SEC Newsletter

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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the fortnightly newsletter from the Smart Energy Code.
We would love to hear from you - get in touch by emailing SEC@talan.com

SECCo Draft Business Plan and Budget 2026-2029 Open for Consultation

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

SECCo has published its draft Business Plan and Budget for 2026–27. The document sets out how SECCo will continue to deliver high-quality, cost-effective services while leading the Smart Energy Code (SEC) through a period of ongoing change.

The Business Plan confirms that SECCo's five strategic priorities remain unchanged, emphasising stability of the overall direction agreed by the SEC Panel and SECCo Board. The focus for 2026–27 is on embedding and scaling the operating model established in the past year, strengthening assurance and service delivery, and preparing the organisation to meet future regulatory and industry requirements.

Key areas of focus

The draft Business Plan highlights a number of priority areas for the year ahead, including:

- embedding SECCo's Target Operating Model and strengthening in-house capability;
- improving service delivery, assurance and operational performance across the SEC;
- developing Code Manager capabilities to support future governance arrangements;
- working with DCC to continue to improve customer experience for SEC Parties; and
- delivering strong value for money through disciplined cost control and transparent financial management.

Budget overview

The proposed budget for 2026–27 is £17.850m, which remains in line with the published 2025–26 budget. This demonstrates that increased activity and complexity can be accommodated without material budget growth. The budget reflects efficiencies achieved through more effective sourcing, contract renegotiation and procurement, including £14m of avoided spend over the next three years, while enabling targeted investment in priority areas such as assurance, digital capability and governance.

Next steps and your feedback

SECCo is inviting all SEC Parties to review the draft Business Plan and Budget and provide feedback as part of the industry feedback process to consultations@seccoltd.com by 5pm Monday, 17 February 2026.

To support the publication, SECCo will host a webinar on **20 January 2026, 14:00 - 15.15.** During this session, the team will walk through the draft Business Plan and Budget and provide an opportunity for SEC Parties to ask questions.

How to Register: Please register here by **19 January 2026**. We welcome questions to be submitted in advance of the webinar to SEC@talan.com.

Feel free to share this invitation with colleagues or industry peers who may benefit from attending. We look forward to welcoming you.

SEC Panel will consider feedback at its February meeting and agree adjustments, if any. Final Approved Budget will be published in March 2026.

Keeping Your SEC Party Details Up to Date

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Did you know that keeping your SEC Party Details current is more than just helpful - it's a formal requirement under SEC Section M6.2. Beyond compliance, it's how we make sure you never miss out on relevant and important updates, including SEC Panel, Sub-Committee updates, event invitations, and other relevant news.

What needs updating?

- Registered Name and Address

- Primary and Secondary Contact Details

Where can you check your details?

You can view the SEC Party Name and Address we hold for your organisation on the SEC Website.

The Primary and Secondary Contact details are not published on the publicly available pages of the website as this is for use by the internal team.

How do you update your details?

It's quick and easy! Simply complete the Change in SEC Party Details Form. Once submitted, the internal team will review and process your update or contact you if more information is needed.

Quick tips for a smooth update:

- Avoid using personal mobile numbers
- Assign a single named Primary Contact with a unique email address (not a shared mailbox)

Staying connected is easier when your details are up to date. Help us stay connected with you - please make sure your SEC Party Details are accurate and up to date.

Transition to Talan - Add Talan.com to Your Allow List

This story is of interest to all SEC parties

Following Gemserv's rebrand to Talan, please ensure your organisation 'allow list' includes **@talan.com** to prevent the emails being blocked or marked as spam.

Key updates:

- New email addresses
    - You should now be receiving communications from the new Talan mailboxes listed in the table:

Purpose	New Mailboxes
SEC Helpdesk	SEC@talan.com
SEC Change	SEC.Change@talan.com
SEC Security	SSC@talan.com
SEC Privacy	PSC@talan.com

- Subscribers to the SEC newsletter will continue to receive the newsletter from secas.noreply@gemserv.com. This will soon be updated to our new Talan address: Noreply.SEC@talan.com.
- All individual email addresses have now been updated to the talan.com domain.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please email SEC@talan.com.

SEC Nominations Now Open

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Privacy Sub-Committee (PSC) Nominations Now Open

The 2026 PSC nominations are now open, and the following seats are up for nomination:

- 4 Large Suppliers
- 1 Small Supplier
- 1 Electricity Networks Representative
- 1 Gas Networks Representative
- 2 Other Users

SEC Parties are invited to make a nomination for their Party category using the online form here by **Thursday, 05 February 2026.** You will need to be logged in to access the form.

The PSC is responsible for managing all Privacy matters on behalf of the SEC Panel. The Panel has delegated the relevant SEC I Obligations to the PSC. Its duties cover maintaining the Privacy Controls Framework (PSC), publishing guidance on data ethics, a privacy statement of objectives and a consent strategy. Learn more about the roles and responsibilities of the Privacy Sub-Committee - Smart Energy Code on the SEC website.

How to make a nomination: You may nominate a prospective candidate or nominate yourself if you wish to contribute to PSC operations. While nominees do not need to be SEC Parties, only SEC Parties can submit nominations.

Nominee requirements: As set out in the SEC, the person to be nominated (the nominee) should be a person who (at the time of their nomination) is capable of becoming and remaining a PSC Member in accordance with Sections C6. You may wish to use the text box in the nomination form to detail any relevant experience, although this is not mandatory.

Voting: If there are more nominations than there are available seats in a particular Party Category, a vote will take place. Each Voting Group within a Party Category up for election is entitled to cast one vote for their preferred nominee. Once the nomination window has closed, eligible candidates will be advised if a vote is necessary and voting forms will be distributed to the relevant Voting Groups. If required, voting will go live on **Thursday, 12 February 2026.**

Technical Architecture and Business Architecture (TABASC) Sub-Committee nominations Now Open

Following the resignation of a Large Supplier representative on TABASC, a nomination is now underway for the interim seat. Nominations are open for the following seat:

- 1 Large Supplier

SEC Parties are invited to submit a nomination for their Party category using the online form by 17:00 on **Friday, 30 January 2026**. You will need to be logged in to access the form.

The purpose of the TABASC is to provide advice and guidance to the SEC Panel regarding Technical Code Specifications, End-to-End Technical Architecture, and Business Architecture. The TABASC meets monthly and is responsible for developing and maintaining both the Technical Architecture Document and the Business Architecture Document. Learn more about the roles and responsibilities of TABASC on the SEC website.

How to make a nomination: You may nominate a prospective candidate or nominate yourself if you wish to contribute to key industry developments. While nominees do not need to be SEC Parties, only SEC Parties can submit nominations.

Nominee requirements: As outlined in the SEC, nominees must be eligible to become and remain a Member under SEC Section C4.2 at the time of nomination. You may use the nomination form's text box to provide relevant experience, though this is optional.

Term length: As this is an interim seat, the appointed seat will only be held until the next scheduled TABASC election in November 2026, at which point it will be open for re-nomination.

Voting: If nominations exceed available seats in a Party Category, a vote will take place. Each Voting Group within that category will be entitled to cast one vote for their preferred nominee. Eligible candidates will be notified after the nomination window closes. If voting is required, it will open on **Monday, 02 February 2026**, and voting forms will be distributed to the relevant Voting Groups.

Submitting Forms on the SEC Website – Enable Targeting Cookies

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The SEC website uses Google's reCAPTCHA tool on its webforms to protect against spam. For it to function properly, users must enable **Targeting cookies**.

Here's how:

- Click the green **"Manage Consent"** tab at the bottom right of any page.
- Toggle **"Targeting" cookies** to green and select **"Save Preferences."**

Once enabled, the reCAPTCHA checkbox will appear at the end of the form. Tick **"I'm not a robot"** and click **Submit** to complete your entry.

If you experience any issues or have questions, please contact SEC@talan.com

SEC Change Board Nomination Result Announcement

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

We recently held the annual Change Board election for several seats. Following the nominations received, the results are as follows:

Large Supplier Parties

There were seven nominations for the fourteen available seats, which were Emma Johnson from British Gas, Alex Hurcombe from EDF, Emslie Law from OVO, David Rodger from Scottish Power, Kevin Clark from Utilita, Sharon Armitage from EON and Joey Manners from Octopus Energy returning for consecutive terms. All seven nominations will each be taking on a consecutive term. Seven seats remain vacant.

Small Supplier Parties

There were three nominations for the three available seats, which were Carolyn Burns from ESG Global Ltd, Gareth Evans from Waters Wye Associates and Christie Thompson from SSE. All three nominations will each be taking on a consecutive term. One seat remains vacant.

Network Parties (Gas and Electricity)

There were three nominations for the three available seats, which were Ben Elmy from UK Power Networks, Rachael Prosser from National Grid and Tom Stuart from WW Utilities. All three nominations will each be taking on a consecutive term.

Other SEC Parties

There was one nomination for the three available seats, which was Mike Pyke from Chameleon Technology, who is returning for a consecutive year. Two seats remain vacant.

Consumers

There was one nomination for the one available seat which was Caroline Farquhar from Citizens Advice, who is returning for a consecutive year.

The new term begins with the first meeting being held on 25 February 2026 and we look forward to welcoming all returning members back to the Change Board.

Thank you to everyone who took part by submitting a nomination. We have vacant seats across all the Party types, if you would like to submit a nomination, please use the online nomination form. You will need to be logged in to access the form.

If you have any questions or feedback on the elections process, please do not hesitate to contact SEC@talan.com.

Modifications Update

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

New Modifications

Title	Issue	Solution
MP312	In the SMETS1 Middle Operating Capability (MOC) the SRV 4.10 'Read Network data' requires two Short Message Service (SMS) messages be sent to wake up the Communications Hub for the SRV to be executed. Each SMETS1 Communications Hub has a limit of SMS messages it can receive until overage charges come into effect.	To introduce the ability to cache SRV 4.10 via a text-only modification. This will result in changes to SEC Appendix AM 'SMETS1 Supporting Requirements'.
MP313	Suppliers have existing processes to manage the re-prenotification of Smart Meters and consumer displays that go through this removal process. However, there are no established processes for the re-prenotification of Communication Hubs that have been removed by the DCC.	Any proposed solution(s) for this proposal are still under review
DP314	The current SEC Documents have some minor errors which were either in the SEC from inception or introduced via various changes over the years since it was created. The Change team maintains a log of these errors, which are either identified by the team or notified to the Change team by other parties.	To correct the minor errors and inconsistencies identified in the SEC Documents.

Industry News and Consultations

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Tackling energy debt when moving home | Ofgem

Ofgem is seeking input on potential changes to the home-moving process to reduce the risk of consumers accruing energy debt before they register with a supplier. You are invited to submit your input by **20 January 2026.**

Energy consumer outcomes | Ofgem

Ofgem is seeking views on proposed new consumer outcomes to define expectations for customer experience across domestic, non-domestic, and vulnerable energy consumers, integrating them into the regulatory framework to boost innovation and compliance. You are invited to submit your views by **22 January 2026.**

Energy code reform: competitive code manager selection | Ofgem

Ofgem is consulting on its proposed approach for assessing and selecting code manager candidates, through a competitive licensing process and on updates to the draft guidance, that will govern how this competitive selection will work in future. You are invited to submit your feedback by **23 January 2026.**

DESNZ Consultation on NETMAD (SEC Appendix AU) Changes | DESNZ

DESNZ is consulting on Smart Energy Code changes to enable transitional funding arrangements for replacing 2G/3G smart meter communications hubs with 4G ones. You are invited to submit your feedback by **26 January 2026.**

FSM consultation on updates to the go-live arrangements | Smart DCC

This DCC consultation seeks views on proposed changes to the transitional arrangements for the Future Service Management (FSM) programme's go-live requirements and historical data migration, and on the re-designation date of the Appendix Au' Network Evolution Transition and Migration Approach Documents'. You are invited to submit your views by **30 January 2026.**

Proposed Forward Work Programme for 2026 to 2027 | Ofgem

Ofgem is consulting on its draft Forward Work Programme for 2026-27, seeking feedback on its planned priorities and projects before finalising the annual energy sector work plan. You are invited to submit your feedback by **12 February 2026.**

Upcoming Events and SEC Meetings

Date	Event	Who can attend?
19 January, 13:00	Communications Transitions Group 34	Members
20 January, 10:00	Change Sub-Committee Meeting 83	Members
20 January, 10:00	Customer Challenge Group 09	Members
20 January, 14:00	Understanding the SEC Panel Draft Budget 2026-2029 Webinar	Open to SEC Parties
21 January, 10:00	Testing Advisory Group 133XXX	Members
22 January, 10:00	Privacy Sub-Committee 22	Members
23 January, 10:30	Other SEC Party Engagement Call	Open to Party Type
26 January, 10:30	Large Supplier Engagement Call	Open to Party Type
26 January, 12:30	Operations Group Meeting 156	Members
27 January, 09:30	SEC Panel Meeting148	Members
28 January, 09:45	TAG 134	Members
28 January, 10:00	Change Board Meeting 110	Members
28 January, 10:00	Security Sub Committee Meeting 231	Members
28 January, 14:00	SECCo Board Meeting 148	Members
29 January, 15:00	Small Supplier Engagement Call	Open to Party Type

View all upcoming industry events in the Industry Events Calendar

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