

SEC Newsletter



Published 15 October 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.



Modifications Improvement Project

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

In October 2023, the SEC Panel asked SECAS to review the SEC Section D modifications process, with the aim of improving the flow of modifications through the modification process. Industry feedback, including through a dedicated workshop, showed that stakeholders were concerned about the cost and time taken for changes, as well as Proposers raising changes that only benefited one party and were not in the interests of the industry or consumers. The headline successes are:

- DCC Assessments have been within Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the last two months (August and September 2024)
- The length of time modifications takes to reach decision has significantly decreased (reduction of 160 Working Days (WD) for DCC impacting changes and 30WD for non DCC system impacting changes)
- The number of modifications in the process has reduced and this has been sustained (39 open modifications in February 2024, down to 30 for the last three months)
- A newly established Issues Group, along with enhanced triage and 'critical friend' advice, has successfully prevented 17 modifications by resolving these issues through alternative methods. Potential cost savings have been identified in relation to Releases, with the DCC reporting that narrowing the scope of certain modifications could result in savings of approximately £2.75 million (if modifications are implemented).



SECAS will continue to monitor these improvements, encourage feedback, and implement any necessary changes. We continue to work closely with the DCC around cost issues and time taken for assessments. If you have any questions or would like to find out more, we will be running a SEC Modification Improvement Project Webinar on 28 October 2024, from 10am. If you would like to attend, [please email the SECAS Helpdesk](#) and you will be sent the invite.



SECCo Board Headlines

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The SECCo Board 132 meeting was held on 24 September 2024. The meeting headlines are available [on the SEC Website](#). The next SECCo Board meeting will be held on 22 October 2024.

Digital SEC User Needs Survey

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

You are invited to [take part in a brief survey](#) about your use of the Smart Energy Code (SEC) and your needs for its digital version. This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to Listen, Learn, and Improve. Your feedback is essential and will directly shape how we deliver this service. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please submit your responses by 5pm on 28 October 2024.

Trust Centre Swap Out (TCSO) Issues Resolution Group (TIRG)

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The first meeting of the Technical Issues Resolution Group (TIRG) on 17 September 2024 marked a significant milestone in tackling key challenges in the smart metering rollout. TIRG focuses on resolving critical issues from the TCSO Issues Log, particularly those related to integrating Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSMEs) with the Home Area Network (HAN).

Key Discussion Points:

- **HAN Rejoining:** Ensuring seamless reintegration of GSMEs with the HAN.
- **Energy Supplier Readiness:** Assessing energy Suppliers' preparedness for smart meter deployment, including comprehensive installer training.
- **Meter Firmware:** Addressing advancements and potential issues with meter firmware.
- **AD1 Alerts:** Enhancing the reliability and efficiency of AD1 alerts sent to Distribution Network Operators (DNOs).



TIRG will meet on the first Monday of each month, with the next meeting scheduled for Monday 04 November 2024. Initial Pallet Validation (IPV) for 4G Comms Hubs and Networks (CH&N) will begin on 02 December 2024, making this the last chance to discuss any TCSO issues before IPV starts.

DCC Engagement with Sub-Committee Chairs Update

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. A summary of the meeting held in October 2024 can be found below:





Demand Side Response (DSP): DCC has submitted the final business cases for the DSP Core and System Integrator to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). Extensive collaboration is underway between DCC and preferred bidders and will soon share the Project Initiation Document (PID) with the Panel following review and feedback from all Sub-Committees.

Consumer Help & Network (CH&N) Last Seen Connected (LSC): Final discussions will take place in October and November 2024, with a key session on 15 October 2024 covering in-life assurance and the 4G WAN coverage Assurance approach.

You Said, We Did: DCC has addressed questions on the Dual Control Organisation (DCO) new procurement strategy, discussed 4FSK technology, and shared their 'Green Book Business Case' process with Chairs. This will be shared with the SEC Sub-Committees and Panel in the next quarter.

Modifications Update

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

New Modifications

There have been four new Draft Proposals raised since the last newsletter. You are invited to [provide feedback to the Change Team](#) to help us understand whether these issues affect you.

Title	Issue	Solution
DP273 'User Demand and Network Traffic Insights'	The SEC does not currently place any obligation on DCC Users to provide demand assumptions or share details of their future or upcoming traffic demands. As a result of this the DCC does not have any visibility of the anticipated network demand of DCC Users or their future plans.	Any proposed solution(s) for this proposal are still under review.
DP274 'Requirement for DCC Users to set TPS configurations'	Transactions Per Second (TPS) limits are currently not a requirement within the SEC for Parties that become DCC Users. This can cause User Systems to be unable to process the number of responses that are coming from the DCC, which would – in turn – impact the DCC Service as it is not able to queue Southbound requests.	The Proposed Solution would look to introduce a requirement for DCC Users to set these TPS limits as part of User Entry Process Testing. DCC Users would then periodically review these with the DCC, to ensure the information remains accurate.

Title	Issue	Solution
DP275 'Communications Hubs Fixed Charges'	Under the current charging methodology, the DCC charges must be calculated based on the relative volume of Single Band and Dual Band Communications Hubs installed at the start of the Regulatory Year. Given there is currently a smaller portion of the market with Dual Band Communications Hubs, we would expect this to significantly increase the Dual Band Communications Hub Fixed Charge and Communications Hub stock level charge faced by DCC Users in the early years of 4G deployment. There are concerns that this could lead to a disincentive for Suppliers in the early years of 4G deployment, as they may delay activity to avoid higher charges.	The DCC has proposed the introduction of a Unitary Charge which the DCC views as the only alternative to separate technology charges whilst maintaining the critical objectives of the charging methodology to ensure no variation of charges by Region.
DP276 'Communications Hub returned not redeployed'	The 'Communications Hub returned not redeployed' Explicit Charge was not originally envisioned or designed for a full-scale swap-out of all Communications Hubs in a region. While this cost would need to be incurred anyway due to the requirements to repay the lender (which doesn't change if the Communications Hub is in use or not), the upfront nature of this cost could create a disincentive to commence the swap out of 2/3G Communications Hubs in the Central and South Regions.	DCC would update SEC Section K 'Charging Methodology' to reflect that any 2/3G Communications Hubs returned as part of the swap out to a 4G CH do not qualify for a 'Communications Hub returned not redeployed' Explicit Charge. This differs from a product recall / technology refresh clause in SEC Section F as a Communications Hub under this category would be expected to be redeployed after the changes.

Authority decision to reject MP207

On 01 October 2024, the Authority decided to reject [MP207 'Allowing Registered Supplier Agents to Maintain Meter Firmware'](#). The Authority has [published its decision letter](#), which has also been uploaded to the [MP207](#) page of our website.

Request for Information

There is currently one open Request for Information. You are invited to [provide feedback to the Change Team](#) to help us understand your views.



Title	Closing Date	Impacted Parties	Link
MP184 'Increase smart capability of SMETS2 Twin Element ESME to support solar and storage use cases'	16 October 2024	TBD	Download
MP184 proposes to allow Export Data to be recorded on the secondary element of a Twin Element Meter.			

MP218

The DCC RFI closed on 25 June 2024. A summary of the responses to the DCC RFI on changes to the SEC Charging Methodology under [DP218 'Review of the SEC Charging Methodology'](#) has been published by the DCC. The document summarises the responses received and the next steps. The DCC has also published the collated DP218 DCC RFI non-confidential responses. Both are available on the [DCC website](#).

Latest Modcast

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

[Listen to our latest Modcast now](#). In this episode, we welcome James Hosen from the SECAS Security team. After our usual roundup, James provides an insightful overview of the upcoming changes to Infrastructure Key Infrastructure (IKI) Certificates and Central Products List (CPL) submissions. These changes took effect on 14 October 2024 following the implementation of [MP168 'CPL Security Improvements'](#).

Invitation to Participate in the DCC ECoS Engagement Survey

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The SEC Panel has an obligation to assess the DCC Performance in managing the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) programme and submitting this assessment to DESNZ. This evaluation helps DESNZ decide the margin the DCC can retain for the ECoS programme. DESNZ will consider the SEC Panel's assessment alongside a self-assessment from the DCC to make a final decision.

To gather your feedback on the DCC's management and engagement during the ECoS programme, SECAS, on behalf of the SEC Panel, has created a [survey](#) for SEC Parties. Your input is crucial and will inform the SEC Panel's response to DESNZ in the New Year.

The survey will close at 5pm on 30 October 2024, and responses are limited to one per SEC Party. Your participation is highly valued. If you have any questions about the survey, [please reach out to the SECAS Helpdesk](#).



TABASC 2024 Elections: Call for Nominations

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Nominations are open for the 2024 Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) elections. TABASC provides advice and guidance to the SEC Panel on Technical Code Specifications, End-to-End Technical Architecture, and Business Architecture. The following seats are available:

- 3 representatives from Large Suppliers
- 1 representatives from Small Suppliers
- 1 representatives from Gas Networks



Nomination Process: [Submit your nomination online](#) by Thursday, 24 October 2024.

Nominee Requirements: As set out in the SEC, the person to be nominated (the nominee) should be a person who (at the time of their nomination) can become and remain a TABASC Member in accordance with Sections C6. You may wish to use the text box in the nomination form to detail any relevant experience (optional).

Voting: If nominations exceed available seats, a vote will be held. Each Voting Group can cast one vote. Voting, if required, will open on 31 October 2024.

New Term: Begins on 28 November 2024. The first meeting with new members is on Thursday, 10 December 2024.

For questions, contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).

Industry News and Consultations

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

[CACoP Survey 2024 | CACoP](#)

The CACoP Forum is conducting the CACoP (Code Administrators Code of Practice) survey this year, as requested by Ofgem. This survey allows you to evaluate the performance of various Code Administrators. Please note, only one response per individual code should be completed. The survey closes on 15 November 2024. For any queries, contact: box.CACoP@uk.nationalenergyso.com.

[Consultation on proposed changes to DUIS | DESNZ](#)

You are invited to consider this DESNZ consultation, closing on 01 November 2024. DESNZ is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Data User Interface Specification (DUIS).



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.

Upcoming Events

SEC Modification Improvement Project Webinar

When: 28 October 2024, 10:00 – 11:00 **Who:** SEC Parties

What: We will update you on the SEC Modification Improvement Project, share the success of the project, and address any questions you might have.

How: Microsoft Teams. To sign up, [please email the SECAS Helpdesk](#) by 22 October 2024 to confirm your interest, and we will send you the webinar invite.

Privacy Webinar

When: 8 November 2024, 10:00 - 12:00 **Who:** Other Users & Other SEC Parties

What: We will provide clarity on the User Independent Auditor (IPA) and Privacy Experts roles, give an overview of the SEC I Obligations with a focus on the Consent Approach and the impact of any recent Mods, and request input on the SEC I review. We will share tips from the Validations team based on trends in User understanding and common areas where Users may encounter difficulties. We will cover the Privacy Change Notification process, reminding Users of their responsibilities and expectations for assessment.

How: Microsoft Teams. To sign up, [please email the SECAS Helpdesk](#) by 31 October 2024 to confirm your interest and we will send you the webinar invite.

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](#) by 31 October 2024 to confirm your interest and we will send you the webinar invite.



Upcoming Events and SEC Meetings

- 15 Oct, 10:00 - [Change Sub-Committee 68](#) (Members)
- 17 Oct, 09:30 - [TABASC 106X](#) (Members)
- 17 Oct, 10:00 - [Privacy Sub-Committee 08](#) (Members)
- 18 Oct, 10:30 - [Other SEC Party Monthly Engagement Call](#) (Open to Party Type)
- 21 Oct, 10:30 - [Communications Transition Group 20](#) (Members)
- 21 Oct, 10:30 - [Large Supplier Engagement Call](#) (SEC Parties)
- 22 Oct, 09:30 - [SEC Panel 133](#) (Members)
- 22 Oct, 10:00 - [SMDA Sub-Committee 14](#) (Members)
- 22 Oct, 14:00 - [SECCo Board 133](#) (Members)
- 23 Oct, 10:00 - [Change Board 95](#) (Members)
- 23 Oct, 10:00 - [Security Sub Committee](#) (Members)
- 28 Oct, 10:00 - [SEC Modifications Improvement Project Webinar](#) (SEC Parties)
- 28 Oct, 12:20 - [Operations Group 128](#) (Members)
- 30 Oct, 12:00 - [TAG 119](#) (Members)
- 31 Oct, 15:00 - [Small Supplier Engagement Call](#) (Open to Party Type)



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

SECAS Vacancies

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[Senior Information Security Consultant](#)



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