

## Metal theft in your area

Dear Customer

We are writing to explain why you may have been affected by recent disruptions to your electricity supply and to make the wider community aware of the problems being caused by metal theft in the area.

### Who is Northern Powergrid?

As the electricity distribution network operator for the Northeast, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire, we're responsible for delivering electricity to around 8 million customers across 3.9 million homes and businesses on behalf of your electricity supplier.

### The impact of metal theft

Determined thieves stealing cables and metal from our electricity substations and overhead power lines are responsible for power cuts that can cause disruption to your electricity supply.

Not only are these thieves disrupting your supply but they are also causing a serious public safety issue. These reckless individuals are putting both their own lives and the lives of the public at risk. Their actions can leave hundreds of homes without power and cause thousands of pounds worth of damage to our electricity network. In some cases they can also cause damage to household electrical appliances due to the voltage irregularities resulting from the theft of critical electrical components.

We want to reassure you that we are doing everything in our power to stop this problem. However, we also need your assistance in stopping these crimes and thereby preventing further unwanted power cuts and keeping public areas safe.

Normally secure electrical substation broken into and vandalised.



Overhead cable left hanging close to the ground after unwanted interference.

## How you can help?

If you see any suspicious vehicles or activity around electricity substations or overhead power lines in your neighbourhood, please contact the police immediately. You can also call us directly and we will come to the site and ensure the area is made safe as soon as possible. We are working closely with the police to help them with their investigations into these crimes and we share all the information we gather.

We have also joined forces with Crimestoppers to try to put an end to this mindless crime. If you have any information that could help us catch these thieves, but you do not want to contact the police or ourselves, then please call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** - your call will be totally anonymous.

## Safety comes first

Finally, I would also like to tell you how important it is that you do not touch any exposed cables, enter open substations or attempt to move dangling cables as they may still be live and, therefore, extremely dangerous. It is important that you ensure children, pets and livestock are kept away from any damaged or exposed electrical equipment.

We would like to thank you for your patience during this difficult situation and ensure you that we are doing everything we can with the Police to put a stop to these incidents. For further information on the problem of metal theft please see our website at [www.northernpowergrid.com](http://www.northernpowergrid.com)

Yours sincerely



Mick Hickling  
Head of Network Repairs



CALL  
CRIMESTOPPERS ON  
**0800  
555111**

UP TO  
A £1000  
CASH  
REWARD

# METAL THEFT

**THIEVES ARE TARGETING OUR ELECTRICITY NETWORK!**

**CAN YOU HELP?**

These criminal acts are endangering lives, can cause power cuts and even damage your electrical appliances. With your help and vigilance and by reporting suspicious behaviour near electricity substations or overhead power lines, we can pull the plug on this latest scourge of criminal activity.