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Action:	For Information

MP169 Solution Development

1. Purpose

[MP169 'Managing SEC Obligations and the Consumer's Right to refuse a Smart Meter'](#) is currently undergoing the Refinement Process. The purpose of this paper is to seek the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee's (TABASC) input on the Proposed Solution before requesting a Preliminary Assessment from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

This paper provides the high-level business requirements and the more detailed considerations within each of these requirements. Both can be found in Appendix A.

2. Summary of MP169

This section summarises the key points of this Modification Proposal. More information is available in the Modification Report in Appendix B.

2.1 What is the issue?

Currently a consumer has a legal right to refuse a smart meter. In some instances, consumers are approaching their Supplier to get a smart meter installed in 'dumb' mode to allow for the communications to be limited or 'disabled'. However, there is currently no way to do this without impacting other obligations within the SEC, including those relating to Install and Commissioning processes.

2.2 What is the Proposed Solution?

The Proposed Solution is to introduce a process whereby a smart meter can be installed at a consumer premises and subsequently have certain non-essential aspects of its Smart functionality suppressed. This would represent an additional step to the 'all reasonable steps' that a Supplier is obligated to take when attempting to install a smart meter, by working as a compromise which allows legacy metering to be replaced while allaying consumers' data privacy concerns.

The solution will also include the introduction of a flag which indicates that a smart meter has reduced communications due to consumer choice, to prevent instances being reported as faults and to improve consumer experience in the event of a Change of Supplier (CoS).

3. Business requirements

Below are the business requirements, developed with the Proposer, the DCC and the Working Group.

Business Requirements	
Ref.	Requirement
1	Suppliers will be able to notify the DCC of the customer's preference for Smart functionality.
2	Smart Meters will have a flag indicating if they have reduced communications due to customer choice.
3	Critical, Security and Safety Alerts will still be sent when a Smart Meter has reduced communications due to customer choice.

Further information on the considerations and assumptions for these requirements is available in Annex A.

4. Solution development

This section contains a must-have, should-have, could-have, won't-have (MoSCoW) analysis for the different requirement components to be considered as part of the solution.

MoSCoW Analysis		
Requirement Ref.	Description	MoSCoW
1	Suppliers to be able to notify the DCC of consumer preference for Smart functionality.	M
1.1	New SRVs to be created or existing SRVs to be adopted to allow Suppliers to notify the DCC of consumer preference.	C
1.2	Notification to result in reduced Smart communications.	C
2	Meters will have a flag indicating if they have reduced communication to customer choice.	M
2.1	The flag to be visible through the DCC System.	C
2.2	The flag to be capable of indicating other information (e.g. no Smart functionality due to no-WAN site).	C
2.3	The flag to have its own functionality (e.g. presence of flag reduces Smart communications).	C
3	Specific messages to be exempted from the reduced Smart communications.	M (if 1.2 included)

5. Questions for the TABASC

We seek the TABASC's view on the following questions to feed into the Modification Report and business requirements before we proceed with the Preliminary Assessment:

- Are there any technical benefits/consequences of making the flag available in the DCC System, other than those covered above?

- Are there any additional considerations which should be drawn out during the Preliminary Assessment?

6. Next steps

Once the DCC has completed the Preliminary Assessment, the solution and costs will be presented to the Working Group for discussion prior to issuing for Refinement Consultation.

7. Recommendations

The TABASC is asked to:

- **CONFIRM** that the business requirements address the identified issue.
- **PROVIDE** views on whether any additional context should be provided to the DCC for its Preliminary Assessment.

Mike Fenn

SECAS Team

28 July 2022

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** MP169 business requirements
- **Appendix B:** MP169 Modification Report