

FEBRUARY 2022

SEC Newsletter



WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY 2022 SEC NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the February SEC Newsletter edition, we hope you've had a good start to the year and are feeling the positive effects of the gradually longer days and (slightly) warmer temperatures!

This edition highlights the strong performance SEC had at the 2021 Ofgem Cross Code survey whereby the results were published recently. SEC Parties are reminded about their final chance to opt-in to take part in the annual SECAS Customer Satisfaction Survey to help improve our services. SEC Parties will also hear about the current Smart Meter Device Assurance Sub-Committee (SMDASC) elections and our upcoming webinars.

We always like to hear from you, and we welcome feedback on this edition as well as any topics you would like covered in future webinars or newsletter editions. Feel free to contact us via the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).

SEC
Smart Energy Code

Governance

CROSS CODE SURVEY RESULTS – STRONG PERFORMANCE BY SEC

Ofgem recently published the result of its Cross Code survey findings and overall, most areas for SEC have seen a positive improvement on the prior year.

The CACoP Survey reported: **“Overall, there is a strong performance for SEC in 2021, with a number of key metrics showing improvement (and 29% noting that they feel there has been an improvement in performance)”**.

Key highlights from the survey were as follows:

- Meeting facilities are seen as excellent or very good and fit for purpose (+4% to 96%)
- Teleconference facilities received positive feedback (+15% to 92%)
- Ability to easily find information on the website has improved (+4% to 67%) and information on website being easy to understand is viewed positively (+18% to 81%)
- Most find emails easy to understand (+13% to 71%) and there is an increase from the previous year that emails received make it clear what action needs to be taken (+17% to 82%)
- Being kept informed about the Code received positive feedback (+5% to 80%)
- Good improvement in the overall satisfaction with the SEC (+7% to 57%)
- Perceived improvement year on year saw an increase (+4% to 29%)
- Ease of interpreting information saw a slight improvement from previous survey (+1% to 54%)
- Raising and understanding modifications scored fair but there was a clear improvement from 2019 (+21% to 43%)

SECAS would like to thank the SEC Parties that took part in the survey as your feedback helps drive out potential improvements to the services we deliver. This includes improving on the provision of information prior to any meetings, both in terms of receiving this in sufficient time and there being enough information about the objectives of the upcoming meeting.



LAST CHANCE TO TAKE PART IN THE SECAS CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

SEC Parties are invited to provide their consent to take part in the SECAS Customer Satisfaction Survey by using the [online form](#) by **5pm on 25 February 2022**. This is your opportunity to let us listen, learn and improve the services we offer you, and we would very much value your input if you can spare 15 minutes of your time to provide your feedback to a third-party research agency.

If you have any questions, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).



Governance

SMART METER DEVICE ASSURANCE (SMDA) SCHEME UPDATE

Full Assurance

The [SMDA](#) is pleased to announce that Full Assurance has been awarded to three devices. All devices are Prepayment Meter Interface Devices (PPMIDs) with two awarded assurance against the November 2019 Release baseline and the other against the Release 1 baseline. All the devices are now on the [SMDA Device Assurance Register \(DAR\)](#).

This is a major milestone for the Scheme and something that they have been working to achieve from the outset.

Current Elections

Three roles are available to join the [SMDA Sub-Committee \(SMDASC\)](#), each serving a term of 24 months:

- One Large Supplier role represented by a Large Supplier SEC Party;
- One Manufacturer role represented by an Other SEC Party; and
- One additional Meter Asset Provider (MAP) role represented by an Other SEC Party.

To nominate yourself or a prospective candidate, please [log in](#) to the SEC website and complete the online [Election form](#) by **5pm on Thursday 3 March 2022**. If you do not have a SEC website account, you can register [here](#).

Testing Update

Please note that updated test scripts will be implemented the week commencing 29 March 2022 to apply the changes introduced in the November 2020 and November 2021 SEC releases. The June 2022 and November 2022 SEC releases are currently under review to assess any impact on the SMDA testing.



SEC PANEL APPROVED BUDGET 2022-2025 NOW AVAILABLE

The SEC Panel approved the Draft Budget for the Regulatory Years 2022-2025 at its meeting on 18 February 2022, which can now be found on our website [here](#). The Approved Budget for 2022-2025 will become effective on **1 April 2022**.

The Panel's decision followed a SEC Party consultation, and feedback from SEC Parties was presented to the Panel for consideration. Thank you to all those who responded to the original consultation.



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UPCOMING OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE REGIME (OPR) CONSULTATION

SEC Parties will soon be contacted for their view on how well the DCC has engaged during the 2021/22 Regulatory Year. This is as a result of Ofgem publishing changes to the DCC Operational Performance Regime (OPR), which include financial incentives for Customer Engagement. To help evaluate the DCC's performance in this area, the SEC Panel is required to submit an assessment of how the DCC performed in the Regulatory Year, which is where feedback from SEC Parties comes in.

SECAS will be issuing a consultation to all SEC Parties to seek views on how well the DCC has engaged during the 2021/22 Regulatory Year. The consultation will invite feedback as to the best way to engage with SEC Parties when such feedback is required for future submissions. **An online form will be published, and the link shared with all SEC parties on Monday 21 March 2022.** Responses will be limited to **one per SEC Party**.

The SEC Panel will review the responses and incorporate views expressed into their final submission. Any respondents who wish to be anonymous will be treated as such, but a full details of all responses will be issued to Ofgem as part of their wider review.

If you have any questions ahead of 21 March 2022, please contact the [SECAS Helpline](#), with the subject line 'OPR – DCC Engagement Consultation.'



SEC CHANGE BOARD'S TREATMENT OF NON-RESPONSES TO CONSULTATIONS

In January 2022, the Change Board agreed how it will account for Parties that have not responded to consultations when it votes on modifications. The Change Board will consider any Party that does not respond to any consultation for a modification prior to the vote to have no strong views either for or against the proposal. The Party will be treated 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.

This information is displayed on the SEC Change Board Sub-Committee page [here](#).



Governance

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS?

As part of the planned website improvements SECAS is looking at delivering, we would value your feedback on what you would like to see on our site. As part of this, we're trying to gauge how many SEC Parties would benefit from closed captions or subtitles on our videos going forward.

If you believe this would be of use to you or your organisation, please let us know at the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).



SEC CHANGE BOARD'S TREATMENT OF NON-RESPONSES TO CONSULTATIONS

SEC Parties can view the [paper](#) published by Ofgem detailing their decisions on the DCC's costs and performance, along with the reasons behind them. This also includes information on the DCC's application to adjust its Baseline Margin and External Contract Gain Share values.

If you have any questions, please contact smartmetering@ofgem.gov.uk.



SECAS Events

NEW SECAS WEBINARS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

SEC Parties are now able to register for two upcoming SECAS Webinars scheduled in March 2022, we hope you can join us:

Upcoming Webinars

Export Metering Webinar: 9 March 2022

This webinar will offer the chance to hear from the SECAS Technical Operations team, who will provide an overview of the way that Export Metering operates using the current Smart Metering architecture.

Please email the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) with your questions by **5pm on 7 March 2022**. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions on the day of the webinar.

Please register using this Livestorm [link](#).

Open Modifications Webinar: 24 March 2022

This webinar will offer the chance to hear from the SEC Change Team on some of the modifications that are currently at various stages of the SEC Modification Process and follows on from feedback received at the Modification Proposer Guidance webinar on 16th February 2022.

Please email the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) with your questions by **5pm on 22 March 2022**. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions on the day of the webinar.

Please register using this Livestorm [link](#).

Enrolment & Adoption Webinar: 21 March 2022

During this session, we will be exploring some topics in further depth, which were raised in our Enrolment & Adoption webinar on 24 June 2021. You can find slides and recording [here](#). The topics we will be reviewing include:

- Known challenges, and what Suppliers can do to help resolve them
- Device specific behaviours
- The differences between SMETS1 and SMETS2

If you have any questions on Enrolment & Adoption that you would like to ensure are addressed via the presentation, please submit these by **5pm on 14 March 2022**, by emailing the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).

Please register using this Livestorm [link](#).

WEBINAR PRESENTATION SLIDES AND RECORDINGS

Once [logged in](#), SEC Parties can view the presentation slides and video recordings of our recent webinars on proposing modifications, Credit Cover and Security Assessments [here](#).

If there are any topics that you'd like to be covered at future webinars, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).

Modifications

NEW DRAFT PROPOSALS

One new Draft Proposal has been raised since the last newsletter. You are invited to provide feedback to the [Change Team](#) to help us understand whether this affects you.

MP200 'Faster Switching consequential changes to the SEC'	Several SEC Sections and Appendices must be amended in order to facilitate the go-live of the Centralised Switching Service (CSS). These changes are deemed as consequential changes that will have a minor, if any, impact on SEC Parties. This modification has gone straight to Report phase.
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REFINEMENT CONSULTATIONS

There is currently one Modification Proposals undergoing Refinement Consultation. As a SEC Party, you can help influence the Proposed Solution, help determine the business case for the change, and comment on how the proposal will affect your organisation. For more information and to respond the consultation, download the consultation pack linked below and send your response to the [Change Team](#).

MP129 'Allowing the use of Commercial National Security Algorithm (CNSA) variant for Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (ECDSA)' Download the consultation here. Closing Date: 4 March 2022	<p>The Data Services Provider (DSP) interpreted SEC Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification' (GBCS) as mandating the GBCS variant of the Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (ECDSA) for all Device Critical Command signing operations, rather than the more common Commercial National Security Algorithm (CNSA) Suite standard.</p> <p>BEIS advised that the DSP could have used the CNSA Suite standard and remained compliant. The Smart Metering Key Infrastructure (SMKI) Policy Management Authority (PMA) agreed that the GBCS wording lacked clarity and would need to be updated to explicitly permit the use of CNSA Suite by Remote Parties.</p> <p>The Proposed Solution will modify the relevant sections of the GBCS so that it clearly shows that the CNSA variant for Critical Command signing is permitted for use for Parties. The CNSA variant will be permitted for use along with the ECDSA, but it will not replace it.</p>
MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver market-wide half-hourly settlement (MHHS)' Download the consultation here. Closing Date: 4 March 2022	<p>Ofgem's Electricity Settlement Reform Significant Code Review (SCR) has concluded that settling all consumers on a half-hourly basis would bring net benefits of up to £4.5bn by 2045. Ofgem has therefore concluded that Suppliers should be mandated to settle their customers on a half-hourly basis.</p> <p>MP162 proposes to introduce all the expected changes needed under the SEC and the DCC Systems for MHHS, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing a new User Role for Parties other than Suppliers who will be carrying out the Meter Data Retrieval (MDR) service. • The User Entry Process requirements for the new User Role. • Defining the relevant Service Requests the new User Role will have access to and the associated Target Response Times (TRTs) and testing scenarios. • The associated security and data privacy arrangements that will apply to the new User Role.

Modifications

MODIFICATION REPORT CONSULTATION

There are currently two open Modification Report Consultations. You are invited to provide feedback to the [Change Team](#) to help us understand your views on whether the modification should be approved.

<p><u>MP140 'CH Stock Transfer'</u></p> <p>Download the consultation here.</p> <p>Closing Date: 9 March 2022</p>	<p>Due to issues arising from COVID-19, SEC Parties are looking to transfer excess CH stock. The DCC has proposed that the SEC Parties who want to transfer this stock should be able to send it to SEC Parties who are still taking CH orders, rather than sending it to DCC as an unnecessary step.</p> <p>The Proposed Solution is for the DCC to provide a means of allowing SEC Parties to exchange CH units between themselves directly, rather than returning them to the DCC. After a stock transfer has been completed between the two Parties, DCC Logistics would share the transfer details with Data Service Provider (DSP) to acknowledge the change of ownership and liability.</p>
<p><u>MP159 'Credit Cover Review'</u></p> <p>Download the consultation here.</p> <p>Closing Date: 9 March 2022</p>	<p>The DCC and the SEC Panel have reviewed SEC Section J3 'Credit Cover' and have identified several areas that would benefit from further clarification. There has been some misinterpretation of the current SEC legal text outlining the Credit Cover processes. This has led to increased risk of cost socialisation.</p> <p>The Proposed Solution is to address the identified inefficiencies within current process and to rewrite certain clauses in Plain English to mitigate the risk of misinterpretation by SEC Parties and the DCC. This modification will impact Large and Small Suppliers, Network Parties and the DCC. The cost of this modification is anticipated to be £600 to amend the SEC.</p>
<p><u>MP200 'Faster Switching consequential changes to the SEC'</u></p> <p>Download the consultation here.</p> <p>Closing Date: 16 March 2022</p>	<p>The current obligations for Network Parties to ensure RDPs send registration data to the DSP will be removed. These will be replaced with obligations on the DCC in its role as the Centralised Registration Service (CRS) to ensure the CSS sends the required registration data to the DSP. Suppliers and Other SEC Parties remain unaffected by any SEC consequential changes.</p> <p>In addition to clarifying obligations on the CRS, changes will also be required to the SEC Appendices that detail the new interface between the DSP and CSS systems.</p>



Modifications

DCC USER GUIDANCE AND WHERE TO FIND IT

The DCC have many useful documents detailing how to get the most out of the services that they offer, however these documents can be found in several different places, and it can be difficult to know where to start. Here is a helpful list of where to look:

- The DCC Website: Information on the DCC Website is for Public consumption. Organisations that are looking to become a SEC Party or just general information is available here.
- Information for SEC Parties is in folders on SharePoint: This is where the majority of the User Guides, Work Instructions and necessary Forms are found. There are located on here solely for Service User access requiring a SharePoint sign on.
- The Self Service Interface (SSI): The SSI contains mainly single page knowledge articles about the services available on the SSI. It also links out to the Information for SEC Parties folder on SharePoint as SSI does not support images.



DCC FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The DCC Operations Knowledge team are looking to create a one stop shop for Knowledge. Due to the huge amount of information within the DCC this is not a quick and simple process. We will pass on any update provided by the DCC as the project progresses.



SUPPLIERS: EASILY ADD YOUR DETAILS TO THE OPERATIONS CONTACT LIST

SEC Modification MP121 '[Commissioning non-commissioned Devices after CoS](#)' was implemented as part of the February 2022 SEC Release. The proposed solution includes an obligation on reactive 'install and leave' installing Suppliers to respond to a request for an install code within 10 working days.

SECAS hosts the [Operations Contact List](#) securely on the SEC website which Parties can only access once [logged in](#). To help Suppliers comply with MP121, you can use the online [Change in Party Details form](#) to easily inform SECAS of your updated Operational Contacts, as well as changes to your SEC Party contacts and mailing list subscribers. If you have any questions, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).

Publications

OPEN INDUSTRY CONSULTATIONS WEBPAGE

Please visit our [Open Industry Consultations webpage](#) for details of consultations that may be of interest to SEC Parties. If you are aware of a consultation that should be added, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).

For other publications that may be of interest to you, please view the [Operations Report in the February 2022 WHITE SEC Panel Meeting 101 Documentation](#). SEC Parties can also view the Transitional Governance Update (TGU) Paper in the [February 2022 GREEN SEC Panel Meeting 101 Documentation](#).

SECAS HELPDESK

Please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) with any questions and a member of the team will be happy to help. Helpdesk hours are **Monday-Friday 9-5pm (excluding bank holidays)**.

Key Governance Meeting Dates

28 February	Operations Group Meeting 66
2 March	SEC Monthly Working Group Meeting - March 2022
3 March	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee Meeting 75
8 March	Operations Group Meeting 67
9 March	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority Meeting 91
9 March	Security Sub-Committee Meeting 142
15 March	Change Sub-Committee Meeting 37
18 March	SEC Panel Meeting 102