

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.

MP077 ‘DCC Service Flagging’

April 2020 Working Group meeting summary

Overview

Issue:

- [MP077 ‘DCC Service Flagging’](#) looks to address; the incorrect information and displayed states of Data Communications Company (DCC) Service Flags

Progress update:

- A Refinement Consultation was recently issued and closed in March 2020
- The next stage was presented as either deciding if the Preliminary Assessment and business requirements were suitable to progress to Impact Assessment, or if other steps had to be taken

Business Requirements

Some members expressed their concerns at whether the Preliminary Assessment and solution would be acceptable to progress to an Impact Assessment. The largest of these concerns was that whilst the DCC had delivered a solution in the Preliminary Assessment, this didn't match the originally business requirements submitted by SECAS.

Following on from this, the Preliminary Assessment had been discussed and revisions had taken place (chiefly the introduction of an entirely new flag state 'I' in addition to the originally requested 'N' flag state) to the point where the Preliminary Assessment doesn't reflect the solution written in the Modification Report. Due to these not aligning, this prompted several questions in the Refinement Consultation responses that were brought forward in this meeting. This encouraged further actions to be taken, including for the DCC providing a new Preliminary Assessment against the originally proposed business requirements. As part of this, it was suggested that the requirements submitted for the new Preliminary Assessment should differentiate between 2 new solutions:

- One solution where DCC Service Flags 'A', 'N' and 'I' are used; and
- One solution where DCC Service Flags 'A', 'N', 'I' and additionally 'S' are used, with the standalone cost of maintaining the 'S' flag provided as the difference between this and the other solution.

As part of the business requirements issued for the new Preliminary Assessment, it was requested by the Working Group that the “trigger points” be explained for each service flag state. This was so that it would be noted ahead of time how each flag state on a Smart Metering System (SMS) would come about and could help differentiate between these service flag states. The Proposer, SECAS and the DCC agreed with this approach.

Cross-Code impacts

The Working Group enquired further into the cross-code impacts that this modification creates. In particular, the Master Registration Agreement (MRA) and Uniform Network Code (UNC). It was noted where there was reference made to these in the Modification Report in the Impacts section, but that the interdependencies on the other codes needed mentioning to a wider degree throughout the rest of the paper. The Working Group also advised that the implementation timescales section of the Preliminary Assessment did not acknowledge the cross-code interdependencies it has and that these should also be explicitly stated.

There were questions about when the MRA and UNC would be able to deliver any changes being proposed as part of the wider implementation approach. Whilst SECAS confirmed they had asked the MRA and received a date in principle, this was not to be taken as a fully agreed date for implementation. The UNC had not provided a response at the time of the meeting. Working Group members highlighted the necessity that the other codes need to be involved with the Modification Proposal, to consider how this change will affect them and to ensure any change agreed could be implemented in their code. This issue was cited in the consultation responses stating that trying to make every code go live at once to the DCC change could be tricky, especially in the midst of a significant code review taking place.

Actions

SECAS

Following the meeting, SECAS were tasked with the following actions:

- Updating the business requirements to submit for another Preliminary Assessment which distinguishes between the two new solution choices;
- Updating the business requirements to include the “trigger points” to understand when the service flag states are used; and
- To ensure the Modification Proposal documentation brought further attention to the cross-code impacts to the MRA and UNC.

DCC

Following the meeting, the DCC were tasked with the following actions:

- Providing an updated Preliminary Assessment which included a solution against;
 - the originally proposed business requirements (DCC Service Flags ‘A’, ‘N’ and ‘I’); and
 - the originally proposed business requirements with the additional DCC Service Flag ‘S’ included.