



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero



Correspondence

Open Letter from DESNZ and Ofgem: Scoping exercise on the provision of wider access to smart metering data

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To the SEC Panel, the BSC Panel, the Data Communications Company, Elexon and other interested parties

Dear Colleagues,

There are clear benefits to providing wider access to certain categories of smart metering data, where this can be achieved in ways that guarantee robust security and ensure that data privacy is fully respected.

Options exist regarding the types of data to be made available and the parties responsible for providing access to it. To ensure that the overall approach maximises benefits while minimising the costs of provision, it is important to design a data repository solution that is efficient, proportionate and aligned with future users' needs.

Given various initiatives in this space, it is timely to consider what the overall solution should look like, including the number of data repositories that hold smart metering data, the provision of wider access to smart metering data and the roles and responsibilities for delivery of access to it, within an appropriate legal, regulatory and governance framework.

The Department is therefore initiating a scoping exercise which will consider options for the design, delivery and provision of a data repository or repositories (including roles, responsibilities and the associated legal, regulatory and governance framework), together with a cost benefit analysis of those options. This will enable identification of the appropriate way forward that maximises benefits to consumers.

It is important in the meantime that potentially nugatory activity or spend on progressing solutions to make available smart metering data is avoided. The Department and Ofgem would expect this to be factored into decision making by those currently considering such solutions, where appropriate pausing such activity or spend, pending the outcome of the scoping exercise. As an example, Ofgem will not be in a position to take a decision in relation to the 'P494' BSC Modification Proposal or the 'MP234' SEC Modification Proposal prior to the outcome of the scoping exercise. It therefore may be prudent for those Modification Proposals to be paused where they have not yet been submitted to Ofgem for a decision. Once the scoping exercise is complete, Ofgem will take account of the outcomes of the scoping exercise ahead of making a decision on relevant Modification Proposals that are submitted.

We are aware of the need for timely solution/s, and consumer benefits of timely access will be factored into the options evaluation. We are also considering the impact on timely delivery of wider industry programmes. The output of the scoping exercise will be a preferred way forward for consultation, and we will engage with relevant stakeholders in due course on timelines for this consultation and subsequent conclusions.

Jennie Tse, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

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