

February 2026 SEC Sub-Committee Report

The monthly Sub-Committee report provides the SEC Panel and Parties with an update on recent activities from the Panel's Sub-Committees, including key topics discussed, risks and issues, and change items.

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Section 1 of this report '[Key Sub-Committee topics](#)' provides an overview of the Sub-Committees' activities on the key topics which have been discussed across several Sub-Committees during the last month. This month's key topics are:

1. [Device Issues Management](#)
2. [4G Communications Hubs and Networks \(4G CH&N\)](#)
3. [Data Services Provider \(DSP\)](#)
4. [Outage Management](#)
5. [Future Service Management \(FSM\)](#)
6. [SMETS1](#)
7. [Virtual Wide Area Network \(VWAN\)](#)

Section 2 '[SEC Change](#)' provides an update on the progress of SEC Modifications and the recent and upcoming decisions of the Change Board (CB) and Change Sub-Committee (CSC) under delegated authority from the Panel.

Section 3 '[Sub-Committee Activities](#)' provides details of any discussion held by the Sub-Committees that have met during the last month which are not included in the Section 1 Key Sub-Committee topics.

The Sub-Committees that have met during the last month are:

- [The Testing Advisory Group \(TAG\)](#)
- [The Operations Group \(OPSG\)](#)
- [Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee \(TABASC\)](#)
- [The Security Sub-Committee \(SSC\)](#)
- [Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority \(SMKI PMA\)](#)
- [Performance Assurance Board \(PAB\)](#)
- [Customer Challenge Group \(CCG\)](#)
- [Privacy Sub-Committee \(PSC\)](#)

1. Key Sub-Committee topics

Topic	Sub-Committee activities
Device Issues <i>Including any issues identified with installed Smart Metering Systems and Communication Hubs.</i>	SMKI PMA: DCC updated the SMKI PMA on the investigation into the incorrect National Grid Gas Certificates on Devices and addressed the related actions, noting that the root cause analysis is still ongoing. OPSG: The OPSG noted the forecasted volume of Non-Communicating Devices to the end of the financial year, and that there was likely to be a 0.05% decline based on current figures: ➤ DCC reviewed the 4G CH Returns Data for 2025, identified a high proportion of no-fault and pending returns, and agreed to discuss root causes and process improvements during the CH Returns Workshop on 13 February 2026. ➤ The OPSG discussed possible causes for CHs being returned in 'Pending' state, including firmware-related Light Emitting Diode (LED) behaviour seen by field engineers on 4G CHs leading to returns with no fault found. ➤ DCC confirmed that it is working with Supplier Parties and engineers to investigate further and will share an update at the CH Returns Workshop. ➤ The OPSG supported DCC's proposal to continue deeper analysis of the downward performance trends for Change of Supplier (CoS) and Install and Commission (I&C) performance within Communication Service Provider (CSP) North and expected further updates on root causes and remediation plans. ➤ The OPSG noted that detailed conversations would be picked in the Non-Operating Device Investigation (NODI) group Sub-Group.

Communications Hubs and Networks (CH&N)

The DCC CH&N programme is aimed at delivering future-proof Communications Hubs (CHs) & Networks with an efficient supply chain by introducing new CHs which use the 4G network.

TABASC: DCC presented its interim in-life assurance findings for the 4G Wide Area Network (WAN) estate, using real-world data across large population samples to validate coverage accuracy and network performance:

- DCC reported improved service success rates indicating strong connectivity where 4G CHs are deployed.
- The TABASC noted the robust dataset but highlighted the importance of recognising both areas where 4G is not yet installable, and areas where coverage is not indicated but is achieved.
- DCC presented an initial assessment of issues with the current WAN Coverage Checker, highlighting customer feedback, and proposed a SEC Modification to deliver changes to the 4G Coverage Checker.
- The TABASC broadly agreed with the proposals and questioned the geographic variations in coverage accuracy.
- The TABASC asked for clarification on specific Modifications that would be required to the SEC and suggested that the Modification Proposal should be designed to ensure that future updates can be made without the need to raise further Modifications Proposals.
- The TABASC supported the SEC Modification Proposal.

OPSG: DCC presented a summary of the In-Life WAN Assurance Report, noting the report will be shared with the OPSG for feedback, and will be used to inform network optimisation:

- The OPSG discussed the shortcomings with the current coverage checker and established the need for further workshops and conversations to create solution pathways to overcome the significant challenges impacting SEC Parties.
- DCC presented two technical solutions to close the remaining coverage gap and achieve the target 99.25% coverage, and discussed the associated costs, risk variables and timelines of each option.
- The OPSG raised concerns about who should bear the cost of additional solutions and emphasised the need for transparent governance and cross-industry collaboration through special interest groups and the OPSG.
- The OPSG did not agree with DCC's recommendations for decision.

Data Services Provider (DSP)

The DCC's Data Services Provider (DSP) system is a central facility that controls the flow of messages to and from smart metering equipment.

The contract for the current DSP solution is set to expire in 2028, and the DSP Programme will implement a range of replacement and new capabilities, along with the migration of Devices from the current DSP to the new DSP solution.

TABASC: The DCC presented the six-month engagement view leading to the Release 1 consultation and confirmed that change-marked artefacts (data and component models) will be shared at each programme increment:

- The TABASC noted the intent for Members to shape draft consultation content before formal publication.
- DCC reminded TABASC of the change to DCC Connect commencing in March and brought forward proposals for descopeing little used functionality from DSP2 prior to consultation.
- TABASC requested further information on cost reduction and decision deadlines.
- DCC further noted that it will bring forward an options paper on Device migration from DSP1 to DSP2 that will cover technical choices and discarded alternatives prior to June 2026.
- The TABASC requested that the options paper be provided for comment prior to DCC making any decisions to allow the TABASC to advise on the options. TABASC agreed that action TABASC105/01 should remain open.
- Following a query from the TABASC, the DCC confirmed that assurance activity is in place to ensure DSP2 does not degrade SMETS1 Unique Transaction Reference Number (UTRN) generation performance and advised that further updates will be brought back to the TABASC as soon they become available.

TAG: DCC presented the outcomes of the Future DSP SEC Variation Test Approach Document (SVTAD) Consultation which closed on 19 December 2026, which the TAG noted:

- DCC also summarised the changes made to the on Release 2 Future DSP Test Approach Document (TAD) for Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) and requested feedback from TAG by Friday 6 February 2026.

OPSG: DCC sought OPSG approval to include two six-hour additional Planned Maintenance to support DCC Connect cutover phases:

- The OPSG noted that it would check on the operational impacts of the requested additional Planned Maintenance and provide this information to DCC.

Service outage management

Under the SEC service outages are categorised as either Planned Maintenance, Unplanned Maintenance, or BCDR testing.

The DCC publishes an [annual outage plan](#) to provide Users with advance notice.

OPSG: The OPSG reviewed the Category 1 Major Incident (MI) report relating to Data Service Provider (DSP) services on 6 November 2025:

- The OPSG approved the Major Incident Review Report.
- DCC noted the stability of Prepayment performance and that recent MIs had not materially impacted overall service levels, and that there had not been any other significant performance variations in the Business Process performance.
- DCC provided an update on the Annual Outage Plan, advising that the plan had been reissued with amendments following feedback and included DCC Connect additional Planned Maintenance.
- DCC highlighted that user feedback from the OPSG had been incorporated into the Annual Outage Plan, specifically the need for more advance notice for the cancellation of any proposed Contingency HIW dates, to reduce wasted planning efforts by DCC Users.
- DCC presented a revised version of the DCC's High Impact Window (HIW) Schedule for the DCC Connect programme, focusing on options that included avoiding proximity to the April 2026 price change event.
- The OPSG agreed to the baselining of the 2026 – 2027 Annual Outage Plan as baselined v1.0

DCC presented the January Performance Summary including the aggregated SMETS1 and SMETS2 meter volumes, one Category 2 MI impacting SMETS1 Initial Operating Capability (IOC) and an update on internal workstreams that DCC is progressing in readiness for the implementation of Ofgem's Smart Guaranteed Standards of Performance (GSoP) Regulations.

Future Service Management (FSM)

The support contract for the current Service Management solution, used to request DCC services, raise Incidents, and access reporting and diagnostics information, is due to expire in October 2025 and The Future Service Management (FSM) Programme will procure and implement a replacement solution.

TAG: The DCC updated the TAG of the progress of User Testing, ongoing access issues and any open defects, which the TAG noted.

OPSG: The DCC provided an update on progress toward the implementation of FSM, including testing activity, readiness planning and the proposed approach to transition into live operations:

- The OPSG the level of transparency and assurance around how defects were being prioritised, mitigated and owned, and whether sufficient evidence existed to demonstrate that workarounds were robust, operationally understood and sustainable in business-as-usual conditions.
- The OPSG requested that enhanced readiness evidence be brought back for further scrutiny, including updated defect status, ageing trends, mitigation effectiveness and confirmation of operational acceptance criteria, prior to any Go-Live endorsement being considered.
- The OPSG agreed that FSM readiness would remain under active review, with no endorsement of Go-Live at this stage.

SMETS1

First-generation smart meters, also known as SMETS1 (Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications v 1).

Many SMETS1 meters have now been incorporated into the DCC ecosystem to increase the functionality they provide when a consumer changes their energy supplier.

SMKI PMA: DCC presented an update on the Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS) 1 Final Operating Capability (FOC) and Middle Operating Capability (MOC) Documentations and the changes:

- The SMKI PMA agreed the next steps.

TAG: DCC presented an update on the FOC Clock Change User Integration Testing (UIT) Final Position, which the TAG noted:

- DCC also presented an update on SMETS1 Scheduled Service Reference Variants (SRV) Batching UIT Final Position, which the TAG noted.

OPSG: DCC provided an update on the performance and stability of the FOC service, including recent operational trends and areas of ongoing focus.

- The OPSG noted that overall service performance remained stable, with no Major Incidents since October 2025.
- DCC advised that ongoing monitoring and operational controls would be reported to the TABASC.

Virtual Wide Area Network (VWAN)

Some consumers' premises fall outside of cellular/radio WAN coverage provided by the DCC network. These are known as 'no WAN' premises.

The DCC has been DESNZ to develop the Virtual WAN (VWAN) solution to address this issue using a consumer's internet service to provide a connection to the DCC network.

TABASC: The TABASC raised a query on specific security scenarios regarding VWAN Devices, which was referred to the Security Sub-Committee.

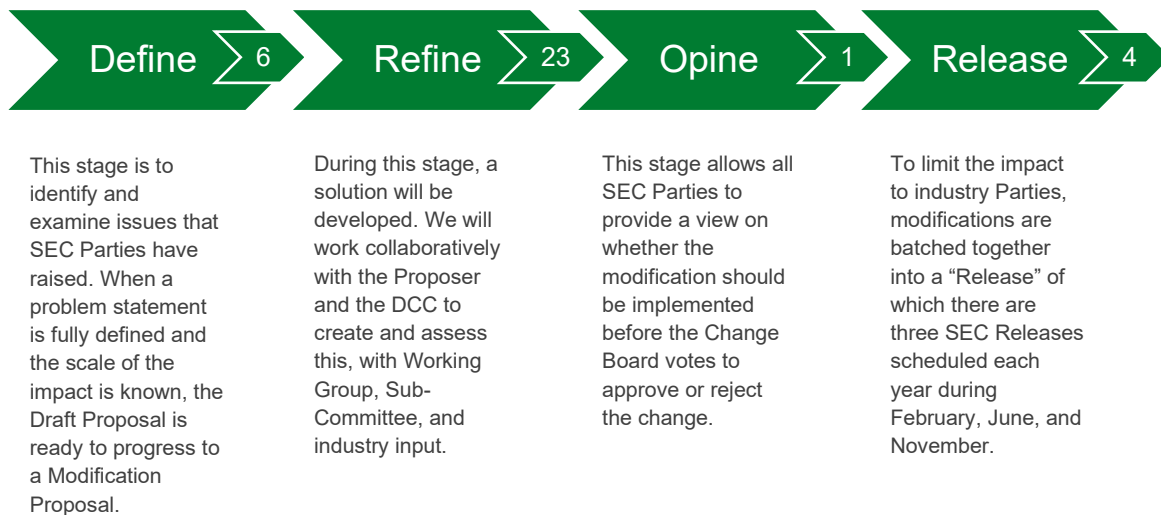
TAG: The DCC presented an update on the VWAN Live Service Criteria (LSC), including the request for conditional approval to support changes to DCC Systems to go-live on 29 January 2026:

- The TAG agreed conditional approval, subject to the successful outcome of User Testing and confirmation that recent fixes have not impacted existing 4G functionality.
- The DCC presented an update on the VWAN Communication Hubs (CHs) LSC.
- The TAG approved that the LSC had been met, enabling Soft Launch to begin on 11 February for participating Users.

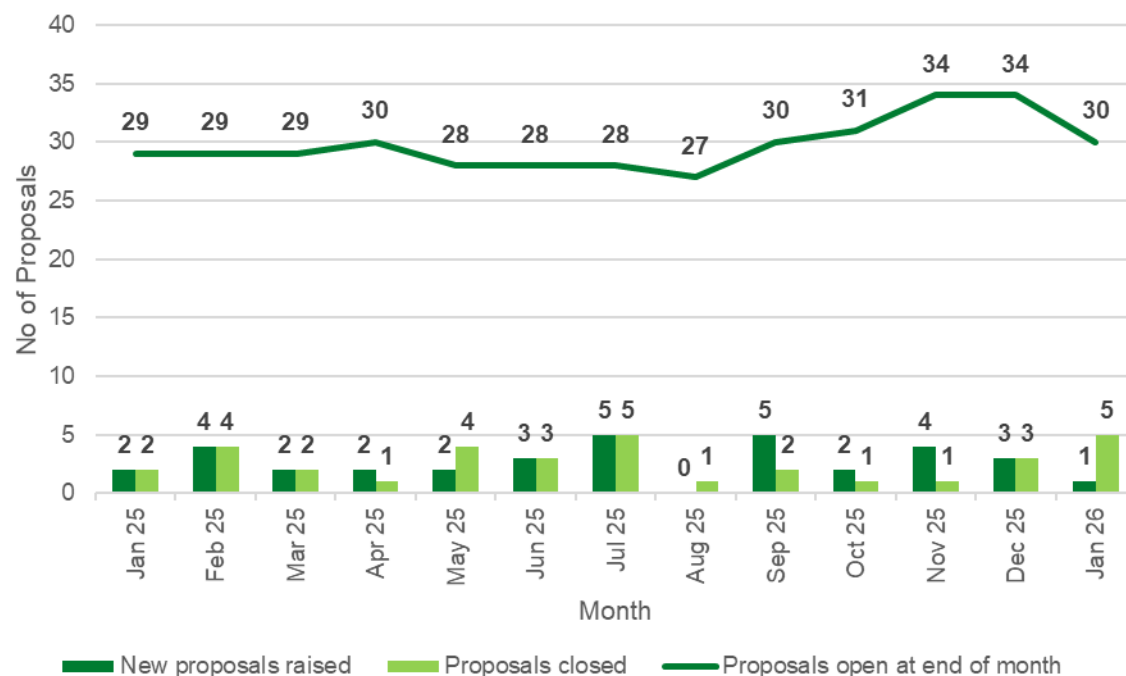
2. SEC Change

2.1 Overview

Number of proposals in each stage of the modification framework:



Volume of proposals going through the modification framework:



2.2 Modification updates and points to note

Modification	Priority	Update
MP169 'Managing the Consumers refusal of a Smart Meter'	HIGH	A Request for Information (RfI) has been issued to gather information about how this issue is currently managed. The responses are being considered by the Proposer. SEC is holding bilateral discussions with Parties, Ofgem, DESNZ, Citizens Advice and the Ombudsman to find a way forward. This Modification Proposal was expected to move to Report in January 2026 but has now been delayed to June 2026.
MP218 'Review of the SEC Charging Methodology'	HIGH	This Modification Proposal is in the Refinement Process. SEC is working with the Proposer and the DCC on the next steps.
MP255 'WAN issues during Smart Meter installations'	HIGH	SEC is working with the DCC to assess the develop the business requirements.
MP293 'Deferment of DCC Planned Maintenance during Adverse Weather'	HIGH	SEC received the DCC Preliminary Assessment on 6 February 26. We will schedule this modification for discussion at the March Working Group session.
MP300 'Additional Operational Metrics to Measure on Success'	HIGH	SEC presented this Modification Proposal to the Working Group on 3 December 2025. The feedback from the Working Group will be incorporated into the Modification report before we agree the next steps with the Proposer.
MP302 'Supplier Alerts for ENOs'	HIGH	On 16 September 2025, the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) agreed for this Modification Proposal to enter the Refinement Process. We will work with the DCC and the Proposer to develop Business Requirements before presenting the modification to the TABASC and the OPSG.
MP312 'Caching SRV 4.10 for SMETS1 devices'	VERY HIGH	This Modification Proposal is currently undergoing Refinement Consultation which closes on 13 February 2026. The proposal and the consultation responses will then be presented to the CSC in February to move to Report Phase.

2.3 Change Sub-Committee decisions – December 2025

Modifications approved as Fast Track Modification:

- [MP314 'Housekeeping Changes for February 2026 SEC Release'](#)

2.4 Change Board decisions – December 2025

Change Board - Approved:

- [MP304 'Scheduling Services for SMETS1 Devices \(SRV 4.3\)'](#)

Authority determined Modifications – Approved:

- [MP311 'Additional Out of Region Communications Hubs Amendments'](#)

2.5 SEC versions issued and designations:

SEC versions issued:

SEC v131.0 is expected to go live on 26 February 2026 to implement the February 2026 SEC Release.

2.6 Cross-Code working

Code Administration Code of Practice (CACoP) Forum update

The latest CACoP forum meeting took place on 11 December 2025. No new meeting date has been confirmed yet. SEC expects a meeting to be held by National Energy System Operator (NESO) during March 2026.

Cross Code Steering Group (CCSG) update

The CCSG last met 3 November 2025. There were no new issues identified impacting from changes from other codes or vice versa.

3. Sub-Committee activities

Testing Advisory Group (TAG)

The TAG supports the Panel with obligations in relation to testing activities, including providing advice and making decisions on all aspects DCC SIT and User Testing Services (UTS).

The TAG has met three times since the previous SEC Sub-Committee Report, on 21 January, 28 January, and 11 February to discuss the following topics:

Continuous Improvement

The DCC presented the Continuous Improvement/Change Delivery Approach (CI/CD) pipeline for integrated testing environments to increase automation and improve consistency, which the TAG noted.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The DCC outlined the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools developed and discussed the potential use of AI within testing environments, which the TAG noted.

SMETS 2

The DCC presented SMETS2 Scheduled Read Optimisation UIT Final Position, which the TAG noted.

GBCS 4.2

The DCC presented the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) 4.2 Communication Hubs (CH) 1 UIT Update, which the TAG noted.

Operations Group (OPSG)

The OPSG focuses on cross-industry matters that affect, or have the potential to affect, multiple SEC Parties. The OPSG has met twice since the previous SEC Sub-Committee Report, on 26 January and 10 February, and discussed the following topics:

Risk Management

SEC Industry Operations provided an update on the Risk and Issues, including the downgrading of R007: S1 FOC Performance, due to a successful fix being implemented by the DCC. SEC Industry Operations shared an update on the ongoing work in the NODI group and noted that a regular NODI update will be provided to the OPSG monthly going forward. The OPSG agreed to the baselining of the RAID Log as baselined v14.0.

Reporting

The OPSG reviewed the SEC Panel appendices, including:

- The RDP Monthly Incident Report V1.0 December 2025
- The DCC Quarterly Problem Report_V1.0 October 2025
- The Responsible Communications Hub Returns Quarterly Report
- The SR Forecast Variance Report Q2 2025

The OPSG approved all reports.

Manufacturing Pack 2 (MP2)

The DCC provided an update on the Manufacturing Pack 2 (MP2) programme, seeking OPSG endorsement of the proposed LSC to support progression toward live operations. The OPSG recognised that the structured sharing of test evidence had materially strengthened collective understanding of MP2 readiness. The OPSG endorsed the LSC and requested an update in 3-6 months on the enduring operational position.

Guaranteed Standards of Performance (GSoP)

The OPSG Chair provided an update on progress against GSoP activity and highlighted that there may be a delay to the next phase of the project pending further information from the DCC and the outcome of the Ofgem consultation.

The OPSG discussed the practicalities of the implementation of GSoP 3 and the risk of inconsistent interpretation by Suppliers. SEC Industry Operations requested Members provide examples of clarifications required from Ofgem in relation to GSoP obligations and agreed to coordinate discussions with Ofgem to clarify expectations to help deliver Industry alignment.

2G

The OPSG Chair provided an update on the ongoing management of 2G CHs within the North region and the associated remediation and replacement activity.

The OPSG noted the increasing replacement trajectory but accepted that this needed to increase further to meet the CSP Central and South (C&S) contract end date of 1 June 2026.

3G

The SEC Industry Operations Team confirmed that no operational impacts were currently being observed by the DCC and that no issues had been raised by Suppliers to date. Members were invited to highlight any emerging concerns, and none were reported at the meeting

DCC Service Management

The DCC presented its approach to the renewal of the Service Desk Management contract and the OPSG endorsed the approach. The OPSG endorsed the DCC's approach for an extension to the Service Centre contract.

Demand Forecasting

The DCC provided a quarterly update on demand forecasting, outlining key assumptions for Q1 2026, including Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) migration, Distribution Network Operator (DNO) ramp-up, supply usage stability, and the impact of 4G adoption. The OPSG discussed the need to distinguish between peak and average demand in forecast reporting, as peak activity drives investment decisions. The DCC agreed to explore options for incorporating peak demand forecasting into future reports, to support optimised network capacity planning and alignment with the [DP218 'Review of the SEC Charging Methodology'](#).

The DCC discussed the divergence between the Q4 2025 and Q1 2026 Demand Forecasts and noted that the differences were largely related to the DNO ramp-up being delayed due to technical and regulatory factors. The DCC shared the latest forecasts for the daily Service Request Variant (SRV) per CH projected to reach 7 million by December 2028 and distribution of daily traffic by each CSP showing a ramp-up of 4G CHs against a reducing trend for all other CSPs.

DCC Compliance

The DCC reported that there were 4 SEC known non-compliances, with 1 under investigation and 2 had been closed in the reporting period.

Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC)

The TABASC provides advice and guidance to the Panel regarding the Technical Code Specifications, End-to-End Technical Architecture, and Business Architecture.

The TABASC has met twice since the previous SEC Sub-Committee Report, on 15 January and 5 February to discuss the following topics:

Risk Management

SECAS presented the Risks Review and the TABASC agreed that most of the risks should remain open pending further clarification or additional information and agreed to monitor and close the remaining risks presented.

Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS)

The DCC provided an update on the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) - High level Requirements which the TABASC approved.

The DCC presented an update on the risk of and mitigations to stranded SMETS2 Devices arising from the future decommissioning of the current Hardware Security Module (HSM) estate. This was to address the action arising from TABASC 120 to quantify affected Devices and identify mitigations.

Smart and Secure Electricity System (SSES)

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) provided an update to the TABASC on the Smart Secure Electricity Systems (SSES) Programme and noted that no changes related to the SEC are anticipated in the future.

4G and Beyond

The DCC provided information on the 4G & Beyond Options Definition Workshop plans, elaborating on the post 2044 asset-life risk for 4G CHs installed after 2029, the options analysis from the 4G & Beyond Market RfI and its indicative mobilisation timeline for February to April 2026.

Device Manager

The DCC presented the early stages of the Device Manager re-procurement project, noting the intent to competitively re-procure the Service Provider. The DCC explained that the current system is functioning effectively and therefore it does not plan to undertake a full re-platforming of the solution.

Security Sub-Committee (SSC)

The SSC reviews the outcome for User Security Assessments and sets an Assurance status for Initial Full User Security Assessments (FUSAs) or a Compliance status for Verification User Security Assessments (VUSAs), and subsequent FUSAs. The SSC also reviews outstanding actions, monitors the risks to the Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) certification of Devices, considers available updates from the DCC on the security implications of proposed changes and Anomaly Detection and any reported changes in Shared Resource Providers by Users and reported Security Incidents and vulnerabilities.

The SSC has met twice since the previous SEC Sub-Committee Report on 28 January and 11 February, and discussed the following topics:

DCC CIO Assessments, Forward Look and Remediations

The SSC approved one DCC Remediation Plan & Director's Letter. The DCC Competent Independent Organisation (CIO) provided information on the DCC CIO Forward Look.

Security Controls Framework

The DCC presented the DCC Security Controls Framework (SCF) Part 1 and 2 and confirmed that member feedback had been incorporated. The SCC approved version v1.5 for publication.

Anomaly Detection

The DCC presented its six-monthly rolling Anomaly Detection Report and provided the SSC with a view of Anomaly Detection Threshold and the setting of Global Thresholds.

Hardware Security

The DCC provided an update on the Enablement of HSMAaaS within the DSP & Wider DCC Strategy.

Certified Products Assurance (CPA) scheme

The SSC Chair presented updates on Certified Products Assurance (CPA) Matters. The SSC provided feedback and agreed the outcomes.

The SSC approved the updated Communication Hub Security Characteristics to include CHs with VWAN capability.

Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS)

The DCC presented the SSC with the ECoS High-Level Requirements, which the SSC noted with no objections from a security perspective.

DCC Device Manager

The DCC presented an outline of the Device Manager (DM) Re-procurement project noting the background and the approach. The DCC will return to the SSC in March 2026 seeking formal support that there are no changes needed to the DM requirements.

Public Key Infrastructure – Enduring (PKI-E)

The DCC shared the LSC with the SSC ahead of the recommendation which will be presented at SSC Meeting 233. The SSC noted the update and provided feedback.

Cyber threat assessment

Talan presented the SSC with the 2025 Threat Landscape Report. The SSC noted the report and provided feedback.

Security Assessments

The SSC provided an update on security assessment processes considering the change of User CIO.

The SSC noted that one other SEC Party and two Small Suppliers completed their SMKI Repository Entry Process Testing (SREPT), User Entry Process Testing (UEPT) and the User Entry Process (UEP).

Incident and vulnerability management

SECAS noted one Security Incident and Vulnerability were reported during the period.

SEC presented the SSC with the Cyber Incident Response Exercise 2025 Report which included key observations (successes and challenges); recommendations and future testing proposals. The SSC noted the report and provided feedback.

The SSC was provided with the amendments to the Joint Industry Cyber Security Incident Management Plan (JICSIMP) following the Security Incident Management Exercise (SIME) Outcomes Report and Lessons Learned item at SSC meeting 231. The SSC approved JICSIMP V1.5 subject to Members feedback and updates required on the web documents

SMKI Policy Management Authority (PMA)

The SMKI PMA receives updates from the DCC, DESNZ and other Sub-Committees on matters of relevance to the SMKI arrangements. The SMKI PMA has met once since the previous SEC Sub-Committee Report, on 11 February, and discussed the following topics:

Apex Recovery Exercise

The DCC presented a further update on the Apex Recovery Exercise, providing more detail to Members on the testing principles and objectives, testing scenarios and outcomes. SMKI PMA noted that the testing outcomes confirmed that the Apex Recovery process worked well and that the few

individual devices that failed were due to problems with specific Devices. The DCC confirmed that a wider scope the next exercise was planned to include more varied firmware and manufacturer sets.

Key Custodians

The DCC presented updates on the implementation of hardware and infrastructure to support remote Key Custodian Service and provided a summary of the requirements for the event. DCC confirmed that all Key Custand have been engaged individually in preparation for the next Key Recovery event and will be given early notice of the date for the event, which is being planned for later in the year, to ensure sufficient time for travel arrangements.

Public Key Infrastructure – Enduring (PKI-E)

The DCC presented updates on the PKI-E Live services criteria with a timeline for decision and further updates on the next steps. The DCC also shared a PKI-E roadmap for the project.

SEC presented an update on the SMKI Standards Review noting the Changes made and those potentially impacting the DCC.

Performance Assurance Board (PAB)

The main duties of the PAB are to effectively manage and mitigate risks, ensure compliance, and maintain confidence among all Parties involved.

The PAB met once on 11 February to discuss the following topics:

PAF provider update

The PAB Chair explained that Moorhouse has now been awarded the contract for the Performance Assurance (PA) Partner for the Retail Energy Code (REC) as well as the SEC. Moorhouse are due to start their work with the REC later in the year. Moorhouse updated on its role and scope, and how the two separate functions would operate.

Performance Assurance mobilisation

SEC Performance Assurance outlined the progress made during January and February 2026, and the focus for the next period.

SEC presented three 'Plans on a Page' covering service set-up, assurance, and tools and technology for January to October 2026. The PAB provided feedback, which the SEC agreed to incorporate ahead of the next meeting, when approval of the Assurance Framework will be requested. The PAB agreed to close the associated action.

Cross Code collaboration

REC presented recommendations to strengthen cross-Code collaboration, outlining expected benefits. The REC also set out the proposed Cross-Code Risk Framework and the resource impacts of aligning processes and sharing Data, which would benefit all Parties.

Risk Evaluation Methodology and Performance Assurance Risk Register Principles and Approach

SEC outlined the management principles underpinning the Risk Evaluation Methodology (REM) and how risks and issues could be identified. SEC also presented the Performance Assurance Risk Register (PARR) and proposed scoring methodology, noting the importance of aligning the format with Sub-Committee Risk Registers. The PAB provided feedback, which SEC will incorporate into the REM and PARR which will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Performance Assurance Techniques for single focused risk

SEC shared the Performance Assurance Techniques (PAT), explaining that they form a defined set of assurance tools and interventions used to mitigate risks, address issues, and manage non-compliance with the SEC. SEC explained that the PATs will be tested against an ongoing issue, with insights from this exercise informing further development. The PAB approved the Performance Assurance Techniques.

Data Strategy Guiding Principles

SEC outlined the guiding principles proposed to establish the foundation for Data Governance and explained the role of a Data Governance Framework. The next steps in finalising the Data sharing agreements were outlined.

Proof of Concept (PoC) Scope Update

SEC shared the draft scope of the Proof of Concept (PoC), noting that Data requirements have now been discussed with the DCC, with an initial set of root causes identified.

Customer Challenge Group (CCG)

The Customer Challenge Group (CCG) has been established to strengthen the voice of SEC Parties under the forthcoming 'ex ante' model of DCC Price Control. The main duties of the CCG are to:

- Provide effective challenge and feedback to DCC on its draft Business Plan (prepared under LC 34A of the DCC Licence).
- Provide a view to Ofgem on behalf of the DCC's customers and consumers to assist Ofgem's assessment of the DCC's Price Control submission.
- Monitor the DCC's delivery of the approved Business Plan.
- Provide feedback to the DCC and a view to Ofgem on any reopener applications for adjustment to the Allowed Revenue submitted by DCC.

The CCG has met twice times since the last Sub-Committee report on 20 January 27 January, and discussed the following topics:

Challenge and Feedback Log Sign-Off

Members discussed the Challenge and Feedback Log and how this will be incorporated into the CCG's Report. Members agreed that the key themes from the Challenge and Feedback Log are represented within the CCG Report, and that the Log should be submitted as an appendix to the final

Report. The CCG agreed that the Challenge and Feedback Log should be submitted as an appendix to the CCG Report.

CCG Review of full Draft Report for Submission to SEC Panel

Members provided feedback on the draft CCG Report and discussed the CCG's conclusions. The Group noted material points to be added to the Report, and the Chair outlined the redaction process. The CCG agreed the CCG Report and noted that a redacted version will be submitted to the SEC Panel.

Conclusion of Ofgem's Questions

The CCG reviewed the example questions suggested by Ofgem in the CCG's Terms of Reference. Members agreed it would be valuable to review each question to consider whether the DCC's final Business Plan met the requirements, and whether it had improved since the draft Business Plan.

Feedback on CCG Report from SEC Panel

The CCG Chair provided feedback to Members on his presentation of the CCG Report to the SEC Panel, noting that no clarifications regarding the Report had been requested. The Chair noted that the questions and comments from the Panel were points which had already been discussed by the CCG, and that the Panel noted its thanks to the CCG for a thorough piece of work.

Sign-Off of Final CCG Report for Submission to Ofgem

The Chair noted thanks to the CCG Members and SECAS for their work on the CCG. The CCG agreed the final CCG Report for submission to Ofgem.

Privacy Sub-Committee (PSC)

The Privacy Sub-Committee (PSC) and Panel has delegated relevant SEC Section I Obligations. Duties follow a similar remit to the SSC but also cover data ethics, emerging technologies, a privacy statement of objectives and a consent strategy.

The PSC met once this month on 22 January, and discussed the following topics:

Privacy Controls Framework – Draft Amendments

SECAS led a discussion on proposed amendments to the Privacy Controls Framework (PCF), incorporating feedback from members with agreement on clarifying breach reporting, notification requirements, and guidance for third-party contracts. PSC also discussed the best approach to incorporate further guidance to support Other Users with multiple Third-Party contracts in preparing for their Assessments; and the required approach for PCF drafting to support MP234.

REC Consumer Consent Solution Update

REC presented an update on the Consumer Consent Solution (CCS), noting the end of January as the revised date for the publication of the Final Impact Assessment Consultation by Ofgem. REC also presented an update on key milestones and timeframes; restructuring of the working groups that support the programme; an overview of the product roadmap; and a first look at the consultation

content. REC further answered member queries that had been raised ahead of the meeting and noted feedback and comments from PSC members.

Cross Code Steering Group

Ofgem presented an update on the Data Best Practice as a Code Obligation and the outcome of the consultation decision published on 14 January, noting the impacts for Codes and particularly the DCC. Members provided feedback on the outcome.

Agentic AI – Potential Risks & Impacts for Privacy & the SEC

The Chair presented a summary of Agentic AI and the potential risks and impacts for privacy provisions under the SEC. Members agreed that SEC should consider the relevant stakeholders and bring the topic back to the next PSC for further discussion.

PSC Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) Statement for ICO

SECAS presented a draft Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) Statement which it intends to provide to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for further guidance and invited comments and feedback from members. SEC agreed to further review the statement and consult with User IPA for their views regarding the proposed privacy controls presented and to return to PSC with a revised statement for consideration.