



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero
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Adhir Ramdarshan
Director of Regulation
Data Communications Company

CC: The Authority (Ofgem), the SEC Panel,
SEC Parties, and other interested parties

By email only

19 September 2025

Dear Adhir,

Smart Metering Implementation Programme: decision on DCC's draft Decommissioning Timetable for the Requesting Party services in respect of the SMETS1 MOC (Secure) cohort.

In 2018-19, changes to the energy supply licences, DCC Licences and the Smart Energy Code (SEC) were made via direction from the Secretary of State requiring DCC to provide services in support of efficient, cost-effective and timely enrolment of energy suppliers' eligible SMETS1 meters onto DCC's nationwide network. To fulfil this, five enrolment capabilities were created by DCC¹ that have enabled over 13 million consumers to benefit from an interoperable smart metering service. Of those capabilities, only MOC (Secure) remains live.

In early September 2025, the Department received DCC's draft Decommissioning Timetable² proposing to close the Requesting Party (RP) service in respect of the MOC (Secure) cohort on 28 September 2025. This submission to the Secretary of State is required by SEC Appendix AL SMETS1 Transition and migration Approach Document (TMAD) Clause 7, which specifies that decommissioning requires the approval of the Secretary of State³. As MOC (Secure) is the last enrolment capability to close, alongside closing the RP service specific to the capability, DCC will also decommission the Commissioning Party service that also supports enrolment, as it will no longer be required.

In determining whether to approve the draft Decommissioning Timetable, I have sought to gain sufficient confidence that closing the MOC (Secure) migration capability is in consumers' best interests and that, more generally, DCC has followed due process and has confirmed its readiness to undertake the closure activities, as required by SMETS1 TMAD.

I have received a range of evidence on these matters including:

- DCC's consultation and recommendation on closing the MOC (Secure) RP service.
- Information provided to us by DCC about the costs that DCC would incur if extending the MOC migration service by a further month to the end of October.

¹ For operational purposes, the 5 capabilities were separated by DCC into 3 groups: Initial Operating Capacity (IOC), Middle Operating Capacity (MOC) and Final Operating Capacity (FOC). The FOC and MOC cohorts were split further into smaller cohorts, including MOC (Secure). 4 of the five capabilities had been closed by late 2024.

² <https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/consultations/conclusion-to-dcc-consultation-on-our-draft-requesting-party-decommissioning-timetable-for-moc-secure/>

³ <https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/documents/sec-subsidary-documents/sec-appendix-al-smets1-transition-and-migration-approach-document/>

- Additional information from DCC on its plans to close the MOC (Secure) RP and CP services;
- That, where stakeholders' concerns were raised and a request was made to extend enrolment in MOC (Secure) beyond DCC's proposed Decommissioning Date, DCC had closely engaged the stakeholders to address the concerns, and to ensure that sufficient time was available to them for exhausting all attempts to enrol their remaining eligible devices before DCC's proposed Decommissioning Date; and
- Advice from my own team in the Department

Based on this evidence, I am assured that:

- DCC consulted on the draft Decommissioning Timetable for the MOC (Secure) RP, which proposed a Decommissioning Date of 28 September 2025, and that this proposal was supported by the majority of respondents to DCC's consultation.
- As part of the consultation process, DCC has engaged all the respondents who raised queries or concerns, including from three stakeholders who were concerned that DCC's draft Decommissioning Timetable would not allow sufficient time for migration attempts relating to a number of eligible devices. As all unenrolled assets must be replaced with SMETS2, this could result in increased supplier costs that could be passed to consumers. DCC informed us that they have engaged all three respondents, and as part of that, has proactively worked with the Responsible Suppliers to ensure that all possible steps are (and continue to be) taken to have allowed for attempts to enrol any remaining eligible devices. We understand that all eligible remaining meters (not in exclusion categories) have now had attempts to be enrolled, and are being retried, though on the information to date face increasingly lower probabilities of success from these retries.
- Migration of the MOC (Secure) cohort installations is now almost complete. By 28 September 2025, DCC expects there to be no eligible dormant installations on the SMETS1 SMSO that may remain unmigrated and not otherwise be captured by SMETS1 TMAD's existing exclusion categories thus making them ineligible for migration.
- DCC advise that there are substantive unavoidable costs from extending enrolment beyond the proposed draft Decommissioning Timetable and on the assumption that these would result in increased DCC Charges, approving DCC's proposed timetable is overall in the best interests of consumers.
- DCC has considered all technical and data security aspects linked to closing the MOC (Secure) RP and CP services in line with SMETS1 TMAD Clause 7 and has confirmed its readiness to begin the technical changes to close the services.

Based on this evidence and pursuant to SMETS1 TMAD Clause 7.3, I hereby approve on behalf of the Secretary of State the draft DCC Decommissioning Timetable submitted by DCC in respect of the MOC (Secure) cohort Requesting Party, as proposed.

I would ask that, in line with its obligations under SMETS1 TMAD Clause 7.4, DCC proceeds to publish the approved RP Decommissioning Timetable to all SEC Parties and send a copy of the final document to the Secretary of State and to the Authority.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Cosgrove', written in a cursive style.

James Cosgrove
Deputy Director
Smart Metering Implementation Programme

(An official of the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero authorised to act on behalf of the Secretary of State).