



NETWORKS

# PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGY

Public Safety Strategy 2021 – 2025



## Public Safety – Strategic Context

ESB Networks strategy for 2020-2030 is framed by the Climate Action Plan. It is driven by ESB Networks' central role in leading the transition to a secure & affordable low-carbon future, using clean electricity to drive carbon in the form of fossil fuels - out of heat, transport, and the economy.

Electricity is essential for sustainable social and economic development. Renewable electricity and electrification are cornerstones of Ireland's Climate Action Plan. Our purpose has always been to connect and distribute electricity - safely, securely, and affordably. Now, acknowledging the central role that electricity plays in climate action, our purpose has evolved. So, while we continue to connect and distribute electricity, our purpose now also embraces connecting and accommodating high levels of renewable generation and enabling comprehensive and wholesale electrification - so that clean electricity can drive the carbon out of heat, transport and our economy.

Our commitments are that we deliver for our customers, the economy, and a low-carbon future for Ireland. ESB Networks places the customer at the centre of our business and we will continue to ensure the safety of those who work on or may come in close contact with the electricity network.

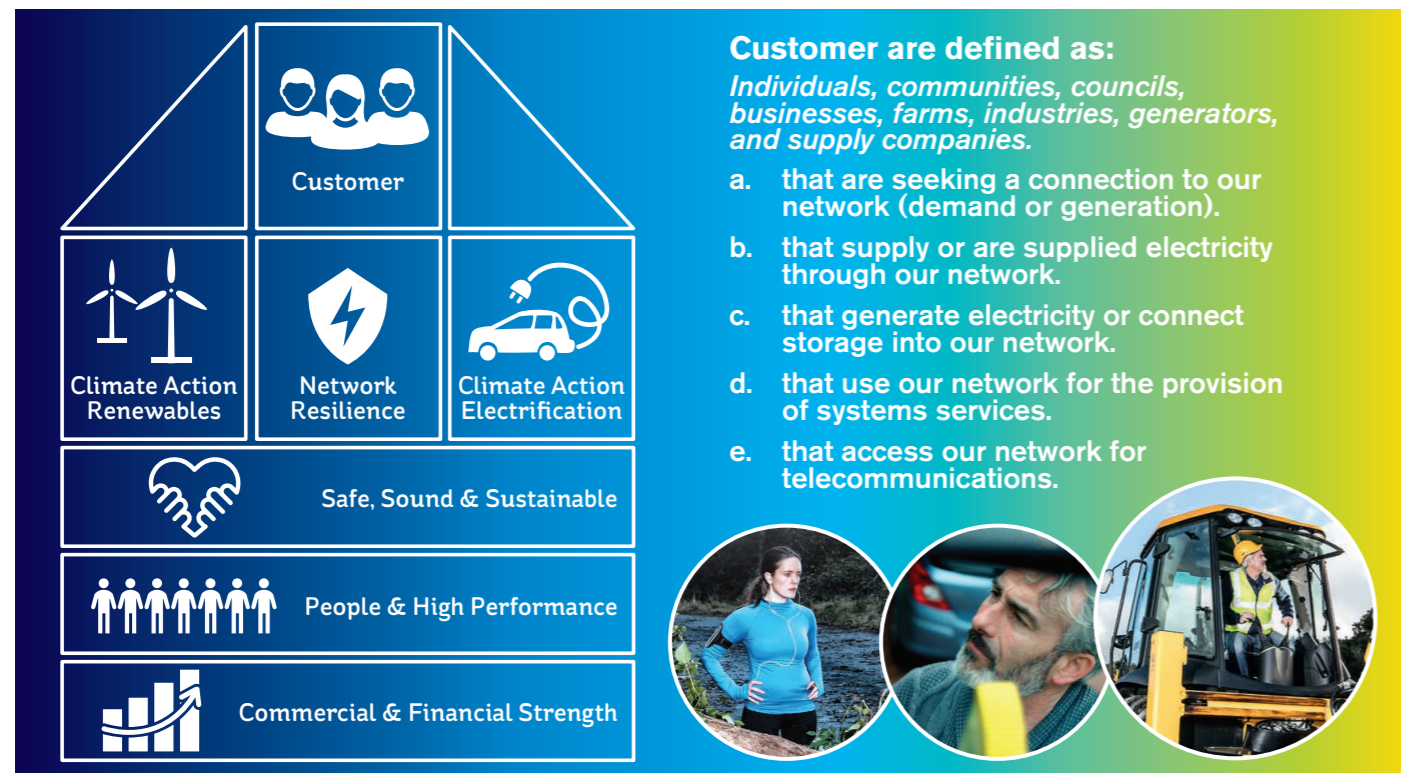


Figure 1: Pillars of the ESB Networks Strategy 2030

The ESB Networks Public Safety Strategy (2021 – 2025) is anchored in the core purpose of the Networks business. Our Public Safety activities continue to be a core strategic priority and area of focus.

Network resilience and integrity are essential to ensure the safety of those who work on or may come in close contact with the electricity network. Delivery of our Public Safety Work Programmes will ensure the safety and integrity of our assets over their lifecycle



Figure 2: Our Network

Within ESB Networks, Public Safety is recognised as a core business risk and there is a dedicated Public Safety Risk Register and Risk Framework supporting it. Our Public Safety Work Programme is guided by the risk register and risk framework (see Figure 3). We consider the consequences of Public Safety risks to have a high impact. We manage the probability of an event occurring through the mitigating actions in the Public Safety Work Programme. These mitigating actions can be a combination of solutions.

More Effective ← → Less Effective			
Preventative (Terminate)	Corrective (Treat)	Directive (Transfer)	Detective (Tolerate)
Activities to ensure the Hazard does not occur	Technical Solutions to minimise chances of the Hazard occurring	Control & Containment if the Hazard occurs	Checking in a timely manner before the Hazard may occur
Building New Network to Standard & Design, including Clearances and Earthing	Follow-on Hazard Corrective Orders completed on Time and to Standard	1800 372 999 Campaigns & Procedures	Protection & Operations Systems, e.g. SCADA
Refurbish Network to Standard & Design, including Clearances and Earthing	Corrective Maintenance completed on Time and to Standard	Low Grounded Conductor Procedure in NDCC	Detection of Intrusion
Preventative Maintenance & Timber cutting completed on Time and to Standard	Substation Security Fences, Mast Climbing Guards	Contracts & Agreements e.g. Connection Agreements, Procurement, Contractors	Hazard Patrols completed to standard quality levels & timelines
Media Campaigns, e.g. "Are you sure it's safe?", "Dial before you dig"	Move Equipment Out-of-Reach, e.g. Re-String LV network at higher clearance upon request	Codes of Practice	Site Inspections, Quality Inspections & Audits
Education & Communication Campaigns e.g. CIF, GAA, IFA, Emergency Services	Working Barriers, e.g. Goal Posts	Strategy Alliances & Partnerships	Recording Incidents, e.g. Good Catches & Near Misses, including calls from the Public
Review & Improve: Feedback of Information			

Figure 3: Public Safety Risk Matrix: All High Impact – Reduce the Probability. Sample of Mitigating Actions and solutions



ESB Networks commits to think and act in the interests of customers because customer expectations are changing, and we exist to serve customers. We recognise that the role of customers in the utility industry is evolving with the pace of technology innovation. Therefore, increasing customer and public awareness of electrical safety risk is essential and education and awareness programmes in this regard continue to be a strategic objective of this Public Safety Strategy.

## Our Public Safety Values

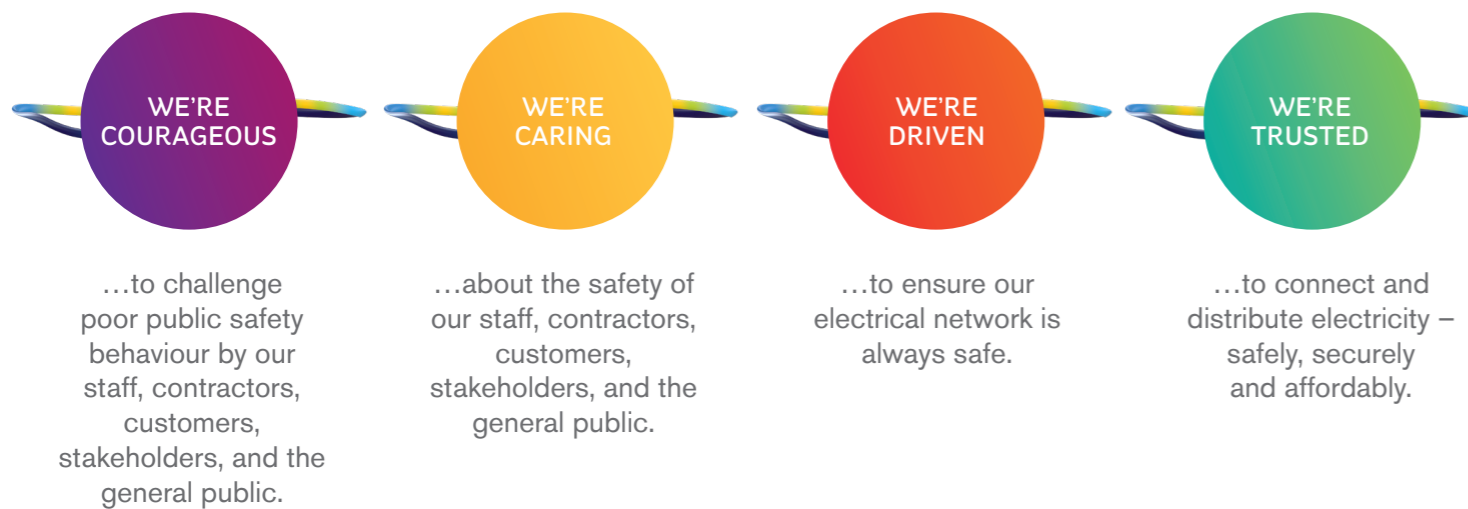


Figure 4: Our Values

## Public Safety – Our Purpose

Our Public Safety Strategy sets out our strategic intent and commitment to how we keep our network safe, and how we raise awareness about the dangers of coming into contact with or close proximity to our electricity networks and equipment. Our aim is to reduce the number of incidents, accidents and 'near misses'.

### Our Public Safety Strategy is focused on:

- Our At-Risk Stakeholders - people at risk of coming into contact with or in close proximity to the electricity network due to their work such as farmers, construction workers, emergency services, local authority workers and other utility workers.
- the general public, including children, who may come into contact with or in close proximity to the network through fallen wires or through sport and leisure activities.
- the general public who may come into contact with the electricity network through accidental or deliberate actions. Examples of this are, carrying out domestic DIY close to electricity wires or entering an electricity station.

### Our Public Safety Strategy will:

- Ensure the safety and integrity of our network assets throughout their lifecycle through the identification, prioritisation and management of at-risk assets and the development of a 5-year Public Safety Work Programme to address these risks
- Collaborate with stakeholders and educate them on public safety risks and their responsibilities in the management and mitigation of these risks
- Raise public awareness and increase education of the public on the safety risks associated with our electrical assets
- Continue to educate ESB staff and contractors working on our behalf on public safety risk and the management of these risks
- Embed a Public Safety Management System across the organisation to track and report on our public safety performance and compliance.

The previous [Public Safety Strategy & Action Plan 2017-2020](#) had four pillars that represented its strategic objectives. These pillars are the backbone of this new strategy, but we introduce a fifth pillar - an integrated Public Safety Management System to provide assurance and drive yearly improvements in our public safety efforts over the next 5 years.



Figure 5: Public Safety Strategy Pillars – Focus & Objectives

## Public Safety Strategy – Pillars & Strategic Objectives

### Pillar 1:

This pillar will focus on Asset Lifecycle Management across various asset classes aligned to the Public Safety Risk Register and embedded in the five-year work programme.

**ASSET LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT**

We will monitor the maintenance and other work on the electricity network to make sure that all public safety elements are completed.

**PILLAR 1**

A Public Safety dashboard will be developed to monitor and report on the Public Safety elements of the work programme. This dashboard will be reviewed quarterly and will form part of the Public Safety Management System.

We will embrace new technologies, such as 'Apps', to improve data quality related to our Public Safety activities. We will influence the quality of information being inputted at point of entry to ensure quality data that gives quality insights to influence the Public Safety agenda internally. We will use the data and trends to influence changes to the work programme priorities and to target communication messaging to stakeholders, our customers, and members of the public.

### Pillar 2:

We will focus on engaging with and collaborating with our 'At-Risk' Stakeholders and educating them on public safety risks and their responsibilities in the management and mitigation of these risks.

We will engage with our stakeholders in a genuine two-way conversation so that we can learn from each other, enabling us to make better decisions and work towards mutually beneficial safety outcomes.

Key 'At-Risk' Stakeholder Groups were consulted in the development of this Public Safety Strategy (2021-2025) and their contributions are integrated into this strategy document.

An annual Public Safety stakeholder engagement and consultation plan will be developed and published using the [ESB Networks Strategic Stakeholder Framework](#). The levels of engagement appropriate for these 'At-Risk' Stakeholders are Involve & Collaborate (see Figure 6).

**AT RISK STAKEHOLDER EDUCATION & AWARENESS**

We will build relationships with groups representing our stakeholders to encourage them to promote safety around electricity networks to their members.

**PILLAR 2**

We seek to continuously improve our stakeholder engagement processes and outcomes by evaluating what was successful and what could be improved. This will be determined through understanding feedback from stakeholders and through monitoring and reviewing other performance indicators.

Key 'At-Risk' Stakeholder groups include Agriculture, Construction, Emergency Services, Local Authorities, Utilities, and other Organisations. (See **Appendix 3** for a more comprehensive non exhaustive list of *At-Risk Stakeholders*)

In the context of the ESB Networks Strategy and the Climate Action Plan there will be emerging 'At-Risk' Stakeholders using new technologies with associated new risks that will be included in our stakeholder engagement and education plan.

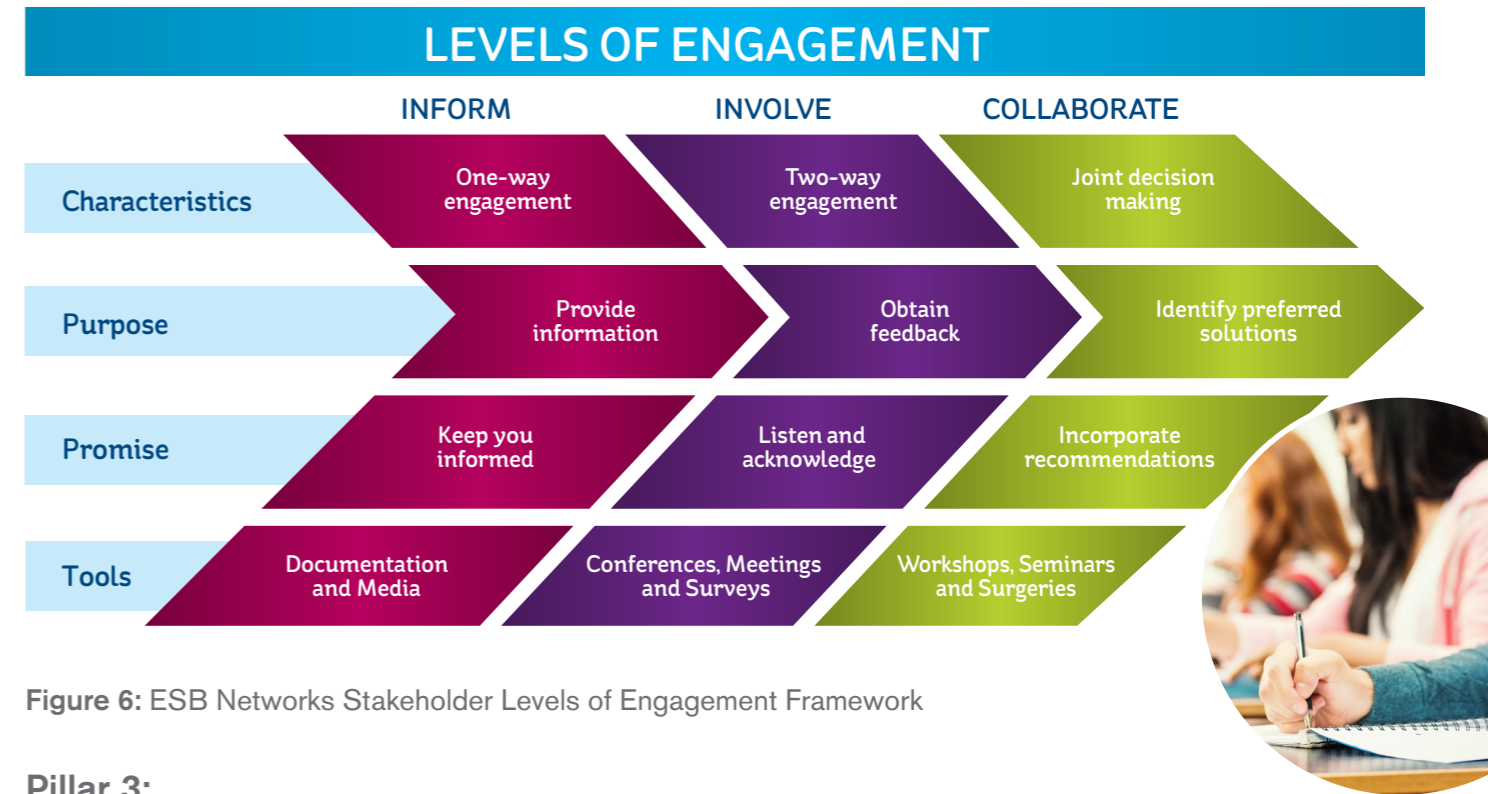


Figure 6: ESB Networks Stakeholder Levels of Engagement Framework

### Pillar 3:

This pillar will focus on public education and awareness. As part of this pillar an annual Public Communication & Engagement Plan (including Schools Programme – Primary, Post Primary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Level) will be developed.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS**

We will develop activities to educate the public and Students (Primary, Post Primary & 3rd Level) about the dangers of electricity networks and equipment.

**PILLAR 3**

Based on the stakeholder level of engagement framework, the level of engagement appropriate for this pillar is to "Inform". (see figure 6).

In addition to TV, radio & print media, more social media, and digital channels will be leveraged for Public Safety communication, engagement, and education.

Key targets for this pillar are: General Public, Schools Primary – 3<sup>rd</sup> Level, Sports & Leisure Groups / Organisations as well as community groups. These are listed in **Appendix 3**

Critical to the success of this pillar is the availability of communication packs and support material for ESB staff, our customers, and the general public to use in local engagements. The range of material currently available and how to access it is included in **Appendix 4**.





**Pillar 4:**

This pillar will focus on the continued education and awareness of Public Safety among staff and contractors.

STAFF EDUCATION & AWARENESS

We will educate and inform staff about our public safety strategy and activities.

We will evolve the Public Safety Centre of Competence to share best practice.

PILLAR 4

We will augment internal communications on Public Safety and leverage the existing safety briefing structures for all staff in ESB Group, to promote key public safety processes internally.

We will ensure contractors are informed of the Public Safety risks associated with their work using the contractors' *line of sight* for Public Safety responsibilities.

We will drive greater engagement at Divisional Level through attendance at regional meetings highlighting Public Safety Performance linked to the delivery of Public Safety Work Programmes using the new Public Safety Dashboard.

We will evolve the Public Safety Centre of Competence for ESB Group and leverage this to influence common public safety risks and mitigation actions across ESB Group. This is a cross business-unit strategic group, set up to ensure compliance, introduce and embed best practice, and harmonise our approach to managing this particular risk across ESB Group.

**Pillar 5:**

This pillar will focus on the development and embedding of a Public Safety Management System. The purpose of this pillar is to provide assurance that activities within pillars one to four are being actioned, and KPIs are being delivered, so as to drive yearly improvements in public safety efforts of the next five years.

PUBLIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

We will provide assurance that activities within the four pillars are being actioned and KPIs are being delivered. We will drive yearly improvements in public safety efforts over the next five years.

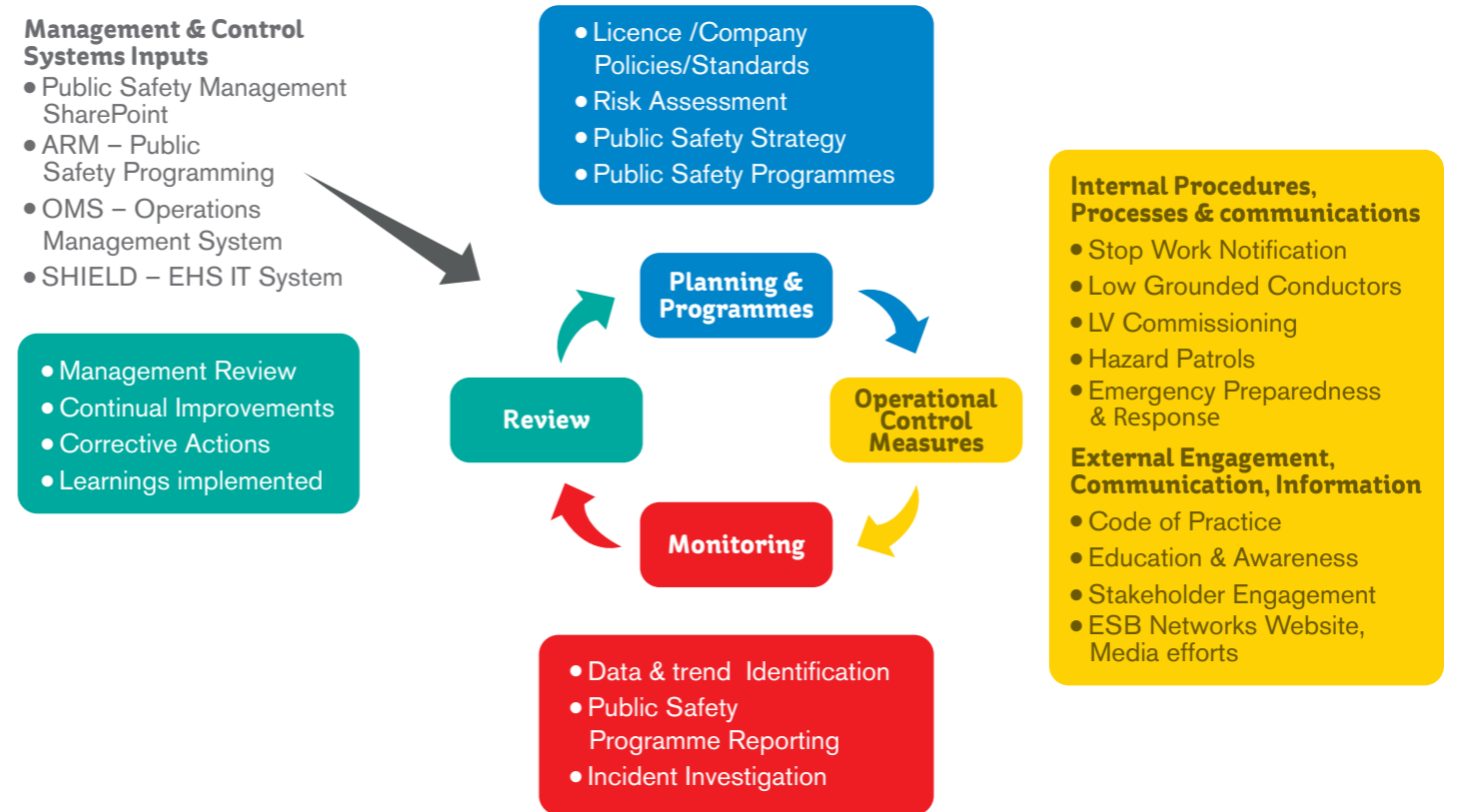
PILLAR 5

This Public Safety Management System will adopt and embed the *Plan / Do / Check / Act* methodology to have the greatest impact on Public Safety Performance and Compliance. (See Figure 7.)

There are multiple benefits to this additional pillar, including:

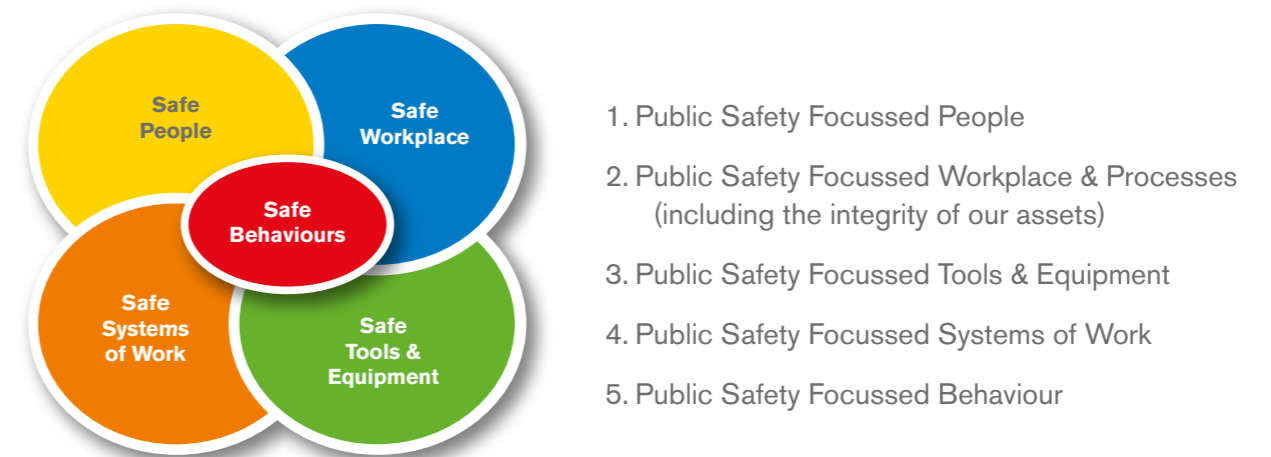
- Integrating the Public Safety Management System into existing processes and systems
- Defining assurance and management review structures and processes.
- Linking the public safety strategy to an annual work programme and plan.
- Influencing the integration of public safety commitments into the setting of Objectives and Key Results (OKR's) within the Organisation which contribute to developing ESB's high performance culture.

The approach and methodology used in this Public Safety Strategy and Management System is the proposed approach and methodology that will be cascaded through the Public Safety Centre of Competence.



**Figure 7:** Public Safety Management System

ESB Safety, Health and Environment Strategy 2020-2025 sets out and manages our ambition to empower our people to be safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible across all our operations. These are our five Public Safety commitments and success will be based on the commitment of all our people, regardless of role:



**Figure 8:** Five Commitment Areas of ESB Safety Strategy

We will provide a “line of sight” to this Public Safety Strategy for everyone in ESB. This will allow each of us to see how we, in our everyday activities, impact upon Public Safety, and how this strategy guides us to ensure our staff, contractors and members of the public remain safe.

The monitoring and review dimensions of the Public Safety Management System have three important elements that underpin their success. These are:

1. KPIs & Reporting
2. Auditing
3. Governance Structure

## KPIs & Reporting

A suite of KPIs will be aligned to each of the 5 pillars. These KPIs will be reported and reviewed periodically and trends emerging will be addressed as part of the Public Safety Management System.

Over the next five years, the enhanced data captured by our use of new technologies and applications will be used to track our public safety activities and asset performance. We will use Business Intelligence tools to help better inform us on our public safety performance and emerging trends so that we can act appropriately.

During the lifetime of this strategy, as the tracking and reporting of KPIs matures and develops, we will move from tracking and reporting incidents to tracking and reporting their impacts and outcomes. This evolution will be a key success factor of the Public Safety Management System.



Figure 9: Public Safety KPIs

## Public Safety Audits

We will adopt three levels of assurance to guide our audit planning and execution.

- Level 1 – Internal ESB Networks Audits
- Level 2 – ESB Group SHE Standards Audits
- Level 3 – ESB Group Internal Audits & External Audits by a recognised independent accreditation body

The audit approach will focus on auditing of high-risk areas & key public safety processes (See Appendix 2). The risk mitigation approach to public safety audits will be used to inform the thinking and prioritisation of the development of an annual public safety audit programme.

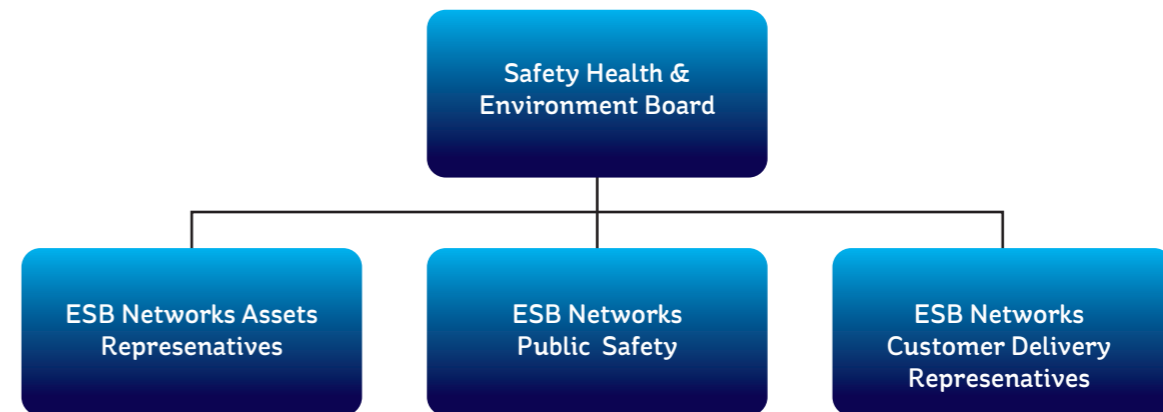
Where possible, public safety risk activities will be built into existing business-as-usual audit processes and systems such as our Safety Management System (ISO45001), Asset Management (ISO 55001) and Environmental Management System (ISO 14001) audits as well as those completed by our Independent Competence & Assurance Auditing Team. Data from these audits will be used to inform additional Public Safety Risks.

We will audit investigations of all public safety incidents of merit and high potential incidents recorded on our systems to ensure a consistency of approach and to catalogue the learnings from these events and identify solutions. We will communicate the learnings and root causes internally and externally where appropriate.

## Public Safety Governance Structure

A new Public Safety Governance structure will be introduced as part of this Public Safety Strategy. The structure leverages the existing internal Safety, Health & Environment Board (SHEB) governance structures and introduces a Public Safety Management Review Group – a cross Business Unit group at Senior/Middle Manager levels with Sponsor(s) from SHEB.

The group will be chaired by Public Safety Manager and will have influence within the business to act, make decisions and address issues in the best interest of Public Safety. This review group will meet quarterly and will report to the SHEB every six months on Public Safety risks and performance.



## Appendix 1 Documented Information

Publication	Description
ESB Group Health and Safety Policy	Overarching health and safety policy for ESB Group.
ESB Group Standard Public Safety	Defines ESB's requirements for managing public safety throughout ESB Group.
ESB Networks Safety Statement	ESB Networks Safety Statement. Section 9 covers Public Safety
ESB Brighter Future Strategy	ESB's strategy to lead the transition to a low-carbon energy future based on clean, reliable, affordable electricity.
ESB Networks Strategy 2020-2030	ESB Networks' central role in leading the transition to a secure & affordable low-carbon future which is framed by the Climate Action Plan.
ESB Networks Strategic Stakeholder Framework	Framework plan for engagement with our stakeholders.
Public Safety Strategy & Action Plan 2017-2020	This is the previous Public Safety Strategy and action plan for 2017-2020 and sets out how we plan to raise awareness among the public about the dangers of coming into close contact with electricity networks and equipment.
Policy - Response to Reports of Low or Grounded Overhead Conductors	How ESNB responds to reports of low or grounded conductors effectively and safely as far as is reasonably practicable.
Company Standard: Operations Policy for dealing with 3rd parties in conflict with ESB Networks	Policy where 3rd parties such as contractors or members of the public are found to be working or intend to work in proximity to ESB Networks' overhead lines or underground cables.
Guide: Public Safety Risks	Describes public safety risk from ESB Networks' assets. Includes the risk rating of assets developed from the Public Safety Risk Register owned by Network Assets.
Company Standards & Policies on Construction & Maintenance of Various ESB Networks Asset Classes	Standards & policies to ensure that various assets classes are designed constructed and maintained to minimise risk to the public.
Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines	This Code of Practice provides practical guidance to anyone planning, designing, or carrying out work close to overhead electricity lines.
Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services	This Code of Practice provides practical guidance to assist in complying with safety, health and welfare legislation in relation to working near underground services.
ISO 45001: 2018 Safety Management System	We operate a safety management system externally accredited to ISO standard
ISO 55001 Asset Management	We operate an asset management system externally accredited to ISO standard
ISO 14001 Environmental Management System	We operate an environmental management system externally accredited to ISO standard

## Appendix 2 Key Public Safety Processes

Process	Description
Emergency Response	Providing a safe and secure electricity infrastructure is our key priority. If you come across fallen wires or notice anything unusual about any ESB Networks' equipment contact ESB Networks' <b>24-Hour Emergency number 1800 372 999 or +353 21 2382410</b> .
Response to Reports of Low or Grounded Conductors (LGC) or Contact with Conductor (CWC)	All calls or reports of low/grounded conductors are directed to ESB Networks Contact Centre's emergency number 1800 372 999 advising the caller to Press 2 to report a dangerous situation. On receipt of a report of a low or grounded wire, ESB Networks Call Agents, Dispatchers and System Controllers follow "Procedures - Response to Reports of Low or Grounded Conductors (LGC) or Contact with Conductor (CWC)". This procedure sets out ESB Networks' approach to reports of low or grounded conductors and reports of contact with conductors. This type of report is given priority because it may have a higher risk to the public. The objective is to ensure that ESB Networks responds to these reports effectively and safely as far as is reasonably practicable.
Notification to Stop Work	ESB Networks are required by our Distribution and Transmission System Operator licences to "...take all reasonable steps to protect persons and property from injury and damage that may be caused when carrying out the Networks Business." ESB Networks' Public Safety policy states that we will "Pro-actively promote awareness of the public to the potential health and safety risks associated with our networks, systems and equipment." It is the duty of all ESB Networks personnel who have the knowledge to identify electrical hazards due to conflicts, to issue a 'Notification to Stop Work' to the person in charge of a site where there is an immediate danger. The HSA Workplace Contact Unit (WCU) is also notified.
LV Commissioning	LV Commissioning is implemented to ensure that whenever work is carried out on the LV Single Phase System, the supply up to the customer interface is electrically safe. Failure to implement this procedure in full presents a risk of serious or fatal injury to customers.
Dial before you Dig	Before starting any digging work, contact us to find out if there are any electricity cables in the vicinity of your excavation site. See <a href="http://www.esbnetworks.ie">www.esbnetworks.ie</a> for contact details and additional information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can email your request including your site map to <a href="mailto:dig@esb.ie">dig@esb.ie</a></li> <li>Call 1800 928 960 or +353 01 8582060</li> </ul>
General Queries	General query lines: 1800 372 757 or +353 21 2386555 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6pm and Saturday 8.30am to 1.30pm. Email: <a href="mailto:esbnetworks@esb.ie">esbnetworks@esb.ie</a>
ESB Networks NCCC	The ESB Networks Customer Contact Centre handles calls for emergencies (1800 372 999) and for general enquiries (1800 372 757). Emergency calls are handled depending on the risk and hazard (see LGC process above). When someone phones the emergency number, the report is referred directly to Dispatch for immediate attention or directly to the appropriate manager. The general enquires service receives calls relating to topics such as planning for work close to the electricity network. The NCCC record details and refer the request to the relevant division for follow up.



## Appendix 3 At Risk Stakeholder Groups & Organisations

Activity	Stakeholder	Activity	Stakeholder
Construction	Health & Safety Authority, Construction Industry Federation, Construction Safety Partnership Advisory Committee, SEAI, Department of Trade & Enterprise, Trade Unions, Solas, Construction and Plant Hire Companies	Agriculture	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Irish Farmers Association, Teagasc, FBD, Farm Safety Partnership Advisory Committee, Irish Farmers Journal, National Ploughing Association, Agricultural Contractors, Private Forestry Owners
Emergency Services	An Garda Síochána, HSE National Ambulance Service, Chief Fire Officers Association, Civil Defence, Army, Air Corps, RNI	Local Authorities	Local Government Management Agency, All Local Authorities
Utilities & Agencies	Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU), ComReg Joint Utilities Safety Forum – Eir, Gas Networks Ireland, Irish Water Irish Aviation Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, National Roads Authority, Irish Rail Energy Networks Association Teleco's – Siro, National Broadband Ireland, Virgin Media, Sky Office of Public Works (OPW), Coillte, Waterways Ireland, Irish Water Safety	Education	Primary Schools Secondary Schools 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level institutes and Universities Teagasc Agricultural Colleges
Leisure & Sporting Activities	GAA, Irish Sailing, Association of Irish Festival Events & Tidy Towns, DIY Outlets, Gardening, Gun Clubs, Angling Clubs, Parachutists, Paragliders, Hot Air Ballooning, Drone Owners	ESB Staff	ESB Networks staff ESB Group Staff Contractors working on behalf of ESB

## Appendix 4 Awareness & Educational Support Material

To find this material, go to [www.esbnetworks.ie](http://www.esbnetworks.ie) and enter the search term in the search-box titled 'How can we help you?'

Description	Objective	Search Term	Audience
Video presentation on ESB Networks Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines	To inform anyone intending to work near overhead electricity wires, of the safety precautions and requirements.	Video code of practice overhead	Construction industry, DIY
Booklet - Safe Construction with Electricity	Informs and raises awareness of electricity hazards when carrying out construction work.	Safe construction	Construction industry, DIY
Booklet - How you can avoid hitting electrical cables when digging and drilling.	Informs and raises awareness of electricity hazards when digging or drilling.	Digging	Construction industry, DIY
Guide - External Wall Insulation Guide for Householders and Installers	Provide guidance on electrical safety when installing external insulation onto a building	Insulation	Construction industry, DIY, householders
Booklet - Farm Safely with Electricity	Informs and raises awareness of electricity hazards on the farm.	Farm Safely	Farmers, Agriculture students
Booklet - Farm Well Farm Safely	Provides useful information on working safely with electricity on the farm.	Farm Safely	Farmers, Agriculture students
Video on electrical safety for emergency services and utilities	Informs and raises awareness of electricity hazard if entering ESB Station or coming close to electrical cables, lines, or equipment. Designed for emergency services and other utilities.	Video emergency services	Emergency services, utilities.
Information – Emergency Services Presentation	To be used to inform and educate emergency service personnel on electrical hazards they encounter.	Emergency services presentation	Emergency services
Lesson plans - Primary school	Fun and informative lesson plans to educate and raise awareness of electricity. Topics: electrical safety in farming, construction, at home, outside, science and physics of electricity, Junior level, Senior level. English and Irish language versions.	Safety education	Students, teachers, parents
Lesson plans - Secondary school	Fun and informative lesson plans to educate and raise awareness of electricity. Topics: farm safety, construction safety, site safety, risk control. English and Irish language versions.	Safety education	Students, teachers, parents



Description	Objective	Search Term	Audience
Booklet – Be Winter Ready	Informs and advises on making sure you and your home are safe from hazards like flooding and storms.	Winter	Everyone
Information - Tree and Vegetation Trimming	Gives safety advice when planning to cut trees, hedges or other vegetation which may be close to overhead wires.	Tree trimming	Anyone intending to cut trees or vegetation

