Turing Institute, Intertek and OPSS. They considered the governance, regulation – and ethical implications – of smart products; the challenges to business in terms of certification and compliance; and a look at how manufacturers are adapting to address environmental concerns.

This was followed by the announcement of the winner of our Safety Innovation Award. Launched in 2019, the Award was established to acknowledge an

**MORE THAN HALF
THE WORLD USES
MOBILE DEVICES
TO CONNECT,
RESEARCH AND
PURCHASE,
GOODS**

innovative and sustainable product or project, placing the safety of consumers at the heart of its development.

This year's winner was Aico's Ei1000G SmartLINK® Gateway. Developed in collaboration with housing associations and social landlords, this alarm maintenance and asset management device uses a cloud portal without the need for local Wi-Fi.

The final conference sessions included contributions from BEKO, a major appliance and consumer electronics brand, law firm Hogan Lovells LLP, the Household Electrical and Electronic Servicing Training Forum (HEEST), and SE24, safety and energy consultants. During a wide-ranging discussion, the panel reviewed the legislative landscape and potential conflicts between sustainability and safety. The event closed with an OPSS presentation



detailing their research on consumer attitudes to product safety – and the essential role of trust in the ‘contract’ between consumers, retailers, and manufacturers.

Our 13th annual product safety conference continued our history of bringing critical and emerging issues to the fore. Its aim, as always, is to ensure industry and other key stakeholders have the information they need, to understand the future of product safety during this period of rapid technological and socio-economic change.

Electrical Safety Standards in the PRS

In April 2021, the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020, came fully into force. The regulations now require private landlords to have electrical installations in their rented properties checked at least every five years, by a competent, qualified person, with the findings documented in an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR). In the run-up to the April 2021 deadline for landlords to comply with the regulations, the charity received a significant number of enquiries regarding this new requirement.

To help address any uncertainties around this issue, Electrical Safety First established an industry event aimed at inspectors, landlords, letting agents, and local authorities, to improve transparency and

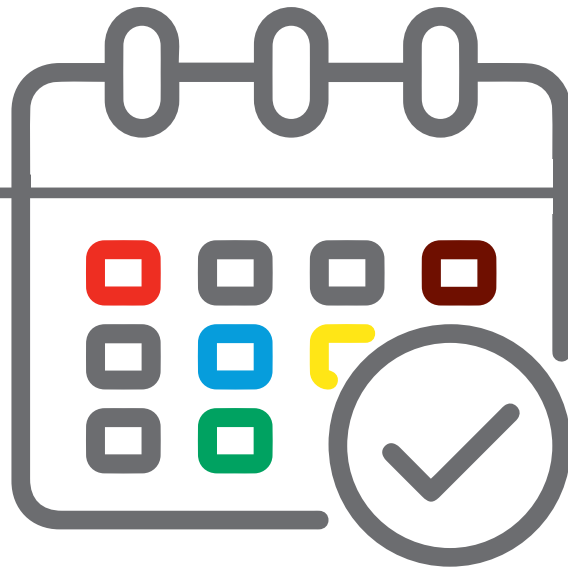
consistency of EICRs. Our expert speakers – including representatives from the National Residential Landlord’s Association (NRA), the National Association of Professional Inspectors and Testers (NAPIT), Certsure (NICEIC), and the Electrical Contractors Association (ECA) – clarified the legislation and discussed EICR classification coding and remedial work.

Downlighter Roundtable

Following on from our investigations and summary report on the safety of fire-rated downlighters, we established a roundtable bringing together a number of key industry and other stakeholders, to consider our findings. In response to these discussions, the charity has developed a proposal for an alternative fire resistance type test for downlighters – which could be developed into a British Standard or Publicly Available Specification (PAS). Once the new test methodology has been agreed

by industry stakeholders, we will engage with OPSS and BSI for funding to develop a PAS or BSI Flex – a new type of standard, created where there is a need to rapidly iterate and update content as best practice emerges. Anticipated timeline would be 12 months from funding to publication.

THE CHARITY HAS DEVELOPED A PROPOSAL FOR AN ALTERNATIVE FIRE RESISTANCE TYPE TEST FOR DOWNLIGHTERS





Working with **Government**

Electrical Safety First works with parliamentarians and policymakers to develop effective electrical safety legislation. Relevant regulatory areas include housing, counterfeits, online sales, recalled and safer products, electric vehicles, and the future home.

In an increasingly electric world, our mission – to ensure everyone can use electricity safely – becomes increasingly significant. However, the critical importance of electrical safety is rarely fully acknowledged in strategies for our low carbon future. So, over the past year, in addition to our continuing focus on safer products and safer installations, we have also highlighted the need to consider electrical safety in the home of the future.

Safer **Products**



Regulating Online Marketplaces

Electrical Safety First has led the way in calling for better regulation of electrical products sold online. Our investigations continue to find potentially lethal electrical items easily available through online marketplaces – particularly those offered by third-party sellers.

Our online petition, calling for better protection for shoppers using online marketplaces, has now exceeded the 35,000 response target for 2021-2022, while our supporter database also increased to 8,000. This provides a solid foundation for us to build further grassroots support for this campaign.

In November 2021, the charity led on the publication of an open letter to the UK Government which called for additional protection for online shoppers. The letter had a range of organisations as co-signatories,

including the National Fire Chief's Council, Which?, The Child Accident Prevention Trust, and the London Fire Brigade, reflecting the support of industry and other experts. An extensive media campaign on the issues raised in the letter – and our profile – gained national coverage, including BBC News online. Following this, and in conjunction with sustained lobbying by the charity and our allies, the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), established a consultation on proposals to regulate online marketplaces.

The lack of a robust regulatory framework for online marketplaces continues to place consumers at risk on a daily basis. So we have secured the introduction of a Private Members' Bill – The Sale of Goods Online (Safety) Bill – through the annual House of Commons Bill

Ballot. The Bill, which will have its second reading in January, would ensure that consumers have the same protection regardless of whether they are shopping via an online marketplace or on the high street.

THE LACK OF A ROBUST REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR ONLINE MARKETPLACES CONTINUES TO PLACE CONSUMERS AT RISK ON A DAILY BASIS.



IN 2021-2022, WE PRODUCED TWO REPORTS ON CONSUMER SAFETY WHEN SHOPPING VIA ONLINE MARKETPLACES

Electrical Safety First acts as the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Online and Home Electrical Safety. This cross-party group, chaired by Yvonne Fovargue MP, aims to raise parliamentary awareness of issues relating to electrical safety in the home, and to promote the prevention of accidents from electrical products. A particular focus for the charity during the last year has been to increase stakeholder representation in the group, to help secure wider political membership.

In October 2021, the APPG was attended by Amazon, who also provided a presentation outlining its proactive steps to protect consumers from buying unsafe products online. Our ongoing liaison with Amazon, and other online marketplaces such as Facebook Marketplace, focuses on collaborative initiatives, to help ensure consumers are better informed about who they are buying from when shopping online.

In the charity's response to the OPSS 2021 review on product safety, we reiterated our call for online platforms to be recognised and

regulated as supply chain actors, like traditional, high street retailers. An additional OPSS consultation, regarding proposals to regulate online platforms and social media retail, opened in autumn 2022.

Other activities undertaken in 2021-22, involved the publication of two related reports. The first, *Consumer Safety on Online Market Places – The Need for Change*, looks at the current legislative framework and how this can be improved to protect consumers. The second, *Consumer Safety in Online Market Places – The Evidence and Impact*, details the in-depth investigations undertaken by the charity into unsafe electrical goods available online.

In 2016, Electrical Safety First undertook an investigation into counterfeit Apple chargers – a popular purchase from online marketplaces. Almost all (98%) failed essential safety tests. Further research in 2019 had equivalent results testing a range of electrical products purchased online. Additional investigations, undertaken at the request of national television programmes, ITV Tonight and BBC Watchdog,

also mirrored previous findings. Our research has also discovered recalled electrical products for sale via online marketplaces – and found that the sale of unsafe electrical products has spread to social media too.

Registration and Recalls

In the UK, a product recall, or safety notice, has a disturbingly low success rate, particularly in the small consumer electrical and electronic product sector. This is often due to people not registering their appliances, creating difficulty for manufacturers in tracing affected products, and leaving potentially lethal items in our homes.

Electrical Safety First chairs the Improving Product Registration and Recalls (IPRR) Working Group, which brings together a range of stakeholders to develop collaborative solutions to these low response rates. Key activities for the group this year included securing changes to the OPSS review of PAS 7100, a code of practice for product recalls and other corrective actions. The code is designed to help businesses prepare for a recall and outlines the responsibilities and support role of Market Surveillance Authorities. The IPRR's contribution will help improve the availability and transparency of recall data.



Safer Installations

In 2021-22, we successfully campaigned to improve the safety of installations across the UK.



SCOTLAND

Short-Term Accommodation

Scotland's short-term accommodation sector (STA) has tripled in just three years but until recently, lacked a consistent regulatory framework around electrical safety. The extensive growth of the sector, and the additional safety risks arising from the rapid turnover of tenants, created understandable concern.

Electrical Safety First's Short-Changed campaign led to the introduction of mandatory electrical safety checks for the STA sector. The requirement will come into force in October 2022 for new hosts and April 2023 for existing hosts. It will ensure guests using STA in Scotland have the same level of protection from electrical risk as the country's private and social housing tenants – i.e. five-yearly checks of both the electrical installation and appliances provided as part of the tenancy.

Given the continuing growth of STAs such as Airbnb, we will be looking to extend our Short-Changed campaign to the rest of the UK.

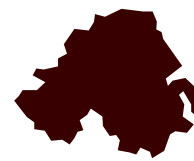


WALES

Private and Social Rented Sectors

In Wales, our long-standing campaign for enhanced electrical safety for renters achieved its objective. Legislation – which has been delayed but is expected to come into force winter 2022 – will require mandatory, five-yearly electrical safety checks in both the private and social rented sectors.

IN WALES, OUR LONG-STANDING CAMPAIGN FOR ENHANCED ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOR RENTERS ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVE

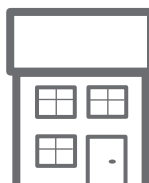


NORTHERN IRELAND

Private Rented Sector

Our related campaign for regular electrical safety checks in Northern Ireland's private rented sector (PRS) also achieved the desired outcome. The NI Assembly passed the Private Tenancies Bill in March 2022, which included a requirement for private landlords to complete periodic electrical safety checks. The legislation ensures private tenants in Northern Ireland will now have similar protections from electrical risk as private renters in England and Scotland.

OUR RELATED CAMPAIGN FOR REGULAR ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKS IN NORTHERN IRELAND'S PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR ALSO ACHIEVED THE DESIRED OUTCOME





ENGLAND

Social Housing

In June 2022, the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill was introduced to parliament. Clause 10 of the Bill extends mandatory electrical safety checks to the social rented sector in England, improving safety provisions for 4 million households. The Bill is a major step towards a key objective of the charity – ensuring everyone, regardless of housing tenure, has an equal level of protection from electrical risk.

THE BILL IS A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS A KEY OBJECTIVE OF THE CHARITY – ENSURING EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF HOUSING TENURE, HAS AN EQUAL LEVEL OF PROTECTION FROM ELECTRICAL RISK.

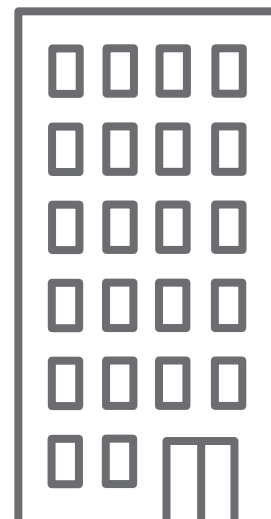
The Building Safety Act

The Building Safety Bill, which recently received Royal Assent, was described as “the biggest change to building safety regulations in a generation.” Working with a coalition of stakeholders we secured an amendment to the Bill, which requires the Building Safety Regulator to complete a cost-benefit analysis for introducing regular electrical installation checks in all residential tower blocks in England.

This is important because the current approach to electrical checks in tower blocks is inconsistent, as not all properties are held to the same electrical safety standard. Yet fire does not discriminate between tenures and can start anywhere.

We want to see mandated, five-yearly, electrical safety checks in both social housing and leaseholds, in mixed-tenure high rises, to protect all residents and ensure consistency and effectiveness. Achieving this would be another important

milestone in our overarching goal to achieve a cross-tenure housing standard for electrical safety across the UK.





The Future Home

At the end of 2021, Electrical Safety First released a new report – *Future Homes: Electrical Safety in the Net Zero Home*. It reviews some of the key technologies of the future home and makes recommendations to enhance electrical safety.

The report takes a comprehensive approach and is divided into a review of four primary areas – housing infrastructure, electric vehicles (EVs), product safety, and growing the installer base. To help ensure the future home is not only low carbon and smart, but also safer, we believe it is imperative to address these interrelated elements now.

Our Future Homes report is a first step in our work to ensure an integrated approach to electrical safety in the home of the future. To gain feedback on the report, inform further research and campaigns – and gain broader support and collaboration for its recommendations – we established a series of roundtables.

Three events, focusing on housing, product safety, and EVs, were held in October and December, and March 2022. They were well attended and provided a range of



valuable feedback and insight, helping to inform the development of strategic priorities and recommendations for national and local government.

There was particular interest in our EV roundtable, which included a presentation on our in-depth mapping of the UK's EV charging landscape, which found a postcode lottery of charging facilities across the country. Information was gathered from a range of data sources, including local authorities, the UK Government's EV Homecharge Scheme, and Zap-Map, which supplies details of the public charging infrastructure. EV's were also the focus of our first 'in-person' event on Future Homes, held in the Welsh Senedd in March 2022. This was attended by over a quarter of all AMs and led to further engagement opportunities.

OUR FUTURE HOMES REPORT IS A FIRST STEP IN OUR WORK TO ENSURE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN THE HOME OF THE FUTURE.



Thought Leadership

Our Thought Leadership strategy strengthens collaborations, amplifies our voice, and helps ensure that the importance of electrical safety now – and in the future – is properly recognised in government policy.

In our increasingly complex world, electrical safety requires an integrated approach, so we work with an array of stakeholder organisations – from government departments and non-governmental organisations, to professional and trade bodies, across the electro-technical industry supply chain – and beyond.

Strong partnerships are also vital to extending our reach and conveying our messages to a wider, often expert audience, as well as decision-makers. Our in-depth features and blogs in specialist, professional media, and government information, offer an evidenced-based, detailed rationale, for our policy positions and consumer campaigns. They also provide a platform for our thought leadership views on emerging trends and developments, highlighting the increasing significance of electrical safety on our road to net zero.

Opinion pieces, on a variety of subjects, have appeared in various publications and platforms. Subjects range from the call for an effective electric vehicle infrastructure, to reduce risky charging methods, to the 'tenure lottery' and the introduction of

regular electrical safety checks in private and social housing, across the UK.

In 2021-2022, it is not surprising that much media interest has been related to 'green' themes, particularly since this period saw the publication of report, *Future Homes: Electrical Safety in the Net Zero Home*, which has been covered by the housing, building, fire safety and electro-technical sector, and also by government-related media. Articles and opinion pieces promoting our policies, research, and recommendations,

have been featured in The House and Holyrood magazines, which are mailed to parliamentarians in Westminster and Scotland.

Given that Scotland has led the way in incorporating our call to end the tenure lottery in relation to protection from electrical risk, we established a pilot project for MSP engagement via an Electrical Safety First newsletter, with the first one obtaining a 94% open rate. Once successfully established, similar engagement may be rolled out to Westminster and the other devolved nations.





OUR SHORT-CHANGED CAMPAIGN RESULTED IN THE INTRODUCTION OF MANDATORY ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKS FOR THE SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION SECTOR IN SCOTLAND

Our work combatting the tsunami of fake and substandard electrical products bought online, has been substantially showcased in the Government's Intellectual Property Office (IPO) annual report. Other in-depth features providing updates on the legislative landscape have also appeared in relevant professional membership publications, such as those produced by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and the Institute of Environmental Health.

Work supporting legislative change also incorporates the production of targeted detailed information, most recently leading to the development of a guide for

landlords of short-term accommodation, such as that provided by Airbnb hosts. Our Short-Changed campaign in Scotland resulted in the introduction of mandatory electrical safety checks for this sector, and the charity is planning to extend the campaign across the UK. So in collaboration with the Short Term Accommodation Association, we are developing a UK-wide guide, offering detailed guidance to Scottish hosts and best-practice information for those in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Another important element of the Thought Leadership strategy is supporting the practical application of better regulation – which is also the aim of the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) Regulatory Awards. Our entry for the 2021 award, focused on the specialised training we developed for Trading Standards officers, which was based on research we undertook previously for OPSS, on second hand goods bought offline. We were delighted to achieve Highly Commended in the award's Product Safety category.

We believe it is also vital that we continue to be a significant expert voice in key industry press. Regular features support an ongoing dialogue with manufacturers, retailers, and installers, as well as those entering emerging areas such as electric vehicles, the electrification of heat, and smart homes. In addition to supporting best practice, this work illustrates how our expertise can flag forthcoming trends, opportunities, and challenges, in the consumer or legislative landscape

The varied strands of our Thought Leadership activity have one single aim: to show how our technical and campaigning expertise means we are a voice that needs to be listened to – especially during the transition to a low carbon economy, when electricity and electrical safety is becoming more important than ever.





Certsure LLP

Electrical Safety First owns 75% of the certification and training organisation, Certsure LLP, with the remaining 25% owned by the Electrical Contractors Association. Certsure operates the NICEIC brand, which provides certification services verifying the work, undertaken by its certified businesses meets the standards required to keep us safe from electrical risk. It also offers a range of other Building Regulations schemes, training products, and best practice support to the construction industry. Profits from these activities provide a large part of the charity's income.

Verifying Competence Protecting Consumers

Despite the continuing challenges from COVID-19 and its aftermath, Certsure carried out assessments on over 32,000 businesses between April 2021 and March 2022. Designed to verify the ongoing competency of these businesses, and ensure technical and safety standards are continuously upheld, regular assessments are a condition of being certified by NICEIC.

Split into two key areas, the assessments include on-site scrutiny of representative examples of work, and office audits – to verify effective record keeping and that the correct qualifications, insurances, and policies are in place. Evidence that employees are adequately supervised, and that they are undertaking continuous professional development, is also required.

Over One Million Compliant Installations Delivered

In England and Wales, certain work must be notified to the local building control body.

Thanks to NICEIC's detailed and rigorous protocols, certified businesses on NICEIC's Competent Persons Scheme can self-certify their work. This means that they can confirm the installation is compliant and notify the local building control authority of this, on the consumers behalf. Offering convenience and peace of mind to consumers, between 2021-2022, Certsure businesses delivered over one million notifiable installations in properties across England and Wales.

Championing Safety for All

In 2021-2022 we saw the continued roll-out of legislation requiring regular electrical safety checks in the rented sector in England and Wales. In support of



these developments, Certsure has provided guidance to landlords, tenants, and electrical contractors. Working alongside Electrical Safety First, and other industry stakeholders, Certsure is also actively involved in campaigning for tenure parity. It shares the collective view that everyone benefits from regular electrical safety checks, regardless of geographical location, or housing tenure.



Driving Industry Standards

Along with other key stakeholders, including Electrical Safety First, Certsure sits on the JPEL 64 committee, a cross-industry group formed to help govern the contents of BS 7671:2018 the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Wiring Regulations.

In March 2022, the IET published the second amendment of BS 7671:2018 – the first significant update since its introduction in 2018. This amendment introduced new requirements, designed to improve safety for users of electrical installations, such as arc fault detection devices in certain building types.

Tools for Continuous Improvement

Both Certsure and Electrical Safety First are committed to ensuring consumer protection by continually raising industry standards. In 2021-2022, NICEIC's technical webinar series, THE WIRE, delivered 22 episodes to delegates. Covering a range of essential topics, the series supplied 16 hours of free Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and reached over 40,000 individuals. Certsure

is also a leading training provider for the electrotechnical industry, offering a wide range of highly regarded formal training, delivered via various platforms. Between 2021-2022 Certsure successfully delivered 1,161 courses, which reached an audience of almost 12,000.

Whether through formal courses, or via free CPD, Certsure is supporting thousands of electrical contractors in keeping their technical knowledge and skills up to date – and helping to ensure they deliver safe, compliant, installations to consumers.

Here to Help

Certsure's technical helpline is a major resource for businesses. Operating five days a week, it is run by a team of technical engineers who hold a combined total of over 300 years industry experience. In 2021-22, the helpline took more than 70,000 calls and answered over 5,000 emails.

ELECSA Brand Retirement

Certsure announced the retirement of the ELECSA brand in February 2021. Following an enthusiastic response from ELECSA registrants, the process of transferring them to NICEIC has been completed six months ahead of schedule. The 5,000 registered businesses moving over to NICEIC will directly benefit from relocating to the most consumer recognised brand for certified electrical contractors.

Consumer Education

Certsure undertakes media engagement to help consumers understand the importance of using certified electrical businesses. In 2021, the company garnered over 100 pieces of coverage of this subject in local, national, and consumer press. Focusing on raising safety standards and delivering technical excellence, each article highlighted the benefits of using certified electrical businesses for all electrical work. To help people find their nearest NICEIC certified business, Certsure's website hosts a 'Find a Contractor' tool. This resource, which allows consumers to search for local businesses by postcode, was used 190,000 times in 2021.

Collaborating to Achieve Shared Goals

Certsure collaborates with stakeholders, like Electrical Safety First, in support of driving industry standards forward and promoting best-practice and consumer safety.

Finance Report

2021-2022

The summary group financial statements are not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to the consolidated income and expenditure account, consolidated balance sheet and cash flow statement, derived from the full audited Trustee's Report and financial statements of the charity which were approved by the Board of Trustees on 6 October 2022. 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.

Basis of Summarisation

As noted above, 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). Summaries of certain primary statements have been included with no accompanying notes. The summary consolidated income and expenditure account does not split the funds into unrestricted and trading and amalgamates the following balances:

- Investment income from investments and properties
- Income from charitable activities and other incoming resources
- Investment management and fundraising costs
- Expenditure on charitable activities
- Net investments (losses)/gains on investments and properties

The summary consolidated balance sheet discloses the subtotals only with the exception of fixed assets which splits out the investments in joint ventures separately.

The summary cash flow statement provides the total by main category only.

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

Sarah Frost, Chair

Independent Auditor's Statement to the Trustees of the

Electrical Safety Council

We have examined the summary financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022 set out above and on the previous pages.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Auditor

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summary financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendation of the Charities SORP (2019 – second edition).

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial

statements with the full annual financial statements.

Basis of Opinion

Our examination involved agreeing the balances disclosed in the summary financial statements to the full annual financial statements. Our audit report on the full annual financial statements of the Electrical Safety Council describes the basis of our audit opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements of the Electrical Safety Council for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Kingston Smith LLP
Statutory Auditor
4 Victoria Square, St Albans, AL1 3TF
6 October 2022

Overall Result

The charity recorded a net decrease in funds of £1,877k. This was due to an actuarial pension gain of £6.0m offset by not recognising the £11.8m surplus of pension assets over liabilities as the charity does not have the right to receive repayment. It also includes the share of joint venture profits



of £4,740k, the investment gains over the year amounting to £299k as well as £875k of investment income.

Gift Aid of £5,579k (2021: £3,293k) was paid to the charity from its subsidiaries.

Reserves at the end of the year stood at £28,358k.

Income

Total income of £5,624k included the £4,740k share of profit from Certsure LLP, the charity's Joint Venture with the Electrical Contractors Association.

Expenditure

Charitable expenditure for the year amounted to £1,717k (2021: £1,679k). The on-going Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in planned events and travel being cancelled, as well as ongoing control being exercised over costs, kept expenditure at a similar level to the previous year.

Fixed Assets

The market value of tangible property whether used by the charity or leased to tenants has reduced by £411k over the year as a result of a combination of changes in market values and depreciation. Formal lease arrangements exist between the charity and tenants for all investment properties.

Pension Scheme

The pension deficit on the closed defined benefit scheme impacts the charity's cash flows by the funding arrangements agreed with the Pension Scheme Trustees which, following the 31 March 2020 triennial review, were agreed as £600k pa to March 2021 and £250k pa thereafter. During the year, the employer agreed to make a lump sum contribution of £4m and also increase the annual contributions to £1m with effect from 1 April 2022 with the aim of reaching a self-sufficient level of scheme funding by the end of 2027.

Outlook

The Group's financial position remains satisfactory and the charity intends maintaining, and potentially expanding, its current range of activities. Covid-19 has not significantly impacted on its ability to continue its work but the situation will be kept under review.

Cash, Investment Policy and Returns

The charity holds the majority of its reserves in a long term investment portfolio currently valued at £12.8m which was managed by two investment managers but increased to three managers during the year. Overall cash and investment balances have increased to £17,850k (2021: £16,600k) during the year. Cash balances increased by £659k and the investment portfolio gained £0.6m in value

due to the continued good market performance over the course of the year.

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 to maintain and where possible enhance the real value of the portfolio without taking unnecessary risks. The objective is to generate a long-term return of inflation plus 3-4% after expenses. This should enable income of towards the lower end of that range (to allow for volatility) to be taken from the fund without diminishing the real value of the portfolio. 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 on-going 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. All income generated during the year is utilised to fund charity expenditure.

The charity's investments in joint ventures relate to Certsure LLP.

Reserves and Risk Assessment

The reserves policy states that reserves, which are defined as the charity's and its wholly owned subsidiaries' cash and investment

portfolio, amounting to at least two years pure /discretionary charitable expenditure should be maintained after provision for the next three years' pension deficit payments.

If the charity reserves exceed the minimum level as they currently do, the policy states that the Trustees will consider the best use of the additional funds. Matters they take into account include the progress of the defined benefit pension scheme to self-sufficiency, the merits of holding or investing the additional amount to fund future spend and the merits of undertaking additional charitable activities. Consideration of holding the additional amount to fund future spend includes assessing the risk to future income from reoccurrence of Covid-19 or any similar pandemic. The Trustees have planned an Away-Day later in 2022 to actively consider how the strategy should continue to develop and reserves be deployed.

Risk management processes are embedded in the day-to-day operations of the charity and risk registers are reviewed regularly by management and also biannually by the full Trustee Board to ensure completeness and that the risk ratings and impacts remain appropriate.

SUMMARY GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summary Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account including Other Comprehensive Income for year ended 31 March 2022	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Income from investments	875	780
Share of profits in Joint Ventures	4,740	4,962
Other income	9	31
Total income	5,624	5,773
Expenditure on continuing trading activities	-	-
Expenditure on discontinued trading activities	5	2
Other expenditure on raising funds	99	104
Expenditure on charitable activities	1,717	1,679
Other expenditure	129	121
Total expenditure	1,950	1,906
Pension adjustment	(5,850)	(9,900)
Net investment gains / (losses)	299	2,029
Net movement in funds	(1,877)	(4,004)
Fund balances brought forward at 1st April	30,235	34,239
Fund balances carried forward	28,358	30,235

Summary Consolidated Balance Sheet at 31 March 2022	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Fixed assets and investments	18,387	18,207
Investments in joint ventures: Share of net assets	5,313	6,462
Current assets	5,085	4,400
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(427)	(334)
Net current assets	4,658	4,066
Pension asset	0	1,500
Reserves	28,358	30,235

Summary Cash Flow Statement for year ended 31 March 2022	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(6,102)	(2,535)
Net cash provided by investing activities	6,761	2,796
Net increase in cash in the year	659	261



PRINCIPAL PLACES OF BUSINESS

Electrical Safety First Registered Office

45 Great Guildford Street
London SE1 0ES

Email: enquiries@electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk

Scottish Office

The Walled Garden
Bush Estate
Midlothian EH26 0SD

Certsure LLP Registered Office

Warwick House
Houghton Hall Park
Houghton Regis
Dunstable LU5 5ZX

Telephone: **0333 015 6625**

© 2022

Electrical Safety First is the campaigning name of the Electrical Safety Council, a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 257376) and Scotland (No. SCO39990).