

DCP 436 Working Group Meeting 01

11 March 2024 at 10:00 - Web-Conference

Attendee	Company
Working Group Members	
Emil Waters [EW]	BUUK
Donna Jamieson [DJ]	IDCSL
Frank Shackleton [FS]	SSEN
Sam Townend [ST]	ENWL
Paul Nicholson [PN]	NPg
Victoria Burkett [VB]	SSE
Code Administrator	
Craig Booth [CB]	Chair & Secretariat

1. Administration

Recording

- 1.1 The Chair asked members if they were comfortable for this Working Group to be recorded. No members objected to this request. The purpose of this recording is purely to aid the Technical Secretariat in producing an accurate report of the meeting. The recording will be deleted after 15 Working Days.

Competition Law Guidance and Terms of Reference

- 1.2 The Working Group reviewed the “Competition Law Guidance” and “Terms of Reference”. All Working Group members agreed to be bound by the Competition Law Guidance for the duration of the meeting and agreed to the Terms of Reference.

2. Purpose of the Meeting

- 2.1 The Chair set out that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Change Proposal and agree the next steps.

3. Change Proposal Discussion

Introduction

- 3.1 The Proposer walked the Working Group through the change and explained that to meet the dates currently required by the DCUSA the data was extracted around April each year, meaning it is 6 to 7 months old by the time the block letter reaches the customer.
- 3.2 The Proposer explained that the data had needed to be cut again later in the year due to changes to some of the block letters, meaning the activity was performed more than once, requiring effort by all Parties involved (DNOs, IDNOs, the Nominated Central Source and Suppliers). The Proposer explained that by pushing the dates back, it was his hope that this would mean keep this activity limited to once per year.

Block Letter Changes

- 3.3 The Working Group discussed why the block letters change.
- 3.4 It was explained that they may change as a result of, for example, a rearrangement of the network to suit a new connection, a customer being moved from one primary substation to another as a result of changes of demand and the need to balance the demand on each block, or the addition or removal of a protected site.
- 3.5 The Proposer explained that there had been a lot of activity in relation to block letters as a result of ongoing work on protected sites, and that by submitting the data to the Nominated Central Source later in the year, DNOs and IDNOs would be submitting more up to date information than previously.

Proposed Dates

- 3.6 The Supplier representative on the call expressed concerns that the dates, as currently drafted in the legal text, were too close to winter and which could mean some customers may not get their updated block letter on a bill in time for winter.
- 3.7 The Working Group discussed whether the Supplier could comply with its obligation to send the updated block letter to the customer in other ways, such as pointing them to a website.
- 3.8 Whilst the Working Group acknowledged there may be other avenues, it was agreed that any changes to Supplier obligations in respect of complying with this requirement should form part of another Change Proposal
- 3.9 The Proposer stated that there may need to be some compromise on the dates, perhaps with them being move back by a month. The Working Group agreed to consult on this.

Customer Impact

- 3.10 The Working Group discussed what the impact to customers would be as a result of moving the date to later in the year. It was discussed that there are positive implications, such as ensuring the data is more up to date by the time the customer receives it, however it was also discussed that customers may receive the updated block letter too close to winter, or into winter.
- 3.11 The Working Group agreed to include a consultation question around the impact to customers.

Supplier Impacts

- 3.12 The Working Group discussed the impact to Suppliers.
- 3.13 The Working Group noted the lack of Supplier representation on the Working Group. The Chair agreed to reach out to contract managers to request more engagement.

Action 1	Chair to reach out to contract managers to request more engagement from Supplier Parties.
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- 3.14 The Supplier representative explained that it was a large piece of work to reconcile and update their systems with the block letters, requiring a lot of resource to complete it. The Working Group discussed whether the Nominated Central Source could provide a subset of data, alongside the existing full dataset, that showed only where there were new or changed post codes, and whether this would assist Suppliers in updating their systems in a more efficient manner.
- 3.15 The Working Group noted that the intent of the Change Proposal was to amend the dates for the submission, collation, publication and use of the data, and not to mandate changes to the way the data is provided. It was discussed that a change of intent would be required.

Action 2	Chair to issue a paper to the March Panel for an amendment to the title and intent of this Change Proposal.
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3.16 The Working Group agreed that, should the changes be approved by Panel, a consultation question on this should be included.

Data Quality

3.17 The Working Group discussed concerns around the quality of the data and whether this should be included in the amended intent of the Change Proposal.

3.18 The Proposer highlighted the tight timescales needed to avoid requiring a derogation again this year.

3.19 The Working Group agreed that due to this, data quality should remain out of scope of this Change Proposal and any such work would need to be picked up in another Change Proposal.

4. Consultation

4.1 The Working Group drafted four questions to consult on:

4.1.1 Do you agree that the dates for the DNO/IDNO Parties to submit the Alpha Identifiers to the Nominated Central Source, and therefore for the collated data to be uploaded to the DCUSA website, should be moved to later in the year? Please provide your rationale.

4.1.2 Do you agree with the proposed dates as set out in the current draft legal text? (See Attachment 1 to this consultation.) If not, please provide suggestions for your proposed dates and your rationale for these.

4.1.3 To Suppliers: If a subset of data was provided that showed changes to the block letter for those post codes that had changed or for new post codes that had been created, in the previous 12-month period, would this reduce the time needed to update your systems?

4.1.4 Do you believe there are any impacts to customers as a result of moving the dates to be later in the year, and do you believe these to be positive or negative? Please provide our rationale.

4.2 The Chair agreed to draft the consultation offline and circulate this for review, first to the Proposer and then subsequently to the Working Group.

Action 3	Chair to draft the consultation offline and circulate this for review, first to the Proposer and then subsequently to the Working Group.
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5. Timeline

5.1 The Working Group discussed the timeline for the consultation and following steps.

5.2 The Chair stated that, assuming the Panel approved the change of title and intent at its meeting on 20 March 2024, he would issue the consultation the same day for a period of 15 working days. The

Chair noted the upcoming bank holidays, which meant the deadline for responses would therefore be 12 April 2024.

- 5.3 The Working Group discussed whether the consultation could be issued for less time or whether any responses received earlier than the deadline could be reviewed in advance of this. The Chair explained that whilst there was nothing to stop the Working Group from reviewing received responses earlier, it would not present a complete picture and, typically, responses are received very close to the deadline.
- 5.4 The Chair also suggested that leaving the consultation for the usual full timescales may result in more responses being received. The Working Group agreed to consult for the full 15 working days.

Action 4	Chair to issue the consultation on 20 March 2024, following the presumed approval of the amendment to the CP title and intent.
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6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The Working Group agreed to meet again on 16 April 2024, 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 No other business was raised.

New and Open Actions

Action Ref.	Action	Owner	Update
01/01	Reach out to contract managers to request more engagement from Supplier Parties.	Chair	New action
01/02	Issue a paper to the March Panel for an amendment to the title and intent of this Change Proposal.	Chair	New action
01/03	Draft the consultation offline and circulate this for review, first to the Proposer and then subsequently to the Working Group.	Chair	New action
01/04	Issue the consultation on 20 March 2024, following the presumed approval of the amendment to the CP title and intent.	Chair	New action

Closed Actions

Action Ref.			Update