

The Authority (Ofgem), the SEC Panel, SEC  
Parties, and other interested parties

5 November 2021

Dear Colleague,

**Smart Metering Implementation Programme: Decision on the addition of entries to the Eligible Product Combinations List for DCC SMETS1 services – EPCL Report 9**

On 11 August 2021 DCC published EPCL Report 9 and sought approval for the addition of the entries referred therein to the Eligible Product Combination List (EPCL). All entries in EPCL Report 9 relate to the SMETS1 Final Operating Capability (FOC) for DCC's SMETS1 Service.

Approval of the proposed Report 9 EPCL entries would enable the migration of these devices onto the DCC system and the use of SMETS1 services in respect of them by DCC Users. In doing so, this would allow energy suppliers to bring back smart services for those customers who have lost them and enable customers to retain services on change of supplier.

In determining whether to approve the addition of the entries to the EPCL, I have sought to gain sufficient confidence that the DCC is able to support migration and subsequent operations for these specific DMCs.

I have received a range of evidence on these matters including:

- DCC EPCL Report 9 responding to Live Service Criteria outlining the DCC recommendations to approve the addition of these DMCs to the EPCL;
- Advice from my own team in BEIS including confirmation on regulatory readiness and that mitigating actions on residual risks are in place; and
- Evidence from DCC and the Installing Supplier outlining why both parties consider it appropriate to add these dormant entries to the EPCL add this stage.

I have been advised that a small number of the SEAP 2001 Communications Hubs (CHs) that comprise this report (0.06%) have a memory capacity issue attributable to the devices' firmware which will mainly lead to these specific devices requiring early replacement. However, not approving the EPCL Report 9 entries would continue to deny consumers of the benefits of having their smart services restored. Analysis shows a strong net societal and consumer benefit of approving the addition of these entries now, as opposed to waiting several months

for new firmware to be available and applied to the devices in question. New firmware could also be applied following migration.

Very small numbers of migrations involving SEAP2001 Communications Hubs may be delayed due to the Comms Hub requiring a reboot to complete the migration process. I am satisfied that DCC will continue to work with Service Users to ensure any impacted devices are identified quickly and accurately so that prompt mitigating action can be taken.

In respect of system stability, I have been assured by the DCC that there have been no production incidents in the previous five days. The DCC should continue to proceed with caution, take necessary precautions to ensure there will be no significant adverse effects when migration begins, and keep all relevant stakeholders informed as it continues migrations and manages its operations.

Having considered the range of evidence and recommendations available to me, I have decided to hereby approve as of today's date the addition of the entries set out in the Annex of this letter to the EPCL, pursuant to clause 3.7 of the SMETS1 TMAD.

I note that further additions to the EPCL will be requested in the future and look forward to receiving the evidence and recommendations for these in due course.

Thank you to all parties who have engaged with and supported this process.

Yours faithfully,



**Duncan Stone**

Deputy Director & Head of Delivery  
Smart Metering Implementation Programme

(an official of the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy authorised to act on behalf of the Secretary of State)

#### **Annex**

[EPCL Report 9 – Annex A - EPCL Entries v1.0 11.08.2021](#)