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MP230 ‘Review the SLA for delivery and completion of SMETS1 firmware’ Conclusions Report – version 1.0

About this document

This document summarises the responses received to the Modification Report Consultation and the decision of the Change Board regarding approval or rejection of this modification.

Summary of conclusions

Change Board

The Change Board voted to **approve** MP230. It believed the modification better facilitated SEC Objective (b)¹

Modification Report Consultation

Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) received four responses to the Modification Report Consultation. All respondents believed that the modification should be approved. One respondent considered the modification better facilitates SEC Objectives (a)², (c)³, (d)⁴, (e)⁵, (f)⁶ and (g)⁷. Another believed the modification would better facilitate General SEC objective (b).

¹ to enable the Data Communications Company to comply at all times with the General Objectives of the Data Communications Company (as defined in the Data Communications Company Licence), and to efficiently discharge the other obligations imposed upon it by the Data Communications Company Licence

² facilitate the efficient provision, installation, and operation, as well as interoperability, of Smart Metering Systems at Energy Consumers' premises within Great Britain;

³ facilitate Energy Consumers' management of their use of electricity and gas through the provision to them of appropriate information by means of Smart Metering Systems;

⁴ to facilitate effective competition between persons engaged in, or in Commercial Activities connected with, the Supply of Energy;

⁵ to facilitate such innovation in the design and operation of Energy Networks (as defined in the Data Communications Company Licence) as will best contribute to the delivery of a secure and sustainable Supply of Energy;

⁶ to ensure the protection of Data and the security of Data and Systems in the operation of this Code

⁷ to facilitate the efficient and transparent administration and implementation of this Code.

Modification Report Consultation responses

Summary of responses

One respondent highlighted that this modification is a formalisation of the actions being taken by Suppliers when dealing with large Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS1) firmware data packets. The respondent acknowledges that this approach clarifies the expected process and timelines when dealing with larger firmware images.

Another respondent (Large Supplier) noted that the solution does not cure the underlying problem that the infrastructure cannot cope with the demands of large SMETS1 firmware updates. The respondent believes that the DCC have a responsibility to manage traffic through the systems and their infrastructure should be able to cope with the demands of both large firmware images and large numbers of meters going through upgrades. This issue was discussed through the modification and the DCC acknowledge that additional infrastructure could be purchased but this was not cost efficient.

Change Board vote

Change Board vote

The Change Board voted to **approve** MP230 under Self-Governance.

The vote breakdown is summarised below:

Change Board vote				
Party Category	Approve	Reject	Abstain	Outcome
Large Suppliers	7	0	0	Approve
Small Suppliers	3	0	0	Approve
Network Parties	2	0	0	Approve
Other SEC Parties	3	0	0	Approve
Consumer Representative	-	-	-	-
Overall outcome:				APPROVE

Views against the General SEC Objectives

Objective (b)

The Change Board believed that MP230 will better facilitate SEC Objective (b) by allowing the DCC to manage the updating of a minority of firmware images which are very large which if released onto the DCC System in large volumes would cause a degradation of System performance for all Users.

Change Board discussions

A Change Board member (DR) was interested in the number of Devices affected, and whether firmware upgrades had been necessary for them in the past or expected in the future. The member (DR) also queried whether all SMETS1 Service Providers (S1SPs) are impacted.

SECAS advised that the solution applied to all SMETS1 Devices. However, the number that would receive firmware larger than 750kb was approximately 670,000 Devices from one cohort.

Another member (EL) noted that since being enrolled, these Devices have had two firmware upgrades and another is anticipated shortly.