

Serving the Midlands, South West and Wales

INVITATION TO WPD'S ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP, WITH LUNCH: JANUARY 2016

TO DISCUSS WPD'S FIRST YEAR BUSINESS PLAN DELIVERY AND ACTIONS TO ADDRESS SMART NETWORKS AND ENERGY AFFORDABILITY

I am writing to invite you to one of WPD's Annual Stakeholder Workshops. As a key stakeholder, we do hope you can attend. The purpose of the workshops will be discuss WPD's accepted business plan for 2015-202 and to provide you with an opportunity to shape our thinking on a number of long-term, strategic challenges facing electricity networks.

As you may be aware, following a great deal of engagement with stakeholders, WPD's Business Plan for Ofgem's most recent price control, RIIO-ED1, was fast-tracked by the regulator in 2014. Whilst the business plan is now being implemented, there is still an opportunity to discuss its delivery and, particularly, how WPD should monitor and report progress to customers. This event will be an opportunity to understand WPD's performance in the first year of this period and the key actions that have been taken so far.

At the same time as embarking on the delivery of a nearly £7billion investment programme, it is very important that we continue to identify the priorities for the future. We are therefore asking you, as one of our key stakeholders, to help us to better understand what the key challenges for the future are, what our priorities should be in the medium to long-term, and what actions we can start taking today to address these.

In particular, WPD will discuss their plans in relation to <u>two long-term strategic priorities</u> previously raised by stakeholders: <u>building smart (low carbon) networks</u> and <u>addressing energy</u> <u>affordability (including tackling fuel poverty).</u>

We are holding our annual stakeholder workshops at the following locations:

Plymouth (St Mellion International Resort), 19th January 2016
Bristol (Bristol Pavilion - formerly Gloucestershire Cricket Ground), 20th January 2016

Newport (Celtic Resort), 21st January 2016 Birmingham (Aston Villa Football Club), 26th January 2016 Derby (Marriot Breadsall Priory), 27th January 2016 Lincoln (Lincolnshire Showground), 28th January 2016

Registration from 9.30am
Workshops from 10am – 1pm
Lunch served from 1pm – 2pm
Optional "surgeries" from 2pm – 3pm

The Stakeholder Workshops will include short presentations from senior managers at WPD, followed by round table discussions to allow you to critically evaluate and shape our plans. Distribution Managers responsible for the local electricity network will also be on hand for discussions.

In the afternoon, attendees can participate in more detailed "surgeries" on the topics of:

- Connections and distributed generation
- Social obligations (including vulnerability and fuel poverty)
- ➤ The role of a Distribution System Operator

Attendees will include representatives of parish and local councils; energy suppliers and major users;

vulnerable customer representatives; chambers of commerce and business groups; developers; environmental representatives and conservation groups.

Please can you confirm your attendance by emailing mail@westernpowerworkshops.co.uk, clearly stating in the subject heading which event you would like to attend. Alternatively, please call James Wickett-Whyte on 020 3397 2414. Please also tell us if you have any specific dietary requirements.

I look forward to meeting you at one of these workshops.

Yours faithfully

Alex Wilkes

Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Western Power Distribution