

This document is classified as **White** in accordance with the Panel Information Policy. Information can be shared with the public, and any members may publish the information, subject to copyright.

Paper Reference:	SECCB_27_2002_01
Action:	For Decision

SECMP0039 Change Board vote

1. Purpose

[SECMP0039 'Communication Hub returns notification mechanism for Other SEC Parties'](#) has undergone Modification Report Consultation and is now being presented to the Change Board for vote. The Change Board is invited to determine whether SECMP0039 should be approved or rejected under Self-Governance.

This paper provides a high-level summary of the key points. Full details can be found in the Modification Report in Appendix A and the responses received to the Modification Report Consultation in Appendix B.

2. Summary of the proposal

What is the issue?

Currently, return of Communication Hubs before installation in the event of needing a fault or no-fault return requires a service request to be raised. These service requests are only available to Energy Suppliers. Some Suppliers seek Other SEC Parties to provide a 'full managed service', particularly in regard to the logistics involved in the Smart metering rollout, but these Parties would still need the corresponding Supplier to submit a service request if they needed to return Communication Hubs. Allowing these Other SEC Parties access to the notification and response mechanism via service requests will allow any ordering party to return orders on behalf of a number of Energy Suppliers. This will enable consistent supply of Communication Hubs to help smooth out peaks and troughs of demand for each individual Energy Supplier.

What is the Proposed Solution?

The Proposer proposes to extend the Eligible User Roles for DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) Service Requests 8.14.3 and 8.14.4, which trigger the Communication Hub returns process, to include Registered Supplier Agents (RSA).

3. Modification Report Consultation responses

Nine responses were received to the Modification Report Consultation: five in favour of approving the change, two in favour of rejecting the change and two Parties chose to abstain. The full responses received can be found in Appendix B.

The majority of respondents were supportive with five respondents (two Large Suppliers and three Other SEC Parties) believing SECMP0018 should be approved. Those who cited rationale said they believed SECMP0039 to better facilitate Objective (a)¹ by allowing greater efficiency in managed service providers' ability to return Communication Hubs on behalf of Suppliers. One also believed it better facilitated Objective (h)².

Two Large Suppliers believed SECMP0039 should be rejected as they felt that Suppliers who managed their own returns for Communication Hubs would not benefit from this change, yet they would be funding the change. They also questioned the validity of the business case which they felt was not robust enough to justify the change. SECAS has further investigated this, but due to commercial sensitivities managed service providers were not prepared to share potential cost savings publicly.

Two Parties (one Small Supplier and one Large Supplier) chose to abstain. Whilst they both commented that they were supportive of the Modification Proposal itself, one did not feel the business case had been sufficiently justified and the other considered the cost of the changes quoted in the Impact Assessment from the DCC were inexplicably high.

One Small Supplier questioned the information provided within the Impact Assessment. The DCC subsequently confirmed that there was an error in the Impact Assessment and deleted the erroneous sections (Sections 4.1 to 4.2.3 in document v0.8). They confirmed that this text had been included in error, and that its removal would not have any material impact on the solution, cost or lead time for this modification. The corrected Impact Assessment is included as Annex C to the Modification Report.

4. Next steps

Determination approach

The Panel has determined that SECMP0039 is a Self-Governance Modification. The Change Board's vote will therefore form a decision on the modification.

This decision will be subject to a 10 Working Day objection period where Parties can refer the decision to the Panel. If no objection is received, the Change Board's decision will be final.

Implementation approach

The Panel has agreed the following implementation approach of:

- **7 November 2019** (November 2019 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received by 20 February 2019; or
- **25 June 2020** (June 2020 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received after 20 February 2019 but by 19 June 2019.

This means that if the Change Board votes to approve SECMP0039 at this meeting and this decision is not referred to the Panel, SECMP0039 would be implemented as part of the November 2019 SEC Release.

¹ Facilitate the efficient provision, installation, and operation, as well as interoperability, of Smart Metering Systems at Energy Consumers' premises within Great Britain.

² Facilitate the establishment and operation of the Alt HAN Arrangements.

5. Recommendations

The Change Board is requested to:

- **AGREE** that SECMP0039 should proceed to vote;
- **DETERMINE** whether SECMP0039 should be **APPROVED** or **REJECTED** under Self-Governance; and
- **PROVIDE** rationale for this decision against the General SEC Objectives.

Ali Beard

SECAS Team

13 February 2019

Attachments

- **Appendix A:** SECMP0039 Modification Report
 - **Annex A:** Solution Design Document
 - **Annex B:** Legal Text
 - **Annex C:** DCC Impact Assessment
 - **Annex D:** Working Group Consultation responses
- **Appendix B:** SECMP0039 Modification Report Consultation responses