

SEC Panel Meeting 32

Meeting SECP_32_1305, 13th May 2016

10:00 – 14:00, Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place, London, EC3M 4AJ

Final Minutes

Attendees:

Category	SEC Panel Members
SEC Panel Chair	Peter Davies
Large Suppliers	Simon Trivella
Large Suppliers	David Ross Scott
Small Suppliers	Mike Gibson
Small Suppliers	Eric Graham
Electricity Networks	David Lane
Gas Networks	Sara Neal
Other SEC Parties	Mike Woodhall
	Hugh Mullens (part)
DCC	Paul Hawkins
Consumer Member	Daniel Walker-Nolan (observer)

Representing	Other Participants
DECC (Secretary of State)	Duncan Stone
	Stuart Featham (part)
	Joe Parsons (part)
Ofgem (the Authority)	Raymond Elliot
	Nigel Nash
	Andrew Wallace (part)
	Lewis Heather (part)
DCC	Jane Eccles (part)
Meeting Secretary	Lucia Halbherr
SECAS	Alys Garrett
	Sarah Gratte
	David Barber
	Jill Ashby
	Sebastian Rattansen (part)

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1. Minutes and Actions Outstanding

The minutes from the April 2016 Panel meeting were approved via ex-committee decision.

SECAS provided the Panel with an update on the Actions Outstanding from previous meetings, noting that the majority of the actions had been closed with updates to be provided under respective agenda items. A brief update was provided on the following actions:

Action Reference	Update
SECP31/03 & 31/04	<p>SECAS amended the End of Regulatory Year Report. This will be published alongside the End of Budgetary Year Report if approved later in the day by the SECCo Board.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note: The End of Budgetary Year Report was approved by the SECCo Board and both reports were published on the SEC Website on 13th May 2016.</p>
SECP31/06	SECAS have begun preparations for the SEC Party Engagement Day on the 7 th July 2016, and have confirmed a number of speakers. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

2. Impacts on SEC Panel and Operations

The Panel were provided with an overview of the consultations and Government Responses issued in April 2016 that may have an impact on the Panel and Parties. The following consultations and Government Responses were discussed to determine whether a Panel response was required:

DECC consultation paper: Further Consultation on Non-Domestic Smart Metering: the DCC opt-out
 On 21st April 2016, DECC published a government response to the March 2015 consultation on non-domestic smart metering: the DCC opt-out, and a further consultation. The response set out DECC's minded to position to remove the option for non-domestic Suppliers to opt-out of using DCC-provided communication services. The minded to position is due to possibility that the opt-out could complicate interoperability and switching, and that there was no evidence of a provider that would be able to provide an equivalent service to the DCC. SECAS highlighted that the impact of removing the opt-out would be that these Suppliers would need to become DCC Users, which would increase the number of suppliers going through the User Entry Process and impact the associated timescales. SECAS would also need to provide support for security assessments. SECAS suggested the Panel note the consultation as Suppliers would be the main respondents. The Panel requested that SECAS determine how many non-domestic Suppliers exist in order to assess the magnitude of the impact.

Government conclusions on aspects of the implementation of Home Area Network solutions (868MHz legal drafting) and on the operation and remit of the Technical Sub-Committee

On 27th April 2016, DECC published their conclusions on their December 2015 consultation on the 868MHz Home Area Network (HAN) solution and the expansion of the scope of the TSC to become the Technical and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC). SECAS highlighted that DECC were producing a high-level scope for the Business Architecture Document (BAD), and that the TSC would take over its development. The Panel were requested to approve the handover from DECC to the TSC of the work undertaken so far before the designation of SEC content in relation to the TSC's duty to develop the BAD. It was noted the content was concluded on but not yet designated. The Panel approved the handover, and SECAS informed the Panel that they would bring further

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information to the SECCo Board to draw down on costs for the development of the document through the quarterly Work Package paper.

Government conclusions on alternative Home Area Network (HAN) solutions

On 27th April 2016, DECC published their conclusions on their December 2015 consultation on Alternative HAN Solutions. SECAS highlighted that DECC were progressing Model A, the Supplier-led structure with a new SEC Section Z. The Panel noted that their comments had been taken into account in the conclusions. It was also noted that additional drafting has been added into the SEC. The additional drafting makes clear that the Alt HAN Forum will need to provide the Panel with information for the Panel's End of Regulatory Year Report on how the SEC is meeting the new SEC Objective to facilitate the establishment and operation of the Alt HAN Arrangements.

DCC consultation paper: Updated proposal to amend DCC's Implementation Milestones

On 4th May 2016, the DCC released a consultation paper on proposals to amend the Implementation Milestones (IM) regime that is designed to incentivise the DCC to achieve programme milestones in a timely manner. The proposal has been updated based on DCC's updated release strategy. The paper lists the IMs and highlights the proposed changes to IM9 and IM10 and exit criteria. The Panel noted that the current drafting does not consider the impacts on IM achievement of any requested amendments prior to the report approval. As a result it may be difficult to ascertain when the IM was met. A Panel Member raised a governance concern that the consultation was being carried out by the DCC in accordance with 3.9(a) of the DCC Licence, rather than by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 3.9(b). DECC noted the concerns.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and
- **AGREED** no responses were necessary.

ACTION SECP32/01: SECAS to determine how many non-domestic Suppliers exist in order to assess the magnitude of the impact of the removal of the non-domestic opt-out.

3. Panel Information Policy Update

An amended Panel Information Policy was presented to the Panel for approval at the April Panel meeting. Following review and provision of feedback, the Panel Information Policy was updated and presented again to the Panel for approval. The Panel highlighted that the Panel Information Policy may need to be amended when the Security Policy is published in summer 2016. SECAS informed the Panel that the DCC had provided additional minor comments on the scope of the document. The Panel requested for the changes to be circulated and for the document to be approved, subject to no additional comments being received, within five working days. It was agreed that the document would be published on the SEC Website following the five working day window. The Panel queried what information would be classed as confidential data and highlighted that guidelines would be needed, so as not to obscure data unnecessarily.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and

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- **APPROVED** the Panel Information Policy subject to no comments being received within five working days.

ACTION SECP32/02: SECAS to provide Panel with the Panel Information Policy and to publish after five working days if no comment received.

4. SEC Panel Risk Register Update

The Panel were provided with the updated Risk Register following the monthly review by SECAS. There were no new proposed risks added to the May Risk Register, but a number of modifications were suggested to be added to risks 2, 6, 3, 5, 15 and 12. The Panel agreed that in light of the government conclusions on the Alternative HAN arrangements and related clarifications provided by DECC, the likelihood and impact of risk 16 could now be reduced. The Panel also agreed that the likelihood of risk 17 occurring should be increased in light of recent testing events and discussions.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and
- **APPROVED** the amendments to the SEC Panel Risk Register.

5. Implementation of Code Governance Review Phase 3 Final Proposals

At the April 2016 Panel meeting, the Panel were provided with an update on the outcomes of Ofgem's Code Governance Review (CGR) Phase 3. On 3rd May 2016, the SEC Panel Chair and SECAS received letters from Ofgem seeking details of how the outcomes of the Code Governance Review (CGR) Phase 3 will be actioned. SECAS provided the Panel with a proposed response to Ofgem's request for details. The Panel noted that as provisions around the Significant Code Review (SCR) were not covered within the DCC licence, any changes to the SEC would be picked up during discussions with Ofgem on implementing the CGR3. The Panel approved the responses contained in Appendix A to form the basis of a response to Ofgem, and a further update will be provided following a cross-code administrator workshop being held in early June 2016.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and
- **APPROVED** the responses contained in Appendix A to form the basis of a response to Ofgem by the 3rd June 2016 response date.

ACTION SECP32/03: SECAS to submit a response to Ofgem on how the outcomes of the Code Governance Review (CGR) Phase 3 will be actioned by SECAS and the Panel.

ACTION SECP32/04: SECAS to provide an update to the Panel in July 2016 on actions outstanding for the Code Governance Review (CGR) Phase 3 outcomes.

6. Testing Approach Documents

Following the revised DCC phased release strategy and subsequent updates to the SEC, the Testing Approach Documents have undergone a period of amendment. After their meeting on 5th May 2016, the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) submitted their recommendations to the Panel on the approval of the Systems Integration Testing Approach (SITA) Document and the Interface Testing Approach (ITA) Document. SECAS provided the Panel with the revised Systems Integration Testing (SIT) and Integration Testing (IT) Approach Documents for approval.

The Panel noted the TAG's recommendation to amend the DCC's approach to introducing new functionality within release notes, rather than as appendices to the SITA. The Panel agreed that this approach would be more flexible as it does not require new functionality to undergo a consultation process and Panel approval. The Panel noted that further revisions had been made to the documents following amendments requested by DECC prior to the meeting, which the Panel had not had time to review. The Panel deferred their decision on approval and referred the documents back to the TAG.

The Panel requested that the TAG confirm that they consider that the Testing Approach Documents set out a robust approach to the testing of incremental code drops. The Panel also expressed concern regarding some of the detail on functionality to be tested, which would be provided via release notes, and that there was a current lack of governance around the release note approach. The Panel requested that this be considered by the TAG and that there should be guidelines and policy included within the document regarding the governance of the release notes and their distribution. The documents will be discussed at the TAG meeting on 19th May 2016, after which they will be provided to the Panel ex-committee during the w/c 23rd May 2016.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and
- **AGREED** to defer the approval of the Testing Approach Documents to the June 2016 Panel meeting, following a further review of the documents by the TAG.

ACTION SECP32/05: SECAS to revise the Testing Approach Documents for the TAG to review on 19th May 2016 and subsequently provide to the Panel ex-committee on w/c 23rd May 2016.

7. Testing Update

SECAS provided the Panel with an update on testing progress, including an update from the TAG meeting held on 5th May 2016. The Panel agreed the recommendation from the TAG to include a risk on the Panel Risk Register relating to the potential for the DCC to exit SIT using Test Stubs rather than Devices. The TAG will next meet on 9th June 2016. A workshop is scheduled for 19th May 2016 to cover the content of the exit reports and provide a clear view of expectation on test success.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and
- **AGREED** the recommendation of the TAG to include an item on any potential SIT exit on Test Stubs in the Panel Risk Register.

ACTION SECP32/06: SECAS to add a risk to the Risk Register relating to the potential for the DCC to exit SIT using Test Stubs rather than Devices.

8. DCC Live Decision Making Process

DECC presented the Panel with an outline of the process for the DCC Live decision and an overview of the involvement of the TAG and the Panel in the decision making process. The Panel discussed the two decision scenarios based on the nature of the decision, e.g. whether caveats would need to be considered. The Panel expressed the need for adequate review time of testing completion documents and ensuring a robust decision process.

The timelines outlined the key activities, agreed communications strategy and mini milestones. The DCC highlighted that it expected to have completed testing by the DCC Live date of 20th July 2016, but if not, then contingency would be required. It was noted that timelines would be clearer following the DCC's internal contingency review meeting on 20th May 2016 and the subsequent call with the Smart Metering Delivery Group (SMDG) on 23rd May 2016.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the presentation.

9. DCC Live Services Criteria

The DCC provided the Panel with an overview of the draft DCC Live Criteria for discussion, including the high level categories for the criteria. The DCC highlighted that they would provide further detail to the Panel in the w/c 23rd May 2016, including on the sub-criteria under each category and the types of evidence that will be provided for comment, prior to submitting them for approval to the Secretary of State in June 2016.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

10. Technical Sub-Committee Update

SECAS provided the Panel with a paper on the TSC meeting held on 21st April 2016. The TSC had discussed the potential benefits that could be achieved from the development of an industry roadmap of change to support the industry and the Panel and Sub-Committee duties. The Panel agreed that SECAS should look into the development of such a roadmap to be owned by the Panel and highlighted that DECC may be looking at developing a similar document with the Implementation Management Forum (IMF).

A further TSC meeting will be held on 19th May 2016 for which an update will be provided to the June 2016 Panel meeting.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and
- **AGREED** for SECAS to look into the development of an industry roadmap to be owned by the Panel.

ACTION SECP32/07: SECAS to liaise with DECC regarding any potential work regarding the industry roadmap.

11. Modification Status Report – May 2016

The Panel were provided with an update on the status and progress of Modification Proposals going through the Modification Process. In May, ten Modifications were undergoing the Refinement Process, and two Modification Proposals were brought to the Panel as Initial Modification Reports (IMR). SECAS informed the Panel that Working Groups 1 and 2 had met at the beginning of April, and that Working Group 2 had met a second time on the 9th May for further refinement of business requirements. SECAS highlighted that the DCC were undertaking preliminary assessments for Modification Proposals 4 and 8.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

12. Modification Proposals

SECAS presented the Panel with two IMRs to discuss and determine whether and how they should be progressed through the Modification Process. The Modification Proposals raised are listed below:

- **SECMP0012 – Channel selection to support Shared HAN solutions:** This Modification Proposal seeks to enable channel selection at the 2.4GHz frequency in the SEC and the associated technical specification documents. This will enable shared HAN infrastructure to be deployed cost effectively and efficiently in high density housing, using standard 2.4GHz equipment.
- **SECP0013 – Smart Meter device diagnostics and triage:** This Modification Proposal seeks to provide SEC Supplier Parties with a means of performing quality assurance and diagnosing faults on SMETS2 devices returned by meter operatives.

SECAS recommended that SECMP0012 be grouped with Working Group 4, which is already working on a Communications Hub (CH) modification. The Panel expressed concern that the wording of the Modification Proposal referring to Alternative-HAN technology may cause governance conflicts in the future. The Panel also highlighted that the Modification Proposal lists a potentially unrealistic number of objectives that it aims to achieve. It was recommended that both concerns be passed on to the Working Group in the Refinement Process.

SECAS clarified that all modifications go through a critical friend review, however the final content of the Modification Proposal form is decided by the proposer.

SECAS suggested that SECMP0013 also be grouped with Working Group 4. The Panel highlighted that the target implementation date of June 2017 would be difficult to achieve, and requested that this concern be passed on to the Working Group as well.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and
- **APPROVED** the determinations for the Modification Proposals, as set out in the IMRs.

13. DECC Update

The Panel were provided with an update on the forthcoming consultations and response documents, and upcoming key milestones. DECC highlighted that the User Entry Live and DCC Key Infrastructure (DCCKI) Live consultations would be published mid-May, and the Registration Data Provider (RDP) Live consultation would be published at the end of May. DECC also informed the Panel that the response to the February 2016 consultation on SEC and Licence Conclusions had been published on 11th May 2016 and that the text would be incorporated in June and July 2016.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the update.

14. DCC Update

The Panel were presented with an update on the activities undertaken by the DCC since the last Panel meeting, including an update on testing progress and the status of releases.

The DCC are required to provide the Panel with a SMKI CSR Variance and a Service Request (SR) Variance report on a monthly basis, setting out the actuals against forecast for Certificate Signing Requests (CSR) and SRs respectively. It was noted that the DCC would include details of Parties if actual usage differs from the forecast by more than 110% (and in the case of the SR report by under 90%). The DCC queried whether the Panel would wish to be provided with a response from the relevant Party alongside the report in order to determine whether it should be redacted from the report when published. The Panel were of the opinion that the DCC should contact the Party to provide a response to accompany the report, and this would allow the DCC to also provide any further comment in the report. It was also noted that a working principle would be that the report would be made public unless adequate reasoning is provided to redact the report.

The DCC informed the Panel that R1.1 Early Integration Testing was closed and that Install and Commission had been unsuccessful in the Northern region. It was noted that testing during R1.1 culminated in the creation of a Home Area Network (HAN) on a meter emulator set in the Central and Southern Region, and that the DCCKI Test Certificates service was now live. The DCC highlighted that an internal contingency review meeting was scheduled for 20th May 2016, followed by an SMDG meeting on the 23rd May 2016, to determine whether contingency was needed. The Panel noted that the DCC would need to indicate a clear contingency requirement if necessary. The Panel also highlighted the importance of providing clarity to Suppliers in relation to the gap between R1.2 and R1.3 and it was questioned whether any delay to R1.2 would have a subsequent impact on R1.3 Live.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the update.

15. Reporting Large Supplier Party Readiness for UEPT

The DCC presented the Panel with a paper outlining how they will report Large Supplier readiness for User Entry Process Testing (UEPT). The DCC proposes to send the Panel an initial report prior to commencement of Interface Testing, to indicate whether each Party meets the UEPT entry criteria, and an updated report a day after UEPT has commenced.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

16. RDP Entry Criteria for SIT

The Panel were presented with a DCC paper outlining revised indicative dates for a timetable for entry criteria assessment meetings with Registration Data Providers (RDPs). The DCC informed the Panel that the schedule for assessment meetings and commencing SIT had been pushed back due to difficulties with the DCCKI process and with obtaining certificates, and issues with test scripts. A Panel Member expressed concern regarding the possibility of the period of time between RDPs connecting to the production environment and DCC Live being compressed from a month to a week. It was highlighted that the RDPs were not responsible for the delay and that they would not be penalised should they be unable to meet their obligations for the 20th July 2016 Go Live date due to factors outside of their control. The Panel also noted that the DCC were trying to resolve a Data

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Protection Act issue potentially impacting their ability to conduct testing, following a recent indication from the Informational Commissioner's Office (ICO) that data linked to Meter Point Administration Numbers (MPANs) and (by inference) Meter Point Reference Numbers (MPRNs) is likely to be personal data.

Post meeting note: The DCC has indicated that the DPA issue has now been resolved.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

17. CGR3 and CMA Update

An Ofgem representative provided the Panel with an update on the Code Governance Review Phase 3 (CGR3) proposals, in accordance with the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) remedies published in March 2016. The representative informed the Panel that Ofgem were currently developing an implementation plan and engaging with stakeholders, but highlighted that the plan was dependent on the final CMA report in June 2016.

The Ofgem representative advised the Panel that the CMA had identified that the code governance framework was causing adverse effect on competition due to the complexity and differences between the administration of each code. The CMA recommend that Ofgem be given the ability to directly modify industry codes in certain circumstances, and to make code administration and delivery services activities licensed by Ofgem. This proposal would give Ofgem a more strategic role in the direction of codes, but the CMA suggest leaving the development of work plans to the code administrators themselves.

Ofgem informed the Panel that a number of the CMA remedies are already being met through the CGR3 work, and that the scope would cover code administrator and delivery bodies in electricity and gas. Ofgem's strategic role would be to publish strategic direction, create a consultative board and undertake reviews of code governance arrangement. Code governance bodies would become licenced code managers and deliverers with responsibility and accountability to the industry and consumers through Ofgem, and would gain the ability to raise modifications themselves. It was highlighted that coordination would be fostered between codes and that all code bodies would become competitive through tenders. Over time, this would foster synergies and efficiencies and result in fewer code bodies.

It was noted that the licencing regime would take at least two years before commencing implementation. The Panel highlighted that the licencing of code bodies would introduce a number of complexities that would need to be worked through, and noted Ofgem's offer to host talks with code administrators and governance bodies to discuss the plan in more detail.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the update.

18. Operations Report – April 2016

The Panel were presented with the operations report for April 2016. The report provides an outline of SECAS activities undertaken in support of the SEC. SECAS highlighted that the full SECAS team was in place and that a lot of time was being devoted to modifications. SECAS highlighted that a lot of activity had taken place in the modifications space due to the high volume of modifications going through the process, which may have an impact on the budget. Consequently, the Panel considered whether the likelihood of risk 6 in the risk register should be increased to reflect the volume of modifications.

The Panel noted the contents of the paper, which includes a breakdown of days by driver, product and grade and provides commentary related to the activities undertaken by the SECAS team.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

19. Smarter Markets Project Update

SECAS provided the Panel with the monthly update on the activities undertaken in support of the Smarter Markets project. A representative from the Ofgem Smarter Markets team provided a further update on progress to date. The representative informed the Panel that the External Design Advisory Group (EDAG) have met four times to review various policy issues and have taken decisions on advance registration, baselined switching scenarios 1 and 2, and the dual fuel switching process. A forward look on content will be published on the Ofgem website shortly.

The Switching Program Delivery Group (SPDG), modelled on the SMDG, have met once and are focussing on programme delivery, such as risks and issues. The DCC have been commissioned to provide external support. The representative informed the Panel that a Request for Information (RFI), including a short list of functional systems and services for a Centralised Registration Service (CRS), would be issued in February 2017, after which Ofgem would publish a draft business case. Ofgem intend to publish a more detailed plan shortly for the next phase of the program that will commence in the next financial year.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

20. SEC Panel Role in DCC Live

SECAS provided the Panel with an overview of the duties to be performed by the Panel through the testing phases leading up to DCC Live. A timeline based on the milestones set out in the final decision from the DECC Senior Responsible Owner to the DCC's 9th December 2015 SMIP Contingency Request was included in appendix A of the paper.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

21. Configuration Management Update

SECAS presented the Panel with a paper providing a configuration management update on the new SEC content designated by the Secretary of State in April 2016. The newest SEC version released in March was SEC 4.10, and it was highlighted that the next proposed updates would be released on 6th and 14th June 2016.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

22. SMKI PMA Update

SECAS provided the Panel with a paper on the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA) meeting held on 12th April 2016. A further meeting was held on 10th May 2016 where the SMKI PMA discussed Recovery Key Guidance, which will go out for consultation shortly. SECAS also informed the Panel that guidance on Authorised Responsible Officers (ARO) and Senior Responsible Officers (SRO) will be published w/c 16th May 2016. A paper update on the meeting will be provided to the June 2016 Panel meeting.

The Panel: **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

23. Security Sub-Committee Update

SECAS provided the Panel with a paper on the SSC meeting held on 13th April 2016. A further meeting was held on 11th May 2016 for which an update will be provided to the June 2016 Panel meeting.

SECAS presented the Panel with an outline of the process for setting a Party's assurance status. It was noted that the User Competent Independent Organisation (CIO) would have ten working days to produce a report after conducting a Party's on-site assessment. Following this, the Party would have five working days to respond. The CIO report and Party response would then be reviewed by SECAS and the SSC, who would provide a recommendation to the Panel on the Party's assurance status. The Panel will look to endorse the SSC recommendation, and it was queried whether the Panel would require the full documentation in order to inform their decision. The Panel agreed that the SSC recommendation take the form of a summary of the discussion, rather than a detailed report, but that the Panel should have access to the full documentation if deemed necessary. It was highlighted that the Panel may need to meet more regularly to set Parties' assurance statuses so as to not delay the process.

The Panel also discussed the terms of office of the current SSC Members, four of which will be coming up for re-election this year. The Panel highlighted that it would be beneficial for the current members to re-nominate themselves for continuity purposes. It was noted that the Panel would be able to appoint non-voting members to the committee.

SECAS highlighted that the SSC had undergone a risk assessment to determine the most appropriate solution for handling and storing sensitive information, particularly in regards to the information provided through the assessment process. It was noted that the SSC were minded to the procurement of Egress, subject to any objections made following the meeting. SECAS noted that following a decision by SSC, the drawdown of funds to procure the Egress solution would be brought to the Board at the appropriate time.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

24. Transition Governance Update

SECAS presented the Panel with an update from all of the transition governance entities and other smart metering related meetings and workshops attended by SECAS and the SEC Panel Chair in the last month. The Panel Chair provided a verbal update on the SMDG meeting held on 12th May 2016, which will be included in the June Transition Governance Update paper.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

25. SEC Panel Activity Planner

The Panel were presented with the SEC Panel Activity Planner as the standing agenda item providing a high level overview of the forthcoming SEC Panel activities and a forward look at Panel agenda items for the next three months, based on the latest information available.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

26. SEC Party Update

The Panel noted that the following organisations would be admitted as Parties to the SEC following countersignature of their Accession Agreements by the SECCo Board:

- GnERGY Ltd (Small Supplier)
- Hildebrand Technology Ltd (Other SEC Party)

The Panel also noted the name change of HM British Natural Gas Ltd to UK National Gas Ltd.

27. AOB

A Panel Member raised a concern regarding work being undertaken to look into harmonising settlement periods across Europe. This work could mandate a different settlement period configuration from that of Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications 2 (SMETS2) meters. It was highlighted that this would significantly increase the amount of data being received by the DCC, and that the DCC System is not being built to cope with under half hourly settlement periods. A Panel Member informed the Panel that he believed the issue had already been resolved. The Panel requested that SECAS double check the status of this work.

SECAS informed the Panel that the handover from DECC of the management of the technical specifications may take place at the end of 2016. SECAS proposed to bring back a paper at the June Panel meeting to look at the knowledge and tools required to undertake the handover.

A Panel Member highlighted that a number of small Independent District Network Operators (IDNO) have been established but not yet acceded. It was noted that the DCC has been in contact with the IDNOs to encourage them to accede, and it was suggested that SECAS reach out as well. The Panel noted the update and that action was not required at this point in time.

ACTION SECP32/08: SECAS to look into the EU harmonisation of settlement periods to determine the status of the discussion.

ACTION SECP32/09: SECAS to produce a paper for the June 2016 Panel to look into the knowledge and tools required to undertake the handover of technical specifications.

There was no further business and the Chair closed the meeting.