SEC
Smart Energy Code

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Action:	**For Information**

Update on progress with SECMP0007

1. Purpose

Following queries raised by the Panel at the January 2019 meeting, the purpose of this paper is to provide an update on SECMP0007 'Firmware updates to IHDs and PPMIDs' and to outline the next steps for this modification.

2. Progression of SECMP0007 to date

SECMP0007 was raised by Npower in 2016 to introduce the capability to update firmware Over-The-Air (OTA) for a number of devices, including Prepayment Metering Interface Devices (PPMIDs) and In-Home Display (IHDs) units.

Following discussions, a Preliminary Assessment was requested in June 2016 and returned in May 2017. Following receipt of the estimated costs of £7.3m-£8.2m up to the end of Pre-Integration Testing (PIT), the Working Group consulted the industry in October 2017 on whether there was merit in carrying on with the modification. The responses were in favour of continuing.

Following a Firmware Modifications workshop on 29 and 30 January 2018 and a Working Group meeting on 1 March 2018 to clarify some of the business requirements and the likely levels of use of the relevant Service Requests, the DCC were requested, via a second Preliminary Assessment request issued in July 2018, to refine its cost estimate and to provide full post-PIT costs from the Service Providers. The DCC confirmed on 13 September 2018 a revised version of the Preliminary Assessment would be carried out and indicated there was an outstanding issue around the governance for dual-fuel consumers with different suppliers that still needed to be addressed. SECAS agreed to seek advice from the Working Group, and internally, on the correct way forward for this issue, resulting in the decision to use the same solution options as developed for SECMP0024 'Enduring Approach to Communication Hub Firmware Management'. This information was provided to the DCC on 8 November 2018 and a request was also made for an update on the progress of the revised PA, with an ask of delivery in December 2018 if possible.

The DCC confirmed on 11 November 2018 that a request had been submitted to the Service Providers for post-PIT costs which would be provided to SECAS once received, and for a decision to be made on the next steps. Additionally, the DCC requested clarifications to be made by the Working Group before a request was made for a Full Impact Assessment.

The DCC confirmed on 6 December 2018 that there is no SEC defined process for who has the responsibility in the case of a dual-Supplier scenario, which would require further clarification by the Working Group and SECAS.

3. Next steps

We have set up a Working Group meeting to clarify the requirements for the Preliminary Assessment with the Working Group on 25 February 2019, including the process to be followed in a dual-Supplier scenario. Following this, we will update the business requirements to facilitate an effective Preliminary Assessment to be provided. We will also provide a revised proposed timeline to the Panel for consideration in March 2019, taking into account the outputs of the Working Group meeting.

Reviewing the timeline for this modification, we believe this proposal was caught up in the wider discussions on firmware management that have been taking place, and the importance of this specific change was not fully understood. We therefore did not progress this modification with as much urgency as was perhaps warranted. We note the concerns that were raised by the Panel in January 2019 and will be progressing this modification with much more rigour, seeking to implement it (if approved) at the earliest viable release. Given the time that has passed, this work will include revisiting the requirements for this modification to ensure that the solution developed is resolving the issue identified and has not expanded unnecessarily or drifted away from the original problem.

We also highlight that it will not be possible to progress and implement this modification in time for inclusion in the November 2019 SEC Release. This means that, as the Panel noted in January 2019,[1] we would not be able to request and complete an Impact Assessment to obtain the full implementation costs until an enduring approach to these has been agreed. The Panel noted that this enduring approach to implementation costs will be agreed following completion of the DCC's cost benchmarking study, the results of which are expected to be presented to the Panel in March 2019. We anticipated at the time this would mean Impact Assessments for affected modifications would not be requested until around June 2019; this may change as discussions on the approach evolve. This will impact on how quickly a decision and subsequent implementation can be achieved for SECMP0007. We welcome any views from the Panel on how this can be managed in this instance, which we will factor in to the revised timetable presented to the March Panel meeting.

4. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

- **NOTE** the contents of this paper.

Cordelia Grey

SECAS Team

8 February 2019

[1] Please see Panel paper SECP_64_1101_09 for full details.