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MP252 ‘Amending the process for Communications Hub returns’

April 2024 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

SEC Party Category	Working Group Members	Representing
Large Suppliers	Alastair Cobb (ACo)	British Gas
	Emma Johnson (EJ)	British Gas
	Julie Brown (JB)	British Gas
	Sharon Armitage (SA)	E.ON
	Alex Hurcombe (AH)	EDF
	Amy Cox (ACx)	EDF
	Joey Manners (JM)	Octopus Energy
	Ralph Baxter (RB)	Octopus Energy
	Mahfuzar Rahman (MR)	Scottish Power
	Kevin Clark (KC)	Utilita
Small Suppliers	Sam Ward (SW)	Good Energy
Other SEC Parties	Patricia Massey (PM)	BEAMA
	Carl Whitehouse (CW)	Calisen Metering
	Craig Biffen (CB)	EUA
	Stuart Blair (SB)	Northern Powergrid Metering Ltd
	Michael Snowden (MS)	Secure Meters (UK) Limited
	David Lane (DL)	SMS Plc
	Mitch Kerry (MK)	Trilliant Networks Operations Ltd
Network Parties	Emily Waters (EWa)	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Shuba Khatun (SK)	SSEN

Other Participants		
DCC		
David Walsh (DW)	David Rollason (DR)	Gary Stuart (GS)
SECAS		
Ali Beard (AB) <i>Working Group Chair</i>	Rachel Black (RBI) <i>Meeting Secretary</i>	Elizabeth Woods (EW) <i>Lead Analyst</i>
Simon Grimwood (SG)	Georgie Severin (GSe)	

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue identified, and the proposed business requirements.

Issue

- DCC identified over 65,000 Communications Hubs, with the Proposer holding over 20,000; not at consumer premises and with non-Responsible Parties.
- Non-Responsible Parties unable to identify Responsible Supplier due to confidentiality clauses in SEC Section M4.
- CH removal & returns process overly complicated and resource heavy.

Impact

- Non-Responsible Parties unable to return Communications Hubs to DCC.
- Parties unable to return Communications Hubs to Responsible Party.
- Incorrect Communications Hub charges to DCC Users.
- Communications Hub volume will increase at an accelerated rate once we move into the 4G transition.

Business requirements

Business Requirements			
Ref.	Requirement	Responsible for delivery	MoSCoW
1	SEC Parties, including Non-Responsible Parties, shall notify DCC when they want to return Communications Hubs	DCC	M
2	DCC shall develop a mechanism to allow Non-Responsible Parties to return Communications Hubs, where the Communications Hub state in the SMI is 'Commissioned' or 'InstalledNotCommissioned'	DCC	M
3	DCC shall develop a mechanism to check all intended Communications Hubs returns for their current SMI state	DCC	M
4	DCC shall notify SEC Parties whether their request for Communications Hubs return has been accepted or rejected	DCC	M
5	DCC shall notify the Responsible Party of Communications Hubs in the returns process that the DCC has in their possession	DCC	M
6	DCC shall process the accepted Communications Hubs	DCC	M
7	DCC shall develop a mechanism to charge the Responsible Party for the non-compliant returned Communications Hubs	DCC	M
8	DCC shall accept the return of end-of-life Communications Hubs	DCC	S
9	Reporting to monitor Communications Hub returns data	DCC	S

Working Group Discussion

SECAS (EW) provided an overview of the issue, impact, Potential Solution routes and the proposed business requirements.

The Working Group did not have any comments following the overview provided.

Working Group members agreed the business requirements address the identified issue and were suitable to proceed to request the DCC Preliminary Assessment after OPSG input.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS to finalise the business requirements after discussions at OPSG.
- SECAS to request the DCC Preliminary Assessment after discussions at OPSG.