

APRIL 2024

SEC Newsletter



WELCOME TO THE APRIL 2024 SEC NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the April 2024 SEC Newsletter!

In this edition, we are calling all SEC Parties to participate in our Annual SEC Customer Satisfaction Survey and provide feedback in the SEC Panel assessment of DCC customer engagement survey. We share details of our brand-new SEC website, the outcomes of the Asset Life project and headlines from the Panel and SECCo Board April 2024 meetings.

You can also read an update on the Cross Code Steering Group, volunteer to participate in a SMKI Recovery process to simulate responses in a live environment, read our usual updates on modifications and listen to our latest Modcast.

Stay informed with the latest consultations from Ofgem and DESNZ, covering everything from Energy Code Reform to the application of AI in the Energy Sector. We also have vacancies for those of you who want to join our team!

We hope you enjoy this edition; please contact us at the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) if there are any topics you would like to see covered in an upcoming newsletter.

SEC
Smart Energy Code

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK WITH THE SEC CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

There is still time for SEC Parties to participate in our annual SEC Customer Satisfaction Survey! The deadline for consent has been extended to 15 May 2024.

By providing your consent [here](#) you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts and help us enhance the services we provide. The survey is conducted by an independent marketing research agency (DJS Research) and will take only 15 minutes of your time via telephone. Your feedback is highly appreciated and will help us serve you better. Watch this space for the insights and feedback! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact secas@gemserv.com.



CALL TO ACTION! SEC PANEL ASSESSMENT OF DCC CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

SEC Parties are invited to give essential feedback on how well the DCC has been engaging with its customers. To do this we've set up an online consultation, split into two parts. You can find all the details and the consultation on the SEC website [here](#).

Responses are requested by **5pm on 13 May 2024**.

If you have any questions or would like to request a Word version of the consultation, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).



Governance

NEW SEC WEBSITE COUNTDOWN!

The countdown to the new Smart Energy Code (SEC) website launch is underway, with the big day scheduled for 13 May 2024. This revamped platform is user-centric, offering a host of new features for a custom fit and efficient online experience. Here's what to expect:

- Tailored User Dashboards: Personalised dashboards welcome users, displaying bookmarks, recent activity, and categorisation for seamless navigation.
- Advanced Search: Enhanced search with filters, popular queries, and customisable result views for quick, precise information retrieval.
- Bookmarking: A feature for users to save and revisit important content, ensuring a tailored browsing journey.
- Accessibility: Improved navigation with adaptable menus and accessible links, catering to diverse user needs.
- Modifications Section: An area to track modification stages with a searchable table and visual timeline.
- Knowledge Hub & FAQs: A consolidated resource centre and categorised FAQs with a search function for user support.
- Mobile Optimisation: A superior mobile interface for consistent access across devices.

SEC Parties have been invited to attend a webinar on 15 May 2024 for a walkthrough of the new SEC website. This would be a fantastic opportunity to familiarise yourself with the enhanced features and functionalities introduced and address any questions you might have.



SECCO BOARD HEADLINES

The April 2024 SECCo Board meeting “127” took place on 23 April 2024.

A full summary of the Board headlines can be viewed on the website [here](#).

The next SECCo Board meeting will be held on 28 May 2024.



CROSS CODE STEERING GROUP UPDATE

The Cross Code Steering Group (CCSG) is a platform for Code Managers and Administrators to coordinate Code changes and assess Cross-Code impacts. Cross-Code impacts vary, such as a BSC change affecting REC flows and SEC requirements. Once identified, CCSG selects a lead Code to drive changes across all codes, while each maintains its unique change process.

The CCSG meets every two weeks via Teams, and has representatives from six different Codes: SEC, Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC), Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement (DCUSA), Retail Energy Code (REC), Uniform Network Code (UNC) and Independent Gas Transporters Uniform Network Code (iGT UNC), including the REC as the Chair. Lorna Mallon from Gemserv chairs the CCSG. The CCSG uses clear and simple processes to identify and agree on the lead Code for each change.

Ofgem has expressed concerns about the current Cross-Code change process as part of their recent Code Reform consultation. The CCSG will continue to review and improve the Cross-Code processes and will also work with Ofgem to implement the Code Reform decision.



ASSET LIFE PROJECT OUTCOMES

The Asset Life project was sponsored by the Communications Transition Group (CTG) to assess the potential impact on smart meter Premature Replacement Charges (PRC) that will be incurred by the need to replace installed SMETS1 Devices with SMETS2 before the 2G/3G frequencies are turned off. The project also looked at the financial impact of the need to replace the SMETS2 Comms Hubs in the Central and South CSP regions with the new 4G Comms Hubs.

- **The main findings and recommendations of the project:** The project found that significant savings could be made by delaying the SMETS1 replacement activity and targeting the oldest assets first. The project also suggested an optimal strategy to replace all the assets by 2033.
- **The relevance and limitations of the project for individual Suppliers:** The project used an average asset cost for the analysis and did not consider the effort required to arrange appointments with consumers. The project advised that individual Suppliers may use the themes and strategies discussed within the project to develop their own replacement plans.
- **The closure of the project:** The project was discussed at the April 2024 SEC Panel meeting and closure was agreed.



SMKI RECOVERY EXERCISE – VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

The DCC is seeking volunteers to take part in an upcoming SMKI Recovery Exercise in the UIT environment in September 2024, in line with its SEC obligations in SEC Appendix L, Section 8 ‘Periodic testing of the SMKI Recovery Procedure’.

The purpose of the exercise is to test a SMKI Recovery scenario in a controlled test environment, using test devices to exercise the processes that would be invoked in the event of a major SMKI Compromise. It is intended to help develop overall understanding of what's needed to be done in a live situation, and for the DCC to review recovery overall and offer improvements to the SMKI Recovery Service.

If you are interested in volunteering for the exercise or have any questions or comments, please email smki.ra.manager@smartdcc.co.uk for more information.



OFGEM & DESNZ JOINT ENERGY CODE REFORM CONSULTATION

A consultation is being carried out by Ofgem and DESNZ regarding the implementation of Energy Code Reform as outlined in the Energy Act 2023. The consultation seeks input from individuals and stakeholders interested in Energy Code governance. All responses will be considered, and non-confidential feedback will be published at ofgem.gov.uk/consultations.

For more information download Ofgem’s publication [here](#).



DESNZ - DELIVERING A SMART AND SECURE ELECTRICITY SYSTEM: IMPLEMENTATION

Building on the July 2022 consultation, this initiative focuses on regulating Energy Smart Appliances (ESA), licensing organisations that handle Load Control activities, and creating standardised Time of Use Tariffs.

For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/delivering-a-smart-and-secure-electricity-system-implementation>

This consultation closes on **11 June 2024**.



OFGEM CALL FOR INPUT ON USE OF AI WITHIN THE ENERGY SECTOR

Ofgem is seeking views on proposals about how Artificial Intelligence (AI) should be used responsibly and safely in the energy sector to encourage more innovation.

While this initiative doesn't directly target the SEC or Smart metering, it aims to gather insights on how AI might impact the current regulatory framework and licensing regime.

Visit Ofgem's publication for more details:
<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/use-ai-within-energy-sector-call-input>

This consultation closes on **17 May 2024**.

Please visit our [Open Industry Consultations webpage](#) for details of more consultations that may be of interest to SEC Parties. If you are aware of a consultation that should be added, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).



SECAS VACANCIES

If you would like to join the SECAS team, you may be interested in the following vacancies:

- [Senior Technical Consultant](#)
- [Smart Energy Change Consultant](#)
- [Smart Energy Code Engagement Consultant](#)



Modifications

MODIFICATIONS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE

The SEC Panel sponsored a project to gather feedback from SEC Parties on what areas they believed needed improvement. Feedback suggested that Parties wanted to see faster and cheaper change, with less burden on SEC Parties, plus more focus on changes that benefit industry and consumers as a whole. Some of the proposals we are taking forward are:

- Sponsorship of Proposers: Parties can sponsor a Proposer to show support and benefits shared among many.
- Increased Challenge: Proposals will face extra scrutiny to make sure they're right and have a business case.
- Proposer Engagement: Proposers must participate in the change process, attend meetings, and solve problems quickly. An escalation policy is in place for non-compliance.
- Explicit Charges Route: Proposers are expected to follow an Explicit Charges route under specific circumstances, particularly when the change primarily benefits the Proposer.
- Pre-Proposal Discussions: An issues group is established to discuss ideas before they are raised as Draft Proposals.
- Streamlined Process: Simple changes, or those with agreed solutions, proceed directly to the Report Phase, reducing the need for multiple consultations.
- Refinement Process: Moderately complex changes will undergo the current Refinement Process.
- Expert Team: For complex changes, SECAS forms a small expert team to identify solutions and address issues early on, potentially grouping similar modifications together.
- Cost Reduction: Identifying cost saving possibilities.
- Reducing Documentation: Reducing the amount of documentation Parties need to read (by utilising slides and one-page summaries as well as ensuring Plain English is used throughout).

If you want to know more about any of the above, please email SEC.Change@gemserv.com.



Modifications

MODIFICATION REPORT CONSULTATION

There is currently one open Modification Report Consultation. You are invited to provide feedback to the Change team via sec.change@gemserv.com to help us understand your views on whether the modification should be approved.

MP260 'June 2024 SEC Release housekeeping' Download here .	Closing Date: Friday 10 May 2024	Impacted Parties: N/A
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LATEST SEC MODCAST

In this episode we have two special guest speakers!

After our usual roundup, Fiona Bond from the SECAS Security team gives an overview of the new Privacy Sub-Committee (PSC), its remit and why it was formed. This is followed by an introduction to the PSC Chair, Camilla Winlo sharing her background and aims for the new PSC.

You can access the modcast [here](#).

If you want to know more about any of the above, please email SEC.Change@gemserv.com or call us on 020 7090 7755.



Publications

SECAS HELPDESK

Please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) with any questions and a member of the team will be happy to help. Helpdesk hours are **Monday-Friday 9-5pm (excluding bank holidays)**.



Key Upcoming Governance Meeting Dates

INDUSTRY EVENTS CALENDAR

SECAS now hosts a collated calendar of industry events, consultations, and publications on the SEC website. This is in response to industry feedback that a joint calendar would add value to SEC Parties.

This includes events from SECAS, DCC, DESNZ and Ofgem looking one month ahead. It will be a snapshot at the time of publication and will be updated monthly. The Industry Events Calendar is available [here](#).

KEY SEC MEETING DATES

- 8 May 2024 - [SECPMA 117 Meeting](#)
- 8 May 2024 - [SSC 192 Meeting](#)
- 13 May 2024 - [SCIRS](#)
- 14 May 2024 - [OPSG 117 Meeting](#)
- 16 May 2024 - [TABASC 101X Meeting](#)
- 16 May 2024 - [PSC 03 Meeting](#)
- 20 May 2024 - [CTG 15 Meeting](#)
- 21 May 2024 - [Change Sub-Committee 63 Meeting](#)
- 22 May 2024 - [Change Board 90 Meeting](#)
- 22 May 2024 - [SSC 193 Meeting](#)
- 24 May 2024 - [OPSG 118 Meeting](#)
- 24 May 2024 - [Large Supplier Engagement Call - May 2024](#)
- 24 May 2024 - [Other SEC Party Quarterly Issues Call May 2024](#)
- 28 May 2024 - [SEC Panel 128 Meeting](#)
- 28 May 2024 - [SECCo Board 128 Meeting](#)
- 29 May 2024 - [TAG 114 Meeting](#)
- 30 May 2024 - [Small Supplier Engagement Call](#)

You can view all upcoming and previous event / meeting dates in the [online calendar](#).