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<u>Acronyms and Defined Terms SEC Glossary</u>	

SEC Panel Sub-Committee Report

1. Purpose and highlights

This paper provides the Panel with an update on recent activities from the Panel Sub-Committees, including key issues discussed, and details specific points the Sub-Committees would like to bring to the Panel's attention. The Panel is requested to note the updates and endorse the concerns raised by the Sub-Committees.

Highlights for the Panel's attention include:

OPSG

- There were 5 major incidents in February with consequent disruption to services to DCC Users.

2. Communications Transition Group (CTG)

2.1 CTG Highlights

The CTG met once in the last month. The meeting covered the following topics:

CTG Meeting Dates

CTG members **AGREED** to future CTG meetings being held on the third Friday of each month from 1pm to 4pm.

DCC Update: CH&N Programme – Update on the 3G shutdown trial in Basingstoke and Plymouth and results

The DCC provided an update on the approach for the Vodafone 3G services closure. The DCC gave an overview of the 3G sunset roadmap plan for 2023, the output from the shutdown trials in Basingstoke and Plymouth, and the key success criteria DCC has agreed with Vodafone. The CTG suggested the DCC ensures the success criteria is focused on service outcomes from a DCC User perspective, and that learnings from these Vodafone trials are considered for future VMO2 trials.

ESNZ Update on 4G Transition Planning: Feedback on CH Only Replacement Financing

The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (ESNZ) updated the CTG on the Comms Hub only replacement initial financing options and on the conclusions from the industry engagement responses.

ESNZ updated the CTG on the outputs of the 2G/3G sunset portfolio impact Request For Information (RFI) based on input from the SMDG (Smart Meter Delivery Group) Supplier members, and advised the CTG on the next steps for this including planned further analysis. The CTG noted these updates and **REQUESTED** an update from DCC on whether CSP contracts novated from The Department to DCC have been changed since.

Draft CTG Risks and Issues Register – Updates on Key Items

CTG were updated on the development of the Risks and Issues Register (that has been developed based on content from the DCC responses to the OPSC's Register of Questions) and that items with a Severity rating of 15 or higher would be escalated to the SEC Panel for awareness. The CTG was asked to provide any additional comments on the draft register by close of play Friday 24 March so that the register can be baselined.

DCC Calendar of Events and Planned Engagement

CTG were noted that a joint calendar of events for the SEC and DCC was being looked into and that a further update on this would be provided at the next meeting.

DCC Update: CH&N Programme – Update on 4G CH Ordering Transition

The DCC provided an update on the 4G ordering transition and on the proposed engagement with Users on key policy areas which will provide the information for a 4G Conclusions document. The DCC updated the CTG on how and when it plans to engage with customers and shared the discussion questions that were being asked. DCC highlighted that it is also reacting to feedback received to ensure its engagement is fit for purpose. The DCC noted that any further feedback raised should be sent to the DCC customer engagement team mailbox at customerengagement@smartdcc.co.uk.

CTG Updated Draft Workplan for Initial Tasks

The CTG **NOTED** the updates on the Workplan for Initial Tasks which had been revised following the previous meeting and **REQUESTED** that the workplan highlighted topics that were relevant to other Sub-Committees, if not already called out. The CTG **AGREED** the Workplan can be baselined once these minor updates are made.

Update on Immediate/Next Tasks

The CTG was advised that the Risks and Issues Register would be discussed with the SEC Sub-Committee Chairs to ensure alignment and coverage of issues, and that work will commence on the draft Overall Transition Plan ahead of the April CTG meeting. The CTG **NOTED** and **AGREED** to these next steps.

3. Technical Operations

3.1 TABASC Highlights

The TABASC met once in the last month. The meeting covered the following topics:

DSP Programme

The DCC presented the TABASC with an update on the extent to which the architectural Options proposed for a future DSP solution will deliver User-identified Business Needs, the DCC also highlighted any benefits attributed to each of these options. The DCC provided a high level explanation of some of the factors it considered when undertaking its qualitative and quantitative analysis of the value of the business needs it presents to DCC Users. The TABASC noted the update and provided feedback,

noting that feedback from the session once agreed with TABASC members, would be delivered to the SEC Panel for consideration.

CSP.N Scaling & Optimisation

The DCC provided an update on the CSP.N Scaling and Optimisation activities, specifically in regard to progress made on the Impact Assessment carried out on the Technical Options which are being considered for implementation in Phase 3 of the Programme.

DSMS High-Level Architecture

The DCC presented the TABASC with an overview of the proposed high level architecture of the DCC Service Management System (DSMS) and an update on the DSMS Programme. The TABASC requested the DCC develop mandatory and desirable business needs and returns to a future TABASC meeting to provide this information.

Network Economics Update

The DCC provided an update on their Network Economics Team and its aims to develop a demand forecasting model and other future modelling considerations. The DCC noted that it will produce its first batch of reporting from this team for July 2023. It will then return to the OPSG and TABASC and discuss the outputs of its reporting in further detail.

Northbound Response Prioritisation (Current and Holistic Approach)

The DCC provided an update on its proposals to implement Northbound Prioritisation earlier than originally planned, which the TABASC were supportive of. The earlier implementation date has been noted as September 2023, and it is hoped that the earlier implementation will address the current issues being experienced in Response delays such as with the N56 Alert. In addition, the TABASC queried the current list of priority alerts and requested the DCC re-examine these with the OPSG prior to using this list for configuring prioritisation bands.

The DCC presented its proposed options for the User Gateway Northbound Response Delivery to be implemented in the to-be DSP. The TABASC requested that the DCC returns with further information on the identified business needs and how each of the Northbound Prioritisation options would meet those business needs.

Alt HAN Reset Update

The Alt-HAN Co presented the TABASC with an update on its proposal for resetting Devices in the field. The TABASC and the Alt HAN Co discussed some of the specifics around the process which a field operative may need to undertake to reset an Alt HAN Device.

3.2 TAG Highlights

The TAG met twice during the last month to discuss the following topics in addition to the regular testing updates:

CH&N Test Coverage Document

The DCC provided the TAG with the Communications Hub and Networks (CH&N) Test Coverage Document (TCD), alongside Coverage Traceability Documents (CTDs) for CH Pre-Integration Testing (PIT), Data Service Provider (DSP) PIT, Device Manager PIT, and Smart Metering Wide Area Network (SMWAN) PIT. The TAG conditionally approved the presented elements of the CH&N TCD if associated actions were discharged, with the exception of the SMWAN element which the TAG agreed to review further prior to the March TAG meeting.

DSP Programme Update

The DCC presented an update on the Data Service Provider (DSP) re-procurement. The TAG inquired on a number of aspects related to the perceived testing benefits of the options presented, and noted the update.

DNO Support Service Update

The DCC presented an update on the Cross-party Working Principles (CWP) document, which replaced the former Distribution Network Operator (DNO) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The TAG noted the update and agreed to close actions associated with the DNO MoU.

TAG Terms of Reference Review – Quoracy Requirement

SECAS provided the TAG with its proposal to incorporate a new quoracy requirement into the Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR). The TAG reviewed the proposal, highlighting concerns surrounding the time-sensitive nature of some TAG decisions, and approved the proposal.

3.3 Operations Group Highlights

The Operations Group met four times in the last month; an OPSG sub Group, the Performance Measurement Review Group (PMRG) also met. The topics covered included the following:

Service Performance

Code Performance Measure 1 (CPM1) (Percentage of On Demand Service Responses within the Applicable Target Resolution Time was above Target Service Level for the first time since July 2018.

Performance Measure PM2 (Percentage of Category 1 Firmware Payloads completed within the relevant TRT) for CSPN remained below Target Service Level. As many incremental improvements have now been implemented by the Service Provider, it will be necessary to review whether and how the Target Service Level can be achieved.

Major Incidents

DCC presented an overview of the number of major incidents along with root causes during 2021 and 2022 and indicated a year-on-year reduction in numbers.

However, the OPSG noted that there continue to be 2-3 Major incidents on average per month, as there has been since RY 20/21. OPSG members said that this level was not satisfactory. The DCC have committed to continued focus in this area with a view to reducing the number of Major Incidents. The OPSG acknowledged this intent and the work being done but sought further assurance that it would produce the desired outcomes.

There have been 9 Major incidents so far in 2023 with 5 being in February. February was therefore the one of the 2 worst months for major incidents since May 2022.

Prepayment Transactions Performance

Overall success rates remain stable at around 97% for SMETS1 and 96% for SMETS2.

June SEC release

No concerns raised on progress towards readiness.

Annual Outage Plan for RY 2023/24 and BCDR Testing Consultation

The OPSG endorsed the Annual Outage Plan proposed by DCC, noting the good planning process that had been followed. The OPSG acknowledged that the plan indicated a significant reduction in outages compared with RY 2022/23, but that the overall level remains much higher than desired.

The OPSG also noted BCDR testing consultation results and proposals, and that these are included in the Annual Outage Plan.

Spurious Alerts

The DCC highlighted that they continue to see higher volumes than expected of the 8F3E alert, although this has reduced over the past month: they continue to work with Users in order to continue with the reduction efforts. This matter is considered to be reasonably under control, with resolution this year viewed as realistic.

DSP Reprourement

Two extraordinary OPSG meetings were held in February to discuss the options DCC have been assessing pertaining to procuring a new DSP service. Due to the lack of cost information made available by DCC OPSG were unable to provide a preference for any one option, but did discount options 1 and 2 as being unlikely to meet current, or future, business requirements. The OPSG were reluctant to endorse any option that could be construed as putting DCC in breach of its licence obligations, and wanted to reiterate the benefits of competition that DCC may not have fully captured in their assessments.

The DCC also provided an initial briefing on the transition and migration approach for OPSG consideration. Further structured consideration of this topic will be needed.

DSMS, OMS and CH Logistics

The DCC presented outline engagement plans for these programmes, the OPSG requested full and detailed engagement plans. The DCC will lead engagement on consideration of User requirements.

ECoS Progress to readiness

SCT performance testing is behind schedule, but DCC has a contingency in place. All other components were on track at the time of the presentation.

EBSS and Price change event

The DCC reported on detailed process improvements at the DSP aimed at reducing the risk of congestion during the April Price Change period. The OPSG noted that the DCC is confident that the risk of such congestion is low. No further User precautionary actions are seen as necessary before April.

N56 Alerts

The DCC noted that the implementation of the Northbound Prioritisation will help with some of the issues related to N56 alerts and that resolution is now being prioritised DCC will continue to keep OPSG updated on progress.

4. Security Sub-Committee and SMKI PMA

4.1 Assurance and Compliance Status Decisions

The SSC set the compliance status for three Full User Security Assessments (FUSA) and one Security Self-Assessment (SSA) in February 2023. Details can be found in the confidential Appendix A.

4.2 Director's Letters

The SSC reviewed one Director's Letter following a FUSA in February 2023.

4.3 SSC Highlights

CPA Monitoring

SECAS presented the SSC with an update on withdrawn Certificates and the expiry of Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) Certificates. The SSC was also presented with the latest Pre-Payment (PPM) Report and an update on Pending figures.

Following the SSC's agreement to defer the removal of affected Devices originally planned for 27 January 2023, Suppliers were requested to name a Responsible Owner to be accountable for a Remediation Plan to ensure that affected Devices are upgraded, and to provide an initial report (followed by monthly updates) of progress to the SSC who will keep the removal from the CPL under review. A report of these initial responses and data were presented to the SSC.

Security Controls Framework / Triage Security Controls Framework

The SSC was presented with an update on the Security Controls Framework and Triage Security Controls Framework and agreed further amendments are needed to be brought back in March, before publication to SEC Parties.

DCC CIO Procurement

The SSC approved the DCC's decision to award the DCC CIO contract after a competitive tender process in line with the requirements set out by the Authority and the SSC confirmed that the SEC requirements set out in SEC Section G9.8 have been met.

DCC Gateway Risk Review

The SSC noted a DCC update on the preliminary risk assessment for a new (IPSec based) DCC solution for connectivity to the DCC Gateway and agreed that, having considered the options presented, the SSC has no objection in principle to the DCC moving towards the solution presented, trusting the DCC to make relevant judgements based on technical, commercial and security considerations.

SSC Guidance on Trial Device Approval

The SSC was presented with a proposed draft of SSC Guidance on Trial Device Approval prior to publication on the SEC website to coincide with the implementation into the SEC on 23 February 2023 of [MP172 - Reduced CPA & CPL requirements for innovation and Device field trials](#).

Alt-HAN Update

Alt HAN presented the SSC with an update on Alt HAN options for Device Reset and the SSC agreed that Alt HAN should return to a future SSC with the results of the proof of concept.

DCC CIO Assessments

The User CIO presented SSC with an update on the DCC CIO assessments.

Quarterly Standards Review

SECAS provided the SSC with an update on the Quarterly Standards Review. The SSC agreed the proposed changes for publication to the SEC website.

Quarterly Risk Register Review

SECAS presented SSC with an update on the Quarterly Risk Register Review.

DCC Updates

The SSC noted the following updates and reports for information provided by the DCC for information:

- Security Incident Management Actions
- Network Evolution Data Service Provider (DSP) Update
- DSP Outline Business Case (OBC) Options
- DCC Cyber Threat Assessment capabilities
- Post Commissioning Report
- Anomaly Detection Report
- ECoS Live Service Criteria
- ECoS Risk Assessment
- ECoS CIO Assurance Timetable

4.4 SSC CPA Issue Resolution Sub-Group (SCIRS)

At the SCIRS meeting in February 2023, the following issues were discussed.

EU Cybersecurity Act / EU Cyber Resilience Act / EU Radio Equipment Directive / CEN / CENELEC Matters

SCIRS noted a BEIS request for information regarding various EU regulations. Three pieces of work are ongoing to create a harmonised European-wide approach, with proposed new standards set to be announced before the end of 2023.

Use Case 004 Triage

SCIRS noted that at present there were no concerns or updates on Use Case 004 Triage.

SSC Guidance on Device Security Assurance and Triage – Part 3 - Triage Security Controls Framework (TSCF)

SCIRS noted that the SSC Guidance for Device Security Assurance and Triage Part 3 is in two sections. Section 1 explains the methodology applied to implement SEC Section G12, whilst Section 2 explains what the User CIO will look for to establish compliance with SEC security obligations. SCIRS Members fed back on amendments needed to the TSCF relating to the scope of what a 'Triage Facility' covers and tamper-protection seals. The SCIRS feedback will be incorporated into the new version of the TSCF.

Use Case 003

SCIRS noted that a request has been made under Use Case 003 for a Manufacturer to clear a Device log, such as any PPMIDs and IHDs that have been joined to the meter, and queried if this is an acceptable implementation or not. An example may be where an install has only been partially completed then halted, and the PPMID has been joined but the meter hasn't been fully commissioned, and so if the meter is then needed to be installed at another site it will have the old record of the PPMID. This would mean that the old PPMID didn't need to be removed onsite at the subsequent installation. The SSC agreed post-meeting that Device Logs should be cleared "as appropriate" and will amend the SSC Guidance accordingly.

4.5 SMKI PMA Update

SoLR Process

The SMKI PMA Chair confirmed that there have been no Supplier of Last Resort (SoLR) events since the previous SMKI PMA meeting.

tScheme FOC Outcome Finale Update

The DCC provided the SMKI PMA with an update on the Final Operational Capability (FOC) component of the tScheme audit, which the SMKI PMA noted and approved as required by SEC Appendix AO.

PKI-E Interim Report

The SMKI PMA deferred discussion of the Public Key Infrastructure Enduring (PKI-E) report until SECPMA 103 to allow time to review the report.

SMKI Certificate Testing and Replacement Plan

The DCC provided the SMKI PMA with an update on the DCC process for management of DCC-owned SMKI Certificates, which the SMKI PMA noted.

SMKI / DCCKI Nomination Forms

The SMKI PMA Chair presented the SMKI PMA with the DCC's proposed changes to the SMKI and DCC Key Infrastructure (DCCKI) nomination forms, which the SMKI PMA noted needs further clarification.

24 Hour Revocation Process

The SMKI PMA Chair presented the SMKI PMA with details of the DCC's proposal to provide support for out-of-hours revocation, and the SMKI PMA requested some changes to the proposal.

IKI Process Review

The SMKI PMA Chair presented the SMKI PMA with details of the DCC's proposal for issuance of Infrastructure Key Infrastructure (IKI) tokens, and the SMKI PMA requested some changes to the proposal.

4.4 SMKI PMA Update

SoLR Process

The SMKI PMA Chair confirmed that there have been no Supplier of Last Resort (SoLR) events since the previous SMKI PMA meeting.

tScheme FOC Outcome Finale Update

The DCC provided the SMKI PMA with an update on the Final Operational Capability (FOC) component of the tScheme audit, which the SMKI PMA noted and approved as required by SEC Appendix C.

PKI-E Interim Report

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5. SMDA Sub Committee

The next SMDA Sub-Committee (SMDASC) meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 April 2023. Key agenda items include Alternative Home Area Networks (Alt HAN) request to register devices on the Device Assurance Register (DAR) and SMDA Test Script access to all SEC Parties.

An update will also be provided on the SMDA review, whereby a Project Brief is being developed which will outline options for the Schemes capacity in 12 – 18 months. This will be presented to the SEC Panel in March 2023 for approval before moving onto collecting industry feedback.

The SMDASC Chair position is available and members of the committee have been asked to express their interest in the role.

6. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

- **NOTE** the contents of this paper; and
- **ENDORSE** the concerns raised by the Sub-Committees.

Charlotte Riddick

SECAS Team

28 March 2023

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** User Security Assessments – Identified Non-Compliances (**RED**)