SEC Newsletter

Published 19 December 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the fortnightly newsletter from the Smart Energy Code. We would love to hear from you - get in touch by emailing SEC@talan.com if you have any feedback.

SEC Panel and SECCo Board Headlines

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The latest meetings of SEC Panel and SECCo Board took place on 16 and 17 December 2025 respectively. The Headlines from SEC Panel 147 and SECCo Board 147 are now uploaded to the SEC Website. The next Panel and Board meetings will be held on 27 January 2026.

SECCo Signs New Three-Year Operational Services Agreement with Talan

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

SECCo is pleased to announce that we have signed a new three-year operational services contract with our long-standing delivery partner, Talan UK & Ireland (formerly known as Gemserv). This agreement represents a critical next step in SECCo's strategic evolution, ensuring continuity while strengthening our collective ability to respond to the evolving needs of the SEC, SEC Parties and the wider regulatory environment in which we operate.

The new agreement is designed to deliver high-quality, reliable, and cost-effective services - aligned with SEC Panel and SECCo Board's ambitions to modernise operations, drive digital transformation, and embed the new Target Operating Model (TOM) for SECCo.

As highlighted in SECCo's Business Plan and Budget, the energy sector is undergoing profound transformation across regulatory, technological, and market dimensions. In this environment, SECCo and Talan will focus on achieving value for money, operational resilience, and a scalable delivery model that can adapt to the expected level of industry change. Key features of the agreement include:

- **Enhanced service delivery** – Leveraging shared expertise, innovation, and digital automation to deliver faster, smarter, and more responsive support for SEC Parties.
- **Built-in flexibility** – The contract introduces mechanisms to evolve services and tailor outcomes that align with industry's priorities and the direction set by the SEC Panel and SECCo Board.
- **Clear operational accountability** – The new model embeds best practices to support agile, scalable, and effective operations.

SECCo will continue to work closely with Talan to ensure that service delivery remains aligned with our strategic objectives and the needs of SEC Parties. Angela Love, SEC Panel and SECCo Board Chair, said: "SECCo Board, Executive team and I are excited to have entered into a new contract with Talan, recognising our long-term partnership and their dedicated team who deliver SEC services. We look forward to continuing positive and productive relationship with Talan."

James Higgins, Director of Future Markets at Talan commented "This agreement marks an important milestone in our shared journey to modernise and future-proof SEC operations. By combining deep industry expertise with innovation capabilities, we are creating a delivery model that is agile, scalable, and ready to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving energy landscape. Our focus is on driving digital transformation and operational excellence to deliver real value for SEC Parties and the wider market."

OPSG Launches Sub-Group on Device Issues

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

New OPSG Sub-Group Focus on Resolving Non-Operating Device Issues

To strengthen industry efforts in reducing the number of Non-Operating Smart Meter devices, a new OPSG Sub-Group has been formed and will convene for its first meeting on 14 January 2026. Earlier in December 2025, we issued a call for nominations to join the Non-Operating Device Intervention (NODI) Sub-Group. We're pleased to announce that 11 representatives have now committed to participate.

What's the Objective?

The Sub-Group will work collaboratively to identify actions that Suppliers, the DCC, and its Service Providers can take to prevent and resolve Non-Operating status of smart metering Devices. The outcomes will be documented in the SEC "Good Practice Guidance – Smart Meters Not Operating in Smart Mode" document, providing SEC Parties with information needed to resolve Non-Operating Devices quickly.

Still time to nominate: If any Supplier Party has not yet nominated a representative, please contact chris.jackson@seccoltd.com.

Urgent SEC Modification Targets Out-of-Region Communication Hubs

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

In a decisive move to safeguard the integrity of the smart energy network, the Authority, Ofgem, has approved a critical modification to the SEC aimed at addressing the growing issue of Out-of-Region Communications Hubs (OOR CHs).

For some time, SEC Parties have been operating Communications Hubs outside their permitted regions, creating operational challenges for the DCC. While the DCC's Communication Service Providers (CSPs) have allowed these hubs to connect, they are under no contractual obligation to continue doing so — a situation that posed a significant risk to service continuity.

To resolve this, a new definition for OOR CHs has been introduced into the SEC. Alongside this, an **Explicit Charge** will now apply to Suppliers operating these hubs, incentivising them to replace non-compliant Devices promptly before services are switched off on **01 June 2026**.

The Authority approved the modification on **03 December 2025**, and it was implemented on **04 December 2025**.

This swift action ensures the DCC can continue providing essential services while reinforcing compliance across the network. Suppliers are now strongly encouraged to act quickly to exchange OOR CHs to avoid additional costs and maintain seamless connectivity until the services are switched off on **01 June 2026.**

Welcoming our New Performance Assurance Provider and Partner

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

We're pleased to announce the successful completion of the procurement process for a new SEC Performance Assurance Service Provider and Partner. Following a competitive and thorough selection process, Moorhouse Consulting has been awarded the contract to implement a risk-based Performance Assurance Framework (PAF) on behalf of the Performance Assurance Board (PAB).

Moorhouse will begin mobilisation activities in January 2026, marking the start of an exciting new chapter in our Performance Assurance journey. Their expertise and collaborative approach will be instrumental in supporting the PAB's objectives and enhancing the effectiveness of risk management across the SEC.

We warmly welcome Moorhouse to the SEC team and look forward to working closely with them to deliver these new arrangements and drive continued improvement across the industry.

More information regarding the mobilisation of the PAF will be communicated in the new year.

If you have any questions about this appointment, please contact the PAB Chair, Beth Procter, PAB@seccoltd.com.

SSC and SMKI PMA Update

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The Security Sub-Committee (SSC) manages security risks to the end-to-end smart metering system to ensure smart metering is secure and resilient against unauthorised access. The SSC works in collaboration with the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA) which provides governance for securing communications with smart meters using a variety of cryptographic algorithms. The SSC Issue Resolution Sub-Group (SCIRS) informs and engages industry on Device and CPA matters. The Sub-Group includes Manufacturers, Meter Asset Providers (MAPs), DESNZ, DCC, DCC Communications Service Providers (CSPs), CPA Test Labs, CPA Scheme Operator and Manufacturer Trade Bodies.

SSC Highlights Over the Past Six Months

- Reviewed and approved User and DCC Security Assessments at each SSC meeting;
- Supported the soft launch of Virtual WAN Devices (VWDs) from 30 January 2026 by providing an application form on the SEC website for VWD Manufacturers to be included on the list of VWDs that qualify to be issued with a VWAN Device Certificate (SEC Section F2.40);
- Provided SSC Briefing Notes to SEC Parties on:
  a) SMKI Certificate Management for SMKI Organisation Certificates with a ten-year life which expire in 2026 and need replacing with a current Certificate (SEC Appendix AC, section 5.23).
  b) Preparation for Post Quantum Computing to provide awareness of National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) timescales, SSC preparation and actions that can be taken immediately;
- Completed a review of the Security Architecture document which is classified 'Amber-Strict'. The document can be made available to those who have a need know to design, build, test, risk assess and assure components of the end-to-end smart metering system;
- Approved several gas and electricity Trial Devices as well as the Virtual WAN Comms Hub Trial Device for the VWD soft launch in January 2026; and
- Reviewed the security controls for multiple DCC projects and re-procurements.

Success Story: the SSC, with input from SCIRS members, completed the transition of the CPA Scheme from the NCSC to a new CPA Scheme Operator. This involved documenting processes, procedures, templates and clarifications for new CPA evaluations, Assurance Maintenance, Risk Reviews and Build Standard Validations. Additionally, the initial backlog of work that was inherited was cleared.

SMKI PMA Highlights Over the Past Six Months

- Approved the decommissioning of the SMKI Portal Over the Internet (SPOTI) to reduce costs as part of the re-procurement of the Trusted Service Provider (TSP);
- Arranged the testing of the APEX Recovery Key to ensure the arrangements will work in the event of a Compromise;
- Appointed new Key Custodians who volunteer to play a valuable role behind the scenes in attending DCC data centres to perform Key Ceremonies that keep the smart metering systems operating;
- Reviewed the arrangements for the transfer of Private Keys between DSP1 and DSP2 to ensure a smooth transition as required by SEC Section G2.22I; and
- Monitored the causes of incorrect Gas Network Operator Certificates on Devices to enable these to be remediated.

Success Story: the SMKI PMA reviewed and approved the Virtual WAN Key Infrastructure (VWKI) document set (SEC Appendices BB, BC, BD, BE and BF), implemented into the SEC in October 2025. This was to support the issue of VWKI Certificates to the Virtual WAN provider and VWD Manufacturers.

Future Plans: the SSC will continue to support and monitor Virtual WAN Trial arrangements, to provide feedback to the DCC on security controls and risks for new projects and re-procurements. A procurement is currently underway to appoint external expertise to conduct the SSC Risk Assessment required by SEC Section G7.19(b), expected to start in February 2026. The SSC have also agreed to establish a Sub-Group in 2026 keep SEC Parties informed and prepared for Post-Quantum Computing developments.

Change Board Sub-Committee 2026 Nominations Now Open

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

February 2026 signals the end of the term for several Change Board members.

Nominations for the following seats are now open:

- 14 Large Suppliers (one for each voting group)
- 3 Small Suppliers
- 3 Network Parties

- 3 Other SEC Parties
- 1 Consumer Representative (Citizen's Advice or Consumer Scotland)

The purpose of the Change Board is to facilitate the development of potential variations to the Code prior to their formal submission as Modification Proposals. It considers Modification Reports, the responses received to Consultations and decides whether to approve Modification Proposals. Learn more about the roles and responsibilities of the Change Board.

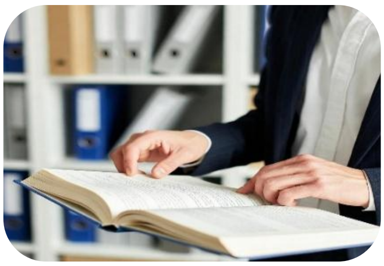
How to Make a Nomination: SEC Parties are invited to make a nomination for their Party category using the online form by 17:00 on 08 January 2026. You will need to be logged in to access the form. You may nominate a prospective candidate or yourself. While nominees do not need to be SEC Parties, only SEC Parties can submit nominations.

Nominee Requirements: Nominees must be eligible to become and remain a Member under SEC Section C4.2 at the time of nomination. You may use the nomination form's text box to provide relevant experience, though this is optional.

Voting Process: If nominations exceed available seats in a Party Category, a vote will take place. Each Voting Group within that category will be entitled to cast one vote for their preferred nominee. Eligible candidates will be notified after the nomination window closes. If voting is required, it will open on 15 January 2026, and voting forms will be distributed to the relevant Voting Groups.

Guaranteed Standards of Performance (GSoP) – SEC Review

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties



In response to Ofgem's proposals to introduce smart GSoP, a comprehensive review of the SEC and SEC Arrangements is now in progress to identify any areas requiring updates to facilitate the new GSoP arrangements.

Phase 1 Complete

The first phase focused on reviewing the SEC and its Appendices. Findings and recommendations were presented to the OPSG on 09 December 2025, receiving approval, and subsequently endorsed by the SEC Panel on 16 December 2025. Next, we will work with the DCC to raise an initial SEC Modification, concentrating on text-only changes to the SEC. These updates aim to clarify Party responsibilities and strengthen key processes to achieve successful first-time smart meter installation and commission.

Phase 2 - Will commence in January 2026

Phase 2 will begin in January 2026, reviewing key aspects of the DCC Licence and some of the key Service Provider contracts that the DCC has in place to deliver the smart eco-system. The output will be presented to OPSG in February 2026.

Incident Management Transformation (IMT) Programme

Alongside the GSoP review, the DCC has launched an IMT Programme to improve how incidents raised by SEC Parties are managed and resolved by the DCC and its Service Providers. Teams from the various workstreams are collaborating closely, and recommendations from the IMT Programme will be presented to the OPSG for approval in the new year.

DCC Engagement with Sub-Committee Chairs

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The SEC Sub-Committee Chairs meet monthly with the DCC engagement team and programme Directors to discuss key programme changes, impacts, engagement approaches, and share feedback.
Below is a summary of the key points from the December 2025 meeting.

Future Service Management (FSM): the DCC updated SEC Sub-Committee Chairs on its replanning of the FSM, setting out testing scope, approved by the Testing Advisory Group (TAG), with System Integration Testing (SIT) split into two phases to keep to the 21 March 2026 go-live date. The DCC stated that it would be submitting an updated SIT exit plan by late February 2026, and explained its streamlined governance proposals, including the combining of FSM and Public Key Infrastructure discussions.

Measuring Success

The DCC provided the latest on its plans to improve performance measuring, by redefining success by shifting from coverage to connectivity, improving accountability, and aligning outcomes with customer expectations. This will be achieved through a suite of activity including SEC Mods (242 and 300), CH swap-outs, GSoP compliance, and enhanced engagement. The DCC noted its end-goal is a transparent scorecard and an end-to-end accountability framework, supported by industry collaboration.

Modifications

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

New Modifications

Title	Issue	Solution
DP310	The purpose of this SEC modification is to clarify the original intent of SEC Section F Clause F2.19 as it does not specify 'new Assurance Certificates' are required. New ZigBee Certificates for such Devices have been requested, particularly for five Trial Device Models which are in a Supplier lab as opposed to a consumer's premises.	Correct the legal text within the affected paragraphs in SEC Section F.
DP311	The legal text implemented by MP308 in SEC Section K 'Charging Methodology' does not completely align to that of the modifications DP308, described policy intent, particularly with DCC requirements for equality across Regions within the DCC charging statement. This proposed modification aims to rectify that error and implement the policy intent of MP308 that was consulted on with Parties and approved by the Authority.	The Proposed Solution for this modification is to make text-only changes to SEC Section K to align the SEC with the original intent of MP308.

Refinement Consultations

Title	Closing Date	Impacted Parties	Link
MP304 'Scheduling Services for SMETS1 Devices (SRV 4.3)'	**11:00, 22 December 2025**	Large Suppliers, Small Suppliers, DCC	DOWNLOAD
For SMETS1, SRV 4.3 'Read Instantaneous Prepay Values' can currently only be requested on an 'On-Demand' service basis or as a 'Future Dated' service. Due to the SMETS1 network each request requires at least one SMS text message. The Proposed Solution is to make SRV4.3 such that it can be scheduled. With Users using Schedulable rather than On Demand or Future Dated, DCC estimates considerable cost savings/avoidance.			

Title	Closing Date	Impacted Parties	Link
MP311 'Additional Out of Region Communications Hubs Amendments'	**11:00, 22 December 2025**	DCC	DOWNLOAD
The legal text implemented in MP308 in SEC Section K does not fully reflect intended policy, causing misalignment with DCC's charging equality across regions and its Charging Objectives. The Proposed Solution for this modification is to make text-only changes to SEC Section K to align the SEC with the original intent of MP308.			

Title	Closing Date	Impacted Parties	Link
MP289 'BCDR Engagement'	**09 January 2026**	Large Suppliers, Small Suppliers, Electricity Network Operators, Gas Network Operators, DCC	DOWNLOAD
DCC's current Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (BCDR) testing requires full engagement and notifications for all tests, even those with no service impact, creating unnecessary workload and inflexibility. The Proposed solution would be limiting engagement to tests affecting DCC services and require a published, regularly updated BCDR Testing Approach document for transparency.			

Title	Closing Date	Impacted Parties	Link
MP234 'Addition of Public Task and Legitimate Interests into the SEC'	**07 January 2026**	Other SEC Parties, DCC Other Users	DOWNLOAD
There is no facility within the SEC to support the GDPR principles of Public Task or Legitimate Interest. This means that public authorities, such as Registered Social Landlords and Local Authorities, find it difficult to obtain Consumption Data from those Energy Consumers which they have a duty to protect. The Proposed Solution is to change SEC Section I 'Data Privacy' to introduce new arrangements that will allow for organisations to access Consumer's Consumption Data via the lawful bases of Legitimate Interest (LI) or Public Task (PT), as delivered by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Consequential changes are also proposed for the Privacy Controls Framework (PCF) to underpin the proposed Section I changes.			

Latest Modcast

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Listen to our latest Modcast now! In this Christmas-Cast episode, we are joined by Georgie Severin from the SEC Change team to talk us through the SEC Changes and Releases in the last year.

We also roundup the past month in SEC Change.

Industry Consultations

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

[DCC price control consultation: regulatory year 2024 to 2025 | Ofgem]

Ofgem is consulting on proposed price control measures for the DCC in regulatory year 2024/2025 and seeking stakeholder responses by **05 January 2026.**

[Establishing a harmonised prioritisation process in the Industry Codes: statutory consultation | Ofgem]

Ofgem is conducting a statutory consultation under the Energy Act 2023 to propose harmonising the prioritisation process for modifications across energy industry codes. You are invited to submit your feedback by **12 January 2026.**

[SMIP Consultation on a DCC Baseline Margin Project Performance Adjustment Scheme for the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Programme | DESNZ]

DESNZ is consulting on proposals for a new DCC Baseline Margin Project Performance Adjustment Scheme (PPA Scheme) for the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure, aimed at incentivising high performance in the DCC's operations. You are invited to submit your views by **12 January 2026.**

[Remaining SEC Subsidiary Document Changes in advance of Soft Launch for Virtual WAN | DESNZ]

DESNZ is consulting on remaining changes to SEC subsidiary documents in advance of the January 2026 soft launch of Virtual WAN arrangements, including potential additional DCC obligations for WAN Selection Arrangements testing. You are invited to respond by **12 January 2026.**

[Non-domestic smart meter rollout post-2025 | DESNZ]

DESNZ is consulting on mandating smart/advanced meters for non-domestic fixed-term contracts post-2025, with universal rollout, smart-contingent coordination from 2027 and binding consumer protections. You are invited to respond by **16 January 2026.**

[Energy consumer outcomes | Ofgem]

Ofgem is seeking views on proposed new consumer outcomes to define expectations for customer experience across domestic, non-domestic, and vulnerable energy consumers, integrating them into the regulatory framework to boost innovation, growth, monitoring, and compliance. You are invited to submit your views by **22 January 2026.**

Upcoming Online Events

Register for the "Understanding the SEC Panel Draft Budget 2026–2029" Webinar: 20 January 2026

The draft SECCo Business Plan and Budget for 2026 - 2029 will be published in early January 2026. SEC Parties will be invited to review the draft document and provide feedback on the proposed priorities, activities, and budget. The document will set out SECCo's priorities for the year ahead, building on the five established strategic themes and reflecting recent progress in governance, service delivery, customer experience, and value for money. It also outlines the operating environment, key areas of investment and the financial plan supporting delivery.

To support the consultation, SECCo will host a webinar on 20 January 2026, 14:00. During this session, the team will walk through the draft Business Plan and Budget and provide an opportunity for SEC Parties to ask questions. Feel free to share this invitation with colleagues or industry peers who may benefit from attending. We look forward to welcoming you.

How to Register: Please register here no later than 19 January 2026. We welcome questions to be submitted in advance of the webinar to SEC@talan.com.

Upcoming Events and SEC Meetings

Date	Event	Who can attend?
06 January, 10:00	Customer Challenge Group 08	Members
13 January, 10:00	Customer Challenge Group 08X	Members
14 January, 09:15	SMKI PMA Meeting 137	Members
13 January, 09:30	Operations Group Meeting 155	Members
14 January, 10:00	SEC Working Group	Members
14 January, 10:00	Testing Advisory Group 133X	Members
14 January, 11:30	Security Sub-Committee 230	Members
14 January, 09:30	Performance Assurance Board 09	Members
15 January, 09:30	TABASC 121	Members
19 January, 13:00	Communications Transition Group 34	Members
20 January, 10:00	Customer Challenge Group 09	Members
20 January, 10:00	Change Sub-Committee Meeting 83	Members
20 January, 14:00	Understanding the SEC Panel Draft Budget 2026–2029 Webinar	Open to SEC Parties

21 January, 09:45	Testing Advisory Group 133XX	Members
22 January, 10:00	Privacy Sub Committee 22	Members
23 January, 10:30	Other SEC Party Engagement Call	Open to Party Type
26 January, 10:30	Large Supplier Engagement Call	Open to Party Type
26 January, 12:30	Operations Group Meeting 156	Members
27 January, 09:30	SEC Panel 148	Members
27 January, 10:00	Customer Challenge Group 09X	Members
27 January, 14:00	SECCo Board 148	Members
28 January, 09:45	Testing Advisory Group 134	Members
28 January, 10:00	Security Sub-Committee 231	Members
29 January, 15:00	Small Supplier Engagement Call	Open to Party Type

View all upcoming industry events in the Industry Events Calendar

Manage your newsletter subscription

Follow the Smart Energy Code on LinkedIn