

# **SEC Modification Proposal, SECMP0060**

## **Retention of Comms Hubs in "Pending" State in Smart Metering Inventory**

### **Preliminary Impact Assessment (PIA), DCC CR 1022**

<b>Version:</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>11th December 2018</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>DCC</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>DCC PUBLIC</b>

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Document History .....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Revision History .....	2
1.2	Associated Documents .....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Document Purpose .....	3
2.2	Previous Document Information .....	3
2.3	DCC Contact Details .....	3
2.4	Context .....	3
2.5	Requirements .....	4
2.6	Description of Solution .....	4
2.6.1	High Level Solution .....	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Impact on DCC's Systems, Processes and People .....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Data Management .....	5
3.2	Infrastructure Impact .....	5
3.3	Impact on System Integration and Interfaces .....	5
3.4	Non Functional Impacts .....	5
3.5	Contract Schedules .....	5
3.6	Impact on Security .....	5
3.7	Testing Considerations .....	5
<b>4</b>	<b>Implementation Timescales .....</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1	Testing and Acceptance .....	6
<b>5</b>	<b>Costs and Charges .....</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1	Design, Build, and Testing Cost Impact .....	7
<b>6</b>	<b>Risks, Assumptions, Issues, and Dependencies .....</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1	Risks .....	9
6.2	Assumptions .....	9
6.3	Issues .....	9
6.4	Dependencies .....	9
	<b>Appendix: Glossary .....</b>	<b>10</b>

# 1 Document History

## 1.1 Revision History

Revision Date	Revision	Summary of Changes
02/10/2018	0.5	Compilation from Service Providers, requested changes
04/12/2018	0.6	Internal DCC Review
11/12/2018	0.7	Included all DCC internal review comments, and responses to clarifications from Service Providers

## 1.2 Associated Documents

This document is associated with the following documents:

Title and Originator's Reference	Source	Issue Date
SECMP0060 Solution Design Specifications		
SECMP0060 – Initial Modification Report		

## 2 Introduction

This modification seeks to amend the Smart Energy Code (SEC) and DCC's systems to stop the practice of automatically deleting Communications Hubs (CHs) that have been in a Pending state for 12 months or longer from the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI).

### 2.1 Document Purpose

The purpose of this Preliminary Impact Assessment (PIA) is to provide the relevant Working Group with the information requested in accordance with SEC Section D6.9 and D6.10.

This modification is to allow all SEC Parties who order Communication Hubs a mechanism to notify the DCC of fault or no fault returns and receive appropriate responses, thus enabling all ordering Parties to execute a complete ordering and returns process.

### 2.2 Previous Document Information

The original Proposer for this Modification was Amanda Rooney of the DCC.

The Preliminary Impact Assessment was requested of DCC in October 2018.

### 2.3 DCC Contact Details

Please raise any queries regarding this DCC Impact Assessment using the email contact details provided below.

**Name** DCC - SEC Modification queries

**Contact email** [mods@smartdcc.co.uk](mailto:mods@smartdcc.co.uk)

### 2.4 Context

The SEC currently states that devices with a "Pending" status in the SMI must be removed by DCC after 12 months. The SMI currently complies with this statement.

However, due to delayed installation activity in the SMETS2 rollout, increasingly more devices are due to be removed from the SMI through this requirement, with the first significant numbers expected in September 2018. As Users are unable to install devices that have been removed from the SMI, this requirement is a potential barrier to rollout activity and the affected assets would be no longer useful to Users in that state.

Additionally, DCC levies a CH Stock Level Charge (SEC K7.5 part I) to customers in relation to devices that have been delivered and accepted but not yet commissioned, with figures taken from the SMI (as this was the most efficient process to follow). Therefore Communication Service Provider (CSPs) will continue to charge DCC for CHs in stock (even if deleted in SMI), however, DCC would require a new data source and business process (without using SMI) in order to apply a Stock Charge to Customers for the CHs that have been deleted from the SMI.

A tactical fix identified in DCC Small Change Request (SCR) 137, based on manually resetting the values is in place. However, this is not an enduring change as smart meter rollouts continue, and the number of impacted devices is likely to rise significantly.

## 2.5 Requirements

The business requirements are as follows.

Requirement 1	The DCC Total System should be configurable to stop the removal of the Communications Hubs that have been in a Pending state in the SMI for 12 months or longer.
Requirement 2	It must be possible to switch off housekeeping functionality for selected devices other than Comms Hubs by way of configuration. This is to cater to any future requirement to exclude other device types from housekeeping.

Based on the discussions at the Working Group and the Business Requirements as set out in the Solution Design Document, DCC consider the requirements for SECMP0060 to be **STABLE**.

## 2.6 Description of Solution

The existing housekeeping functionality within the DCC Total System deletes all devices that have been in Pending state for 12 months or longer regardless of its type. In situations where the devices are not Comms Hubs (i.e. the Notifying Party is a Service User), the corresponding Service User is alerted about the deletion by way of the DCC Alert N8. In the case of Comms Hubs, the Notifying Parties are CSPs and the deletion of Comms Hubs happens silently as there is no mechanism to alert the CSPs.

With the implementation of this CR, the Comms Hubs in Pending state will be excluded from housekeeping. Other devices could be added to this list also.

The exclusion of Comms Hubs from housekeeping is in line with the SEC updates proposed by DCC. However these changes are not in the scope of this document.

### 2.6.1 High Level Solution

This change will modify the DCC Total System to update the SMI housekeeping procedures such that the records of device types that are part of the housekeeping exclusion list will not be removed from the SMI. The housekeeping exclusion list will initially contain only the Comms Hubs. Depending on the needs other device types may be added to this list in future.

As part of SCR137, the housekeeping duration of all the devices have been changed to 36 months. This will be restored to 12 months. The housekeeping duration of the applicable device types will continue to be configurable and any updates to the settings can be requested via change control process.

The pre-notification mechanism for Comms Hubs or the other devices will not change due to this CR.

## **3 Impact on DCC's Systems, Processes and People**

This section describes the impact of SECMP0060 on the DCC Total System services and interfaces that impact Users and/or Parties.

### **3.1 Data Management**

Data Management requires changes to exclude Comms Hubs from being deleted from SMI.

### **3.2 Infrastructure Impact**

This assessment has identified that there will be no additional hardware specifically related to this change.

It is not expected that any additional quantity of Comms Hubs will be stored in the SMI due to this CR. The indicative price for this change does not include any additional storage costs.

### **3.3 Impact on System Integration and Interfaces**

This change is limited to DSP functionality. The change will need to be demonstrated and tested as part of the integration test phases. Tests will be fitted into a suite of tests that will be defined once the scope of the release is determined. If this change is patched to the production system outside of a major release, the change would be tested in the SIT-A stream. There is no perceived need to test this separately in the UIT environment.

### **3.4 Non Functional Impacts**

None recognised at this time.

### **3.5 Contract Schedules**

Contract updates will be required for this change. The detailed updates will be determined as part of the resulting Contract Amendment Note (CAN). It is expected to impact the following schedules:

- G108.2 of Schedule 2.1 will need to be updated to state that records of Comms Hubs and potentially other types of devices will not be deleted from the SMI.
- Standard updates to Schedule 6.1 and 7.1 will also be required to account for payment milestones.

Cost for these changes are included in the costs section following.

### **3.6 Impact on Security**

There will be no material security impact as a result of this change.

### **3.7 Testing Considerations**

Note that only Testing Tools and Pre-Integration Testing costs are included in the cost estimates following.

## **4 Implementation Timescales**

Further evaluation is required for the timing of this release. In some scenarios, It is assumed that this change will be implemented outside of a major release. The elapsed time for implementation will be approximately 3 months following full commercial cover being provided.

However this change could also be implemented as part of an interim release alongside a pipeline of other work, potentially as a part of the November 2019 release.

### **4.1 Testing and Acceptance**

This change includes the standard test phases as documented in schedule 6.2 and standard exit criteria will apply:

## 5 Costs and Charges

The table below details the cost of delivering the changes and Services required to implement this Modification Proposal.

The price is presented as a +/-15% range and is not an offer open to acceptance. It should be noted that the change has not been subject to the same level of analysis that would be performed as part of a Full Impact Assessment and as such there may be elements missing from the solution or the solution may be subject to a material change during discussions with the DCC. As a result the final offer price may result in a variation outside of the indicative range.

### 5.1 Design, Build, and Testing Cost Impact

The table below details the cost of delivering the changes and Services required to implement this Modification.

Implementation Costs							
Phase	Design	Build	Pre-Integration Testing	System Integration Testing	User Testing	Implement to Live	Total
SECMP0060	Between 67,000 and £84,000			Not included	Not included	Not included	£67,000 to £84,000
Supplementary Information							
Implementation cost assumptions	<p>A. Costs are exclusive of VAT and any applicable finance charges</p> <p>B. Majority of the costs above represent labour costs.</p> <p>C. Costs provided for Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing are quotes provided by the Service Providers with specific exclusions of costs as identified above. DCC have reviewed and challenged the costs from the Service Providers to ensure this reflects best price to date.</p> <p>D. Costs will be refined during future assessments.</p>						
Explanation of Implementation Phases	<p>DCC's implementation costs are provided by implementation phases. The following describes the purpose of each phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Design: The production of detailed System and Service design to deliver all new requirements.</li><li>Build: The development of the designed Systems and Services to create a solution (e.g. code, systems, or products) that can be tested and implemented.</li><li>Pre-integration Testing: Each Service Provider tests its own solution to agreed standards in isolation of other Service Providers. This is assured by DCC.</li></ul>						



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>System Integration Testing (SIT): All Service Providers' PIT-complete solutions are brought together and tested as DCC's Total Solution, ensuring all Service Provider solutions align and operate as an end to end solution.</i></li> <li>• <i>User Integration Testing (UIT): Users are provided with an opportunity to run a range of pre-specified tests in relation to the relevant change.</i></li> <li>• <i>Implementation to Live Costs: The solution is implemented into Production environments and ready for use by Users as part of a live service. This service is subject to implementation costs.</i></li> </ul>
--	---

The fixed price cost for a Full Impact Assessment is **£4,385**.

## 6 Risks, Assumptions, Issues, and Dependencies

In the following sections, Risks, Assumptions, Issues, and Dependencies have been identified.

### 6.1 Risks

Ref.	Area	Description	Impact
MP60-DR1	SMI	There is a risk that the number of additional Comms Hubs that will be retained in the SMI when not deleted after 12 months will have an impact on the additional storage required.	L
MP60-DR2	CR	If this change is not approved, DCC will need to develop an enduring solution to source data to calculate the CH Stock Level Charges for devices that have been removed.	H

### 6.2 Assumptions

None at this time.

### 6.3 Issues

Ref.	Description	Mitigate?
MP60-DI1	Not addressing the pending state concern will present a barrier to installation activity; the devaluing of assets; and will be an administrative burden to both DCC and industry, with a need to actively monitor and report on the devices that are removed from the SMI.	
MP60-DI2	Although a tactical solution to continue to calculate the CH Stock Level Charge is in place, this will not endure and will become more of a burden on DCC as more devices are affected.	

### 6.4 Dependencies

Ref.	Dependency	Impact
M60-DD1	Further progress of this SEC Mod will be subject to SEC approvals of the proposed changes	Impact on the timescales.

---

## Appendix: Glossary

The table below provides definitions of the terms used in this document.

Acronym	Definition
CAN	Contract Amendment Note
CH	Communications Hub, Comms Hub
CR, CRP	Change Request, BEIS Change Request
CSP	Communication Service Provider
DCC	Data Communications Company
DSP	Data Service Provider
FIA	Full Impact Assessment
PIA	Preliminary Impact Assessment
PIT	Pre-Integration Testing
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SIT	Systems Integration Testing
SMI	Smart Metering Inventory
UIT	User Integration Testing