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Action:	For Information
Acronyms and Defined Terms SEC Glossary	

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.

- The DCC presented options for change management during implementation and proposed migration to the new Data Service Provider (DSP) and returned with an update on progress with the high-level designs for its Future Service Management (FSM) solution, with TABASC members requesting additional information on Service User Access and costs associated with accessing Single Sign-On functionality. DESNZ attended the meeting to update members on its consultation on proposed (DCC User Interface Specification) DUIS changes.
- At TAG, DCC presented an update on Communications Service Provider North (CSPN) Scaling & Optimisation (S&O), as well as updating the TAG that there had been no Testing Issues uncovered in User testing for the November 2024 SEC Release. Additionally, the DCC presented the CH&NH Live Service Criteria (LSC) for approval and the TAG agreed that LSC1 Criterion 3 had been successfully completed.
- OPSG met twice in October 2024, with CSPN discussion featuring prominently. Topics covered across the meetings including CSPN Scaling and Optimisation, with DCC updating on a change of date for new software deployment, moving to March 2025. The DCC also presented an update on the CSPN improvement activity noting that the metrics and measures, stating that a key focus is to drive initial improvements from 82.7% to 85% for the Comms Hub Birth to first Meter within 30 minutes. Finally, DCC presented an update on MP273 'DCC Users to provide demand forecasting' noting the submission process SEC Parties would need to use. The OPSG highlighted that it did not believe that the proposed solution was addressing the problem statement which is more focused on unpredictable network capacity demands from Other Users.

2. Communications Transition Group (CTG)

The CTG has met twice, on 21 October 2024 and 11 November 2024, since the previous SEC Sub-Committee Report was written.

DCC Update: 4G CH&N Programme Programme Update

The DCC presented an overview of the overall plan and provided updates on its programme risks and issues. The DCC highlighted the Comms Hubs Asset Providers Final Business Case submission in line with the Joint Industry Plan (JIP) Milestone of June 2025. They expect coverage assurance work to conclude in April 2025.

LSC Update

The DCC noted that the SEC Panel had agreed to write to DESNZ in support of a go-live recommendation for the Live Services Criteria 1. SECAS confirmed the letter would be sent to DESNZ on 11 November 2024.

ICHIS Testing Update

The DCC provided an update on the Intimate Communications Hubs Interface Specification (ICHIS) approach for Initial Pallet Validation (IPV) and confirmed the risk level does not warrant implementing any mitigating measures for IPV. The DCC noted the new Joint Industry Plan (JIP) Milestone for concluding work on Radio Frequency (RF) Noise engagement is 7 February 2025.

4G Comms Hub OBC Update

The DCC presented an update on the DCC's 4G charging methodology review and their work with the SEC modification Working Group, Change Sub-Committee, and Energy Suppliers on the Charging Review Modification (MP275). Ofgem has granted MP275 urgent status and intend to issue their decision before 14 February 2025.

DCC Update: SMETS1 End of Life

The DCC presented an update on SMETS1 End of Life (EoL) and are discussing compressing the timelines of the Outline Business Case submission with DESNZ. The CTG expressed dissatisfaction with the DCC's progress in returning to the CTG and addressing outstanding actions related to SMETS1 EoL.

DCC Update: VMO2 3G Sunsetting Trials Update

The DCC presented an update on the VMO2's 3G Sunsetting Trial Activity, which concluded in September 2024, and the VMO2's 3G shutdown plan and Traffic Management Gateway delivery. The DCC noted that it would return to CTG in February 2025 with further updates.

CTG Overall Transition Plan (OTP) Update

The CTG **APPROVED** the baselining of the OTP as v1.9 **AGREED** to baseline the unchanged Plan-On-A-Page as v1.9 to align with the OTP.

CTG Risks and Issues Register Monthly Update

The CTG **NOTED** changes made to the CTG Risks and Issues Register and **AGREED** to the baselining of the Risk and Issues Register draft as v19.0.

Factsheets Update

The CTG **NOTED** changes made to the CTG Factsheets and **AGREED** to the baselining of the Amber Factsheets as v4.4 and Green Factsheets as v2.4.

Smart Energy GB Update

Smart Energy GB (SEGB) provided an update on SEGB's approach and engagement for the 4G transition, noting ongoing engagement with DESNZ on the role of SEGB going forward. SEGB expressed a willingness to engage further with Industry and agreed to set up bilateral meetings with CTG Energy Supplier members to get early input on the approach.

3. Technical Operations

3.1 TABASC 106 meeting

The TABASC 106 meeting was held on 3 October 2024.

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 that should be impacted by the new DSP.

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.

DCO Re-procurement Update

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.

VMO2 TMG Phase 2 Delivery

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

DUIS Consultation

DESNZ presented their consultation on proposed DUIS changes.

3.1.1 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 once during the last month to discuss the following topics in addition to the regular testing updates:

CH&N UIT Testing Issues

The DCC presented an overview of Testing Issues (TIs) uncovered in the User Integration Testing (UIT) Test Phase of Communications Hubs and Networks (CH&N), and the TAG approved the proposed Severity ratings for the TIs presented.

CSP N Scaling and Optimisation

The DCC presented an update on Communications Service Provider North (CSP N) Scaling & Optimisation (S&O), including changing to the scope of the approach to testing agreed at TAG 115, and the TAG approved the variation in scope to the approach to testing.

FSM Documentation Plan

The DCC presented an update on the FSM documentation and governance timeline which the TAG noted.

CH&N LSC

The DCC presented the CH&NH LSC for approval and the TAG agreed that LSC1 Criterion 3 had been successfully completed.

EOC and Functional Regression Testing

The DCC presented its proposal for changes to End of Cycle (EOC) and functional regression testing the TAG noted the proposed changes.

FSM TAD Overview

The DCC provided the FSM Testing Approach Document (TAD) for review and the TAG noted the update.

TMG Programme Update

The DCC presented an update on the 3G sunsetting Traffic Management Gateway (TMG) programme which the TAG noted the update.

TMG Phase 1 Approach to Testing

The DCC provided the updated approach to testing for Phase 1 of the TMG which the TAG approved the changes to the regression testing approach.

TMG Phase 2 TAD

The DCC provided the TAD for Phase 2 of the TMG and the TAG **NOTED** the update on the TAD.

TAF Update

The DCC presented an update on aspects of the Test Automation Framework (TAF) and TAG noted the update.

TMG SIT TCR

The DCC provided the TMG Systems Integration Testing (SIT) Test Completion Report (TCR) and the TAG approved SIT completion for TMG.

November 2024 SEC Release UIT TIs

The DCC informed the TAG that there had been no TIs uncovered in User testing for the November 2024 SEC Release and TAG noted the update.

Artificial Intelligence Utilisation in Testing Project Brief

SECAS provided the Project Brief for a proposed project to investigate Artificial Intelligence (AI) utilisation in testing. The TAG agreed the Scope and Deliverables of the Artificial Intelligence Utilisation in Testing Project Brief and recommended the scope of the project for SEC Panel approval.

Risk TAG011 (Overlapping of Test Phases)

SECAS presented the draft of risk TAG011 ('Overlapping of Test Phases for releases and programmes'). The TAG reviewed the risk and approved the inclusion of the risk on the risk register.

3.3 Operations Group Highlights

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

CSPN Scaling & Optimisation

The DCC presented an update on the CSPN Radio Network Interface (RNI) Software version CB7 deployment Planned Maintenance derogation, noting that the content has not changed, only the date has changed, to 8 March 2025. The OPSG raised concerns around any last-minute change of dates and the impact of pausing firmware downloads for up to five days ahead of the change being implemented. The DCC advised that it had its contingency dates which were weeks ahead and would provide updates to OPSG if any further delays were going to occur.

DCO Update

The DCC provided an update on the DCO Programme, stating that the final business case had been submitted to DESNZ in October 2024 and that the FBC would be on track to be shared with industry at the SEC Panel meeting on 26 November 2024. The DCC advised that it would provide OPSG with a more detailed implementation plan once it had progressed further in December 2024. The OPSG noted the update.

MP273 – DCC Users to provide demand forecasting

The DCC presented an update noting the submission process SEC Parties would need to use. The OPSG highlighted that it did not believe that the proposed solution was addressing the problem statement which is more focused on unpredictable network capacity demands from Other Users. The OPSG Chair noted that MP273 would be taken to Panel at the next SEC Panel meeting on 26 November 2024 for further discussion as there are a number of related issues being progressed by other SEC Sub-Committees.

Work Package: Q2 2024/25 Look Back and Q4 2024/25 Look Forward

SECAS presented the update highlighting that OPSG's SECAS resource costs came under budget for Q3 2024/2025 and expected to be under budget again for Q4 2024/2025. The OPSG endorsed the Q4 2024/25 look forward.

3.3.1 Supplier Identified Issues

Issues Review

SECAS provided an update on the incorrect DNO security certificates issue and noted that the number had now breached 1% threshold across the industry once more. The OPSG Chair requested that Suppliers focus on working through these in order to resolve them. The DCC provided an update on non-communicating devices and the OPSG discussed concerns regarding the reporting, including a gap with non-communicating GSMEs. The DCC agreed to provide a footnote in the report, to represent the gap and that it is being worked on.

DCC Operational Update

The DCC presented the impacts and root causes of the two Category 2 Major Incidents that occurred in October 2024. The DCC noted that they were both as a result of change and were attributed to human error. The DCC provided a summary on Rolling Major Incidents, highlighting that everything that could have a risk of causing an outage would be implemented within a high impact maintenance window. The DCC stated the network performance for October has remained stable from the previous month in terms of Prepayment SMETS1 and SMETS2.

CSPN Update

The DCC presented an update on the CSPN improvement activity noting that the metrics and measures for reporting progress on the CSPN improvement activity was agreed in the recent workshop held with large suppliers. The DCC stated that a key focus is to drive initial improvements from 82.7% to 85% for the Comms Hub Birth to first Meter within 30 minutes. The DCC provided an Install Success Initiatives Update, noting that 28 Postcodes had now been removed from the CSPN WAN coverage database. The OPSG Chair stated that given the updates, OPSG members are more comfortable with the measures now that they have been explained.

Business Process Indicator (BPI) Reporting

The DCC discussed Pre-Payment, noting that it had seen the volume of Service Reference Variances (SRVs) increase. The DCC advised that the small drop in August 2024 on the Pre-Payment Waterfall was as the result of the failed validation bucket, and the DCC noted that it remains engaged with the relevant Service User on this. The DCC advised that the issue that caused the problem still exists, but the User had changed their behaviour to limit the amount of validation errors being seen. The DCC requested that if any OPSG Member who operates in FOC has a concern around this validation failure of S1C2004, to advise the DCC, so that a call can be organised to discuss further if required.

The DCC highlighted that within the various metrics that it uses to measure Install and Commission, there are many things that are outside of its visibility. The DCC highlighted the importance of receiving failed installation data from Users to support the accuracy of its metrics and the OPSG Chair agreed and encouraged OPSG Members provide this data and support to the DCC. The DCC asked whether OPSG Members could provide this data for the foreseeable future.

4. Security Sub-Committee and SMKI PMA

4.1 SSC Highlights

User Security Assessments

The SSC considered the findings from four 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 and / or the Panel to consider an Event of Default.

DCC Service Provider Assessments

The SSC considered findings from one DCC CIO Security Assessment and set the assurance status.

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, noting the instances where non-compliances have been persistently delayed and where SSC has requested the Panel to consider an Event of Default.

Network Operator Workshop

The SSC was presented the latest updates from the Electricity Network Operators following the ENA cancellation of the Workshop planned for 16 October 2024.

Future CPA Scheme

The SSC reviewed an update on the Future CPA Scheme, including an ITT progress update and approved a recommendation to the SEC Panel for the preferred bidder and a Project Brief for DECAS support to the Scheme Operator. The SSC also noted progress on the CPA Policies and Procedures document and approved the latest version.

Shared Resource Provider 'G' Architecture

The SECAS Security Expert shared an updated diagram of Shared Resource Provider 'G's User System Architecture to evidence separation which the SSC noted.

User SCF

SECAS presented the latest updates to the User SCF to cover the approach for the MDR role Assessments and in relation to ARO screening and clarification regarding G3.22 and the Cryptographic Module holding SMKI Secret Key Material and the SSC approved them for publication.

Quantum Computing Project Brief Scope

The SSC Chair and SECAS presented the scope for the proposed Quantum Computing Project and the SSC provided feedback prior to submission of the Project Brief to the SEC Panel for approval.

PKI-E: Engagement on FBC Content

The DCC provided information on PKI-E's consideration of User needs, User impacts, and costs which form part of the FBC and the SSC provided feedback.

PKI-E: Solution User Impact Assessment

The DCC provided information on PKI-E's proposed solution, its impacts on Users and the SEC and the SSC provided feedback.

DSP: PID

The DCC presented an update on the DSP Project Initiation Document and the SSC raised an action related to the timing of the DCC CIO assessment of the proposed design stage.

DSP Migration Security Walkthrough

The DCC provided the SSC with an overview of the DSP migration approach and the SSC provided feedback and requested sight of a number of additional security artefacts.

FSM CIO Scope Approval

The DCC updated the SSC on Future Service Management DCC CIO Scope proposals, and the SSC provided feedback.

FSM Security Architecture Update

The DCC updated the SSC on security architecture issues relating to the implementation of FSM and SSC provided feedback.

4G CH&N: LSC 1 - Final Review

The DCC presented the SSC with the final review of CH&N: LSC 1 and the SSC approved the Letter of Recommendation to the SEC Panel for approval of the IPV subject to ongoing remediation of outstanding items.

SSC Risk Assessment (RA10)

The SSC Chair presented the SSC with an update on the tracking of recommendations from the 10th SSC Risk Assessment and the SSC provided feedback.

Quarterly Standards Review

The SECAS Security Expert presented the SSC with updates on the Quarterly Standards Review.

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)

SCIRS Chair reminded SCIRS members 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.

SECAS informed SCIRS that most Manufacturers have obtained their Tokens, and the bulk of the remaining Manufacturers who haven't have indicated that they don't intend to provide any new CPL submissions until they obtain theirs. The DCC will work with individual Manufacturers to onboard them to enable them to digitally sign a CPL submission using SMKI IKI token.

Future CPA Scheme Update

SCIRS was informed on 14 October that the proposed SEC changes are expected to be implemented on 21 October 2024 after laying in parliament and that DESNZ consulted on 3 October on the CPA Transitional Approach Document.

Future CPA Scheme – CPA Policies and Procedures: Part One & Part Two

SCIRS was informed that, assuming parliamentary approval of the DESNZ SEC changes, the SEC requires the SSC to develop and maintain CPA Policies and Procedures which is being brought to SCIRS for review

The existing NCSC 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. SCIRS Members were provided with the updated documents prior to the meeting and were invited to provide any final comments by 21 October 2024.

SSC Guidance on Device Security Assurance and Triage

SCIRS Members had previously been updated on two Use Case queries from industry relating to the optional deletion of existing security and event logs during Use Case 004 Triage, and to a new Use Case 003A to allow Change of Mode via a User Interface only after Use Case 003. The updated SSC Guidance on Device Security Assurance and Triage Part 2 has been uploaded to the SEC website.

Use Case 005 (Comms Hub Reset) Update

SCIRS was informed that the changes to the Triage Security Characteristics Overlay document and the associated SSC Guidance for Use Case 005 (4G Comms Hub Refurbishment) have been drafted and are currently being reviewed.

4.3 SMKI PMA

Revocation of SMKI User Interface Testing (UIT) Certificates

The SMKI PMA endorsed an ex-committee approval by the SMKI PMA Chair for the DCC to revoke the SMKI User Interface Testing (UIT) Certificates for a SEC Party after it was expelled from the SEC.

PKI-E: Engagement on FBC Content (DCC)

The DCC presented an overview of the full business case (FBC) content for the Public Key Infrastructure – Enduring (PKI-E) programme, and the SMKI PMA noted no objections.

PKI-E: Solution User Impact Assessment

The DCC presented an update on the User Impact Assessment for the proposed solution for the PKI-E programme and the SMKI PMA provided feedback.

DSP: Project Initiation Document

The DCC presented the Data Service Provider (DSP) Project Initiation Document (PID) and the SMKI PMA provided feedback.

Apex Recovery Exercise

The DCC presented a verbal update on the upcoming Apex Recovery Exercise which the SMKI PMA noted.

IKI Certification Practice Statement - Vetting Amendment

The DCC CIO presented an update on the vetting arrangements in the Infrastructure Key Infrastructure (IKI) Certification Practice Statement (CPS) document and the SMKI PMA provided feedback.

SMKI PMA Risk Register

SECAS presented the SMKI PMA Risk Register and the SMKI PMA agreed on amendments to the risks.

4.4 Privacy Sub Committee

The eighth Privacy Sub-Committee (PSC) meeting was held on 17 October 2024.

In-Flight Assessments

SECAS provided the PSC with an overview of In-Flight Assessments, Remediation Plans and a Forward Look.

PCF Updates

SECAS provided PSC with an overview of changes made to v2.13 of the Privacy Controls Framework (PCF) which included:

- amendments to the timeframes within the assessment process;
- references to 'SEC Panel' being amended to 'Privacy Sub-Committee; and
- alignment of wording to align with approach taken in the Security Controls Framework.

The PSC approved the changes to the Privacy Controls Framework; and agreed that v2.13 can be published subject to consultation with Industry in accordance with SEC12.16.

MP235 Data Items Review

SECAS provided an overview on MP235 Data Items review. The PSC provided feedback and agreed that there was a requirement to clarify the definition of personal data with the Information Commissioner Office (ICO), with additional clarification needed on the appropriate treatment of the SRVs proposed to be included in the OU role under the MOD, the impacts on SEC I and the assurance approach. SECAS will liaise with the ICO and provide an update at PSC 09 in November.

Data Access Service Providers

The DCC provided the PSC with an overview of Data Access Service Providers (Other Users).

AI Project Risks Update

SECAS presented the PSC with an update on the AI Project. The SECAS Privacy Experts confirmed the report is currently undergoing further internal reviews and will be presented at PSC 09.

Modifications Update

SECAS presented PSC with an update on Modifications and the PSC provided feedback.

5. SMDA Sub Committee

The SMDASC Call for nomination was closed on 19 November 2024 and the results will be communicated to SEC Parties.

The next meeting will be held on 10 December 2024. The SMDASC will be updated on the final stage of SMDA Testing Services Procurement, progress on the preparations for 4G Communication Hub compatibility test approach, the scope of Future Data Use Case testing along with a recommendation for implementing additional prepayment related tests into the SMDA Testing Baselines following recent industry engagement.

The Scheme Operator has also been approached by Network Operators to investigate potential options to provide independent testing that could deliver greater insights into the voltage accuracy of smart metering devices deployed. This is being explored as a possible alternative solution to [MP165](#) “[ESME Voltage Accuracy](#)”.

6. Recommendations

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

Rebecca Sawyer

SECAS Team

19 November 2024

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** User Security Assessments – Identified Non-Compliances (**RED**).
- **Appendix B:** DCC Security Non-Compliances Paper (**RED**).
- **Appendix C:** Post Commissioning Report (**RED**).