



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Department for Energy
Security & Net Zero
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The Authority (Ofgem), the SEC Panel, SEC Parties
and other interested parties

18 November 2025

Dear Colleague,

**VIRTUAL WAN ARRANGEMENTS: CONSULTATION ON REMAINING SEC SUBSIDIARY
DOCUMENT CHANGES FOR VWAN SOFT LAUNCH AND UPDATED VERSION OF VWAN
TRANSITION DOCUMENT**

This is the fourth and final consultation¹ on a series of changes to SEC Subsidiary Documents in the run up to Soft Launch of the Virtual WAN Arrangements in January 2026.

The proposed changes include:

CH Handover Support Materials – SEC Appendix H

Updated to reflect the consignment labelling and that Virtual WAN Communications Hubs (VWCHs) will be marked with a 'V'.

CH Installation and Maintenance Support - SEC Appendix I

Updated to reflect the availability of VWCH. That VWCH can be installed as part of a Smart Metering System. Changes to installation procedures to ensure SR8.14.2 is sent regardless of VWAN being active where the SM WAN Coverage Database indicates 4G coverage but the CH LEDs indicate no 4G. Finally, the addition of the procedure to include VWAN activation and post installation for 4G VWCH.

Service Request Processing Document- SEC Appendix AB

Updated to ensure that Commands are sent over the relevant interface depending on whether the DCC is communicating with the relevant Smart Metering System via the SM WAN or via the Virtual WAN Interface.

Inventory, Enrolment and Decommissioning Procedures - SEC Appendix AC

Updated to clarify that, for the purposes of updating the SMI, PPMIDs / Type 2 Devices with VWAN functionality (i.e. VWDs) should be treated as their respective base Device Types. Updated commissioning processes to ensure that where a CHF is commissioned and it connects to the DCC via the VWAN, then DCC will update the SMI Status of the CHF to '*commissioned*'.

¹ Links to the first three and their responses can be found in the table in Annex 1.

Virtual WAN Transition Document – SEC Appendix AZ

Updated to remove the provisions that switch off DCC's obligation to provide the Virtual WAN Provider Service; to place obligations on the DCC and energy suppliers to provide information to the Department during Soft Launch; and for the DCC to provide information to energy suppliers.

We are proposing to designate all these new document versions for incorporation into the SEC on 30 January 2026 (or as soon as practicable within 1 month thereafter).

Other matters

We are aware that there is a need to further update the VWAN Interface Specification (SEC Appendix BA) to provide additional detail in several areas to support the development of VWDs into the future. Our intention now is to update this document following the Soft Launch in Q2 2026.

In relation to the WAN Selection Arrangements (WANSA) document, the initial version of which is hosted on the DCC website², we are considering whether there is a need to require the DCC to carry out the necessary testing and assurance to support any changes to this document through additional obligations in the VWAN Transition Document. The WANSA is a key document which could affect consumer and DCC User experience of the smart service, especially in "poor" SMWAN areas. Views are invited on this matter, and should it be necessary, we will consult on the scope of this additional testing and assurance as part of introducing the obligations.

Finally, we are aware that changes are needed to the User Interface Services Schedule (SEC Appendix D) and potentially SEC Section H in order to introduce target response times for Service Requests and Alerts where these are processed for a Smart Metering System that relies on VWAN. We are proposing to keep matters under review during Soft Launch and to revisit this issue in due course.

Consultation Questions

1. Do you have any comments on the proposed subsidiary document changes?
2. Do you have any comments on the proposal to re-designate the new versions of the documents for incorporation into the SEC with effect from 30 January 2026 (or as soon as practicable within 1 month thereafter)?
3. Do you have any views on the need for additional testing and assurance to support any change of the WAN Selection Arrangements?

Responses to the questions set out in the consultation (and associated reasons) should be submitted to smartmetering@energysecurity.gov.uk by 17:00 on 12 January 2026.

Yours faithfully,



James Cosgrove
Deputy Director
Smart Metering Implementation Programme

² The WANSA document is hosted on this page: [What is a communications hub and how does it work? | Smart DCC](#)

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

Annex 1: Table setting out stages of subsidiary document changes for Soft Launch

Annex 2: SEC Appendix H - CH Handover Support Materials V6.0(draft)

Annex 3: SEC Appendix I - CH Installation and Maintenance Support Materials V10(draft)

Annex 4: SEC Appendix AB - Service Request Processing Document V13(draft)

Annex 5: SEC Appendix AC - Inventory, Enrolment and Decommissioning Procedures V10(draft)

Annex 6: SEC Appendix AZ - Virtual WAN Transition Document V4.0(draft)

Annex 1 – Table explaining the four stages of SEC subsidiary document changes in the run up to Soft Launch.

Stage	Description	Date of consultation	Date phase goes live	Documents Affected	Comments
1	Principal obligations on DCC to provide VWAN-related Services switched off. Arrangements for ordering VWAN CHs put in place.	28 July 2025 Available here	11 September 2025 Available here	VWAN Transition Document v1.0 WAN Selection Arrangements v1.0 CHTSv1.6 marked up to v1.7 GBCSv4.3 marked up to v4.4 CRP666 version 0_3	CHTSv1.6 and GBGSv4.3 were already incorporated into the SEC. CRP666 is maintained outside the SEC. The WAN Selection Arrangements is published on the DCC website as v1.0. CRP666 version 0_3 was shared and discussed with TBDG and its subgroups, and subsequently closed on 11 September 2025 via the usual process for technical approval.
2	Switch on of the VWKI Services to allow VWD Manufacturers to subscriber for VWAN Device Certificates and to access copies of: - The Root VWKICA Certificate; - Issuing VWP CA Certificates; and	18 August 2025 Available here	17 October 2025 Available here	VWAN Transition Document v2.0 Virtual WAN Interface Specification v1.0 VWKI Certificate Policy v1.0 VWKI Registration Authority Policies and Procedures v1.0 VWKI Interface Specification v1.0 VWKI Code of Connection v1.0 ³	The Certification Practice Statement was shared with SMKI PMA in advance of switching on the VWKI Service, but is not a public document.

³ Please note that the VWKI Code of Connection and the VWKI Repository Code of Connection are combined into a single document.

Stage	Description	Date of consultation	Date phase goes live	Documents Affected	Comments
	- VWP Certificates.			VWKI Repository Interface Specification v1.0 VWKI Repository Code of Connection v1.0 ³ VWKI Certification Practice Statement v1.0	
3	Changes to coincide with the 6 November SEC Release	16 September 2025 Available here	6 Nov 2025 Available here	GBCS v4.4 (draft) CHTS v1.7 DUIS v5.4 (draft) MMC v5.4 TSAT v25 VWAN Transition Document v3.0	Documents are now incorporated into the SEC
4	Soft Launch	This consultation	30 January 2026	VWAN Transition Document v4.0 SEC Appendices: H, I, AB, and AC.	

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Published separately.

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