

FEBRUARY 2023

SEC Newsletter



WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY 2023 SEC NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the February 2023 SEC Newsletter!

In this edition, we say farewell to our outgoing SEC Panel & Board Chair – Peter Davies. We also provide an update on SECAS as the Code Administrator Code of Practice (CACoP) Chair, the February 2023 SEC Release, the Programme Assurance Policy (PAP), our call for nominations for various seats in the Change Sub-Committee (CSC), changes to BEIS, the latest webinar on the SEC website and our latest modcast.

You can also read our usual updates from the SECAS Change team on modifications, and some important industry news on consultations and key meeting dates for March 2023.

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

Governance

FAREWELL TO OUTGOING SEC PANEL AND SECCO BOARD CHAIR

Peter Davies has served on the SEC Panel and SECCo Board as Chair for three terms, totalling 9 years. His wealth of technical industry experience has made the SEC a success to date. We acknowledge his significant contribution to SEC’s progress, which has put the SEC in a good position for the new Chair.

The SECCo Board would like to sincerely thank Peter for the work that he has undertaken during his tenure on the SEC Panel and Board, where he led and established the current SEC operational and governance arrangements, leaving SEC in a robust position to address future challenges.

On behalf of the SECCo Board, Karen Lee commented “We would like to thank Peter for all the hard work and dedication that he has given to the role of the SEC Panel and Board Chair over the last 9 years. We wish Peter well in his future plans.”



SECAS AS CHAIR OF THE CACOP FORUM FOR 2023

Each year, the chair of the Code Administrator Code of Practice (CACoP) Forum rotates between the different Energy Codes. In 2023 SECAS has taken on this responsibility.

The CACoP provides consistency across the energy industry’s Code Administrators and Managers. Its 14 principles are intended to facilitate transparency in the modification processes and protect the interests of all market participants and consumers. To support this, the relevant Code Administrators and Managers set up the CACoP Forum to meet and discuss related topics informally. The Forum’s main objective is to achieve greater co-ordination and consistency across the Energy Codes and support the delivery of initiatives that benefit consumers and competition.

The focus this year will be more on sharing knowledge, ways of working, and lessons learned across the Code bodies, to help improve consistency between processes and procedures. We’ll also be actively engaging with Ofgem over the upcoming Code Reform and Consolidation, and identifying initiatives we can deliver in advance of this that would support the principles and aspirations of this work. The Forum will also be engaging with the Cross-Code Steering Group (CCSG) to identify ways to streamline the oversight of active cross-Code changes and remove any duplication across the two groups.

We have developed a new dynamic work plan, which will be published on the CACoP website shortly. We will also be publishing on the website the materials and minutes from this year’s Forum meetings.

You can find more information about CACoP and the CACoP Forum on the [CACoP website](#), where you can also subscribe to receive the Forum’s newsletter.



Governance

FEBRUARY 2023 SEC RELEASE

On Thursday 23 February 2023, SEC version 69.0 came into effect to implement the February 2023 SEC Release. Three modifications were implemented in this release:

- [MP167A 'Review of SEC documents \(Testing Approach Document criteria\)'](#) sets out a detailed framework (in list form) for the DCC's Testing Approach Documents (TADs) within SEC Section T.
- [MP172 'Reduced CPA & CPL requirements for innovation and Device field trials'](#) allows Device Manufacturers to place limited numbers of Trial Devices on the live DCC network, subject to approval by the Security Sub-Committee (SSC), without obtaining Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) Certification for their Device Model.
- [MP210 'RSA forecasts, orders and pay stock charges for Alt HAN Equipment'](#) allows Registered Supplier Agents (RSAs) to forecast, order and procure Alternative Home Area Network (Alt HAN) Equipment.

Please visit our [latest newpage](#) for more information or the [release webpage](#) for links to the implemented modifications and associated documentation.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the changes to the SEC further, please contact Mike Fenn on 020 3314 1142 or email sec.change@gemserv.com.



PROGRAMME ASSURANCE POLICY

The SEC Panel agreed and published a Programme Assurance Policy which sets out the framework and processes for SEC involvement and oversight in DCC initiated projects and programmes that have the potential to impact DCC Users.

Any programme or project initiated by the DCC that has the potential to impact SEC DCC Users should progress in accordance with this policy. This includes those projects relating to activities the DCC must undertake in accordance with its licence, for example, procurement of Data Services and 4G Communications Hubs. The DCC's programmes may not always require the Government Treasury Greenbook Business Cases. If they do, they will also be shared with the SEC Panel to provide a statement of endorsement to support a Department of Energy Security and Net Zero decision. If not, business cases for each programme will still be brought to the Panel.

The Policy aims to ensure that the path through SEC governance for any User impacting project is clearly articulated and User input is taken into account and responded to throughout the programme life-cycle and at defined stages. This is to give the SEC Panel confidence that DCC Programmes which deliver its services are suitably executed in line with good practice and in the interest of SEC Parties. The Policy can be found on the SEC website [here](#).



CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

31 March 2023 marks the end of the current term for several [Change Sub-Committee](#) (CSC) members. We are calling for nominations for one Large Supplier, two Small Suppliers, one Gas Network, and one Other SEC Party representative(s).

The CSC is responsible for assessing the issues identified in Draft Proposals. It will ensure the issue identified is clear and provide a view to the Proposer on the merits of proceeding further before the modification advances to developing solutions. It also oversees and manages the subsequent progression of modifications through the Modification Process under delegated authority from the Panel. The group meets once a month.

Would you like to play a vital role in assessing and overseeing the progression of SEC change? If so, nominate yourself or an individual using our [online form](#) by **5pm on Thursday 9 March 2023**. Please note, SEC Parties need to be logged in to the website to use this form.



SMDA UPDATE

The outcomes of the SMDA November 2022 SEC Release and SMDA Test Scenarios Consultation were presented to the [Smart Meter Device Assurance SMDA Sub-Committee](#) (SMDASC) meeting at its February 2023 meeting. Seven responses were received from Large Suppliers, Network Parties, Meter Asset Provider (MAP), and Other SEC Party representatives. Most respondents were supportive of the changes.

The SMDASC agreed to recommend all 14 test scenarios (plus an additional change to include Prepayment to Credit mode testing) as well as the changes to testing to align with the November 2022 SEC Release, to the SEC Panel for approval. Finally, a new Other SEC Party manufacturer has submitted a device for pre-testing and once complete will move to Full Assurance. To submit a device for testing please contact smdaso@gemserv.com or visit the SMDA website for further information.



LATEST SECAS MODCAST

Our [latest SEC Modcast](#) has been released! In this episode, we provide a roundup of the past month in SEC Change and discuss the [February 2023 SEC Release](#), including the scope of the release, who these changes impact, and how Parties can find more information and support. We discuss [MP219 ‘Accessing Consumption Data on behalf of SEC Parties’](#), which is seeking to make it easier for Other Users to collect consumption data on behalf of SEC Parties. We also talk about [MP222 ‘CPL submission efficiency improvements’](#), which aims to remove Supplier endorsement for Device Manufacturers to update hardware or firmware for a Device currently on the Central Products List (CPL). If you want to find out more about the topics discussed, please email SEC.Change@gemserv.com or call us on 020 7090 7755.



Industry News

CHANGES TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY (BEIS)

On 7 February 2023, the UK Government announced that the Prime Minister has created four new departments to replace BEIS. These are:

- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero - to secure long-term energy supply, bring down bills and halve inflation.
- Department for Science, Innovation and Technology - to drive the innovation that will deliver improved public services, create new and better-paid jobs and grow the economy.
- Department for Business and Trade - to support growth by backing British businesses at home and abroad.
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport - to build on the UK's position as a global leader in the creative arts.

You can find out more about the changes [here](#).



INDUSTRY CONSULTATIONS

The SEC Panel is planning to respond to the below industry consultations:

[Communications Hubs and Networks Programme \(CH&N\) 4G Communications Hub Dimensions](#)

The purpose of this consultation is to set out and seek views on the physical dimensions of 4G Communications Hubs procured as part of the Communications Hubs and Networks Programme. You can access the consultation [here](#). The consultation closes on **15 March 2023**.

[Regulatory Changes for the Communications Hub and Network Arrangements](#)

The Communications Hubs and Networks Programme (CH&N) aims to deliver future-proof Communications Hubs & Networks with an efficient supply chain and a targeted longevity of at least 15 years, introducing new Communications Hubs (CHs) which use the newer 4G network. The DCC has undertaken an initial assessment of the regulatory changes that will be required for the new 4G CH service, and is consulting with stakeholders on this assessment. You can access the consultation [here](#). The consultation closes on **15 March 2023**.



SECAS Events

UPCOMING SEC WEBINAR

[How to Maximise your SEC Website Experience](#) - 2pm to 2:45pm on 15 March 2023

We will present a live demo of the SEC website with guidance on how to navigate the site and where to find the information you want. At this webinar we will answer your questions like:

- What is the [Document Download Centre](#)?
- Who are your SEC Party Category Panel reps?
- Do you have a [glossary](#) to explain all the acronyms and meanings?
- How can we keep you informed of current industry events?
- When are our next [meetings, webinars and engagement calls](#) taking place?
- Where can I find out information about [SEC modifications](#)?
- Do I have to be logged into the site to access your content?

We welcome any further suggestions for topics or questions you would like to hear about in our webinar via the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) by **5pm on 8 March 2022**. To register, please click [here](#).



WEBINAR PRESENTATION SLIDES AND RECORDINGS

Once logged in, SEC Parties can view the presentation slides and video recordings of all our recent webinars [here](#).

If there are any topics that you'd like to be covered at future webinars, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).



Modifications

NEW DRAFT PROPOSALS

There have been eight new Draft Proposals raised since the last newsletter.

[DP228 'Other User Demand Forecasting'](#)

In recent months, the DCC has experienced an unforeseen large increase in System demand from Other Users, with some Other Users increasing their demand significantly as the popularity of consumer-based energy apps increases. The volume of traffic has resulted in incidents, which affect all DCC Users and consumers. This modification will investigate System demand forecasting in an attempt for the DCC to better manage their System.

[DP229 'Notification of material change to User Systems to include decommissioning'](#)

The SEC requires Users to notify the SSC of any new components or functionality to be included in their User System. However, the SEC does not explicitly state that Users must notify the SSC prior to discontinuing a component or functionality from their User System or decommissioning the whole User System. The solution is to improve clarity in the SEC to reflect the requirement on Users to notify the SSC when a component of their system is being discontinued or decommissioned.

[DP230 'Review the SLA for delivery and completion for SMETS1 firmware'](#)

The Smart Metering Equipment and Technical Specification 1 (SMETS1) Firmware delivery Service Level Agreement (SLA) currently is five days. The DCC wishes to extend this due to firmware updates exceeding the current SLA.

[DP231 'Firmware upgrade pathways'](#)

Certain Device models need to have a firmware upgrade applied in a specific order. Failure to follow the specific order can result in unintended consequences. The information required to ensure each Device has its firmware upgrade applied in the correct order is not included within the Firmware Information Repository (FIR), nor is there a requirement in the SEC for that information to be provided.

[DP232 'ACB Certs on I&C'](#)

The DCC has noted there are several Communication Hubs that fail the first Service Reference (SR) which adds a meter; this leads to Install and Commission (I&C) process failure on-site.

At the time of receiving the problem statement an estimated 100 refurbished Communications Hubs have been impacted by this problem. However, as an increased security measure, there has been a proposal to introduce new ACB certificates more often, potentially on an annual basis. Each new ACB Certificate would increase the potential retry time by three minutes for each certificate retry. This emphasises the importance of obtaining the correct ACB certificate first. New Device certificates are required for 2023 but the rollout of the new Devices and certificates may take some time.



Modifications

NEW DRAFT PROPOSALS

[DP233 'Review of Appendix AG Incident categorisation'](#)

SEC Appendix AG relates to the DCC's approach to Incident Management. While the whole document needs a review, the initial area of concern for DCC Service Users is the Categorisation Matrix, covered in Clause 2.4.4. As it is currently written, the descriptions are not clearly defined, which has caused confusion and differing interpretations.

Additionally, the Categorisation Matrix has lost a considerable level of relevance, due in large part to the evolution of the DCC landscape and the requirements of the DCC's Service Users. As a result, the DCC's current approach to Incident Prioritisation (also known as Classification) cannot align clearly with Service Users' expectations, as the current Incident Management descriptions and Prioritisation Matrix within SEC Appendix AG are out of date and ambiguous. This leads to misaligned understanding of incident impact, failed Service User expectation, and reduced levels of customer service experienced by the Service Users. An initial review of the SEC Appendix AG Priority Matrix has identified the terms and phrases which are of concern.

[DP234 'Addition of GDPR Principles of Public Task and Legitimate Interests into the SEC'](#)

DP234 seeks to add selected GDPR Principles into the SEC. This will allow SEC Parties to act on behalf of public authorities who are fulfilling their regulatory obligations to vulnerable Energy Consumers.

[DP235 'Enhanced Meter Data Access for Other Users'](#)

DP235 seeks to increase the number of Service Request Variants which Other Users can access.



REFINEMENT CONSULTATIONS

As a SEC Party, you can help influence the Proposed Solution, 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](#).

MP208 'Northbound Prioritisation of N56 Alerts' Download here	Closing Date: Wednesday 14 March 2023	Impacted Parties: Supplier Parties The DCC
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Modifications

MODIFICATION REPORT CONSULTATIONS

As a SEC Party, you can help influence whether the Modification Proposal is approved or rejected at the Change Board by commenting on how the proposal will affect your organisation and providing rationale as to why it would be beneficial or not to industry. For more information and to respond the consultation, download the consultation pack linked below and send your response to the [Change Team](#).

MP215 'Communications Hub Ordering and Forecasting' Download here	Closing Date: Wednesday 14 March 2023	Impacted Parties: Supplier Parties The DCC Other SEC Parties
MP227 'Pre-SMETS2 v4.2 Device IVP Extension' Download here	Closing Date: Wednesday 14 March 2023	Impacted Parties: Supplier Parties The DCC



Publications

OPEN INDUSTRY CONSULTATIONS WEBPAGE

Please visit our [Open Industry Consultations webpage](#) for details of 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](#).

For other publications that may be of interest to you, please view the Operations Report in the [SECP 113 2802 - Meeting Documentation \(WHITE\)](#). SEC Parties can also view the Transitional Governance Update (TGU) Paper in the [SECP 113 2802 - Meeting Documentation \(GREEN\)](#).

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

You can view all upcoming and previous events / meetings in the [SEC Online Calendar](#).

- 1 March 2023 - [SEC Monthly Working Group Meeting - March 2023](#)
- 2 March 2023 - [Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee Meeting 87](#)
- 2 March 2023 - [Monthly Small Supplier Engagement Call](#)
- 8 March 2023 - [Security Sub-Committee Meeting 165](#)
- 8 March 2023 - [Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority Meeting 103](#)
- 14 March 2023 - [Operations Group 90](#)
- 15 March 2023 - [SECAS Website Webinar](#)
- 21 March 2023 - [Change Sub-Committee Meeting 49](#)
- 22 March 2023 - [Security Sub-Committee Meeting 166](#)
- 22 March 2023 - [SEC Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting – March 2023](#)
- 24 March 2023 - [Other SEC Party Monthly Engagement Call March 2023](#)
- 27 March 2023 - [Operations Group 91](#)
- 28 March 2023 - [SEC Panel Meeting 114](#)
- 29 March 2023 - [Testing Advisory Group Meeting 100](#)
- 29 March 2023 - [Change Board Meeting 76](#)

