

ANNUAL REPORT

First for Electrical Safety Advice

2016-17

The UK's
electrical
safety
experts

ABOUT ELECTRICAL SAFETY FIRST

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 ensure that safety messages are appropriate, up to date and well communicated.

We provide expert information and advice to assist the public in protecting themselves from faulty, damaged, sub-standard and poorly maintained electrical installations and appliances. We also offer expert advice to manufacturers and retailers on compliance, risk and other areas of safety.

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



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION



In my final year as Chairman of Electrical Safety First, it is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Bill Wright, a long-standing Trustee, past Chairman and committed supporter of the Charity. Bill served on the Board for 16 years and was central to the development of the strategic direction that has positioned the Charity as a strong consumer campaigning organisation.

This year, despite there being a feeling of uncertainty around the country's political and economic stability, I am pleased to be able to report that Electrical Safety First continues to maintain a healthy balance sheet based on its assets and supported by the income from its trading activities.

We have also seen significant progress in our work with Government, resulting in a serious commitment across parties to address electrical safety issues. The announcement of a snap election inevitably meant that legislative change to protect people in privately rented homes has been delayed but having had very positive discussions with the Welsh and Northern Irish Assemblies, I am hopeful that the achievement of one of our main campaigning priorities will not be far away.

As always, I would like to thank the Chief Executive and whole team at Electrical Safety First for their hard work towards achieving our objectives, and also thanks go to the Certsure staff and management for their support. Finally, as I hand over to incoming Chair Anne Ferguson, I would like to wish her every success in her role as the Charity continues to go from strength to strength.

Bryn Walker

Acting Chairman





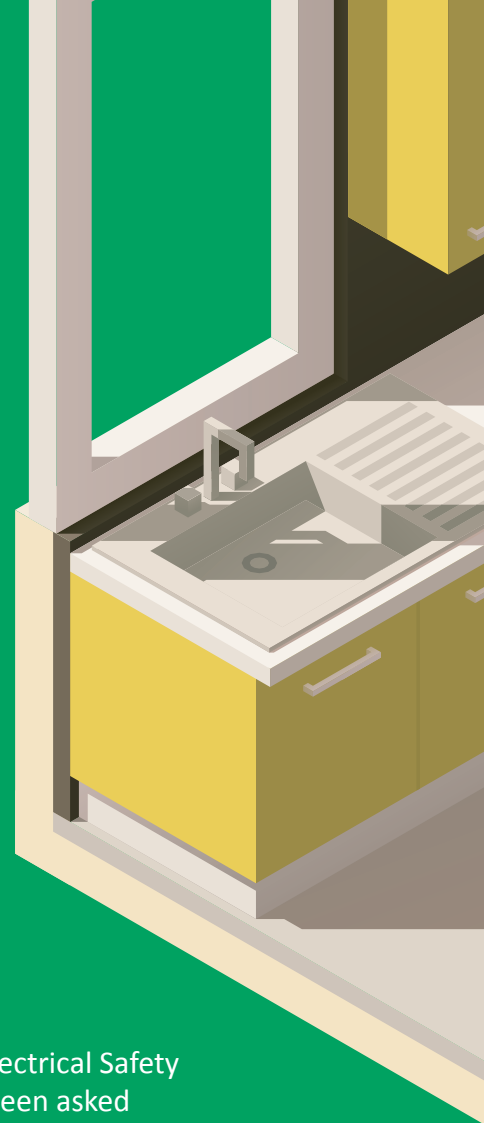
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S INTRODUCTION

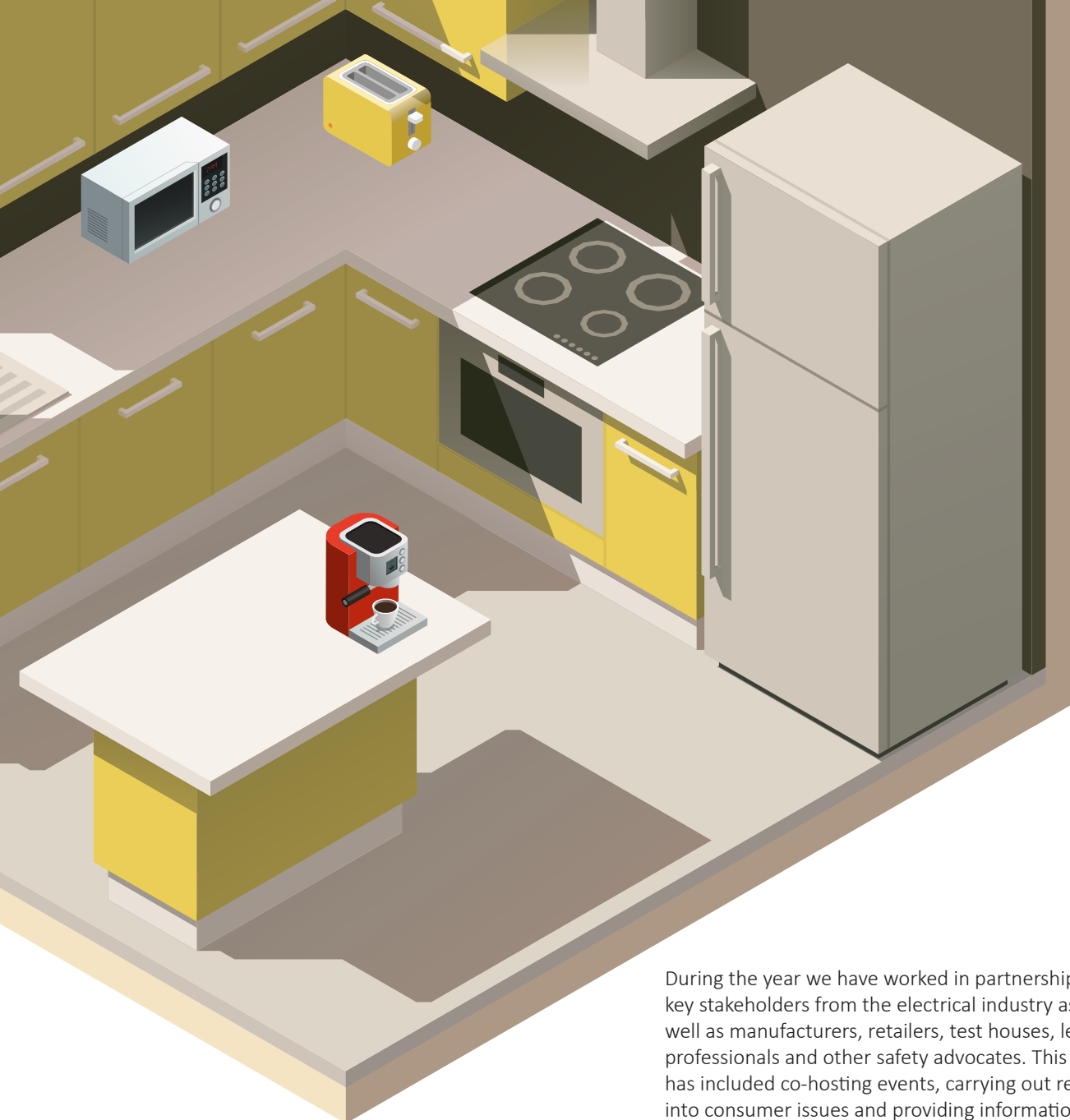
During the last year we have made excellent progress in establishing Electrical Safety First as the expert voice on electrical safety issues. We have regularly been asked to comment in the national media on breaking news stories, notably around high profile electrical product recalls and safety notices. Our annual consumer survey has shown awareness of the Charity has almost doubled across all age groups, with the biggest increase amongst 15-24 year olds, undoubtedly as a result of greater online engagement through our digital campaigns and social media presence. The consumer survey also highlights areas where more work is needed and helps to identify those target audiences that could engage better with our safety messages.



This year we took the decision to move responsibility for the management of media campaigns and public affairs activity fully in-house for the first time. With the establishment of a new Campaigns Committee, representatives from our Board of Trustees are working with the in-house team to identify priorities for the coming year.

Over the past twelve months we have seen some excellent results including the proposed amendments to the Housing and Planning Act, which would make regular five-yearly electrical safety checks in the Private Rented Sector (PRS) a legal requirement for landlords. This is a significant win for the Charity and our campaigning over many years. The next step is to wait for Ministerial approval and we will be monitoring this very closely.





There has been considerable media interest in the safety notice issued by Whirlpool to owners of their tumble dryers. Having repeatedly stressed that Electrical Safety First believes that consumers should not use these products until they have been checked by an engineer, we welcomed Whirlpool's updated advice issued in February, in line with this guidance. We are hoping to work with Whirlpool to try to reach those affected customers who have not yet responded to the safety notice.

Electrical Safety First has lobbied hard for improvements to the product recall system, including through our membership of the new Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety – which released its report and recommendations in April. In response to concerns around the safety of electrical products, we helped to establish the All Party Parliamentary Group on Electrical Safety and we continue to work with MPs and key stakeholders to highlight the importance of an effective product recall system.

During the year we have worked in partnership with key stakeholders from the electrical industry as well as manufacturers, retailers, test houses, legal professionals and other safety advocates. This work has included co-hosting events, carrying out research into consumer issues and providing information and guidance for third party organisations to share via their own communication channels, helping us to reach a much wider audience. We have also developed a range of tailored consultancy services designed to support organisations involved at any point in the supply chain of electrical products and appliances.

We moved into our new permanent office back in April 2016. This has enabled us to not only cut down on our own accommodation costs, but also will provide a future income stream through renting out one floor of the building.

In closing, I think it is important to acknowledge the CEO of Certsure LLP and her team for their continued support and of course my colleagues at Electrical Safety First for their work during the last year. My thanks also go to our Trustees for their ongoing guidance and support.

Phil Buckle
Chief Executive

RAISING CONSUMER AWARENESS THROUGH THE MEDIA AND ONLINE



64,715
people were reached by our Facebook Live video which offered advice on spotting fake electrical products.

In April 2016, Electrical Safety First moved responsibility for the media campaign development and delivery process in-house, with the small team managing eight media campaigns, as well as offering reactive comment.

These campaigns focused on securing traditional media coverage as well as reaching a wider audience through supporting digital content and social media activity. As well as developing five main campaigns, the team responded to additional opportunities, developing messaging to coincide with World Anti-Counterfeiting Day and Burns Awareness Day, and shared seasonal messages for Christmas.

Audience reach was extended through partnerships with respected organisations, including the Anti-Counterfeiting Group, Children's Burns Trust and the Government's Fire Kills campaign. Our "Modern Family" campaign was featured on popular parenting website Mumsnet.

Themes for the year included some relevant to all UK adults, including counterfeit electrical products, product recall and registration and the importance of using registered electricians for complex electrical work in the home. As well as this, more specific audiences were targeted with advice for modern families with tech-mad teens, and also for keen cooks taking risks in the kitchen.

Through developing strong relationships with senior journalists, Electrical Safety First has been established as the leading voice on electrical safety issues. The Charity was regularly quoted in the media on the subject of the high-profile Whirlpool tumble-dryer recall and as a result, in February 2017 the company changed its position and advised customers not to use machines until they had been checked by an engineer, in line with our guidance.

The in-house team developed social images, quizzes and videos and worked with a specialist agency for more complex digital content. We made effective use of Facebook Live to share simple messages to support the campaigns.



The team secured 1,585 pieces of media coverage. UK adults had the opportunity to see, hear or read about Electrical Safety First over 227,851,521 times.

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

The Modern Family July 2016

The campaign looked at the increasing number of electrical gadgets that children and teenagers have in their bedrooms and the risky mistakes they make when it comes to charging and using them, including overcharging, charging on flammable surfaces (on bedding or even under pillows) and leaving them to charge unattended. Research showed that parents are making exactly the same mistakes with their own products. We offered simple advice on charging and using gadgets safely.

350,000

people viewed our 'Melting Photo' video, sharing over 1,750 times on social media

To support the story, we produced a short video, 'Melting Photo', that showed a tablet left charging on a child's bed – as the camera zooms in it begins to smoke and the photograph on the screen starts to burn.

Watch What You Heat September 2016



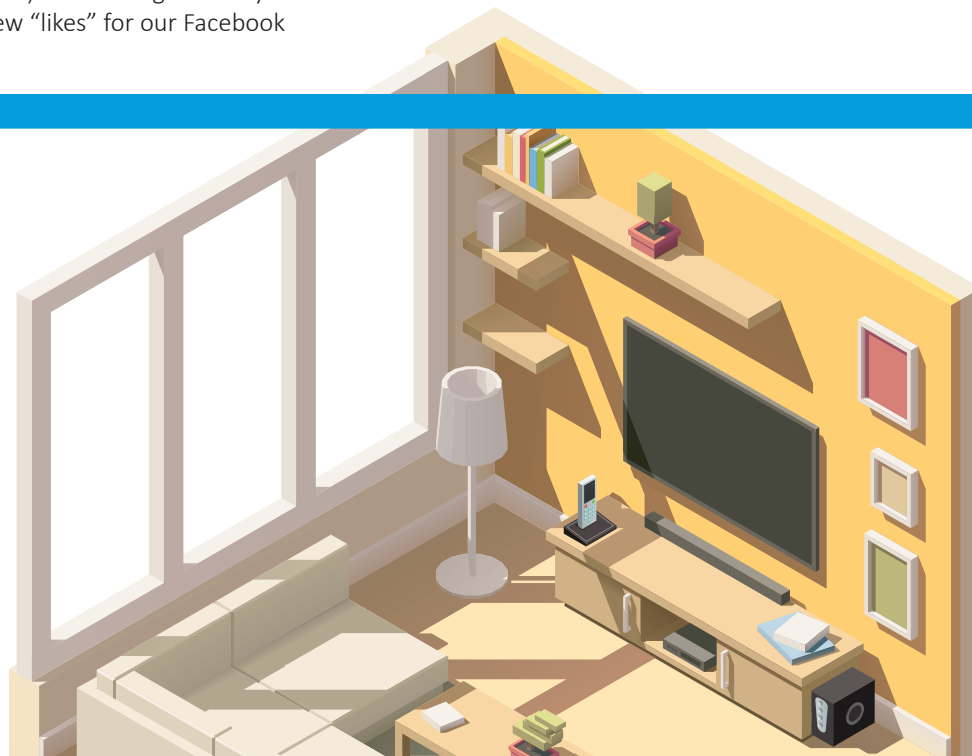
To commemorate the 350th anniversary of the start of the Great Fire of London, we looked at the bad cooking habits that cause a fire risk, still a serious issue today as 50% of accidental house fires start in the kitchen. We produced three short films that parodied the "Tasty" cooking videos that are popular on social media. We took simple recipes and showed the potential consequences of not concentrating in the kitchen, covering product misuse (cheese on toast), microwave safety (brownies) and the risks of getting distracted (steaks). The videos were the most successful digital campaign that we have run in terms of reach and interaction, being viewed by over 2.5 million people, generating 14,087 social interactions (likes, comments and shares) and leading to nearly 1,000 new "likes" for our Facebook page.

Counterfeits November 2016



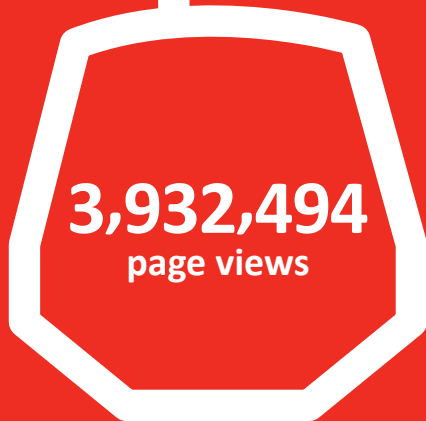
For Electrical Fire Safety Week we focused on the increasing sophistication of counterfeit electrical products that are on the market, mostly sold online, with a warning for shoppers to be vigilant when looking to bag a bargain in the popular Black Friday sales. It is becoming increasingly difficult to "spot the fake" just by looking as packaging and products, on the surface, can look very convincing. However, electrical fakes lack important safety features, meaning they present a risk of electric shock or fire.

The message was reinforced in a short video that featured a terrible Elvis impersonator out and about meeting his "fans". The end frame gave the message: "It's not always this easy to spot a fake".



ELECTRICAL SAFETY FIRST ONLINE

The Charity's website is now firmly established as the top source of information about electrical safety issues. It has seen a steady increase in traffic, 9% up on the previous year.





As well as seeing increased traffic to the site around campaign launches, there was also a surge in visits in February 2017 when Whirlpool changed their advice on their high-profile tumble dryer safety notice. Following their announcement that affected consumers should not use their machines until they had been checked by an engineer, the site's product recall pages had over 12,000 visits in one day.


Older digital content also helped to drive traffic to the site. In September, 10,000 people visited the site, having seen the "Clueless Colin" film about the risks of e-cigarettes. And the highly successful "Pets Home Alone" video, about the dangers of leaving phones charging unattended, brought over 4,000 people to the site in one day in June, coinciding with the release of hit film "The Secret Life of Pets" in UK cinemas.

Best Performing Consumer Pages:

 **Whirlpool Safety Notice**
237,404
visitors (6.04% of total traffic)

 **RCDs Explained**
155,212
(3.95%)

 **Overloading Sockets**
138,171
(3.51%)

 **Find an Electrician**
125,947
(3.20%)

 **Advice for Landlords**
14,739
(2.66%)

Best Performing Technical Pages:



New, Re-Wired and Similar Installations (Wiring Regulations)

76,827

(1.95% of total traffic)



Best Practice Guides

70,412

(1.79%)



Wiring Regulations Landing Page

64,640

(1.64%)

Most Popular Downloads



Best Practice Guides (1-9)

58,744



Landlords' Interim Checklist

2,554



Landlords' Guide, Scotland

1,802



How Safe is Your Home?

1,757



Electrical Safety in Privately Rented Properties in Scotland

1,060

Social Media

During the year the Charity gained significant numbers of followers across its social media platforms. The in-house team has developed quizzes, videos and graphics to support campaigning activity. Our first "Facebook Live" video was seen by over 20,000 people. A simple lead generation campaign on Facebook led to over 6,000 people signing up to receive electrical product recall alerts.



16,226

likes



13,710

followers



1,506

subscribers



289

followers



250

followers



982

members

Search Engine Optimisation

In another successful year, organic traffic to the website increased by 66% and we saw a 56% increase in the number of people accessing the site via mobile devices.

We continued to use the full \$40,000 monthly grant allocated by Google, with paid advertising responsible for over 450,000 visits to the website. Nearly 9,000 people were directed to registered electrician websites from our Find an Electrician page.

Out of 120 keywords relating to electrical safety, the Charity ranks in the top five for 71. We are ranked number one for searches that include "find an electrician", "Part P" and "landlords electrical safety".

ANNUAL CONSUMER SURVEY

Each year, campaign priorities and target audiences are identified through analysing the results of the annual consumer survey which tracks behaviour change and awareness of the Charity's key aims, as identified in its five year strategy.

Brand Awareness - Unprompted awareness of the Electrical Safety First brand has almost doubled overall, going from 5% to 9% and has actually moved from 5% to 11% amongst the hard to reach 15-24 year old age group.

Product Recalls - People are more likely to respond to recall notices for larger, more expensive items – with a high 85% saying they would return a washing machine/tumble dryer, down to 75% for a mobile phone charger, although this figure has risen from 69% in 2016.

Counterfeits - There has been a drop in the number of people who say they would buy fake electrical products. Just 2% would buy electrical devices like games consoles and hairdryers (3% in 2016) and 3% would buy accessories like chargers and cables (6% in 2016). 87% of UK adults say they would never knowingly buy fake goods (82% in 2016).



32%

of adults, when prompted, had heard of Electrical Safety First

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Housing

Our work on the Housing and Planning Act led to a working group being set up to look at the merits of having mandatory five-yearly electrical safety checks. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has drafted a report recommending mandatory checks which will be submitted to the Housing Minister, Gavin Barwell MP. If Ministerial approval is granted, draft regulations will be put forward for debate in Parliament.

Older people

We held our annual drop in event in the House of Commons in January. It focussed on raising awareness with MPs to help protect their older constituents from house fires caused by electricity. We plan to commission a piece of research with Hampshire Fire Service which will identify the 'hot spot' areas in England for electrical fires in the homes of older people, which will feed into greater campaigning work with politicians in their constituencies.

Scotland

Following on from our successful campaign to introduce electrical safety checks in the private rented sector, this year we launched a new campaign called 'Inequality Street', highlighting the clear inconsistency between electrical safety standards in private and social housing and owner-occupied homes in Scotland. While owner-occupiers can choose to determine acceptable risk levels in their home, this can be an issue when they live in tenements and flats, where



87%

of UK adults say they would never knowingly buy fake goods (82% in 2016).

fire can easily spread and impact on other residents. 'Inequality Street' calls for a common electrical safety standard for all housing in Scotland.

We published our manifesto for the Scottish Parliament Election and have been busy engaging with politicians from all parties on ways to reduce the number of electrical fires in homes across Scotland.

In the Spring, we took part in Glasgow City Council's 'The Real McCoy' event at which we talked to Councillors and members of the public about the dangers of counterfeit electrical goods and the need for better financial support for Trading Standards to deal with these threats.

We exhibited at all the main political party conferences this year, focusing on the range of electrical dangers which can be found in a child's bedroom. Many elected members then worked with us to bring the issue to the attention of the Scottish Government through a series of parliamentary questions.

Wales

We attended a meeting with the Welsh Government in Cardiff to discuss the problem with fires caused by electricity in Wales, something they agree is a rising problem. We have discussed a potential research project with the Welsh Government to ascertain the reasons behind this, so that we can work towards a solution.

Northern Ireland

Our campaign to ensure properties in the Private Rented Sector (PRS) in Northern Ireland receive mandatory electrical safety checks has made significant progress this year. Despite the current political uncertainty, the Department for Communities has stated that they will press ahead with mandatory PRS electrical checks, as soon as possible. Our focus has now shifted to campaigning for this measure to be extended to all social housing in Northern Ireland.

We published manifestos for the two separate Assembly elections this year and have continued to gain cross party political supporters. We attended our first political party conference in the Autumn and have continued to establish relationships with stakeholders, including Housing Rights and NUS USI.

We appointed an intern to assist with our political engagement in Northern Ireland.

EU (Counterfeits)

We undertook an event in the EU Parliament on the subject of tackling the spread of counterfeit electrical goods across Europe, in association with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and with Lucy Anderson MEP. It attracted key speakers from the EU Commission and Europol. We are seeking to find legislative opportunities to tackle the issue of counterfeits across Europe, and the event gave us a number of new contacts within the EU Commission to take these matters forward. We are also considering how Brexit will impact this work and how we will need to ensure these issues are worked into UK law.

INFLUENCING THE INFLUENCERS – WORKING WITH INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT

Whilst Electrical Safety First’s campaigning focus is in on raising consumer awareness of the risks inherent in electricity, our work can’t stop there.

We believe the best way to protect consumers is by working with the industry to promote and support best practice in an ever-changing legislative landscape. Additionally we work with government and MPs to raise awareness and effect change, ensuring that consumer safety is always a priority.

To optimise this activity, we publicise our work appropriately in a wide range of trade, stakeholder and professional media. Gaining such visibility helps ensure that our voice is clearly heard by all key stakeholders and influencers – from trade associations to government departments, local MPs and beyond – in both the UK and Europe.

We achieve this by developing a wide range of feature articles, blogs, opinion pieces and relevant and timely comment. These have appeared in a host of media sectors, including housing and property magazines (such as Housing Management and Maintenance and Property Checklist); industry publications, both print and online (including Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms, IER, Get Connected and Electrical Trade magazine) and high-profile national titles (including This is Money and Sunday Express Scotland). Blogs and features have also been produced for a number of government and associated bodies – from the Intellectual Property Office, to First, the magazine for the Local Government Association and Parliament magazine. Regular opinion pieces also appear in publications for trade bodies such as Retra’s Alert, with blogs for outlets as diverse as BIBA (the British Insurers Association) and lawyers Leigh Day, who specialise in product safety cases. As we live in a global economy, inevitably our engagement process extends beyond the UK. Consequently we were delighted when, once again, our prestigious annual product safety conference gained patronage from the European Parliament.

Promoting Electrical Safety First as a significant industry and political commentator has been a major aim in our Thought Leadership strategy. The term ‘thought leadership’ means different things to different people but its core function is to create opportunities to become a trusted, expert source on the issues we are passionate about. Our strategy is designed to position the Charity as a leader in its field, with the expertise and ideas required to deal with the demands of a complex, 21st century world - inspiring conversations that might otherwise have been lost, or possibly never even considered.

WORKING WITH THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY

Consultancy services

Electrical Safety First has developed a range of tailored consultancy services designed to support organisations involved at any point in the supply of electrical products and appliances. Our team of product safety experts specialise in solving individual business needs and advise clients on best practice procedures, ensuring the products they manufacture and retail meet relevant UK standards, reducing the risk of them causing injury to end users.

The following services can be tailored for specific needs:

- Risk Assessment Services
- Independent Product Testing
- Electrical Product Sourcing and Buying Processes
- Product Safety Training

Raising awareness with the electrical industry

Hosted by Electrical Safety First, the **Electrical Installation Forum (EIF)** was established to facilitate discussions in the electrical industry for the purpose of taking a co-ordinated approach to developing practical solutions on installation safety matters, including:

- (i) Safety of low voltage electrical installations in domestic premises
- (ii) Electrical Installation Certification and Condition reporting
- (iii) Electrical Installation related fires (e.g. supply intake)
- (iv) Electrical Installation practice
- (v) Counterfeit and non-compliant electrical installation products
- (vi) Building Regulations

Meeting quarterly, the **Wiring Regulations Advisory Group (WRAG)**

continues to be an excellent source of information for electrical installers and practitioners. The guidance on the Electrical Safety First website continues to generate over 8,000 page views per month.

The **Best Practice Guides** continue to be our most popular download with over 4,500 downloads each month.

Working with the electrical industry

November: We presented at the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organisation (ICPHSO) conference in Brussels on 'human factors affecting the safety journey'. Electrical Safety First is a member of the annual symposium planning team.

March: We talked to Tech UK members about concerns and solutions associated with safety and sustainability concerning the life cycle of electrical products.



175

The Electrical Safety First website contains over **175** searchable questions and answers.



April: We attended an EU Commission workshop that looked at improving RAPEX – the EU system for exchange of information between member states on unsafe goods – aiming to make information clearer and more accessible.

We worked in collaboration with FACT/ Industry Trust to highlight the safety concerns of the power supply units of TV streaming boxes, a growing problem.

We presented at Certsure’s NICEIC ELECSA live events on the dangers associated with counterfeit electrical products.

Events

In November, Electrical Safety First’s 6th annual Product Safety Conference ‘Connecting Together for a Safer, Smarter World’ saw over 200 delegates representing manufacturers, retail, importing, test houses, legal, enforcement, government and safety advocates.

BBC journalist and presenter Martine Croxall chaired the event and the Minister of State for Energy and Intellectual Property, Baroness Neville-Rolfe, provided the keynote speech highlighting, amongst other things, the importance for industry and government to tackle the growing issue of counterfeit and sub-standard electrical goods that threaten consumer safety and hurt legitimate businesses. The conference covered numerous hot topics including how smart technology can improve product safety, product recall effectiveness, consumer understanding of risk - including how manufacturers might anticipate emerging risks and foreseeable use, with the day’s events concluding with a session on counterfeit electrical products and the need for accurate intelligence to address the flood of fakes entering the UK.

In March a roundtable event focused on open-circuit PEN conductors, which serve as both a protective earthing and neutral conductor. Although PEN conductors within installations have been prohibited for some time now, older ones still remain in, for example, the ring mains in blocks of flats. If the PEN conductor fails, this presents a shock hazard and the diverted neutral current can also create a significant heat build-up, which can then lead to fire.

The event drew on evidence provided by the Health and Safety Executive and brought together all sectors of the electrical industry to discuss the safety issues and look to developing solutions through collaborative efforts in both the distribution network and in the IET Wiring Regulations.

In April we partnered with Intertek to host ‘Safety in Mind’ looking at the various routes for economic operators to ensure that the products they are placing on the market are safe, including due diligence for buyers of electrical products.

Influencing Standards

Through our experience and previous screening activities, we were able to help develop and influence a new British Standard for travel adaptors (BS 8546), which was published in April 2016 and for plugs and sockets (BS1363) in August 2016.



SAFER PRODUCTS

Investigation into UK socket-outlets incorporating USB charging points.

We investigated a number of commercially available UK socket-outlets incorporating USB ports, as a repeat of our investigation conducted in 2014.

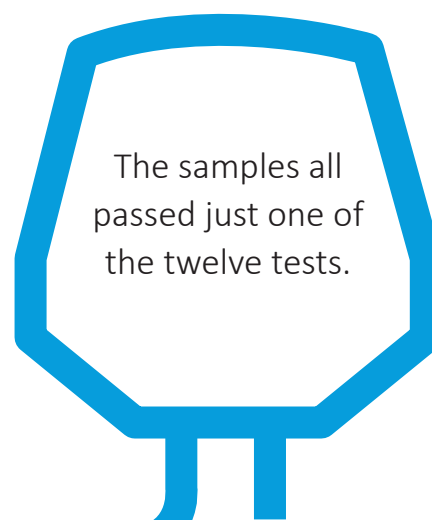
This was done for two reasons:

- to see if the quality and safety of the products had improved, particularly in light of the arrival of larger manufacturers onto the market, and
- to see if the products were capable of meeting the recently introduced standard requirements regarding socket-outlets incorporating USB charging points.

As with the 2014 study, the primary safety concern was that such products could pose a risk of electric shock

or fire. This would be the case if the extra-low-voltage parts of the USB power supply were not sufficiently segregated and separated from the low voltage (240V) parts of the product or from the fixed wiring installation of the property in which the product is installed.

Socket-outlets incorporating USB ports are now covered within the scope of BS 1363 Part 2, but it is recognised that the new USB requirements were in draft form at the time of this investigation and not known to many manufacturers. However, the samples selected for screening were all readily available on the consumer market, and as such, would need to meet the essential safety requirements of the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations, primarily by conformity to applicable and current safety standards.



Overall Summary of Testing

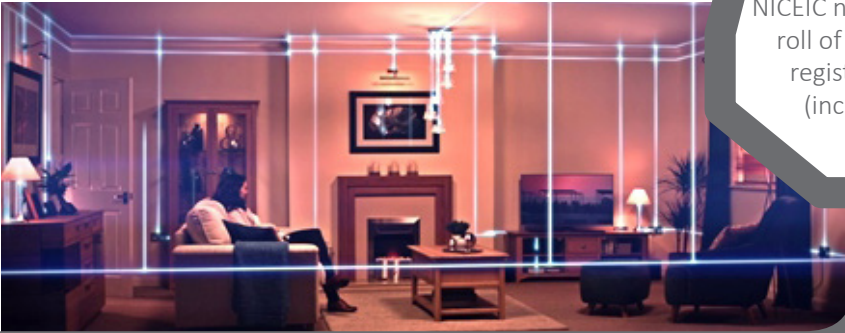
Key: **F** = Fail, **P** = Pass, **IR** = Partial Fail / Improvement Recommended

Test Criteria	Sample Number								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J
1 Markings, labelling & instructions	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	F	F	IR	F
2 Construction	P	P	P	P	P	F	F	P	F
3 Accessibility of live parts	P	P	F	P	P	P	F	P	F
4 Terminals & terminations	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	IR	F
5 Internal wiring / separation	F	P	F	P	F	F	F	F	F
6 Screws, current carrying parts & connections	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	F
7 Creepage distances, clearances & distances through insulation	P	P	F	P	F	F	F	F	F
8 Overcurrent & earth fault protection	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	F	P
9 Mechanical strength	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	IR	P
10 Insulation resistance / electric strength / leakage current	P	P	P	P	F	P	P	F	F
11 Provision for earthing	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	F
12 Output voltage, no load & under load (Not a current requirement)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Total Failed Criteria	2	1	4	1	4	4	5	7	9

As with all of our previous product safety investigations, the research findings will be shared with the manufacturers and suppliers concerned to make them aware of the nature and extent of the electrical safety failures that have been identified.

CERTSURE LLP

Certsure LLP continued to support Electrical Safety First by providing funding for our charitable objectives. It operates the NICEIC and ELECSA brands which offer industry-leading certification services, Building Regulations schemes, training, products and support to the construction industry and beyond.



28,000

NICEIC now maintains a total roll of more than 28,000 registered contractors (including domestic installers).

2016 marked NICEIC's 60th anniversary. The number of registrants continued to grow throughout the year and in January 2017 NICEIC's roll of Approved Contractors topped 20,000 – the first time in the organisation's history it had reached this figure.

Other notable achievements include:

Certsure ranked 52nd in the **Times Top 100 list**, up an impressive 27 places on last year's position. It was the fifth year running that Certsure was named one of the UK's top 100 companies to work for.

NICEIC and ELECSA are committed to developing the talent of the future and once again operated an **Apprentice of the Year** competition. More than 400 young apprentices applied to take part in the contest.

NICEIC also encourages more women into the electrical industry through its **Jobs for the Girls** campaign, which was nominated for an award at the Women in Construction Awards 2017.

Certsure is committed to raising awareness about the need to use a **registered electrician**. It ran a series of high profile campaigns throughout the year, including its first ever TV and online advert (The Cage), which reached in excess of 10 million viewers.

Certsure continued to **work in partnership** with some of the biggest names in the home improvement sector to offer the best protection for consumers. Besides its work with the Consumer Protection Alliance (which includes Gas Safe Register, Which? and the Dispute Resolution Ombudsman),

Certsure also worked in conjunction with the John Lewis Partnership on a new trusted homes project.

NICEIC and ELECSA continued to run their successful technical conferences for electrical contractors. More than 1,000 people attended the **Live South** and **Live North** events held at Epsom and Aintree racecourses, while regional **TechTalks** also saw record numbers attend.

NICEIC and ELECSA were at the forefront of providing electrical contractors with access to the latest training. As well as offering traditional electrical based courses such as 17th edition and safe isolation, it expanded its range of courses to reflect the changing demands from consumers with courses in smart home technology and renewable energy.

NICEIC and ELECSA's **online certification** system is now used by more than 15 000 unique customers. More contractors are choosing to use the system because of the additional benefits it brings to their business.



The summary group financial statements are not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to the group income and expenditure account, 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 28 September 2017. 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, Acting Chairman

Report of the Independent Auditor to the Directors of the Electrical Safety Council on the Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary consolidated balance sheet as at 31 March 2017, the summary group income and expenditure account 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 2017.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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.

FINANCE

Summary Financial Statement

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 and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 29 September 2017.

Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

Moore Stephens LLP
Statutory Auditor
150 Aldersgate Street, London
29 September 2017

Overall Result

The Charity recorded a net decrease in funds of £6,468k. This however was after a pension adjustment representing a loss of £9,400. It also includes the share of joint venture profits of £3,258k and the investment gains over the year amounting to £1,459k as well as £690k of investment income.

Gift Aid of £3,258k (2016: £5,295k) has been generated by the Charity's subsidiaries.

Reserves at the end of the year stood at £10,479k.

Income

Total income of £4,524k included the £3,258k share of profit from Certsure LLP, the Charity's Joint Venture with the Electrical Contractors Association.

Expenditure

Charitable expenditure for the year amounted to £2,206k (2016: £2,310k). This was the major part of the total expenditure of £3,051k.

Fixed Assets

The market value of investment properties rented to tenants by the group has increased by £154k over the year. 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 currently comprise annual payments of £1,250k although three years' contributions covering the period to March 2018 had been made in advance.

Outlook

The Group's financial position remains satisfactory and the Charity intends maintaining its current range of activities.

Cash, Investment Policy and Returns

The Charity holds the majority of its reserves in a long-term investment portfolio currently valued at £11.4m and managed by three investment managers. Overall cash and investment balances have increased to £18,339k (2016: £14,299k) during the year partly as a result of the good market returns.

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 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 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 in excess of this target whilst the Charity Trustees consider how best reserves should be used long term in fulfilling the objects of the Charity being mindful of the remaining contributions due under the Pension Scheme recovery plan.

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 Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account including Other Comprehensive Income for year ended 31 March 2016



	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Income from investments	690	669
Income from continuing trading activities	-	31
Share of profits in Joint Ventures	3,258	2,812
Other income	576	491
Total income	4,524	4,003
Expenditure on continuing trading activities	50	64
Expenditure on discontinued trading activities	37	94
Other expenditure on raising funds	63	58
Expenditure on charitable activities	2,206	2,310
Other expenditure	695	713
Total expenditure	3,051	3,239
Pension adjustment	(9,400)	600
Net investment gains / (losses)	1,459	(230)
Net movement in funds	(6,468)	1,134
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April	16,947	15,813
Fund balances carried forward	10,479	16,947



Summary Consolidated Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Fixed assets and investments	17,467	16,117
Investments in joint ventures: Share of net assets	3,258	2,812
Current assets	7,344	5,946
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(490)	(428)
Net current assets	6,854	5,518
Pension liability	(17,100)	(7,500)
Reserves	10,479	16,947



Summary Cash Flow Statement for year ended 31 March 2015

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(2,017)	(416)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	4,796	(2,526)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash in the year	(2,779)	(2,942)



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