



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Department for Energy
Security & Net Zero
1 Victoria Street,
London SW1H 0ET

www.gov.uk/beis

Penny Brown
Chief Operating Officer
Data Communications Company

By email only

5 April 2023

Dear Penny,

Smart Metering Implementation Programme: decision on DCC's proposed Decommissioning Timetable for the Requesting Party (RP) services for the FOC (NP) SMETS1 cohort.

On 24 March 2023, DCC submitted to the Department its draft Decommissioning Timetable¹ proposing to close the Requesting Party service in respect of the FOC (NP) cohort on 9 April 2023. I note that in practice the Requesting Party service was de facto withdrawn by the relevant SMETS1 SMSO contracted with DCC on 9 February 2023.

DCC has reported that there is no prospect of any ongoing Requesting Party service provision in respect of this cohort, and that there is no other technical means of providing a migration service for the relatively low numbers of residual meters for which migration attempts have not been completed and which do not fall within exclusion categories. Therefore, I note approval of DCC's draft Decommissioning Timetable at this point would purely be to align the regulatory obligations on DCC to operation the migration service to de facto operational reality.

In determining whether to provide such approval, I have sought to gain sufficient confidence that DCC has exhausted all possible steps in relation to the cohort's remaining devices to minimise impact on consumers, that DCC has more generally followed due process in as much as it may apply given the prior de facto RP service withdrawal, and that DCC has confirmed its ability to continue the closure activities, such as audit, in line with the SMETS1 TMAD requirements.

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

- DCC consultation and recommendation on regulatory closure of the FOC (NP) RP service;
- No concerns raised by stakeholders directly with the Department since it received DCC's submission of the draft Decommissioning Timetable on 24 March 2023; and
- Advice from my own team in the Department

Based on this evidence and in line with SMETS1 TMAD Clause 7, I hereby approve the draft DCC Decommissioning Timetable submitted by DCC in respect of the FOC (NP) cohort Requesting Party.

¹ See <https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/latest-news/department-for-energy-security-and-net-zero-dcc-letter-of-recommendation-that-the-requesting-party-for-the-final-operating-capability-foc-np-cohort-is-closed-down-from-9-april-2023/>

I am copying in Ofgem as well as the SEC Administrator so that this letter can be brought to the attention of SEC Parties.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Stone', enclosed within a thin blue rectangular border.

Duncan Stone

Deputy Director & Head of Delivery
Smart Metering Implementation Programme

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