

Meeting Session	DCUSA Panel (Open Session)
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Action	For Information

Code Administrators Code of Practice (CACoP) Update

This paper provides an update to the DCUSA Panel on the work being undertaken by the CACoP Forum.

1. Background

- 1.1 The CACoP was established following Ofgem's Code Governance Review in 2015, with the aim of ensuring a consistent approach and level of service is delivered by all Code Administrators. The CACoP contains 14 principles to facilitate convergence and transparency in all aspects of Code Administration, particularly focused on ensuring ease of understanding and engagement with the Code change processes. CACoP promotes accessibility, working to improve regulatory engagement with all parties operating in the energy market as well as considering consumers interests.
- 1.2 This paper is produced by the DCUSA representative on the CACoP Group, to update the DCUSA Panel on meeting discussions and actions arising. It should be noted that the DCUSA representative is normally Richard Colwill but that the July meeting was attended by Dylan Townsend.

2. Update

- 2.1 The latest CACoP meeting was held on Tuesday, 12 July 2022 and the following items are highlighted to the Panel as being of likely interest:

Modification Proposal / Change Proposal form template

- 2.2 The discussion centred around wanting to understand Ofgem's expectations of the previous decision that Change Proposal forms should be consistent across the codes by way of a standardised template. The forum has been discussing moving towards achieving consistency through a set of principles rather than the standardised template due to some divergence between the codes in use of the template. Another reason for the potential change in approach was because of the move towards a more digital way of working, where some codes, like the REC, have an online only form as a way of submitting a change/modification and thus don't use the standard template.
- 2.3 Ofgem provided a view that any move away from the standardised template should be carefully considered with Code Administrators basing such a move on evidence that shows code stakeholders have been considered and where it can be showed to be a better approach as compared to the status quo.
- 2.4 We highlighted that any move to achieving consistency through a set of principles would likely need to account for the provisions within some codes of the specified content for Modification Proposal / Change Proposal forms as some codes (DCUSA being one of them) contain a detailed list of items that need to be included with the form.

Aligning industry release dates

- 2.5 The Forum members reviewed a completed table showing Code Administrators release dates and times and then discussed possible approaches to assess impacts of cross-Code misalignment if the current approach is retained.
- 2.6 The Forum agreed that a set of scenarios will be created and issued to the relevant Code Administrators with a view to getting Code Administrators to provide insight into how each scenario would be handled. The results of this would be collated together so as to obtain an understanding of the implications to industry and Code Administrators themselves. It was agreed that only after this scenario testing had been completed would the forum really know whether or not moving to aligned release dates was the best approach.

CODE ADMINISTRATOR PERFORMANCE FUTURE SURVEY

- 2.7 During the June CACoP Forum, it was confirmed that Ofgem will not be conducting a Performance Survey this year but would like to review how the survey will fit into the future regime. One of the reasons for this was because Ofgem's contract with the Provider had ended.
- 2.8 The Forum discussed what the impacts of not conducting the survey would be and we noted that the provision of such a survey is set out under CACoP Principle 12 '*Participate in the Gas And Electricity Markets Authority Customer Surveys and Report Quarterly to the Gas And Electricity Markets Authority on Agreed Metrics*'. We also highlighted that it may be feasible to utilise our respective organisations surveys as a proxy for having a central approach facilitated by Ofgem, although it was noted that relative timings may make this difficult. Further to this the Forum discussed the prospect of attempting to coordinate a survey via the Forum itself, however, it was noted that this was likely to be hard to achieve given the amount of work that goes into selecting an appropriate company and then agreeing the desired approach.

Ofgem Approach to Expected Decision Dates:

- 2.9 The Ofgem representative also provided a brief update on the Ofgem's processes related to expected decision dates, noting that they are formally adopting the approach of publishing the dates on which they expect to make a decision following an internal assessment. It was noted that this differs from their previous approach which was based around a 25 Working Day internal KPI.
- 2.10 The dates set out in the final column of the document Ofgem publishes ('Expected date of publication') reflect Ofgem's expectation as at the date this document is published. This date, and Ofgem's expectations in relation to them, may change (for example due to developments in respect of the particular modification proposal and/or due to other changes in priorities). Any changes in Ofgem's expectations will be reflected in updated versions of this table which will be published on their website from time to time. The Ofgem representative was keen to hear feedback from codes in relation to the new approach.
- 2.11 We raised a point in relation to this topic, which we had also raised during previous Panel meetings and which relates to the fact that it becomes hard for Working Groups to target an implementation date given Ofgem's expected timelines for decisions will now be unknown. We noted that we accept the same could be said about the previous approach but that Ofgem's internal KPI at least provided somewhat of a guide. Other Forum members agreed with this point and also raised other issues relating to:
 - decisions related to modifications/changes not being provided to the codes via normal channels and codes only finding out a decision has been made via Ofgem's Daily Update email or via a Code Party and which we noted that this scenario was recently seen with a decision for a DCUSA Change Proposal; and

- the fact that the dates within the 'Modifications with Ofgem for Decision – Expected publication dates timetable' document are sometimes set to 'TBC' or in fact are often updated from month to month is somewhat problematic for Code Administrators and industry alike.

2.12 With respect to the second bullet point above, we took the opportunity to highlight the long outstanding decision expected for DCP 297, explaining that over the years the Panel has had many updates to state that a decision was expected by a certain date but that no decision has ever been made. We also explained that both the 'Policy Lead' and the 'Head of Industry Codes' had attended Panel meetings to provide an explanation and/or assurance that a decision will be forthcoming, but that no decision has ever been made.

3. Action

3.1 The DCUSA Panel is invited to:

- **NOTE** the content of this paper.

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CACoP Communications Matrix

Communications Matrix

Please see below a CACoP Communications Matrix, with useful links to the CACoP products.

Communication/ Product	Purpose	Medium	Frequency
CACoP Meetings/ CACoP Principles	As part of Ofgem's Code Governance Review the Code Administrator Code of Practice was established which aims to provide a consistent approach and level of service across associated code modifications. It contains 14 principles to facilitate convergence and transparency in code Modification processes and to help protect the interests of small market participants and consumers. The CACoP Principles can be found here . Minutes from CACoP meetings can be found here .	Face to face/ Teleconference	Monthly
CACoP Newsletter	The CACoP Newsletter provides an overview on recent CACoP activities. The latest newsletter can be found at the following link . If you would like to sign-up to the newsletter, visit the link above, open the latest newsletter and click on the link within the newsletter.	Online/ Email	Quarterly
CACoP Central Modification Register	The Central Modification Register details the changes across the Codes and their potential impacts on each other. The Central Modification Register can be found here .	Online	Monthly
CACoP Horizon Scan	The Horizon Scan provides the Code Administrators combined view of the key the key legislative and regulatory changes expected to impact the industry. The latest Horizon Scan can be found here .	Online	Monthly