

MP208 ‘Northbound Prioritisation of N56 Alerts’

Annex A

Business requirements – version 0.1

About this document

This document contains the business requirements that support the solution for this Modification Proposal. It sets out the requirements along with any assumptions and considerations. The Data Communications Company (DCC) will use this information to provide an assessment of the requirements that help shape the complete solution.

1. Business requirements

This section contains the functional business requirements. Based on these requirements a full solution will be developed.

Business Requirements	
Ref.	Requirement
1	To apply prioritisation at the Data Service Provider (DSP) level to N56 Alerts such that they are processed ahead of other messages when they reach the Supplier gateway.

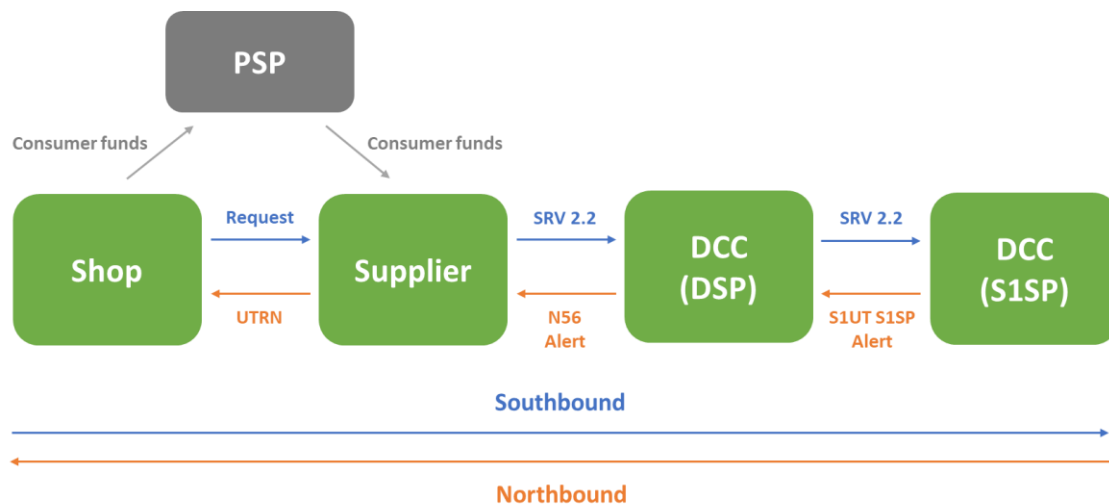
2. Considerations and assumptions

This section contains the considerations and assumptions for each business requirement.

2.1 General

This solution will be applied to SMETS1 Devices only.

When a consumer attempts to purchase a Prepayment Meter top up from a shop, the process follows the below pathway:



When SRV 2.2 'Top Up Device' is generated, the Payment Service Provider (PSP), which is not a Smart Energy Code (SEC) Party, 'holds' the consumer funds in preparation to transfer to the Supplier. The N56 Alert contains the Unique Transaction Reference Number (UTRN). Receipt of the UTRN by the shop till is the endpoint of the process and allows the PSP to transfer the consumer funds to the Supplier. If the entire process is not completed within 30 seconds, the transaction times out. The top up will not be successful and the funds used by the consumer in the attempt will be released back to the consumer by the PSP. However, this release may take several days to clear.

2.2 Requirement 1: To apply prioritisation at the DSP level to N56 Alerts such that they are processed ahead of other messages when they reach the Supplier gateway.

DCC analysis of the issue has confirmed that there are instances of N56 Alerts queueing at the Supplier message gateway and entering the Service User Retry Buffer (SURB), meaning that even if the 16 second TRT is met the overall process is taking too long.

3. Solution development

This section contains a must-have, should-have, could-have, won't-have (MoSCoW) analysis for the different requirement components to be considered as part of the solution.

MoSCoW Analysis		
Requirement Ref.	Description	MoSCoW
1	To apply prioritisation at the DSP level to N56 Alerts such that they are processed ahead of other messages when they reach the Supplier gateway.	M
1.1	To introduce a mechanism to ensure that non-prioritised messages do not wait indefinitely to be processed.	C

Key

- M = Must have
- S = Should have
- C = Could have
- W = Won't have

3.1 Requirement Ref. 1.1: To introduce a mechanism to ensure that non-prioritised messages do not wait indefinitely to be processed.

The Working Group noted that prioritisation of any System message, by definition, de-prioritises others. Ideally, there will be a way of ensuring that when this happens, messages with a lower priority are not required to wait for an indefinite amount of time to be processed. This is given as a 'could-have' due to the urgency of delivering a solution to Requirement 1; if this can be delivered without causing significant delays to the Proposed Solution, it should be included.

4. Glossary

This table lists all the acronyms used in this document and the full term they are an abbreviation for.

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
DCC	Data Communications Company
PSP	Payment Service Provider
S1SP	SMETS1 Service Provider
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification
SURB	Service User Retry Buffer
SRV	Service Reference Variant
TRT	Target Response Time
UTRN	Unique Transaction Reference Number