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Action:	For Information
<u>Acronyms and Defined Terms SEC Glossary</u>	

Radio Teleswitch: Switch Off

1. Purpose

The paper provides the Panel with an overview of discussions between Energy UK (EUK), DCC, Panel Chair and SECAS concerning the planned switch off for the Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS) 31 March 2024.

The Panel is requested to note the contents of this paper.

2. Background

The contract between the Energy Networks Association (ENA) and the BBC for RTS will end March 2024. Whilst Suppliers have an obligation to replace RTS metered sites with smart meters (there are still approximately 1m sites with RTS equipment installed) a nervousness exists that there is not enough understanding of the number and types of customers that will be impacted by the RTS switch off. Although these obligations and commercial arrangements are outside the SEC, concerns have been raised that if there is a lack of coordinated activity to manage the consequences of the end of RTS, this may result in poor publicity for Suppliers, Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP), Ofgem and governance forum such as the Panel.

3. Activity to date

3.1 Understanding the problem

There is a view held that RTS sites are mostly in remote areas (Highlands and Islands) and that some of these are not covered by DCC Communication Service Provider (CSP) Wide Area Networks (WAN).

Work has begun between EUK and DCC to establish where and how many RTS metered sites are covered by the DCC WAN. EUK has obtained data from its Supplier members of RTS metered sites by Post Code. This RTS Post Code data been passed to DCC to validate against its Wide Area Network (WAN) coverage database.

Analysis of the EUK data by DCC suggest most Post Codes with RTS are covered by DCC WAN but 33,425 Post Codes with RTS are not. Furthermore, initial findings suggest the greater percentage of RTS Post Codes not covered by DCC WAN, are in the Central and South CSP regions.

Area	RTS Postcodes	RTS Postcodes Covered by CSP	RTS Postcodes with no CSP Coverage	CSP Coverage by Postcode	RTS Only
Central	112988	101009	11979	89.40%	10.60%
North	113999	111293	2706	97.63%	2.37%
South	143822	125082	18740	86.97%	13.03%
Total	373571	337384	33425	90.31%	9.69%

4. Next Steps

Further work will be undertaken by EUK and DCC to further validate and map across the UK (by CSP region) where the “hot spot” areas of RTS Post Code coverage is deficient.

The DCC is looking at technical solutions and establishing a business case to improve overall smart meter connectivity (which in turn, will address RTS areas with no coverage). When ready, the business case will be presented to Panel for consideration.

We understand that an Ofgem Request for Information will be sent to Suppliers to establish a view of their preparedness for the impending RTS switch off.

5. Recommendation

The Panel is requested to **NOTE** the contents of this paper.

Tim Newton

SECAS Team

18 July 2023