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SEC Change Board Meeting 101_2304

23 April 2025, 10:00 – 11:40

Teleconference

SECCB_101_2304 – Final Minutes

Attendees:

Representing	Change Board Members	Organisation
Change Board Chair	Simon Grimwood (SG)	SECAS
Large Suppliers	Emma Johnson (EJ)	British Gas
	Sharon Armitage (SA)	E.ON
	Joey Manners (JM)	Octopus Energy
	Emslie Law (EL)	OVO
	David Rodger (DR)	Scottish Power
Small Suppliers	Carolyn Burns (CB)	ESG Global
	Christie Thomson (CT)	SSE
	Andrew Green (AG) <i>Alternate</i>	Waters Wye
Network Parties	Rachael Prosser (RP)	National Grid Electricity Distribution
	Ben Elmy (BE)	UK Power Networks
	Tom Stuart (TS)	Wales & Western Utilities
Other SEC Parties	Ian Lovatt (IL)	Chameleon
	Nick Winfield (NW)	Landis+Gyr
	James Murphy (JM)	Stark
Consumers	Caroline Farquhar (CF)	Citizens Advice

Other Participants		
Citizens Advice		
Emily Stone (ES)		
DCC		
Robin Seaby (RS)	Bradley Baker (BB)	
Richard Vernon (RV)		
DESNZ		
Rachel Allen (RA)		
Ofgem		
Ian Chalfon (IC)	Cristina Ullastre (CU)	
SECCo		
Robin Healey (RH)	Ashton Briggs (AB)	
SECAS		
Sophia Master (SM) <i>(Meeting Secretary)</i>	Ben Giblin (BG)	Georgiana Severin (GS)
Paul Witton-Dauris (PWD)	Talia Latimore (TL)	

Apologies:

Representing	Change Board Members	Organisation
Large Suppliers	Alex Hurcombe (AH)	EDF

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the Change Board meeting.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Meeting Secretary (SM) informed the Change Board that no comments had been received on the previous meeting minutes. The Change Board **APPROVED** the minutes as final.

3. Change Board Votes

MP241 'Interoperability Checker Update'

The Change Board were invited to perform the final vote on [MP241 'Interoperability Checker Update'](#). A member of the Change Board (EJ) queried the lack of comments to the second Modification Report Consultation for MP241. They queried if there had been any positive support from Citizens Advice, as the bulk of the benefits of the Proposed Solution would be for the Citizens Advice website. SECAS (GS) confirmed there had been positive support from Citizens Advice during the first iteration of the

Modification Report Consultation. A member (IL) queried if this Modification had been updated, considering the discussions had at the Operations Group (OPSG). SECAS (GS) confirmed that the OPSG's view is the Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) information that the DCC provide is acceptable in the first instance, pending further work on the Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) part of the solution. This is currently undergoing further work and SECAS will be engaging with the DCC when the GSME information is acceptable for the OPSG. Once this is acceptable the DCC will then upload the information that pertains to GSME information and provide this to the Citizens Advice website without the need for a further Modification. The DCC (RS) advised the DCC attended the OPSG and addressed the concerns which had been raised regarding the applicability of the Gas Data. The DCC are continuing to work alongside the OPSG. The purpose of this Change Board would be to approve the Modification for the ESME part of the Proposed Solution. The enhanced ESME output would be fed into the Interoperability Checker on the Citizens Advice website, pending further GSME work.

Another member of the Change Board (IL) queried if this Modification would be brought back once the GSME enhanced output is ready, if the proposal was rejected at this Change Board meeting. SECAS (GS) advised that the approach would be to work with the OPSG as a standing item and for the OPSG to work alongside the DCC to determine when the Data is ready, without the need for a further Modification. The DCC (RS) advised they are requesting for this Modification be approved with the ESME Data in the first instance. This is due to 80% of consumer queries on the Interoperability Checker on the Citizens Advice website relating to ESME. The Change Board member (EJ) expressed their concerns regarding the approach on how the GSME information will be included without the need for a Modification or Change Board input, as the GSME aspect of the Proposed Solution was the most contentious point during previous discussions. The DCC (RS) confirmed that this GSME Data already exists within the DCC environment, and the OPSG involvement relates to the interpretation of this Data. This is also part of ongoing work that OPSG is carrying out with regards to non-communicating Smart Metering Systems (SMS).

Another member of the Change Board (CB) queried if the cost of the Modification is inclusive of GSME Data, regardless of the delays to include the Data in the final form of the website. The DCC (RS) advised that because this Data already exists within the DCC environment, they have the ability to report on the Data, without the need to build new reporting models.

The Change Board member (EJ) expressed their concerns that the slides do not reflect the discussions being had and the OPSGs role in reviewing the Proposed Solution for the Modification. The Chair (SG) advised the OPSG role would be to determine if the Data is fit for purpose and would require their sign off before it becomes part of a report. The Change Board member (EJ) queried if the legal text references the two-stage approach. SECAS (GS) advised the legal text does not reference the two-stage approach due to there being no definitive end date for the inclusion of GSME output Data. The Chair (SG) advised a legal text update may need to be considered. However, in terms of the cost to develop the Modification, there should not be any additional costs if the Data is already available.

Another member of the Change Board (IL) advised if there were other mechanisms for consumers to find out whether the information they currently seek on the Citizens Advice website would be helpful. A member (EL) questioned how this Modification would help improve consumers' enquiries and not provide them with misinformation. The DCC (RS) advised consumers are using the service and they are using the results to indicate whether the meter is working in Smart Mode, however, the checker is not providing these results as accurately as it could be. This is because the Data currently used is based on generalised models, as opposed to Data that can be obtained straight from the SMS to confirm whether a Device is operating as smart or not.

A member (JM) expressed their concerns regarding the GSME part of the Proposed Solution going to OPSG and not being brought back for consideration. They have concerns about going to a vote at this Change Board and would prefer to do the ESME and GSME as separate solutions. Citizens Advice (CF) confirmed that consumers heavily use this page on the Citizens Advice website. The checker currently only indicates it should be working in Smart Mode, as opposed to definitively confirming that it is. Once this check has been completed, the consumers are then able to reach out to their Suppliers, if they believe there is an issue with their Device. Citizens Advice (ES) advised they monitor the feedback from users and would not be satisfied with providing a solution that doesn't give the users a substantial result.

A member (IL) queried what measures are in place to be able to take this down if this is necessary. The DCC (RS) advised the checker is already there, therefore there are no changes being made to the tool that the consumer interacts with. The checker currently provides a result showing if the Smart Meter is working in Smart Mode or not. The current checker does not provide an accurate result as it is not based on any service audit trail Data, but rather generalised results based on the Device Model that the consumer has. The DCC are looking to update the Data the website uses to present the output back to the consumer. A member (CB) advised the initial purpose was to check if a Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications1 (SMETS1) Meter had been enrolled or pending enrolment. The DCC (RS) confirmed this was originally the interoperability checker for SMETS1 and the use for the checker has evolved, as the needs of consumers changed.

The Chair (SG) advised that the Change Board members can proceed to vote on the basis and understanding that the OPSG would oversee the introduction of the GSME Data, or the Change Board members can defer the vote for a month.

If the vote is deferred for a month SECAS will look into the governance route that would be required in order to implement the GSME Data and confirm whether it would be OPSG or if a further Modification would be required. A member of the Change Board (SA) advised that there is a concern around both the ESME and GSME Data set, and this should be reflected accurately. They expressed concern regarding the accuracy of the improvement on ESME Data. The DCC (RS) advised that the tool does not currently bring any transaction data, and it will not provide any specific information to the consumers about their meter. The DCC are proposing to use the Service Audit Trail (SAT) data, and the result of the checker will indicate whether there is communication between the energy Supplier and the Device that the consumer is enquiring about.

A member of the Change Board (CB) queried the intended lifespan for the Interoperability Checker on the Citizens Advice website, if the Modification comes back for a final vote in a month's time. A member (SA) also expressed the same concern and queried what would be the intention if it does not get amended to increase the accuracy of the Data. They questioned the next steps if it was voted to reject this Modification. Citizens Advice (ES) advised that the end of life of the tool would come about only with permission from the Secretary of State, in line with SEC Section H16.5(b).

The Change Board:

- **DEFERRED** the vote on [MP241 'Interoperability Checker Update'](#).

ACTION: 101/01 Confirm governance route on how GSME information will be added at a later date if mod is implemented with GSME and ESME

ACTION: 101/02 Confirm how end of life of the Checker Tool will be addressed if the mod is rejected

MP285 'Radio Teleswitch Service switch off'

The Change Board were invited to perform the final vote on [MP285 'Radio Teleswitch Service switch off'](#).

The Change Board voted to **APPROVE** [MP285 'Radio Teleswitch Service switch off'](#) under Self-Governance on the basis that it will better facilitate SEC Objective (a)¹.

The modification has been classified as **AMBER-STRICT** and therefore further detail can be found in the confidential minutes.

4. Request for Impact Assessment

MP169 'Managing SEC Obligations & the consumers right to refuse a Smart Meter'

The Change Board was presented with the DCC Impact Assessment request for [MP169 'Managing SEC Obligations & the consumers right to refuse a Smart Meter'](#).

A member (EJ) acknowledged the previously obtained Data Service Provider (DSP) Impact Assessment has expired and questioned whether Impact Assessments have expiry dates. The DCC (RS) advised that Impact Assessments have an expiry date. They added that there is a different service provider in place for the Self-Service Interface (SSI) and the Self-Service Management Interface (SSMI), so the new provider also needs to assess the impacts of MP169. A member (EJ) queried the timeframe to receive the DCC Assessments for the new DSP. The DCC (RS) advised the existing timescales for assessments (15 WD for Preliminary Assessments and 40 WD for Impact Assessments) will remain in place.

Citizens Advice (CF) advised that this Modification was raised in 2021 and commented their belief there is consumer demand for this functionality to be implemented. They added their belief that Ofgem, DESNZ and Citizens Advice are supportive of this modification, however the member noted MP169 has been deferred on multiple occasions. They referenced a statement from the E.ON website which claims consumers can stop sharing their Consumption Data by setting the Smart Meter reading frequency to 'never' and subsequently consumers could submit their reads manually. A member (EL) advised there is no way for a Smart Meter to be made 'dumb' without breaking the SEC and Supplier licence obligations, hence the necessity for MP169 to be raised to provide an enduring solution. They advised that 'DSP 2' is affecting the progression of this modification. SECAS (BG) advised that a discussion was had at Working Group regarding consumers opting out and advised it would be useful to have a discussion with the Proposer. SECAS and Citizens Advice to discuss what obligations Suppliers have to collect data. A member (SA) queried the aforementioned statement from E.ONs website and the marketing material which says that consumers can opt out of having their data collected. They advised this Modification is being delayed due to not having sufficient information, such as costings, to allow a vote to go ahead. SECAS (BG) advised that the E.ON website suggests consumers can opt out of their Data being collected, suggesting the meter could operate in 'dumb' mode. SECCo (AB) queried whether there would be two sets of costs if the Modification was to be put into the current DSP and 'DSP 2'. SECAS (BG) advised there would be two sets of costs for it to be added in both DSPs. They added that SECAS has not been able to identify the costs in 'DSP 2' as DCC are unable to accept assessment requests against the new DSP. The DCC (RS) advised the

¹ Facilitate the efficient provision, installation, and operation, as well as interoperability, of Smart Metering Systems at Energy Consumers' premises within Great Britain.

contracts for 'DSP 2' have been signed and they anticipate DCC Assessments could begin in mid-May.

A member (EJ) queried the costs for implementation in the current DSP and 'DSP 2'. The DCC (RS) advised they are unable to provide the 'DSP 2 costs'. The Chair (SG) advised that if the Change Board were to approve the cost to obtain the impact assessment, then the DCC would be able to provide an up-to-date cost in the legacy DSP.

SECAS (BG) asked the Change Board members if the preliminary assessment should be requested against 'DSP 2' to identify the rough order of magnitude costs, before paying the costs for the legacy impact assessment. A member (EJ) advised it may be worth requesting the legacy FIA.

The Change Board:

- **AGREED** that this DCC Impact Assessment should be requested.

After the vote took place, a member (IL) queried the benefits of obtaining costs relating to the current DSP. The Chair (SG) advised the impact assessment will provide clarity surrounding the costs to implement that functionality in the current DSP, with the earliest implementation being the November 2026 SEC Release, although this is dependent on when Ofgem make a decision. A member (SA) queried how long the benefit will be if the Modification was approved. The DCC (RS) advised if the Modification goes into 'DSP 2' this will be at the end of 2028 at the earliest. The Chair (SG) advised there will be a maximum of a two-year benefit in the legacy DSP. If the Modification is delayed, then the time period will decrease and the benefit of the cost versus what we receive will be lowered. A member (JM) queried if the impact assessment would provide visibility of the new service management system in 'DSP 2'. The DCC (RS) advised the changes to SSI and SSMI would be consistent across the current DSP and 'DSP 2'.

5. SEC Modification Timetables

SECAS (BG) provided an update on the timetables for Modification Proposals, providing an updated Prioritisation Matrix and summaries of high and on hold modifications.

The Change Board:

- **NOTED** the updates on the SEC Modification Timetables.

6. Benefits Realisation Project

The Chair (SG) provided an update on the Benefits Realisation Project and provided the Change board members with the results. The previous releases have been reviewed and looked at to identify what benefits had been put into the Modification Reports that went into each Release. Various parties were interviewed to see what benefits had been seen. The results of the interviews showed that Parties believed there had been benefits. The Chair (SG) provided an overview of the proposed actions.

Any other business

There was no further business, and the Chair closed the meeting.

Next scheduled meeting date: 21 May 2025