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Paper Reference:	**SECCB_62_2601_05**
Action:	**For Decision**

Treatment of non-responses to consultations

1. Purpose

This paper sets out a formal position for how the Change Board will account for Parties that haven't responded to consultations when it votes on modifications, based on discussions at recent meetings. We invite the Change Board to agree this approach, which we will then publish on our website for transparency.

2. Treatment of non-responses to consultations

Following the discussion at the previous meeting[1], we propose that the Change Board adopts the following position:

> The Change Board will consider any Party that does not respond to any consultation for a modification prior to vote to have no strong views either for or against the proposal, and so will treat that Party as though it has abstained.
>
> In casting their votes, Change Board members will give due regard to the feedback provided in consultation responses from Parties in the Party Category they represent, as well as the content of the Modification Report and the discussions of the Change Board within the meeting. Where no Parties from the relevant Party Category have provided views, or the views provided are conflicting, Change Board members will apply their best judgement when casting their vote.

If the Change Board agrees with this position, we will add this to the Change Board page of our website and highlight this when issuing Modification Report Consultation notifications.

3. Recommendations

The Change Board is requested to **AGREE** the position for how it will account for Parties that haven't responded to consultations when it votes on modifications.

David Kemp

SECAS Team

19 January 2022

[1] Please see the minutes for Change Board item SECCB_61x_2212_03 for full details.