

This document is classified as **Clear** in accordance with the Panel Information Policy. Recipients can distribute this information to the world, there is no limit on disclosure. Information may be shared without restriction subject to copyright.

Paper Reference:	SECP_133_2210_21
Action:	For Information

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 any concerns raised by the Sub-Committees.

- The DCC presented a number of technical items which were noted at the TABASC meeting on 3 October. These included high-level designs for DCC's Future Service Management, the second phase of DCC's Traffic Management Gateway delivery, and options for change management during the implementation of the new DSP. The Department for Energy Security and Net-Zero (DESNZ) shared a presentation on their consultation on changes to the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS), which was also noted by TABASC.
- TAG met twice during September, with DCC presenting a further update on its preparation for CH&N go-live, including a draft of the Live Service Criteria (LSC) for Communications Hubs and Networks (CH&N) which will require TAG approval. The DCC provided the November 2024 Test Completion Report (TCR) for the November 2024 SEC Release, which the TAG approved.
- At OPSG, DCC informed the group that it has put DSP on a heightened management plan to reduce the number of unplanned outages and DSP related Major Incidents. The group endorsed the high-level requirements for the DCC's Future Service Management Programme, as well as the additional planned maintenance for the CSPN Scaling & Optimisation Programme where members highlighted the risks with regards to increased outages. A call for nominations was sent out, and elections for the Other SEC Party seat commenced. On Monday 14 October, Michael Snowden retains his seat and James Murphy will join the OPSG as an Other SEC Party representative.
- The Trust Centre Swap Out Issues Resolution Group (TIRG) had its inaugural meeting on Tuesday 17 September

2. Communications Transition Group (CTG)

The CTG has not met since the 09 September, its next meeting is Monday 21 October. Notable agenda items for discussion include:

- DCC update on the 4G CH&N programme, including updates on 4G WAN coverage assurance, Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification, CH charging, and the Live Service Criteria 1 and 2 timelines
- Joint DCC and DESNZ update on SMETS1 End of Life activities
- DCC update on the VMO2 CSP Central and South contract extension discussions
- SEGB update on the communications approach to the 4G transition, including the current industry approach and discussion on desired engagement

3. Technical Operations

3.1 TABASC 106 meeting

The TABASC 106 meeting was held on 3 October. The following topics were discussed:

DSP Programme

The DCC presented options for change management during implementation and proposed migration to the new DSP. The TABASC requested that SECAS provide information on modifications in flight, or on hold that would be impacted by the proposed DSP change related options. No comments were made regarding the DSP PID.

FSM High Level Designs

The DCC returned to the TABASC with an update on its progress with the Future Service Management High Level Designs, their approach to SEC changes and Design Build and Test plan. The TABASC requested that the DCC return with further information regarding Service User access and the scope and costs associated with accessing Single Sign-On functionality.

SMETS1 DCO Re-procurement

The DCC presented SMETS1 DCO Re-procurement and updated the TABASC on the programme status, preferred bidders, its impact on Users and their engagement plan.

Proposed DUIS Changes

DESNZ presented their consultation on proposed DUIS changes.

VMO2 Traffic Management Gateway Phase 2 Delivery

The DCC presented phase 2 of its VMO2 Traffic Management Gateway Delivery plan.

DNO Certificates

SECAS presented an update on the Operations Group Distribution Network Operators Certificates Issue.

3.2 Supplier Identified Issues

Failed prepayment vends and SMETS1 UTRN processes

DCC will bring an update on how Northbound prioritisation has affected N56 alerts to TABASC in November.

CSPN Issues

4FSK and Future Connectivity Strategy (FCS) updates will come to a future TABASC.

Alternative Technologies

Virtual WAN (V-WAN) is being discussed at TBDG and will be presented to TABASC when there is a significant update.

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 LSC

The DCC presented an update on the draft Live Service Criteria (LSC) for Communications Hubs and Networks (CH&N) requiring TAG approval. The TAG approved completion of Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) and Systems Integration testing (SIT) sub-criteria of the LSC.

CH&N UIT Testing Issues

The DCC presented an update on open Testing Issues (TIs) for CH&N User testing, which the TAG reviewed.

FSM Updates

The DCC presented an update on progress of the Future Service Management (FSM) programme, which the TAG noted. Subsequently, the DCC presented the FSM documentation plan which the TAG also noted.

November 2024 Test Completion

The DCC provided the November 2024 Test Completion Report (TCR), which the TAG approved.

SMETS1 FOC Enduring Key Rotation Approach to Testing

The DCC provided the approach to testing for Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification 1 (SMETS1) Final Operational Capability (FOC) enduring key rotation, which the TAG approved.

ECS MOC Secure UTRN Approach to Testing

The DCC provided the approach to testing for Elective Communications Service (ECS) Middle Operational Capability (MOC) Unique Transaction Reference Number (UTRN), which the TAG approved.

CSP N Scaling and Optimisation

The DCC presented an update on Communications Service Provider North (CSP N) Scaling and Optimisation (S&O), and the TAG approved the proposed variation in the agreed upon scope of testing.

3.3 Operations Group Highlights

The Operations Group met twice in the last month. The topics covered included the following:

Issues Review

SECAS proposed the closure of issues 94, 106, 107, 110 and 111 which was agreed by the OPSG. The DCC noted the improvements made so far with regards to Non-Communicating devices and highlighted the ongoing work with Users. The OPSG noted the positive progress made and asked that the DCC provide further insights on the root causes as part of its next planned update.

DCC Operational Update

The DCC presented the impacts and root causes of the two Major Incidents that occurred in September 2024, it noted that both INC000001208898 and INC000001209296 were Category 2. The

DCC also provided an update on the 1 October 2024 price change event where a Category 3 Incident occurred. The OPSG noted a requirement for the DCC to determine how the infrastructure allows for a higher volume of Service Requests (SRs) than the Service Providers can process.

Pre-Payment SMETS1 & SMETS2

The DCC noted that overall network performance for September 2024 had increased this month by around 27%. In relation to cohort performance Communications Service Provider North (CSPN), there is one cohort which is receiving support for an ongoing issue, otherwise the cohort success would be 96.7%.

Install & Commission Performance

The DCC shared information on I&C trend analysis highlighting that there had been a decrease in performance following the increase in July 2024 however, overall performance appeared to be relatively stable. DCC advised that the metric which had been applied had been implemented as a stopgap awaiting the implementation of [MP242 Change to Operational Metrics to Measure on Success](#). The DCC highlighted that due to this, the report did not necessarily reflect the actual operational performance of the process. The DCC asked Members for views on organising a workshop to discuss the best way to report I&C.

November 2024 SEC Release - Readiness Review

The DCC requested endorsement of the November 2024 Live Service Criteria (LSC). The OPSG endorsed that the release should be implemented as planned.

DSP Update

The DCC highlighted the PID content for the OPSG and the update was noted.

CSPN Update

The OPSG Chair provided an update on CSPN, noting that progress is positive and further detailed discussions will occur at the workshop session being held on Friday 11 October 2024. The OPSG highlighted the importance of focusing on metrics, measures and targets and receiving feedback from DCC on the CSPN/User site visits.

Public Key Infrastructure

The DCC provided an update on PKI-E and its proposed solution and impacts on Users and the SEC. The OPSG noted the presentation.

OPSG Risk Register Review

SECAS presented the updated OPSG risk register, the OPSG endorsed the escalated SEC Panel risks, noting that the 006 risk has progressed from a risk to an issue.

Elections update

SECAS provided the update on the OPSG elections, highlighting the new members and that voting for the Other SEC Party seat has now concluded. The OPSG noted the update.

Trust Centre Swap Out Issues Resolutions Group

The Trust Centre Swap Out Issues Resolution Group (TIRG) met once and for the first time on Tuesday 17 September.

The group discussed the Terms of Reference, the Chair provided an introduction to the subject area. DESNZ provided an update on the TCSO pilot consultation. The group also discussed all of the

Issues on the Log and agreed on meeting frequency, which will occur on the first Monday of each month, from the 4 November.

4. Security Sub-Committee and SMKI PMA

4.1 SSC Highlights

User Security Assessments

The SSC considered the findings from ten User Security Assessments and set the assurance and compliance status. The SSC reported the outcomes of the User Security Assessments to the SEC Panel, noting the instances where non-compliances have been reported and where SSC has requested a Remediation Plan.

DCC Service Provider Assessments

The SSC considered findings from one DCC CIO Security Assessment and set the assurance status. The SSC approved further amendments to the DCC Security Controls Framework (SCF) to include treatment of 'Obligations without supporting evidence'; and clarification of 'Secure deletion of data' as required by SEC Section G2.18.

DCC CIO Forward Look and Remediations

The DCC provided the SSC with an update on upcoming DCC CIO Assessments and the status of outstanding remediations.

Triage SCF

The SSC noted that the User CIO completed a review of the Triage SCF which was shared with SSC for approval and publication. The User CIO has incorporated the lessons learned from the first three security assessments of Triage Facility Providers. Changes have been made to provide clarity and ease of use for Users

- Consideration of the differences in the baseline level of information security knowledge
- Inclusion of context around how Triage Facilities operate in practice.

Some changes have also been made at the request of SSC or the SSC Chair such as including a requirement to notify SSC of a material change.

Network Operator Workshop

The SSC discussed the arrangements for a future Network Operator Workshop with documentation provided by SSC consultants, and the SSC provided feedback and approved the material to be shared with attendees prior to the workshop.

CPA Risk Review

The SSC Chair presented an update on CPA Risk Reviews and the SSC considered the risks highlighted by NCSC.

CPA Matters

The SSC Chair presented the SSC with an update on CPA Matters, including the draft agenda for the upcoming SCIRS meeting which the SSC approved. The SSC also approved changes to the SSC Guidance on Device Security Assurance and Triage to include a new Use Case 003A 'Change of Mode via a User Interface' and guidance on the deletion of security logs following Use Case 004 triage.

Future CPA Scheme Update

The SSC Chair and SECAS presented the SSC with an update on the Future CPA Scheme including the status of SEC regulations and progress in tendering for a CPA Scheme Operator.

Ofgem Consumer Consent Solution Consultation

The SSC Chair and SECAS presented the SSC with possible aspects for an SSC response to the Ofgem Consultation, and SSC Members provided feedback.

Security Incident Management Exercise Scope

The SSC Chair and SECAS requested the SSC to advise on the scope to be included in a Project Brief for Panel approval, and SSC Members provided feedback.

Security Architecture Review Scope

The SSC Chair and SECAS requested the SSC to advise on the scope of the SAD Review to be included in a Project Brief for Panel approval and SSC Members provided feedback.

Security Architecture Document (SAD)

The SSC Chair and SECAS requested the SSC to advise on the scope of requirements in a draft ITT being prepared for issue on 4th October and SSC Members provided feedback.

MP252, Solution for Returned Comms Hubs

The DCC presented the DCC's proposed solution for SECMP252 and SSC members provided feedback.

DCO Re-procurement

The DCC presented an update on the DCO Re-procurement.

4G CH&N: LSC1 Readiness Review 3

The DCC CIO presented the seventh CIO interim update to the SSC.

FIPS 140-3: Presentation 3 (SSC Conf 187/03)

The DCC presented the path to continued FIPS compliance under 140-3.

SSC Risk Assessment (RA10)

The SSC Consultant presented the SSC with an update on the SSC Risk Assessment and SSC Members undertook to provide feedback on the documentation.

Q3 Work Package

SECAS presented the SSC with the Q3 Work Package. The SSC noted the update and recommended the Q3 2024-25 Work Package for SECCo Board approval.

DCC DSP Re-procurement Down-Select of Preferred Bidders

The DCC presented an update on preferred bidders for each Lot of the DSP contract which is soon to expire.

DCC Updates

The SSC noted the following standing updates and reports provided by the DCC for security assurance monitoring:

- Post Commissioning Report
- Anomaly Detection Report

4.2 SSC CPA Issue Resolution Sub-Group (SCIRS)

MP168 (IKI File Signing for CPL entries)

The SCIRS Chair noted that the three-month transitional period for Manufacturers to use IKI Certificates to digitally sign Central Products List (CPL) submission files (if including a Hash) per the requirement in SEC Appendix Z Section 4.1 runs out on 14 October 2024 – the SEC requirement was implemented on 11 September 2023. After 14 October 2024, SECAS will only accept CPL submissions signed using IKI Certificates. The CPL Guidance Document v6.1 has been updated to reflect the new CPL file signing requirements.

Risk Review Update

SCIRS noted that NCSC have uploaded the latest documentation to the NCSC website on 11 September 2024 following conclusion of the pilot. NCSC noted that one outstanding point is guidance on the level of detail to include in the SAT. There is an opportunity to add guidance to the CPA Policies and Procedures being developed by the SSC. The SCIRS Chair noted that the SATs provided by several Manufacturers appear to be reasonably consistent. NCSC added that the Word version will continue to be accepted for 'in-flight' Risk Reviews alongside the new Excel spreadsheet.

Future CPA Scheme Update

SCIRS was provided with an update on the Future CPA Scheme. The SCIRS Chair noted that, assuming parliamentary approval of the DESNZ Statutory Instrument, the SEC will require the SSC to develop and maintain CPA Policies and Procedures. The document is proposed to be in three parts:

Part 1 explains the policy, the governance and how the Scheme operates in line with SEC Section G13 together with the formal compliance requirements for Manufacturers and Test Labs including definitions, descriptions and (to be added) templates of the forms and reports that are used;

Part 2 explains the requirements for Manufacturers to meet the mandatory CPA Build Standard; and

Part 3 explains the requirements of the Risk Review process that applies when a Device reaches its CPA Certificate expiry date or Risk Review date.

The existing CPA documentation (PPFGE, Build Standard etc) is being used as the base to ensure a smooth transition of CPA Scheme Ownership from NCSC to the SSC with updated terminology to reflect SEC terminology and to provide clarifications that have been requested by SSC and SCIRS members in recent months.

CPA Policies and Procedures – Part Two – CPA Build Standard

SCIRS noted the document adds a section at the start to clarify the Regulatory Context. The remainder of the document follows the existing Build Standard format, and includes clarifications on:

- Manufacturers' responsibility to maintain continued compliance with the Build Standard (including new or changed locations for product development);
- Adding 'and security vulnerabilities' to all references to 'flaws' to reflect SEC requirements

Part 3 (Risk Review Process) has been circulated to SCIRS members ahead of the SCIRS meeting on 14 October 2024.

SSC Guidance on Device Security Assurance and Triage

SCIRS noted approved changes to the SSC Guidance on Device Security Assurance and Triage, including a The SSC Guidance Document has been updated (changes highlighted in yellow) to take account of changes for:

- optional deletion of existing security and event logs during Use Case 004 Triage; and
- a new Use Case 003A to allow Change of Mode via a User Interface only after Use Case 003.

4.3 SMKI PMA

BS7858

The SMKI PMA discussed an apparent inconsistency in SEC references relating to BS7858, with particular reference to ARO nomination forms. SMKI PMA noted the update and agreed to clarify.

DCC Security Architecture Framework

The DCC provided the SMKI PMA with an update on the DCC Security Architecture Framework.

Apex Recovery Exercise

The DCC provided an update on the upcoming Apex Recovery Exercise.

SMKI PMA Work Package

SECAS presented the SMKI PMA with the Q3 Work Package. The SMKI PMA noted the update and recommended the Work Package for SECCo Board approval.

New Draft Proposals and Modification Proposals

SECAS presented the SMKI PMA with update on Draft Proposals (DPs) and Modification Proposals (MPs) the SMKI PMA had indicated an interest in, including:

- [MP169 'Managing SEC Obligations and the Consumer's Right to refuse a Smart Meter'](#) –
- [MP207 'Allowing Registered Supplier Agents to Maintain Meter Firmware'](#) [DP257 'DCC Management of Duplicate Messages'](#)
- [DP266 'Alternative SMETS1 UTRN Generation'](#)
- [DP267 'Facilitating the installation and commissioning of meters triaged under Use Case 004'](#)
- [MP268 'Certificate rotation and expired Certificates'](#)

4.4 Privacy Sub Committee

The seventh Privacy Sub-Committee (PSC) meeting was held on 26 September 2024 and was a Hybrid in-person/teleconference meeting.

Matters Arising

The PSC agreed to the proposed meeting dates for PSC in 2025.

Other User Privacy Assessments

The PSC considered the findings from one Other User Full User Privacy Assessment and agreed the compliance status. The PSC were presented with a recap of the Privacy Change Notification Process and approved an Other User Privacy Change Notification.

Digital Spine Feasibility Study

The PSC noted an update on the Digital Spine Feasibility Study and agreed to monitor the progress and outcomes of these consultations.

DCC Fuel Poverty Update

The PSC noted an update on the DCC Fuel Poverty Innovation project and provided feedback. The PSC agreed that the DCC could return to PSC in a couple of months to provide another update.

SEC EoD Process

The PSC was presented with an overview of the SEC Event of Default Process.

RECCo Theft Program

The PSC noted an update on the RECCo Theft Programme and provided feedback. The PSC agreed that RECCo should return to a future meeting to provide a further update.

DESNZ AI Risk Policy

The PSC noted an overview of a session hosted by DESNZ on AI Risk Policy presented by SECAS colleagues. PSC members who also attended the session provided their feedback.

AI Project Update

The PSC noted progress update on the PSC AI Project.

Risk Register Update

The PSC was presented with an update on the development of the Privacy Sub-Committee Risk Register.

Modifications Update

The PSC noted an update on the Privacy impacted SEC Modifications and provided feedback.

Ofgem Consumer Consent Solution Consultation

The PSC noted an update on the Ofgem Consumer Consent Solution Consultation and provided feedback. PSC invited Ofgem to return at a future PSC meeting and present further updates.

Standing Agenda Items

The PSC noted an update on the Forward Look. The PSC Chair appealed to members to consider volunteering for the Assurance sub-group, which will be initiated once the Risk Workshops have been completed.

5. SMDA Sub Committee

The 14th SMDA Sub-Committee (SMDASC) meeting will be held on 22 October 2024.

The outcome of the tender evaluation for the SMDA Testing Service Re-procurement will be presented and the SMDASC will be asked to agree to award the contract.

The SMDASC will also be asked to agree to create a SMDA Baseline Variation to include specific Network Operator tests and Emergency Credit scenarios driven by consumer expected behaviour. This is following the implementation of CRP602 into the November 2019 SEC Release, to approve the November 2024 SEC Release Impact Assessment and agree to uplift GSME Device Assurance from the 2019 to 2020 SEC Release Baseline.

The SMDASC will also be informed of the upcoming SMDA Sub-Committee Election in December 2024.

6. Recommendations

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

Rebecca Sawyer
SECAS Team
15 October 2024

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** Security non-compliances paper (**RED**)
- **Appendix B:** Post Commissioning Report (**RED**)