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SECMP0058 ‘Changes to the governance of the Self-Service Interface’

Change Board vote

About this document

This document summarises the discussions of the Change Board on SECMP0058 and the outcome of the vote.

This vote forms a decision on SECMP0058 under Self-Governance.

Change Board vote

Change Board decision

The Change Board voted to **approve** SECMP0058 under Self-Governance.

The vote breakdown is summarised below.

Change Board vote				
Party Category	Approve	Reject	Abstain	Outcome
Large Suppliers	6	0	0	Approve
Small Suppliers	1	0	0	Approve
Network Parties	2	0	1	Approve
Other SEC Parties	3	0	0	Approve
Consumer Representative	0	0	0	-
Overall outcome:				APPROVE

One Gas Network Party abstained from this vote due to Gas Network Parties not having to be Data Communications Company (DCC) Users.

The Consumer Representative was absent for this vote.

Views against the General SEC Objectives

Objective (a)¹

Four members of the Change Board believed that SECMP0058 will better facilitate SEC Objective (a) as this modification will provide Users with an improved means of accessing DCC Services directly, including information which could be critical to resolving issues related to the provision, installation and operation of Smart Metering Systems.

The remaining Change Board members who did not believe that this modification would better facilitate SEC Objective (a) believed it would benefit SEC Objective (g) instead, and that it was neutral against Objective (a).

Objective (b)²

The Change Board unanimously believed that SECMP0058 will better facilitate SEC Objective (b) as it will enable the DCC to provide services via the Self-Service Interface (SSI) that meet the needs of its Users in the most efficient and economical manner, in line with the First Enduring General Objective in the DCC Licence.

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

² To enable the DCC to comply at all times with the General Objectives of the DCC (as defined in the DCC Licence), and to efficiently discharge the other obligations imposed upon it by the DCC Licence.

Objective (g)³

Eight members of the Change Board believed that SECMP0058 will better facilitate SEC Objective (g) instead of Objective (a) as it will ensure that low level design detail that is not relevant to the objectives of the SEC is not included in the SEC and therefore made subject to a disproportionately onerous change process. Removing the low-level detail from the SEC, as well as introducing an SSI change governance process outside of the Section D Modification Process will also allow for a more efficient SSI change process with appropriate levels of governance. The remaining members felt SECMP0058 was neutral against this objective.

³ To facilitate the efficient and transparent administration and implementation of this Code.

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Comments and discussions

Consultation responses

Five responses were received to the Modification Report Consultation.

All five respondents (three Large Suppliers, one Small Supplier and one Network Party) believed that SECMP0058 should be approved. They welcomed the removal of low-level detail from the SEC and moving it to a new DCC controlled document, as well as providing a more efficient and cost-effective change process for the SSI.

Though they supported the modification, one Large Supplier expressed their disappointment with the proposed timescales of the new SSI change governance process as they are not necessarily quicker than the current process. However, the respondent recognised that this was due to the need for a strong governance framework that included a consultation over SSI changes as well as control and oversight over any costs accumulated during the process. For the avoidance of doubt, this respondent agreed that this modification represents an improvement over the current SSI change process.

One Large Supplier questioned how there would not be any costs on the DCC to implement this modification, adding that there should have been a cost associated with DCC creating the new SSI Baseline Requirements document. SECAS advised this respondent that although there would have been a cost for the DCC to create the SSI Baseline Requirements Document, this would have been counted under the costs of assessing and developing the solution, and so there wouldn't be any implementation costs as the document has already been created. This respondent added that, subject to the approval of this modification, a post-implementation review of the SSI change process should be undertaken to determine whether this modification has resulted in the outcomes predicted. SECAS agreed with this point and fed it back to the DCC.

Change Board discussions

The Change Board had no comments on this modification.