

SEC Newsletter



Published 31 January 2025

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.



SECCo Panel & Board Headlines

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The January 2025 Panel and SECCo Board meetings took place on 28 January 2025. The Headlines from [SEC Panel 136](#) and [SECCo Board 136](#) are now uploaded to the SEC Website.

The next Panel and SECCo Board meetings will be held on 25 February 2025.

SEC Performance Assurance Board Update

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Key Approvals and Implementations

On 07 November 2024, Ofgem approved [MP224: Performance Assurance Framework](#). The modification was implemented on 08 November 2024. On 26 November 2024, the SEC Panel approved the new SEC Performance Assurance Board (PAB) [Terms of Reference](#) and the recruitment of a SECCo Senior Performance Assurance Manager to chair the PAB.

What to Expect

While the PAB won't be fully operational until the Performance Assurance function procurement is complete, we plan to collaborate with the PAB through the procurement process. Expect similar structures to those in



place for other codes, like the Retail Energy Code (REC) and the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC). Our main goal is to ensure the SEC Performance Assurance Framework is proportionate, effective, and aligned with SEC Objectives.

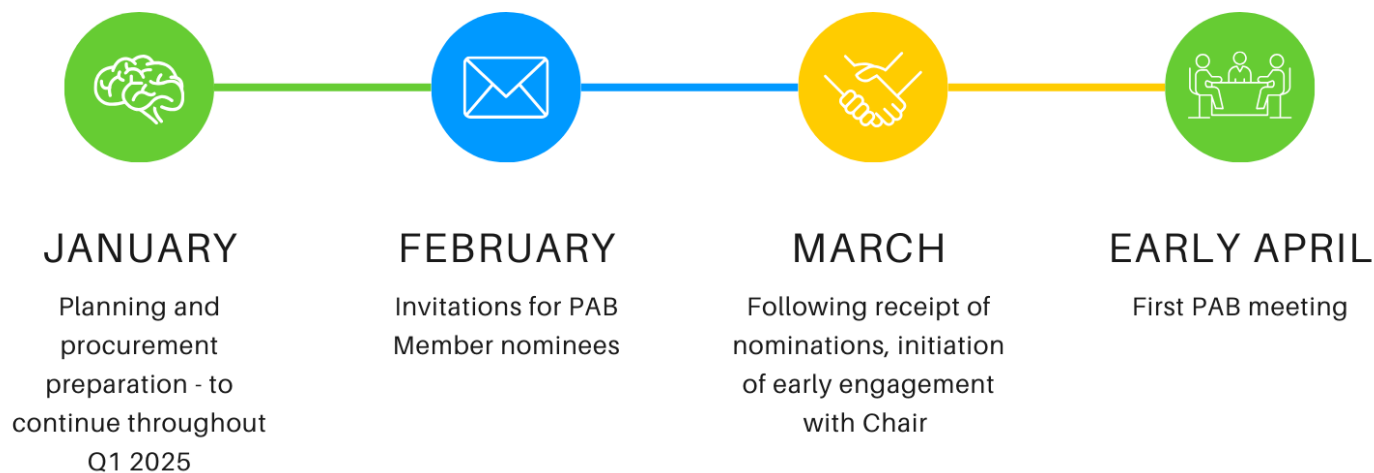
Introducing Beth Procter

Beth Procter has been appointed as the Senior Performance Assurance Manager and will chair the PAB. Beth brings extensive experience, having managed the BSC Performance Assurance Framework for eight years at Elexon and - most recently - Beth scoped, led and delivered high-profile risk management projects spanning across corporate and operational matters at UK Power Networks. She will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the SEC Performance Assurance Framework. The PAB will be supported by a Performance Assurance function, and as noted above, we expect the PAB to play a vital role in overseeing this procurement.



We hope this update provides clarity and thank you for your continued support.

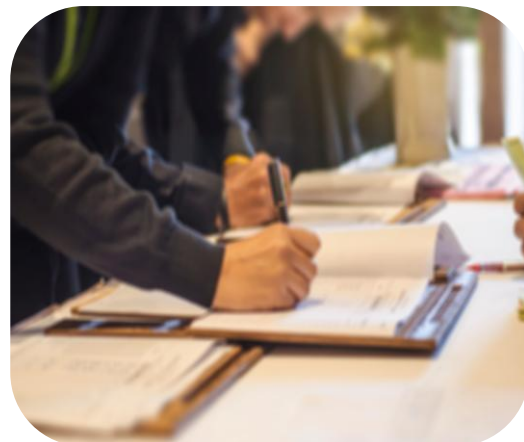
Indicative Timelines



Privacy Sub-Committee Chair Update

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

The SEC Panel formed the Privacy Sub-Committee (PSC) to oversee all privacy-related matters and delegated the relevant SEC Section I obligations to the PSC. The PSC's responsibilities are like those of the Security Sub-Committee (SSC), but also includes data ethics, emerging technologies, a privacy statement of objectives, and a consent strategy.



The PSC has been busy in its first year of operation. Agendas have been packed, and we've enjoyed some lively discussion and debate on a range of topics from a very engaged membership.

Looking ahead for the months to come we will be focusing on:

- Following the completion of the AI Risks and Opportunities Project, SECAS will be facilitating workshops with SEC bodies to determine next steps in response to the findings and considerations for the energy industry in context of smart metering data.
- PSC is also about to start our annual review of Section I, the Privacy Controls Framework and the PSC Terms of Reference. This will give us an opportunity to take a holistic view of these documents and consider whether other changes should be requested to maintain the effectiveness of the SEC as the smart metering system data ecosystem evolves.
- The PSC Chair has joined Ofgem's Cross Code Digitalisation Steering Group, which has just formalised its Terms of Reference. This gives the SEC a privacy voice in the development of the data digitalisation strategy and guidance and keeps us close to policy making.

PSC will continue to manage Privacy Assurance for Other Users, advise on privacy impacting Modifications raised by SEC Parties and engage with Ofgem and DESNZ consultations as part of business as usual.

It promises to be another exciting year ahead with membership elections due shortly, if anyone is interested in joining the PSC, please message our dedicated inbox (psc@gemserv.com) to register your interest ahead of the nominations process which will be announced shortly.



Modifications Update

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Title	Issue	Solution
MP279 'June 2025 SEC Releases & DUIS Housekeeping Changes'	Current SEC Documents may contain minor errors either in the SEC from inception or introduced via various changes over the years since it was created. SECAS maintains a log of these errors. These errors make the SEC documents harder to understand and potentially lead to confusion or misinterpretation.	The Proposed Solution is to correct the errors and inconsistencies identified in the SEC through implementation of text only changes.
MP280 'CPA Scheme Transition to SSC'	The SEC Appendix AV 'CPA Transitional Approach Document' was designated by DESNZ in October 2024 to establish new arrangements for the Device security assurance scheme (known as the Commercial Product Assurance (CPA)). SEC Appendix AV is expected to fall away at the end of March 2025 when the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) exits the Scheme.	The SSC has requested that Clause 4 of Appendix AV be included into SEC Section G13.5 to ensure the appropriate Scheme Operator can be appointed in future.

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
DP218 'Review of the SEC Charging Methodology'	03 February 2025	All SEC Parties	DOWNLOAD
SEC Section K 'Charging Methodology' sets out how the DCC charges SEC Parties, including how the types of Fixed Charges are apportioned between DCC Users and how communications services (the sending of Service Requests) are charged. The SECCo Board has been investigating how much work is generated by Other Users and agreed that further investigation into the current charging arrangements would be			



beneficial. To support this, the DCC has raised this modification to holistically review the DCC Charging methodology and determine whether any change should be taken forward.

This Draft Proposal considers the questions around how SEC charges should be apportioned. Two distinct issues have been identified. SECAS seeks views on both issues under a Request for Information but expects that each will be progressed under separate workstreams. The two issues considered are:

- Who uses the DCC Systems and how they are charged (DCC User Charges); and
- How the DCC Fixed Charges, which includes SEC administration costs (SECAS and Sub-Committees) are apportioned between different Party types.

[MP277 'Virtual Gateway Connection](#)

12 February 2025

All SEC Parties

[DOWNLOAD](#)

MP277 proposes to implement a Virtual Routing & Forwarding (VRF) component and new virtual Firewall for each cloud connected DCC Gateway Party. The Firewall will route traffic between each DCC Gateway Party's VRF and the associated Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS)2 VRF. The Firewall would only allow a DCC Gateway Party to access the DSP, Trusted Service Provider (TSP), testing environments and Service Now (SNOW).

The Proposed Solution will also provide the option for prospective, new and existing DCC Users to connect to the DCC through a virtual DCC Gateway Connection by selecting a virtual connection from the DSP Service Catalogue. In addition, the DCC will likely need to make changes to the DCC Charging Statement to reflect costs associated with a virtual DCC Gateway Connection.

[MP280 'CPA Scheme Transition to SSC](#)

12 February 2025

None

[DOWNLOAD](#)

The Security Sub-Committee has requested that Clause 4 of Appendix AV be included into SEC Section G13.5 to ensure the appropriate Scheme Operator (SO_p) can be appointed in future.



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 before delving into the detail of the [February 2025 SEC Release](#), including what is in the scope of the release, what the changes mean for you and how to get more information and support. We also look at the Change Board elections and nominees so far, with the anticipated new candidates to take office from 31 January 2025.

For more information, please email SEC.Change@gemserv.com or call us on 020 7090 7755.



Reminder: SMKI Key Custodians Required

This story is of interest to all SEC Parties

Smart metering relies on SMKI Private Keys and Certificates for the security of the End-to-End Smart Metering System. Key Custodians play an important role in keeping the systems running.

The Keys that DCC holds 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 also 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 RA via smki.ra.manager@smartdcc.co.uk.



Elective Communication Services Guidance Note Released

SECAS published a [Guidance Note](#) on 17 January 2025 intended to provide SEC Parties with an explanation of Elective Communication Services (ECS), how SEC Parties can partake in these services and how any recharging mechanism would work.

SEC Section A defines ECS as, ‘the provision of communication services that are... defined in a Bilateral Agreement (rather than the DCC User Interface Services Schedule) in a manner that involves communication via the SM WAN (provided that such services must relate solely to the Supply of Energy or its use)’.

Industry Consultations

[DP218 ‘Review of the SEC Charging Methodology’ – Consultation on proposed changes to DCC charges | Smart DCC](#)

You are invited to consider this DCC consultation, closing on 03 February 2025. The DCC is reviewing how it charges users of the smart metering network and considering changes to the SEC Charging Methodology to better align charges with network usage and costs.

[DCC Review Phase 2: Determination of Allowed Revenue | Ofgem](#)

You are invited to consider this Ofgem consultation, closing on 06 February 2025. Ofgem is seeking views on new cost controls for the DCC to prepare for its new licence starting in 2027.

[AI in the energy sector guidance: consultation | Ofgem](#)

You are invited to consider this Ofgem consultation, closing on 07 February 2025. Ofgem is seeking feedback on draft guidelines for the safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the energy sector.

[Consultation on SEC Changes for Short-Notice 2G/3G Hub Orders | DESNZ](#)

DESNZ has released a proposal to SEC that would introduce an option for quickly ordering 2G/3G Communications Hubs on short notice. You are invited to consider this consultation which closes on 21 February 2025.

[Consultation on Smart Meters & DCC Internet Connectivity | DESNZ](#)

DESNZ is seeking stakeholder feedback to help shape the future of smart metering infrastructure in the UK. You are invited to take part in this consultation, which closes on 28 February 2025.



The DCC is seeking feedback on proposed updates to the SEC as part of the Future Service Management (FSM) Programme. You are invited to consider this consultation which closes 06 March 2025.

Upcoming Events and SEC Meeting

- 05 February, 10:00 – [SEC Working Group](#) (Members)
- 05 February, 13:00 – [SEC Issues Group](#) (Members)
- 06 February, 09:30 – [TABASC 110](#) (Members)
- 11 February, 09:20 – [Operations Group 134](#) (Members)
- 12 February, 09:15 – [SMKI PMA 126](#) (Members)
- 12 February, 11:30 – [Security Sub-Committee](#) (Members)
- 17 February, 13:00 – [Communications Transition Group 24](#) (Members)
- 18 February, 10:00 – [Change Sub-Committee 72](#) (Members)
- 20 February, 09:30 – [TABASC 110X](#) (Members)
- 20 February, 10:00 – [Privacy Sub-Committee 11](#) (Members)
- 21 February, 10:30 – [Other SEC Party Engagement Call](#) (Open to Party Type)
- 24 February, 12:20 – [Operations Group 135](#) (Members)
- 24 February, 10:30 – [Large Supplier Engagement Call](#) (Open to Party Type)
- 25 February, 09:30 – [SEC Panel 137](#) (Members)
- 25 February, 14:00 – [SECCo Board 137](#) (Members)
- 26 February, 09:45 – [TAG 123 Meeting](#) (Members)
- 26 February, 10:00 – [Change Board 99](#) (Members)
- 27 February, 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](#).

Vacancies

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