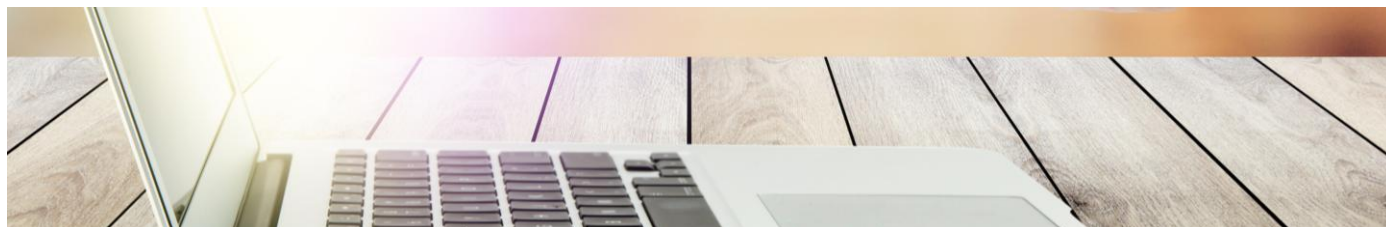


Published 15 November 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of the fortnightly newsletter from the Smart Energy Code.

Please get in touch by emailing the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) if you have any feedback.



SEC Performance Assurance Framework

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

On 07 November 2024, the Authority approved [MP224 – ‘SEC Performance Assurance Framework’](#), which took legal effect on 08 November 2024. This modification creates a Performance Assurance Board (PAB) to monitor SEC Parties' compliance with the Smart Energy Code (SEC), excluding obligations under Section Z ('Alt HAN Arrangements') and Section G ('Security').

The Performance Assurance Framework (PAF) uses a risk-based approach to target areas posing the greatest risk to SEC Objectives. The PAB will develop a 'Risk Evaluation Methodology' to prioritise these risks and implement relevant assurance techniques, with regular consultations with SEC Parties and endorsement by the SEC Panel to ensure proportionality. Similar Performance Assurance Frameworks are in place under other Codes, such as the Retail Energy Code (REC) and Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC), addressing specific risks.

At the November 2024 SEC Panel meeting, members will approve the PAB's Terms of Reference and next steps, with the PAB's first meeting expected in early 2025.

DCC Engagement with Sub-Committee Chairs

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The SEC Sub-Committee Chairs and SECAS meet monthly with the DCC engagement team and programme Directors to discuss key programme changes and impacts, engagement approaches, and share feedback. At the meeting in November 2024:

- The DCC explained its Dual Control Organisation (DCO) Full Business Case (FBC) approach. Collaborative engagement with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) continues towards non-objection and Contract Award. The Chairs challenged the DCC on confidence levels in



the plan, with the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) Chair asking for visibility at the earliest opportunity. The DCC looks to provide an update at TAG in early 2025.

- The DCC confirmed the latest position on the Communication Hubs and Networks Programme (CH&N) Live Service Criteria 1 ahead of the Panel decision on 08 November 2024 to support go-live for Initial Pallet Validation.
- The DCC provided an update on the Future Connectivity Strategy Programme, sharing the latest position of the Connectivity North FBC, with the DCC looking at how they progress as efficiently as possible in line with DESNZ and customer sentiment.

Respond to DCC Communication on Organisation Private Keys

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The Security Sub-Committee (SSC) reminds Parties to respond to the email issued by the DCC Service Centre on 05 September 2024 regarding Organisation Private Keys and replacement of certificates. The email was sent to all Nominated Contact Leads, Back Ups, SMKI SROs and AROs



Please confirm to the DCC as soon as possible how many Organisation certificates you might have in use in 2024 and ensure you have the corresponding private keys. If any private keys are missing, DCC can help plan replacements. Certificates from 2016-2018 will expire in 2026-2028, so new certificates will be needed well before then to update your devices.

For any questions or concerns, contact smki.ra.manager@smartdcc.co.uk.

Privacy Controls Framework Update

This story is of interest to Other Users and SEC Parties

The [Privacy Controls Framework \(PCF\)](#) is undergoing proposed updates. Thanks to all that provided feedback, which will be reviewed by the Privacy Sub-Committee (PSC) at its upcoming meeting on 21 November 2024, ahead of finalising and publishing version 2.13 of the PCF. Here is the summary of the proposed changes:

Updated Timeframes for Privacy Assessment Process

The "Privacy Assessment Process" has been amended to clarify the number of Working Days allocated to the User, SECAS, and the Independent Privacy Assessor (IPA) for Management Response and Validation actions:

- Initial SECAS Validation: 10 Working Days
- User Management Response: 5 Working Days
- Final IPA/SECAS Validation: 5 Working Days



Terminology Adjustments

All references to the "SEC Panel" have been updated to "Privacy Sub-Committee," aligning terminology with the approach taken in the Security Controls Framework.

For more information, please contact [SECAS](#).

Modifications Update

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

New Draft Proposal

There has been one new Draft Proposal raised since the last newsletter. [Provide feedback to the Change Team](#) to help us understand whether this issue affects you.

Title	Issue	Solution
DP277 'Virtual Gateway Connection	SEC Parties wishing to become a DCC User must have a physical DCC Gateway Connection. Existing DCC Users are migrating to cloud-based architecture and almost all new onboarding DCC Users have requested for a virtual connectivity option.	The solution would be to introduce an option for new and existing DCC Users to opt for a virtual DCC Gateway Connection.

Refinement Consultations

As a SEC Party, you can help influence the Proposed Solution, help determine the business case for the change, and comment on how the proposal will affect your organisation. For more information and to respond the consultation, download the consultation pack linked below and send your response to the [Change Team](#).

Title	Closing Date	Impacted Parties	Link
MP275 'Section K changes to support 4G Communications Hubs rollout'	21 November 2024	DCC, Electricity Network Parties, Gas Network Parties, Suppliers	Download
MP275 proposes to make changes to SEC Section K 'Charging Methodology' and would introduce a Unitary Charge for Communications Hubs (CH). Additionally, it would make changes to the CHs 'returned not redeployed' Explicit Charge, caveating that CHs exchanged as part of the 4G rollout would not incur an upfront Charge. The remaining financing costs would instead be reapportioned to the CHs Fixed Charges. Ofgem has extended the Refinement Consultation window to 21 November 2024 to allow Parties time to provide feedback ahead of the Working Group. Access the updated Urgency timetable .			



MP271 'Sub-Committee seats for Other Users, Meter Data Retrievers and Registered Supplier Agents'	22 November 2024	Other SEC Parties	Download
MP271 proposes to add an additional OSP seat at TABASC to be filled by an elected Other User, Meter Data Retriever or Registered Supplier Agent. This modification also seeks to re-allocate one of the three OSP seats at the Change Board to an elected Other User, Meter Data Retriever or Registered Supplier Agent, with that role remaining responsible for representing the OSP category.			

Security Sub Committee Election – CPL Manufacturers

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Nominations for a new 'CPL Manufacturers' Party Category member for the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) will close on 06 December 2024. The SSC meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

This role was created following the changes to SEC Section G in relation to the transfer of ownership of the Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) Scheme from National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) to SSC (SEC G7.13A and B).

Nominate yourself or an individual by [completing the online form](#) by 5pm on 06 December 2024.

SMDASC Election – Nominations Closing Soon

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

SEC Parties are reminded that nominations for the 2024 Smart Meter Device Assurance Sub-Committee (SMDASC) elections will close on **18 November 2024**. The SMDASC was established to integrate the SMDA Scheme's activities under the SEC. Its main objectives are to ensure that Smart Meters and related devices are interoperable and interchangeable.

The following seats are open for nomination:

- 3 representatives from Large Suppliers
- 2 representatives from Small Suppliers
- 1 representative from Networks
- 4 representatives from Other SEC Parties (one ESME Manufacturer, one GSME Manufacturer, one Display Manufacturer, and one MAP)



Nominate yourself or an individual by [completing the online form](#) by 5pm on 18 November 2024. To be nominated, the individual must meet the SEC's eligibility requirements to become and remain an SMDASC Member, as outlined in Section C6.

If there are more nominations than there are available seats in a particular Party Category, a vote will occur. Voting will open on **26 November 2024** if required.

Industry Consultations

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

[Innovation in the energy retail market | Ofgem](#)

You are invited to consider this Ofgem consultation, closing on 27 November 2024. Ofgem seeks to identify and address barriers to innovation in the energy retail market, with a focus on regulatory routes to market.

[DCC price control consultation: regulatory year 2023 to 2024 | Ofgem.](#)

You are invited to consider this Ofgem consultation, closing on 01 January 2025. Ofgem seeks to evaluate the costs and pricing adjustments reported by DCC for the 2023/24 regulatory year, inviting stakeholders to review these proposed adjustments, offering feedback before a final decision is made.

Upcoming Events



Security Assessment Webinar

When: 29 November 2024, 10:00 - 12:00

Who: SEC Parties

What: SECAS and the User CIO are hosting this webinar to address feedback and provide useful valuable advice to help Parties prepare for their annual assessments. We will clarify the User CIO role, focus on risks and obligations, with a

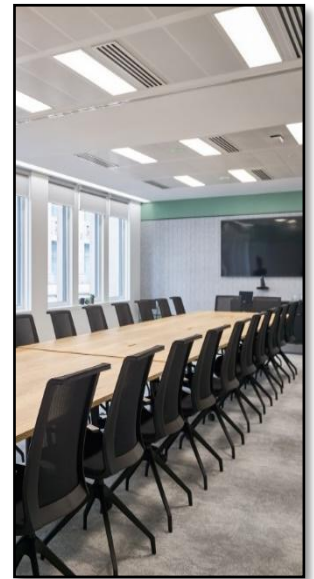
particular emphasis on Small Suppliers, Triage Facility providers, and understanding the ISO27005 risk assessment approach. We will share tips from the Validations team, discuss the Material Change process and Meter Data Retrieval (MDR) role assessment, and run through Users of responsibilities and expectations for their assessment.

How: Microsoft Teams. To sign up, please email the [SECAS Helpdesk](#)



Upcoming Events and SEC Meetings

- 19 Nov, 10:00 - [Change Sub-Committee Meeting 69 \(Members\)](#)
- 20 Nov, 10:00 - [Change Board Meeting 96 \(Members\)](#)
- 21 Nov, 09:30 - [TABASC Meeting 107X \(Members\)](#)
- 21 Nov, 10:00 - [PSC 09 \(Members\)](#)
- 22 Nov, 10:00 - [Other SEC Party Quarterly Issues Call \(Open to Party Type\)](#)
- 25 Nov, 10:30 - [Large Supplier Engagement Call \(Open to Party Type\)](#)
- 25 Nov, 12:20 - [Operations Group Meeting 130 \(Members\)](#)
- 26 Nov, 09:30 - [SEC Panel 134 \(Members\)](#)
- 26 Nov, 14:00 - [SECCo Board 134 \(Members\)](#)
- 27 Nov, 09:00 - [TAG 120 \(Members\)](#)
- 27 Nov, 10:00 - [Security Sub-Committee Meeting 205 \(Members\)](#)
- 28 Nov, 15:00 - [Small Supplier Engagement Call \(Open to Party Type\)](#)
- 28 Nov, 10:00 - [SEC Security Assessment Webinar \(Open to SEC Parties\)](#)



View all upcoming industry events, consultations, and publications from SECAS, the DCC, DESNZ and Ofgem in the [Industry Events Calendar](#).



[Manage your newsletter subscription](#)



[Follow the Smart Energy Code on LinkedIn](#)

