



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Department for Energy
Security & Net Zero
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The Authority (Ofgem), the SEC Panel, SEC Parties
and other interested parties

3 November 2025

Dear Colleague,

VIRTUAL WAN: CONCLUSION ON DCC USER INTERFACE SPECIFICATION, THE MESSAGE MAPPING CATALOGUE AND THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION APPLICABILITY TABLES AND UPON THE DATE OF THEIR INCORPORATION INTO THE SEC AND THE DATE OF INCORPORATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS HUB TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION VERSION 1.7 AND THE GB COMPANION SPECIFICATION VERSION 4.4.

On 16 September 2025, DESNZ issued a consultation¹ on changes to a number of SEC Subsidiary documents in support of the implementation of Virtual WAN arrangements. The changes are timed to coincide with the introduction of the 6 November 2025 SEC Release.

The proposed changes included:

- A new SEC Appendix AD (DCC User Interface Specification) (DUIS) version 5.4 (draft)² incorporating an update at Table 227 to provide additional information in response to an inventory query to indicate whether a Virtual WAN Device (VWD) has been joined to a Communications Hub Function (CHF), and if so, whether the CHF is communicating via the Virtual or Cellular network. Additional changes are also being made to this version of DUIS via SEC modifications (MP252, and housekeeping changes) for the same 6 November 2025 SEC Release.
- As part of the new DUIS v5.4 draft, the DUIS Schema has been updated to version 5.4.
- A new version 5.4 of SEC Appendix AF (Message Mapping Catalogue). This new version is unchanged from v5.3, other than its own version number and that the MMC Schema version within it, which now refers to DUIS 5.4.
- A new version 1.7 of SEC Schedule 10 (Communications Hub Technical Specifications) (CHTS). This version incorporates the Virtual WAN related functionality changes specified in Change Resolution Proposal (CRP) 666³ into the CHTS. The changes included within this version of CHTS were consulted upon via CRP666 and stage 1 of the subsidiary document

¹ <https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/desnz-consultation-on-dcc-user-interface-specification-the-message-mapping-catalogue-and-the-technical-specification-applicability-tables-and-upon-the-date-of-their-incorporation-into-the-sec-and-t/>

² We are designating this as version 5.4 draft, such that it can be uplifted to version 5.4 once the SEC modification changes that are also being made as part of the 6 November 2025 SEC Release have been made. The same also applies to GBCS which will be further modified following its designation and so is also being designated by the department as a “draft” version. The other documents were marked as draft versions in the consultation, but are not being designated as draft because they will not be further changed by SEC modifications as part of the 6 November 2025 SEC Release.

³ The CRP666 was closed as per the DESNZ SMIP Issues Management Process at the TBDG subgroup TSIRS meeting on 11 September 2025.

changes in July 2025. We did not therefore specifically invite comments on this document as part of this consultation.

- A new version 4.4 of SEC Schedule 8 (GB Companion Specification) (GBCS). This version incorporates the Virtual WAN related functionality changes specified in CRP666 into the GBCS. Again, the changes included within this version of CHTS were consulted upon via CRP666 and stage 1 of the subsidiary document changes in July 2025. We did not therefore specifically invite comments on this document as part of this consultation.
- A new version 25 of Schedule 11 of the SEC (Technical Specification Applicability Tables) (TSAT) reflecting the validity and applicability periods of the new versions of CHTS and GBCS.

We proposed to designate all these new document versions for incorporation into the SEC on 6 November 2025 (or as soon as practicable within 1 month thereafter).

We received two responses to the consultation.

The responses were either supportive of the proposals in the consultation or did not comment on the proposals.

One respondent asked whether the new field in the Read Inventory response is profiled in any way as it may be needed by Other Users for diagnostic purposes.

We can confirm that Other Users with the modified DUIS schema version will be able to retrieve the information for relevant installations.

They also reiterated a comment that they made on an earlier consultation that the VWD should be informed by the VWP whether it is the active route.

Whilst the exchange of this information is not specifically covered by the existing arrangements, we continue to encourage Virtual WAN Device Manufacturers to engage with the DCC to ensure that an appropriate solution emerges, including throughout the Soft Launch exercise.

In light of the responses received, we propose to (re)designate the documents as planned to take effect from 6 November 2025, with one change as explained below.

The version of the Communications Hub Technical Specifications (CHTS) included within the consultation included a definition of the WAN Selection Arrangements as follows:

“WAN Selection Arrangements

Means a document of that name published by the DCC on its website that sets out the conditions used by VWCHs to determine the communications route to connect to the DCC. Any changes to the WAN Selection Arrangements must be approved by the Secretary of State.”

In order to avoid having to change the Communications Hub Technical Specifications when the governance arrangements for the WAN Selection Arrangements are updated to take their enduring form, and to avoid having document governance arrangements within a definition, we have removed the final sentence from the definition in the version of the document that we are designating.

We have moved the statement regarding governance of this document into the Virtual WAN Transition Document (SEC Appendix AZ), which we are now also re-designating as part of this package of changes to include this change. The enduring governance regime for the WAN Selection Arrangements will be consulted upon as part of the wider package of further SEC Changes next year that will apply from the end of Soft Launch.

The additional wording we have added to the Virtual WAN Transition Document is:

“5 WAN Selection Arrangements

- 5.1 *Any changes to the WAN Selection Arrangements (being the document of that name referred to in CRP666 v0_3 and the Communications Hub Technical Specifications v1.7) must be approved by the Secretary of State.”*

The direction making the SEC changes can be found at Annex 2 to this letter.

Yours faithfully,



James Cosgrove
Deputy Director
Smart Metering Implementation Programme

(An official of the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero authorised to act on behalf of the Secretary of State).

Annex 1: Table setting out the content of the 4 phases of SEC subsidiary document changes in the run up to Soft Launch. Updated for this response.

Annex 2: Direction to (re)designate documents

Annex 3 DUIS v5.4 (draft)

Annex 4 MMC v5.4

Annex 5 CHTS v1.7

Annex 6 GBCS v4.4 (draft)

Annex 7 TSAT v25

Annex 8 VWAN Transition Document v3.0

Annex 1 – Table explaining the four stages of SEC subsidiary document changes in the run up to Soft Launch.

Stage	Description	Date of consultation	Date phase goes live	Documents Affected	Comments
1	Principal obligations on DCC to provide VWAN-related Services switched off. Arrangements for ordering VWAN CHs put in place.	28 July 2025 Available here	11 September 2025 Available here	VWAN Transition Document v1.0 WAN Selection Arrangements v1.0 CHTSv1.6 marked up to v1.7 GBCSv4.3 marked up to v4.4 CRP666 version 0_3	CHTSv1.6 and GBCSv4.3 are already incorporated into the SEC. CRP666 is maintained outside the SEC. The WAN Selection Arrangements will be published on the DCC website as v1.0. CRP666 version 0_3 has been shared and discussed with TBDG and its subgroups, and subsequently closed on 11 September 2025 via the usual process for technical approval.
2	Switch on of the VWKI Services to allow VWD Manufacturers to subscriber for VWAN Device Certificates and to access copies of: - The Root VWKICA Certificate; - Issuing VWP CA Certificates; and	18 August 2025 Available here	17 October 2025 Available here	VWAN Transition Document v2.0 Virtual WAN Interface Specification v1.0 VWKI Certificate Policy v1.0 VWKI Registration Authority Policies and Procedures v1.0 VWKI Interface Specification v1.0	The Certification Practice Statement will be shared with SMKI PMA in advance of switching on the VWKI Service, but is not a public document.

Stage	Description	Date of consultation	Date phase goes live	Documents Affected	Comments
	- VWP Certificates.			VWKI Code of Connection v1.0 ⁴ VWKI Repository Interface Specification v1.0 VWKI Repository Code of Connection v1.0 ⁴ VWKI Certification Practice Statement v1.0	
3	Changes to coincide with the 6 November SEC Release	16 September 2025 Available here	6 Nov 2025	GBCS v4.4 (draft) CHTS v1.7 DUI5 v5.4 (draft) MMC v5.4 TSAT v25 VWAN Transition Document v3.0	The subject of this consultation response
4	Soft Launch	November 2026	30 January 2026	VWAN Transition Document v4.0 The list of other affected documents is still being finalised, but may include SEC Appendices: E, H, I, AB, and AC.	

⁴ Please note that the VWKI Code of Connection and the VWKI Repository Code of Connection are combined into a single document.

Annex 2: Direction

This direction is made for the purposes of the smart meter communications licences granted under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Gas Act 1986 (such licences being the “DCC Licence”) and the Smart Energy Code designated by the Secretary of State pursuant to the DCC Licence (such code being the “SEC”).

Words and expressions used in this direction shall be interpreted in accordance with Section A (Definitions and Interpretation) of the SEC.

Pursuant to Condition 22 of the DCC Licence and Section X5 (Incorporation of Certain Documents into this Code) of the SEC, the Secretary of State directs that, with effect from 6 November 2025:

- i) the DCC User Interface Specification version 5.4 (draft) is hereby designated and additionally incorporated in the form set out in annex 3 to the covering letter of this document into SEC Appendix AD;
- ii) the Message Mapping Catalogue version 5.4 is hereby designated and additionally incorporated in the form set out in annex 4 to the covering letter of this document into SEC Appendix AF;
- iii) the Communications Hub Technical Specifications version 1.7 is hereby designated and additionally incorporated in the form set out in annex 5 to the covering letter of this document into SEC Schedule 10;
- iv) the GB Companion Specification version 4.4 (draft) is hereby designated and additionally incorporated in the form set out in annex 6 to the covering letter of this document into SEC Schedule 8;
- v) the Technical Specification Applicability Tables previously designated and incorporated into the SEC as SEC Schedule 11 is hereby re-designated and incorporated in the form set out in annex 7 to the covering letter of this document as version 25; and
- vi) the Virtual WAN Transition Document previously designated and incorporated into the SEC as Appendix AZ is hereby re-designated and incorporated in the form set out in annex 8 to the covering letter of this document as version 3.0.

For the avoidance of doubt the re-designation of the Technical Specification Applicability Tables and the Virtual WAN Transition Document shall be without prejudice to anything done under the DCC Licence or the SEC on or after these documents being re-designated, or the continuing effectiveness of anything done under these documents prior to their re-designation (which shall have effect as if done under the relevant re-designated documents).

Annex 3: DUIS v5.4 (draft)

Published separately.

Annex 4: MMCv5.4

Published separately.

Annex 5: CHTSv1.7

Published separately.

Annex 6: GBCSv4.4 (draft)

Published separately.

Annex 7: TSAT v25

Published separately.

Annex 8: Virtual WAN Transition Document v3.0

Published separately.