

TREE ROOT CLAIMS LIAISON GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Constitution

The Chair will be supported by a small steering group which will be determined by the Chair and may be varied according to current subject matter. Membership of the group is unrestricted. Meetings will be minuted in recognition of competition regulations requirements arising in respect of the sharing between major commercial interests.

Objective

To promote and improve co-operative working between insurers and local authorities and their respective agents.

Function

The Sub Group will function initially through the development and operation of 3 projects:

- a. Mitigation and recovery protocols – it was recognised there is unlikely to be a ‘one size fits all’ mitigation protocol and alternatives and/or variations to the JMP should be explored. A recovery protocol, whether attached to one for mitigation or not, is seen as a primary objective of the Sub Group and would be a major achievement and of industry wide benefit.
- b. Sharing of knowledge, understanding, information – it is hoped the Sub Group can become a forum for the exchange of knowledge and information about tree root claims including but not limited to technical, government, insurance, legal matters. It is also recognised that more organised and formal training may be required to improve technical knowledge, particularly in local authorities.
- c. Peer referral/opinion – it was recognised that no real means of dispute resolution for tree root claims existed and therefore suggested that a peer referral scheme may be of benefit to insurers and local authorities alike. This would operate as an opportunity to obtain an objective and knowledgeable opinion, with no binding decision or liability attached. (Colleagues would require to take employer endorsement of time allocation to this undertaking on behalf of Subsidence Forum)

The progress of projects will then be reported back to Sub Group meetings, the frequency of which is to be determined, but may be ad hoc, depending on progress made.