

JANUARY 2024

SEC Newsletter



WELCOME TO THE JANUARY 2024 SEC NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the January 2024 SEC Newsletter, and our first of the new year! In this edition, we provide updates on the fast-approaching February 2024 SEC Release, the new Privacy Sub-Committee and request for nominations, the upcoming SEC Panel Draft Budget webinar, the SECAS Continuous Improvement update, the Programme Assurance Report, the SMDA Guidance Note on Device Interoperability, and the Change Board election results.

You can also read our usual updates on modifications, meeting dates and key Industry news, vacancies, and listen to our latest Modcast.

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.

Governance

FEBRUARY 2024 SEC RELEASE

The following Modification proposals have been approved for inclusion in the February 2024 SEC Release which will take effect on 29 February 2024:

- [MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver MHHS'](#) will amend the SEC to facilitate the go-live of the Market-Wide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS) programme. The changes will allow Supplier Agents to be able to collect half-hourly meter readings from Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) for MHHS. *Please note that only the MP162 changes to SEC Appendix R 'Common Test Scenarios Document' will be implemented in this SEC Release. The remaining impacted documents will be implemented on 27 June 2024 (June 2024 SEC Release).*
- [MP167B 'Review of SEC documents \(DCC Internal Systems change governance\)'](#) will define the Programme Assurance Policy (PAP), and reference the document in the SEC. This will oblige the Data Communications Company (DCC) to adhere to the document when it is initiating a project or programme with potential DCC User impacts.
- [MP176 'Customer Analytics Reporting'](#) will mandate that the DCC delivers a standardised set of benchmarked reporting to all DCC Users which will enable them to identify their performance for key business processes in comparison to their peers and to enable them to diagnose reasons for poor performance so that they can take steps to address it.
- [MP243 'CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.1 Installation End Date and Maintenance End Date'](#) will extend the Communications Hub Technical Specifications (CHTS) v1.1 and Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) v2.1 Installation End Date by 24 months. This would change the End Date from 30 April 2024 to 30 April 2026. Companion Specification (GBCS) v2.1 Installation End Date by 24 months. This would change the End Date from 30 April 2024 to 30 April 2026.
- [MP259 'Triage System Interface Definition'](#) will expand the Triage System Interface definition to include both Internet Protocol Security (IPsec) as well as an alternative Transport Layer Security (TLS) Virtual Private Network (VPN). Additionally, to futureproof the SEC Guidance, it will also change references to TLS v1.2 to more generic wording, referring Parties to the SSC Guidance on which version of TLS to use.
- [MP261 'Extending the Organisation Certificate Validity Period'](#) will allow the DCC to create Organisation Certificates for more than 10 years, where it is agreed by the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA), having first considered the views of the Security Sub-Committee (SSC). It will also allow the DCC to re-use the existing Public Key information.



LATEST SEC MODCAST

In this episode, we have our roundup of the past couple of months in SEC Change before delving into the details of the [February 2024 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. You can listen [here](#).

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



Governance

PRIVACY SUB COMMITTEE – NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

The Panel has established a new [Privacy Sub-Committee \(PSC\)](#) to manage all Privacy matters on its behalf, and SECAS is issuing a call for nominations for membership.

The below seats are available for nomination:

- 6 persons representing Large Supplier Parties;
- 2 persons representing Small Supplier Parties;
- 2 persons representing Electricity Network Parties and Gas Network Parties;
- 3 persons representing Other Users;
- 1 person appointed by the DCC; and
- 1 Consumer Member nominated by Citizens Advice or Citizens Advice Scotland.

The full invitation for nominations can be found [here](#). We are specifically seeking representatives with Privacy expertise.

The inaugural PSC meeting is proposed for Thursday 22 February 2024. The PSC will then meet monthly on the third Thursday of the month, subject to confirmation of membership availability.

How to make a nomination

Please complete the online form [here](#) by 5 pm on Wednesday 7 February 2024. Please note, SEC Parties need to be [logged in](#) to the website to access this form. If you do not have a SEC website account, please register [here](#).

If you have any questions, please get in touch with SECAS@gemserv.com.



SEC PANEL DRAFT BUDGET 2024-27 WEBINAR

The SEC Panel has released its Draft Budget (2024-27) for comment. All SEC Parties are invited to submit feedback on the proposed budget found [here](#), by 5pm Thursday, 15 February 2024. To respond please submit your feedback to SECAS@gemserv.com and highlight if you would prefer any of your feedback to be marked as confidential/anonymous.

SECAS is hosting a webinar on Thursday 1 February 2024 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm, to walk Parties through the budget and answer any questions you may have. If you'd like to join the webinar, please register [here](#).



Governance

SECAS CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Continuous improvement is an important part of what we do at SECAS. We constantly challenge ourselves to work in smarter more efficient ways and identify where we can deliver benefits to Parties. 2023 saw a lot of improvements being implemented and we have captured some of these improvements below into four categories.

Operational Efficiency

- Automation of the Security/Privacy assessment booking tool (AMS).
- A centralised issues management framework has been set up.
- The SEC website Replacement Project was approved by the SEC Panel and Board and is underway for implementation.
- End-to-end process document for the Security and Privacy team and Privacy Experts was created and shared with Parties.
- Continuous streamlining of Panel papers to reduce duplication or unnecessary content. Including more appendixes and using more slides where possible.
- Industry-wide calendar created and maintained on the SEC website. As of December 2023, it has been downloaded 250 times.
- Improved prioritisation process of modifications. Prioritisation scoring is now collaboratively agreed upon to ensure quality control before being shared with the wider industry.

Knowledge Sharing

- Security and Privacy webinar delivered by User CIO and Validation team. Positive feedback was received from SEC Parties.
- SEC website webinar delivered to improve SEC Party knowledge of how to navigate the SEC website. Positive feedback received from the webinar: 50% expectation was mostly met and 50% fully met.
- Delivered a DCC Technical Architecture Overview lunch and learn session to improve knowledge across the SECAS team
- Monthly 'Learning Point' sessions held within the Change team on technical topics.

Minimise Waste

- Combined the Monthly Pre-Panel OSP call and the Quarterly OSP Issues call where a Monthly and Quarterly meeting falls in the same month. Time was saved by SECAS to prep and organise the meetings as well as SEC Parties time attending the meetings.
- Interested Parties are now able to sign up to specific modification mailing lists as opposed to receiving comms about all modifications

Improve Engagement and Communication

- Re-introduction of Modcast and using LinkedIn as another channel to share. This year we have had 1700 views on LinkedIn and 1800 downloads from the SEC website. Feedback received that the Modcasts look and sound very professional.
- Introduction of the post-modification survey for modification Proposers. This allows the Proposer to provide feedback in real time.
- Providing more webinar engagement when there is a significant change that will impact SEC Parties.
- Change communications to Parties is now streamlined into a once-a-week update, to reduce the number of comms coming out from SECAS, ensuring that the message is clear, concise and in Plain English.



PROGRAMME ASSURANCE REPORT

Each month, a Programme Assurance Report is published to update the SEC Panel and SEC Parties on the status of DCC Programmes. It outlines the work done since the last update, key milestones, and planned engagement over the next quarter. It also outlines any changes to the stages of the Programmes and any artefacts received since the last update.

Key Highlights for January include:

- SMETS1 Enhancements has been removed as a programme.
- 4G CH&N – Phase 2 NETMAD workshops continue with a new JIP milestone of May 2024 for publication.
- Future Service Management (FSM) - User endorsement of Programme Business Needs was received in December 2023 following approval from OPSG members ex-committee. Requirements traceability to the SEC and business needs and user pain points, will be presented at the January TABASC, OPSG & SSC meetings.
- DSP Data systems – the programme has recently gone through Gate 2 and DCC is now focusing on the different business cases across three swim lanes – DSP Core, DSP SI and DSP extension.
- Continuity of Service - will be split into several projects making it easier to follow. An update will be provided to the SEC Panel on these programmes in Q1 2024.
- CSP N Scaling & Optimisation - DCC presented to TABASC the preferred way forward, including costs outlined in the OBC, and DCC shared the successful results of the SRW Pilot with the OPSG. DCC intend to submit the FBC in January 2024. Subject to non-objection from the Department, DCC will progress with the preferred option.

The Report can be found on the SEC website [here](#).

SMDA GUIDANCE NOTE ON DEVICE INTEROPERABILITY

As part of the SMDA Review work, a new “SMDA Guidance Note: Interoperability and Interchangeability Obligations and Expectations” has been published on the SMDA website [here](#).

The Guidance Note brings together all the regulatory obligations relating to the interoperability and interchangeability of smart metering Devices, and provides a graphical summary of the obligations across the Energy Licences, the SEC, and its technical subsidiary documents, as well as a guide summarising key responsibilities and requirements.

The Guidance Note also sets out the Government policy position relating to interoperability and interchangeability, including from DESNZ and Ofgem, so that their views on what the regulations mean and how they apply are in one place.

If you have any questions, please contact SMDASO@gemserv.com.



CHANGE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

We recently held the annual Change Board elections covering all seats on the Change Board. Following a call for SEC Party nominations, the members of Change Board 2024 are listed below.

The first scheduled Change Board meeting with the new membership will be on Wednesday 21 February 2024.

- Large Suppliers – Emma Johnson, Sharon Armitage, Alex Hurcombe, Emslie Law, David Roger, and Kevin Clark.
- Small Suppliers – Carolyn Burns, Gareth Evans, and Christie Thomson.
- Electricity Network Parties – Jacqueline D’Angelo and Rachael Prosser.
- Gas Network Parties – Tom Stuart.
- Other SEC Parties – Ian Lovatt, Nick Winfield, and Patrick Caiger-Smith.
- Consumer Advocate – Caroline Farquhar.

There are still vacant seats available for five Large Supplier representatives. If you would like to nominate yourself or an individual, or if you have any questions or feedback on the elections process, please contact the SECAS helpdesk (SECAS@gemserv.com).

We would like to thank outgoing Change Board member, Andy Clasper, for his commitment and contribution to the Change Board!



Industry News

NEW CACOP CHAIR

Each year, the chairmanship of the CACoP Forum rotates through the Codes. This year it is the turn of National Grid ESO, as the Code Administrator for the System Operator Transmission Owner Code (STC), with Teri Puddefoot taking the role as the new CACoP Forum Chair.

Teri has been at National Grid for over 10 years and is currently in the Code Governance Team as the Code Digitalisation Lead.

As the new Chair, Teri is looking forward to supporting CACoP through the navigation of the Energy Code Reform.

If you have any questions, please contact box.CACoP@nationalgrideso.com.



OPEN LETTER ON SMART METER INSTALLATIONS FOR PREPAYMENT AND RADIO TELESWITCH CUSTOMERS

Ofgem sets out in this letter, its observations on the roll out of smart meters for traditional prepayment and Radio Teleswitch (RTS) customers. Ofgem's view is that smart meter installations for these customers have progressed more slowly than for standard credit customers, resulting in a lower overall coverage ratio of smart meters for both groups. Ofgem expresses concern about progress in these areas as it represents a substantial risk to vulnerable consumers with these meter types.

The open letter can be found [here](#).



SECCo Vacancies

SECCO VACANCY

The SECCo Board would like to increase the executive capacity of SECCo, introducing new roles to work alongside the SEC code administrator and together provide a better service to SEC Parties. One of the new roles created is the Head of Industry Operations.

If you are looking for a role that puts you at the heart of the Smart Meter operations community and allows you to make full use of your stakeholder management skills as well as your Smart Meter operations knowledge, then we would love to hear from you.

To find out more about this new role, download the job description [here](#).

You can apply via LinkedIn using this link - <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/3817093498> or send your CV and Cover letter to Kate.Goodman@seccoltd.com.

If you have any questions regarding this role please reach out to Kate.Goodman@seccoltd.com.



Modifications

NEW DRAFT PROPOSALS

There have been two new Draft Proposals raised since the last newsletter. You are invited to provide feedback to the [Change Team](#) to help us understand whether these issues affect you.

[MP261 'Extending the Organisation Certificate Validity Period'](#)

The DCC would like to align the new manufacture Organisation Certificates with the existing Issuing Organisation Certification Authority (OCA) Certificate, which has an expiry date of 25 years (2041). The DCC is unable to do this currently as Appendix B 'Organisation Certificate Policy' only allows Organisation Certificates to be valid for 10 years.

[DP262 'Extending the Installation End Date for CHTS v1.0 and GBCS v1.1'](#)

Smart Energy Code (SEC) Schedule 11 'Technical Specification Applicability Tables' contains a table titled 'CHTS and Relevant Versions of GBCS', including the CHTS v1.0 and the Relevant GBCS v1.1. The Installation End Date for this combination was 30 April 2023 and had a Maintenance End Date of 31 May 2023. These dates have already been extended once as part of MP221 CHTS v1.0 and GBCS 'v1.1 Installation End Date and Maintenance End Date'. When this modification was raised there were approximately 200,000 uninstalled Communications Hubs. The previous extension was three months. This timeframe was expected to be sufficient to allow Suppliers to locate and install this stock. However, Drax is aware of approximately 120,000 uninstalled Communications Hubs which are compliant with these specifications and not yet installed, across the industry.



MODIFICATION REPORT CONSULTATIONS

There is currently one open Modification Report Consultation. You are invited to provide feedback to the [Change Team](#) to help us understand your views on whether the modification should be approved.

MP223 'WAN Coverage Reporting' Download here .	Closing Date: Wednesday 7 February 2024	Impacted Parties: DCC, Device Manufacturers, Meter Installers, Suppliers.
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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 to the consultation, download the consultation pack linked below and send your response to the [Change Team](#).

MP085B 'Synchronisation of smart meter voltage measurement periods (meters currently installed)' Download here .	Closing Date: Wednesday 7 February 2024	Impacted Parties: Electricity Network Parties, Meter Manufacturers.
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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](#).

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

Key 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. The Industry Events Calendar is available [here](#).

- 1 February 2024 - [TABASC Meeting 98](#)
- 1 February 2024 - [Understanding the SEC Panel Draft Budget 2024 - 27](#)
- 7 February 2024 - [SEC Monthly Working Group Meeting - February 2024](#)
- 12 February 2024 - [Communications Transition Group 12](#)
- 13 February 2024 - [Operations Group Meeting 111](#)
- 13 February 2024 - [SMDA Sub-Committee Meeting 10](#)
- 14 February 2024 - [SECPMA Meeting 114](#)
- 14 February 2024 - [SSC Meeting 186](#)
- 15 February 2024 - [TABASC Meeting 98X](#)
- 20 February 2024 - [Change Sub-Committee Meeting 60](#)
- 21 February 2024 - [Change Board Meeting 87](#)
- 23 February 2024 - [Other SEC Party Quarterly Issues Call – February 2024](#)
- 26 February 2024 - [Operations Group Meeting 112](#)
- 27 February 2024 - [SEC Panel meeting 125](#)
- 27 February 2024 - [SECCo Board meeting 125](#)
- 28 February 2024 - [TAG 111](#)
- 28 February 2024 - [SSC Meeting 187](#)

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

