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MP079 Modification Report Consultation

1. Purpose

This is the Modification Report Consultation for [MP079 'Provisions for withdrawing modifications'](#). We invite you to respond to this consultation in order to help inform the Change Board in its vote on this modification.

The Modification Report is included in this consultation pack, along with a response form containing the questions we seek your views on.

This consultation will close at **17:00 on Thursday 9 January 2020**. The Change Board may not be able to consider late responses.

2. Summary of the proposal

What is the issue?

A key frustration, raised by many Parties during the feedback sessions, is that the SEC does not provide any power to anyone outside of the Proposer to withdraw a modification. The primary concern raised is that a lot of time, resource and cost is being put into Modification Proposals that are not going to progress for valid reasons or have been demonstrated to be detrimental to the SEC Objectives. Equally, there are cases where Proposers are not engaged with the process and actively request their proposals to effectively sit in stasis.

The improvements SECAS has recently introduced to the framework attempt to nullify this risk. The new Development Stage helps to ensure proposals are fully thought through and supported before they progress. Equally, requiring Change Board approval prior to incurring the cost of a DCC Impact Assessment seeks to prevent nugatory costs and effort during the Refinement Process.

However, these are preventative measures and can only go so far, especially since these rely on the Proposer acting on the views of the Change Sub-Committee or the Change Board. A Proposer is within their right to ignore the views of the wider industry and continue to progress their proposal to decision, even if it is clear it is not required, feasible or supported.

The Panel does have the power to set the timetable for a proposal's progression and could theoretically choose to progress a Modification Proposal to decision early. However, any Modification Proposal whose solution is not fully developed and assessed would be viewed as incomplete, and so would likely be sent back by the Change Board or the Authority.

What is the Proposed Solution?

MP079 proposes to extend the powers to withdraw a Modification Proposal to the Panel. This will provide a suitable check and balance to mitigating industry cost and effort in having to assess and develop proposals that have been clearly shown to be detrimental against the SEC Objectives, are

unfeasible due to the cost versus the benefits or have stagnated due to a combination of the two previous scenarios.

Will I be impacted?

The implementation of MP079 is not expected to impact SEC Parties. However, Proposers of Modification Proposals could be affected should their proposals be felt by the Panel to not better facilitate the SEC Objectives or benefit the Consumer.

Full details of this modification can be found in the Modification Report.

3. Contact

If you have any questions on this modification, please contact **Bradley Baker** on 020 7770 6597 or email sec.change@gemserv.com.