

## Improving resilience of our networks to severe weather

Our overhead lines performance has improved hugely over last 15 years. The average time customers are off supply and the number of customers actually off has dropped as shown by the graphs in another part of this document. Our policy going forward is to retain and build on these benefits as part of our capital investment programme.

However there are relatively infrequent occasions when some of our customers lose supply for extended periods during severe weather. These severe weather events can happen on average once or twice a year, can affect on average a few tens of thousands of customers initially and are usually repaired and restored within 24 hours. Most customers can normally be restored within 3 hours with a small 'tail' left to restore over the next period that can be exponential in shape i.e. fewer and fewer customers take longer and longer to restore.

Our existing plans allow for our overhead lines to be improved to a good condition on a 12 year cycle that has achieved the impressive improvements noted above. However with the effects of climate change fast becoming more evident it seems we can expect more severe weather events in future. Our measures to improve our lines resilience to severe weather centre on using insulated conductors on both high and low voltage lines. These are already used to good effect on a significant proportion of our lines and stakeholders are invited to tell us whether we should extend their use.