

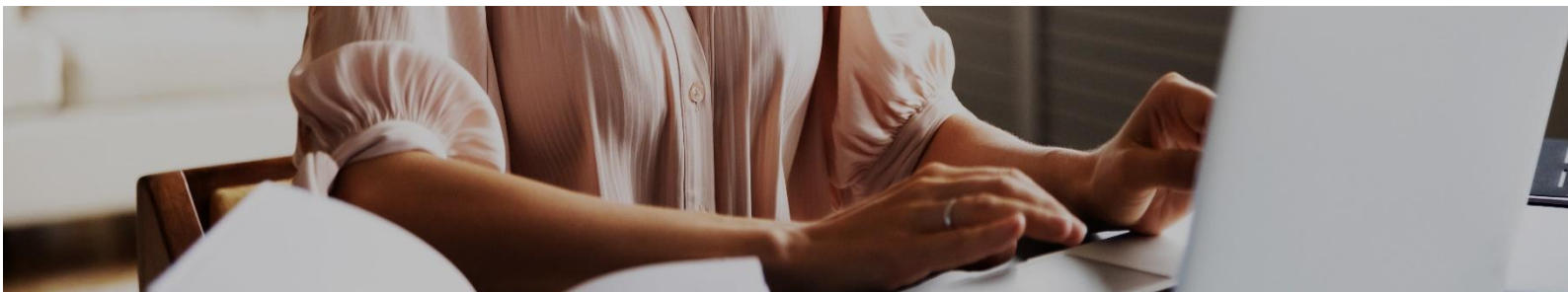
SEC Newsletter



Published 29 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 Panel & SECCo Board Headlines

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

SEC Panel and SECCo Board meeting 134 took place on 26 November 2024. The Headlines from [SEC Panel 134](#) and [SECCo Board 134](#) are now uploaded to the SEC Website. The next SEC Panel and SECCo Board meetings will be held on 17 December and 18 December 2024 respectively.

Security Sub-Committee Chair Update

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Transition of CPA Scheme Ownership to SSC and Appointment of New Scheme Operator

On 24 May 2024, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) confirmed that the Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) Scheme Ownership would transfer from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) to the SEC Security Sub-Committee (SSC) and placed a SEC obligation on the SSC to procure a CPA Scheme Operator. The CPA Scheme provides Manufacturers with a method to have their smart metering Device CPA certified. This ensures that the security claims made about their product can be independently verified.

Following a competitive procurement, CyTAL UK Ltd has been appointed by SECCo as the new CPA Scheme Operator. A knowledge transfer process between NCSC and CyTAL is underway.



CyTAL will not be accepting new CPA enquiries until the outcome of the [current DESNZ consultation on the Transitional Approach Document v2](#) which closes on 08 January 2025. Until then, NCSC will continue to accept new CPA evaluation enquiries and will review and support all in-flight evaluations.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, CyTAL will accept new evaluation enquiries from mid-January 2025. CyTAL and NCSC will be dual-running in-flight evaluations until the end of March 2025. The transition is expected to be fully completed by April 2025; further information will be shared in due course.

Benefits of User Security Assessments

The security of the End-to-End Smart Metering System is dependent on every single User with a DCC connection taking basic, industry good practice, security precautions. This applies to all User roles.

As all Users and the DCC are part of the same security infrastructure, a weakness or vulnerability in one part of the End-to-End system could be exploited by hostile actors to affect the DCC and any other DCC User. That is why the User Security Assessments (SEC Section G8) provide benefits by giving assurance to all Users that the basic security obligations are being applied and met.



Achieving SSC sign-off of the annual User Security Assessments is like being given a company badge to confirm compliance internally, and gives assurance to the DCC and the rest of the DCC User community.

If you missed the Security Assessment Webinar with SECAS, Security Experts and the User CIO held on 29 November 2024, a recording of the event will be made available on the SEC website next week. Please listen to hear more about the User CIO role, key security risks and obligations, ISO27005 overview, validation hints and tips, and confirmation of the assessment approach for the new Meter Data Retriever (MDR) role. SECAS and the User CIO are always available to provide advice and clarifications on ssc@gemserv.com.

SMKI Key Custodians Nominations

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Smart metering relies on Smart Meter Key Infrastructure (SMKI) Private Keys and Certificates for the security of the End-to-End Smart Metering System. Key Custodians play a key role in keeping the systems running.

The Keys that DCC hold to the Hardware Security Modules (HSMs) are fragmented and spread across several Key Custodians. In the event of a Compromise or a change to the DCC's retention of SMKI Keys, Key Custodians come together at a Data Centre in South Wales to re-create the Keys that give access to the HSMs.



SEC Appendix L sets out the SMKI Recovery Procedure. Due to leavers and retirements, new nominations are required from SEC Parties for individuals to become Key Custodians. As a Key Custodian, you will need to attend Key Ceremonies in Wales approximately once per year, and be present in the event of an actual SMKI Recovery being sanctioned by the SMKI PMA.

If you would like to nominate yourself, or someone in your organisation, to become a Key Custodian and help to keep smart metering operating securely and effectively, or if you require further information on the SMKI Recovery process, please contact the SMKI Registration Authority (RA) via smki.ra.manager@smartdcc.co.uk.

SMDASC Elections Outcome

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

SECAS initiated an election for half of the Smart Meter Device Assurance Sub-Committee (SMDASC) seats. Following this election, we are pleased to announce the following appointments of members retaining their existing seats. New terms begin on 10 December 2024, for a period of 24 months:



- Large Suppliers – Letitia Maidment, OVO
- Large Suppliers – Joey Manners, Octopus Energy
- Network Party – Paul Abreu, ENA
- Other SEC Parties ESME Manufacturer – Nick Winfield, Landis + Gyr
- Other SEC Parties GSME Manufacturer – Darren McNeil, MeterRSit
- Other SEC Parties MAP – Beth Tatton, Calisen Asset Management Limited

The following seats remain vacant:

- One Large Supplier
- Two Small Supplier
- One Other SEC Parties Display Manufacturer

If you want to learn more about these seats or the SMDASC, please contact SMDASO@gemserv.com.



Security Guidance Update

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The Triage Security Controls Framework (TSCF) v1.3 has been [uploaded to the SEC website](#). Updates to the TSCF Section 2 only include a requirement on Triage Facility Providers to submit a material change notification form to the SSC via SECAS when making material changes to a User System. Updates to the TSCF Section 2 also include lessons learned from the first few Triage Facility Provider Security Assessments.

The DCC SCF v1.4 has been [uploaded to the SEC website](#). The SSC has agreed amendments to the DCC SCF Sections 1 and 2 to take account of security obligations without supporting evidence and the secure deletion of data as required by SEC Section G2.18.

If you have any questions or comments, please let us know by email at SSC@gemserv.com.

Modifications Update

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Refinement Consultations

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

Title	Closing Date	Impacted Parties	Link
MP273 'User Demand and Network Traffic Insights'	04 December 2024	Suppliers, Electricity Network Parties, Gas Network Parties, Other SEC Parties, DCC	Download
MP273 proposes to introduce an obligation for DCC Users to provide insights on their future plans that impact network traffic demand. This change is needed to address new Users and use cases that present increased traffic demands and changes in behaviour by established Users. Following the implementation of MP116 'Service Request Forecasting' there are no longer SEC obligations for DCC Users to provide demand assumptions or share details of their future plans with the DCC. At present a DCC User could significantly increase network demand with little or no notification to the DCC, risking the performance of the network and the service experience of all Users.			



Supplier Identified Issues

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

In June 2024, the SEC Panel wrote to Energy Suppliers who had been in contact to flag several issues impacting smart metering arrangements. The Panel agreed next steps to manage the seven identified issues to ensure they were being appropriately progressed under SEC Governance. Earlier this month, the Panel Chair provided an update on these issues, which SECAS and SECCo staff have been working on with SEC Parties. SEC Panel has received bi-monthly updates, with the [latest update shared in October 2024](#). Progress includes:

- The implementation of three new SEC Modifications as part of the November 2024 SEC Release that will directly support the resolution of three of the issues raised.
- Improved arrangements between DCC and Energy Suppliers that will support Price Cap Change events.
- The prioritisation, by SECCo Head of Industry Operations and the Operations Sub-Group (OPSG), of key issues impacting in the CSP North Region and where devices are not communicating effectively.
- The appointment of a new SECCo Head of Sub-Committee Management, who will consider the longer-term management of these issues, including the establishment of a Finance Sub-Committee and the role of the Technical and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) in technical decision making.

As part of its ongoing monitoring, Panel agreed that the issues will be driven by the relevant Sub-Committees (principally OPSG with the support of TABASC) which, together with all Sub-Committees, are underpinned by a robust risk management framework. The Panel will receive regular reporting through the [SEC Panel Sub-Committee Report](#), presented on a monthly basis to the Panel, and available to all SEC Parties for review.

Live Service Criteria

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

On 08 November 2024, the SEC Panel considered the evidence provided by the DCC against the Live Service Criteria (LSC) for the Initial Pallet Validation (IPV) stage of the 4G CH&N programme and the recommendations from the SEC Sub-Committees. On 11 November 2024, the SEC Panel wrote a letter to DESNZ in which it recommended that the DCC should be authorised to deploy changes to live systems before the start of IPV, and commence with IPV on 02 December 2024.

IPV is an important stage for the deployment of 4G Communications Hubs, as it provides the opportunity for the DCC and Energy Suppliers to gain operational insight into the performance of the DCC and User Systems. It further builds confidence in installation and operational scenarios which can only be carried out in the live, production environment.



TSAT Guidance Note Released

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

SECAS [published a Guidance Note](#) on 14 November 2024 intended to provide SEC Parties with an explanation of how to interpret the Technical Specification Applicability Tables (TSAT), found in Schedule 11 of the SEC and how they impact SEC Parties in relation to Smart Metering installations.

Every Smart Metering Device must comply with the minimum functional requirements as defined in the relevant Technical Specifications in the SEC subsidiary documents.

Latest Modcast

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties



[Listen to our latest Modcast now.](#) In this episode, we roundup the past month in SEC Change and welcome our guest speaker, Ali Beard the Change Delivery Manager, to give us an update on [MP242 'Change to Operational Metrics to Measure on Success'](#) and [MP224 'SEC Performance Assurance Framework'](#).

If you want to know more, email SEC.Change@gemserv.com or call us on 020 7090 7755.

Industry Consultations

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

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

You are invited to consider this Ofgem consultation, closing on 01 January 2025. This consultation focuses on the DCC price control for the regulatory year 2023-2024, looking into whether the price control information and costs reported are economic and efficient.

[Consultation on 'minded to' position for Project Activity 1 \(customer engagement\) of the BMPPA Scheme for the 4G CH&N Programme | DESNZ](#)

You are invited to consider this DESNZ consultation, closing on 18 December 2024. This consultation provides the DESNZ 'minded to' position on the amount of margin the DCC should be permitted to retain in relation to Project Activity 1, and what this means in terms of the value of the Project Activity 1 Quality Factor.



You are invited to consider this DESNZ consultation, closing on 08 January 2025. This consultation focuses on the second SEC Appendix AV – CPA Transition Approach Document (CPA TAD). This document outlines plans for handling smart meter evaluations after the new CPA Scheme Operator is appointed.

Upcoming Events and SEC Meetings

- 02 December, 13:00 - [Strategic Working Group 21](#) (Members)
- 04 December, 10:00 - [SEC Monthly Working Group](#) (Members)
- 04 December, 14:00 - [SEC Monthly Issues Group](#) (Members)
- 09 December, 10:30 - [Communications Transition Group 22](#) (Members)
- 10 December, 09:20 - [Operations Group 131](#) (Members)
- 10 December, 09:30 - [TABASC 108](#) (Members)
- 10 December, 10:00 - [SMDA Sub-Committee 15](#) (Members)
- 11 December, 09:00 - [TAG 121](#) (Members)
- 11 December, 09:15 - [SECPMA 124](#) (Members)
- 11 December, 11:30 - [Security Sub-Committee 206](#) (Members)
- 13 December, 10:30 - [Other SEC Party Monthly Call](#) (Open to Party Type)
- 17 December, 09:30 - [SEC Panel 135](#) (Members)
- 17 December, 10:00 - [Change Sub-Committee 70](#) (Members)
- 18 December, 10:00 - [SECCo Board 135](#) (Members)
- 19 December, 13:00 - [Privacy Sub-Committee 9x](#) (Members)
- 19 December, 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](#).



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