



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2AW
www.gov.uk/energysecurity

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

5 March 2025

Dear Colleague,

**SMART METERING IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME: CONCLUSIONS ON
MODIFICATIONS TO DUIS TO ALLOW DEVICES WITH A STATUS OF INSTALLED NOT
COMMISSIONED TO BE ADDED TO A COMMUNICATION HUB FUNCTION DEVICE LOG,
AND CONSULTATION ON REVISED RE-DESIGNATION DATE OF DCC USER INTERFACE
SPECIFICATION DOCUMENTS.**

1. On 20 September 2024, DESNZ issued a consultation¹ on changes to all versions of the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) to support a change to DCC systems that would allow a Device with an SMI Status of Installed Not Commissioned to be added to the Device Log of a Communications Hub Function.
2. The consultation closed on 1 November 2024, and we received three responses. The Annex to this letter sets out our views on the responses and our proposed next steps in this area. It also invites views on a proposed amended re-designation date for the changes of 18 March 2025.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Cosgrove'.

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).

¹<https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/desnz-consultation-on-proposed-changes-to-duis/>

Annex: Consultation response and further consultation on revised designation date.

Annex: Consultation Response and further consultation on revised re-designation date

Background

1. On 20 September 2024, DESNZ issued a consultation¹ on changes to all versions of the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) to support a change to DCC systems that would allow a Device with a Smart Metering Inventory (SMI) Status of 'Installed Not Commissioned' (INC) to be added to the Device Log of a Communications Hub Function (CHF).
2. At present, Devices with a status of INC cannot be directly added to the CHF Device Log. This means that in a situation where a supplier has installed a Smart Metering System in a consumer premises but has been unable to add the meters to the CHF Device Log, they may be reluctant to set the status of those meters to INC because to do so would potentially complicate any subsequent attempts to commission the devices, including for example in circumstances where a 2G/3G CH is being replaced with a 4G CH.
3. Without setting the status of such Devices to INC, the DCC does not have any record of the association between the relevant meters and the Communications Hub in the premises via the MPxN. The proposed change therefore is to allow suppliers to set the status to INC whilst also avoiding making the subsequent commissioning of such devices more complicated. This functionality is expected to be helpful in allowing the DCC to automatically detect premises at which 4G Communications Hub only replacements² have taken place, whilst at the same time streamlining the commissioning process for devices already in the premises via the 4G CH.
4. The proposed changes were to:
 - a. modify section 3.8.101.3 (specific validation for service request 8.11 (Update HAN Device Log)) in **all versions** of DUIS to reflect the new behaviour by modifying the error code E081105 to add in the text in red as follows:

E081105	The status of the Device being added to the Whitelist is not <u>'Installed not Commissioned'</u> , 'Pending' or 'Whitelisted'
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- b. ask the DCC to update the service request narrative relating to Service Request 8.11 in the DCC User Gateway Interface Design Specification (DUGIDS) to reflect the change; and
- c. redesignate all versions of DUIS to reflect this change, keeping the same version numbers in all cases – to continue to match the schema version number - but adding into the title of each document the date of its re-designation (so that it can be differentiated from the prior version).

Consultation Responses

5. We received six consultation responses, five from Supplier Parties and one from the SEC Operations Group (OPSG). Five of the respondents supported the proposals and one indicated that they believed that the change would make things easier for them, but had a number of questions.

² 4G Communications Hub only replacement (i.e. where no smart meter(s) are replaced or added) in the Central and South regions of Great Britain, and the Communications Hub being replaced is a 2G/3G hub.

6. The respondent stated that they believed that the change would mean that if there was an installed asset on site with a SMI Status of INC, it would be unnecessary to decommission the device and pre-notify it before commencing the commissioning process. We agree that this would be unnecessary, and that the supplier could continue the commissioning process by adding the relevant meter to the CHF Device Log without changing its SMI Status and then commission the device.
7. Another question raised was how could suppliers differentiate between meters with a SMI Status of INC that are on the CHF Device Log and those that are not, particularly following a CoS event (where the supplier does not have its own historic information on the status of the installation)? We think that the supplier can differentiate between these two scenarios today by simply reading the CHF Device Log to determine whether the relevant meters are listed on it by using Service Reference Variant 8.9. Under the new arrangements where a Device with an SMI Status of INC is added to the CHF Device Log, the SMI Status would be updated to Whitelisted.
8. Finally, they raised a question over whether there would be a change to the SMI Status of the Devices with a SMI Status of INC if they were removed from the CHF Device Log, i.e. would the SMI Status change back to Pending or remain at INC? Our understanding is that in those circumstances, the SMI Status of the Devices would remain unchanged.
9. Another respondent asked for more information about the costs associated with the change. We understand from the DCC that the development costs are minimal and that the changes form part of an existing maintenance release, thereby minimising additional release cost.
10. The OPSG response indicated that they thought it was incumbent on DESNZ to make Users aware of the further proliferation of DUIS Versions and offered assistance to providing updates to the appropriate sub-committees and other forums. In practice we are proposing to modify the existing versions of DUIS, rather than create new ones, however we do recognise that the “old” versions may still be in circulation. As a consequence of the change, all future versions of DUIS will have a designation/modification date on the covering page.
11. We will continue to communicate with DCC Users via TBDG and by publishing this document on the SEC Website. We agree that it would be helpful if updates are given to DCC Users via the OPSG and other forums and we would be grateful if OPSG could raise awareness of this topic in the near future. We will also seek to discuss the changes in other sub-committees and associated groups attended by DESNZ.

Next Steps

12. In light of the responses received, we propose to re-designate all live versions of DUIS to incorporate the change, and to include a date of re-designation on their header page on the 18 March 2025.

Views Invited

13. Do you have any comments on the proposed re-designation date of all versions of DUIS to incorporate these changes of 18 March 2025 (or as soon as practicable within one month thereafter)?
14. Respondents are invited to submit views on the proposed re-designation date, to smartmetering@energysecurity.gov.uk by 17:00 on 14 March 2025.