

DCUSA Panel Meeting 221 (Open Session)

20 November 2024 at 10:00am

3rd Floor, Northumberland House, 303 306 High Holborn, London,
WC1V 7JZ / MS Teams

Attendee	Role	Company
Panel Members		
Donna Jamieson [DJ]	Panel Member (CHAIR)	DCUSA Ltd
Victoria Burkett [VB]	Alternate Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Karl Marylon [KM]	Alternate Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Donald Preston [DP]	Alternate Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Simon Vicary [SV]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Peter Waymont [PW]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Kevin Woollard [KW]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Simon Yeo [SY]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Observers		
Mark DeSouza Wilson [MDW]	Observer	BSC
Nadir Hafeez [NH]	Observer	Ofgem
Moniqa Pereira [MP]	Observer	Indigo Networks
Kavya [KV]	Observer	Brook Green Supply
Clare Wagstaffe [CW]	Observer	SSEN
Lorna Mallon [LM]	Observer	REC
Code Administrator		
Richard Colwill [RC]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Angelo Fitzhenry [AF]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Andy Green [AG]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Craig Booth [CB]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
George Kestner [GK]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Dylan Townsend [DT]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Apologies		
Lee Wells [LW]	Alternate Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd

1. Administration

Permission to record Meeting

- 1.1 The Panel RESOLVED to record this meeting to aid the Technical Secretariat in producing an accurate report of the meeting. The recording will be deleted once the minutes for the meeting are approved.

Welcomes and Introductions

- 1.2 The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Apologies

- 1.3 It was NOTED that 'Apologies' had been received from None

Non-Confidential Minutes

- 1.4 The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and the Panel agreed that they were a true and fair representation of the meeting.

Updated Actions

- 1.5 The Panel reviewed the new and open actions for the previous open session Panel meeting and updates on all actions are set out in Appendix A.

2. Updates from the Industry Working Groups/Codes

Balancing & Settlement Code (BSC)

- 2.1 MDW provided the Panel with a verbal update on BSC related topics. Points raised included:
- Elexon announced the dates for the introduction to electricity market seminars for 2025, which will be held in February, April, September, and November. These seminars are already available for booking on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - Elexon is currently reviewing metering dispensations. Letters and emails have been sent to those with open dispensations, requesting responses by Friday of the current week.
 - Elexon have initiated work group sessions to review the governance arrangements for the market facilitator role which Elexon has been assigned. The first session is scheduled for November 27, with sessions continuing through to March 2024. Interested parties are encouraged to sign up.
 - P483 balancing services by asset metering system had been raised. This would allow provision of balancing services to be unrestricted off what boundary point supplier does, first working group meeting to take place in early December

- 2.2 The Panel NOTED the BSC update.

Ofgem

- 2.3 NH provided the Panel with a verbal update on Ofgem related topics, which included:
- An update on the Expected Decision Dates ('EDD') for all DCUSA Change Proposals (DCPs) that were currently with the Authority for decision, including:

- **DCP 441 ‘Proposal to increase the number of allowed Change Report alternative variations from two to three’:** Decision expected on December 6th.
- **DCP 438 ‘Rate of return change proposal’:** Decision delayed to 11 December 2024 due to competing priorities.
 - Panel members expressed concerns about the tight timeline for the decision, emphasising the importance of timely decisions to ensure accurate data for setting charges. Panel members urged NH to expedite the decision if possible.
- **DCP 437 ‘To Shorten the DUoS pricing notice periods’:** Ofgem plans to send this back for further work, as they currently do not have sufficient information to assess the full merits and impact of the change proposal. They require additional details on the impact on consumers and the potential increase in risk premia that Suppliers may apply.
 - Panel members raised concerns about the challenge of providing commercially sensitive information via a Working Group and suggested that Suppliers might need to submit responses directly to Ofgem. The Panel also discussed the difficulty of assessing the impact on retail tariffs and the potential delay in getting the decision finalised.
- **DCP 439 ‘Backdating tariff changes’:** Decision delayed to 13 February 2025 due to the complexity of the change.
- **DCP 445 ‘Implementation of MHHS arrangements’:** This was recently submitted to Ofgem and a decision is expected on 26 November 2024.
- **DCP 433 Limitation for backdating of rebates/charges under Schedule 32’:** Decision made on 14 November 2024.
- **DCP 417 ‘Ability for the DCUSA Secretariat to Raise Change Proposals’:** Decision made and published, with Ofgem also designating the Secretariat under the electricity distribution license.

2.4 The Panel NOTED the Ofgem update.

Smart Energy Code (SEC)

2.5 LM NOTED that no SEC modifications were being progressed that would affect the DCUSA.

2.6 The Panel NOTED the SEC update.

Retail Energy Code (REC)

2.7 LM presented the REC change update paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1016_01). The paper was taken as read.

- With respect to DCP 419, a REC issue had been raised and that the REC Code Manager would continue to monitor the development of DCP 419 via attendance at the Working Group
- With respect to R0170, which sought to move the Service termination issue reporting guidance document currently governed under the REC, to be governed by the ENA, this had been rejected by the Authority.

2.8 The Panel NOTED the REC update.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 There were no Matters Arising.

4. Change Register

4.1 RC presented the Change Register updates to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1120_02). The paper was taken as read. RC explained which changes had changed status since the last Panel meeting as well as any that had moved into a new status since the paper was published.

4.2 RC presented the Status Change Tab and highlighted the Change Proposals which had changed status over the course of the last month.

4.3 RC Presented the Timetable Tab and highlighted the proposed timetable changes, including the rationale for requesting the change. The Panel approved all proposed changes to the timetables.

4.4 The Panel NOTED the Change Register updates.

5. Initial Assessments

5.1 RC presented the Initial Assessment Cover Paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1120_03). It was NOTED that there were three new DCUSA Change Proposals (DCPs 446, 447, and 448) received by the Secretariat, which were being presented to the DCUSA Panel for Initial Assessment this month. Those Change Proposals were:

- **DCP 446: Emergency Disconnections:** proposed by Eastern Power Networks, aims to enable distributors to charge customers for emergency disconnections caused by their acts or omissions. It was recommended to be treated as a Part 1 Matter and progressed to the Definition Phase.
- **DCP 447: NTC Section Footers:** proposed by Eastern Power Networks, is a housekeeping change to add section numbers to footers in Schedule 2B. It was recommended to be treated as a Part 2 Matter and progressed to the Change Report Phase.
- **DCP 448: Supercustomer Billing:** proposed by Eastern Power Networks, seeks to align DCUSA text with the supercustomer process by amending Clause 20.4. It was recommended to be treated as a Part 2 Matter and progressed to the Change Report Phase.

DCP 446 'Emergency Disconnections'

- 5.2 The Panel SCRUTINISED DCP 446, with a suggestion to change the wording in section 7.1 from "N/A" to "none" for clarity, although it was agreed that this would be picked up in the Change Report and needn't be amended in the Change Proposal form.
- 5.3 The Panel RESOLVED to:
- ACCEPT the referral of DCP 446;
 - AGREE that DCP 446 should be treated as a 'Standard Change;
 - AGREE that DCP 446 should be treated as a Part 1 Matter;
 - AGREE that DCP 446 should be progressed to the Definition Phase via a Working Group to further refine the proposed solution; and
 - AGREE the progression of DCP 446 in accordance with the proposed timescale.

DCP 447 'NTC Section Footers'

- 5.4 The Panel SCRUTINISED DCP 447 and RESOLVED to:
- ACCEPT the referral of DCP 447;
 - AGREE that DCP 447 should be treated as a 'Standard Change;
 - AGREE that DCP 447 should be treated as a Part 2 Matter;
 - AGREE that DCP 447 should be progressed to the Change Report stage; and
 - AGREE the progression of DCP 447 in accordance with the proposed timescale.
- 5.5 DT asked if 'footers' should be considered part of the legal text of the DCUSA but instead thought of as useful document information as it includes page number and section/schedule reference. DT explained that when the legal text for a CP that implements a new Section or Schedule is provided, it doesn't show the addition of a footer for that Section or Schedule but is added in by the Secretariat for consistency.
- 5.6 The Panel explained that there was a precedent where Ofgem had required similar changes to be progressed via a formal DCUSA change in the past, and this would improve readability and consistency.

DCP 448 'Supercustomer Billing'

- 5.7 The Panel SCRUTINISED DCP 448, with one Panel member discussing how the previously billed amounts should be reconciled and what period this should consider. The Panel member felt that there was scope for the proposed drafting to be unclear and asked if it was possible to amend this prior to it being progressed.
- 5.8 It was noted that as there was a difference of opinion in terms of the legal drafting that it would be appropriate for the change to be sent to a Working Group for it to be discussed further.
- 5.9 The Panel requested an amendment to the CP form to say 'something like' where it references what the proposed change to the text would be and to then progress DCP 448 to a Working Group. One Panel member also noted that impacted clauses should also include the section number as well as the clause, as currently only the clause was stated.

5.10 The Panel asked if the CP form template could be amended to specify that sections and clauses should be noted, to which DT said that this was already included in the new template but that template was not yet available on the website but would soon be uploaded.

5.11 The Panel RESOLVED to:

- ACCEPT the referral of DCP 448;
- AGREE that DCP 448 should be treated as a 'Standard Change;
- AGREE that DCP 448 should be treated as a Part 2 Matter;
- AGREE that DCP 448 should be progressed to the Definition Phase via a Working Group to further refine the proposed solution but that the Working Group are to be instructed to only agree on proposed legal drafting and that a consultation would not be required to be conducted as part of their process; and
- AGREE the progression of DCP 448 in accordance with the proposed timescale.

221/01 Initial Assessments: The Secretariat to progress: (1) DCP 446 'Emergency Disconnections', to the Definition phase and to set up a Working Group to further refine the proposed solution; (2) DCP 447 'NTC Section Footers' to the Change Report phase; and (3) DCP 448 'Supercustomer Billing' to the Definition Phase via a Working Group to further refine the proposed solution but that the Working Group are to be instructed to only agree on proposed legal drafting and that a consultation would not be required to be conducted as part of their process;

6. Change Reports

6.1 DT presented the Change Report Cover Paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1120_04). It was noted that no Change Reports were being tabled for approval this month.

6.2 The Panel NOTED the Change Report Cover Paper.

7. Housekeeping Log

7.1 DT presented the Housekeeping Log Summary Paper and Housekeeping Log to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1120_05). The paper was taken as read.

7.2 The Panel NOTED that no other Housekeeping Items had been identified by either the Secretariat or by any other Party.

8. Accession Applications

8.1 DT presented the Accession Applications paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1120_06). It was noted that the paper detailed a total of two new Accession Applications had been received and progressed to the Panel for approval. The two Accession Applications were for the following companies and Party Categories:

- Field Force Utility Services Limited (SIP)
- Providor Limited (SIP)

8.2 The Panel SCRUTINISED the Accession Applications and RESOLVED to APPROVE each Accession Application and instructed the Secretariat to prepare and issue an Accession Agreement for each

applicant and advise the Board that the Panel have recommended that they countersign each Accession Agreement on behalf of all Parties.

221/02 Accession Applications: The Secretariat to progress the Accession Applications for: (1) Field Force Utility Services Limited; and (2) Provider Limited, by drafting and sending the applicant an Accession Agreement and advising the DCUSA Board that the Panel have recommended that they countersign each Accession Agreement.

9. Withdrawal Notice

- 9.1 DT presented the Withdrawal Notice paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1120_07). It was noted that Orsted Power Sales (UK) Ltd has notified the DCUSA Panel of its intent to withdraw from the DCUSA, following the revocation of its Electricity Supply Licence by Ofgem. The withdrawal will be effective on 4 December 2024, and there are no outstanding charges or shareholder obligations by Orsted Power Sales (UK) Ltd.
- 9.2 The Panel NOTED that there are no outstanding DCUSA charges owed by Orsted Power Sales (UK) Ltd and that Orsted Power Sales (UK) Ltd is not a registered Shareholder of DCUSA.
- 9.3 The Panel AGREED that Orsted Power Sales (UK) Ltd will withdraw from the DCUSA on 4 December 2024.

221/03 Withdrawal Notice: The Secretariat to progress Orsted Power Sales (UK) Ltd's withdrawal from DCUSA to take effect on 4 December 2024.

10. Derogation Application 'Production of the Annual Review Pack'

- 10.1 DT presented the Derogation Application paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1120_08). It was noted that the paper puts forward a derogation application to the DCUSA Panel and outlined the process, application details, and decision-making procedures.
- 10.2 The Panel noted that due to the update related to DCP 437 provided by NH earlier in the meeting, being that Ofgem intended to 'send-back' DCP 437 for further assessment, that there appeared to be no chance of DCP 437 being progressed in time for this derogation to be necessary.
- 10.3 The Panel considered whether or not to approve Derogation Application, noting that formally the outcome of DCP 437 had not been published and were therefore minded to agree the derogation, but note that as it is reliant upon DCP 437 being approved, that it is unlikely to ever become effective and thus would not be used.
- 10.4 The Panel resolved to approve this Derogation to run until the end of January 2025, but noted that it may not be necessary and may never come into effect as DCP 437 would be sent back.

221/04 Derogation Application 'Production of the Annual Review Pack': The Secretariat to issue out notice that the Derogation Application had been approved by the Panel and include the update regarding the fact that it is reliant upon DCP 437 being approved, and that with Ofgem's intention being to send-back DCP 437 for further work, that it is unlikely to ever become effective and thus would not be used in all likelihood.

11. DCUSA Meeting Dates for 2025

- 11.1 DT presented the DCUSA Meeting Dates for 2025 paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1120_09). The paper was taken as read.

11.2 The Panel AGREED the DCUSA Panel Meeting Dates for 2025

221/05 2025 DCUSA Panel meeting dates: The Secretariat to confirm DCUSA Meeting Dates for 2025 and to organise these meetings accordingly.

12. DCMDG Headline Report

12.1 DT presented the DCMDG Headline Report to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1120_10). The paper was taken as read.

12.2 DT highlighted key points, including:

- There had been a brief discussion related to MHHS, being that the Programme Change Request (CR055) meant that M8 might be delayed by 6 months, would have an impact on the effective date of DCP 414 'Transitional Protection for NHH CT Customers affected by regulatory change' as it was tied to BSC Modification P432 which was tied to the M8 Milestone.
- Other than that, the main points were covered under AoB, where there had been a discussions on charging statements process, IDNO EHV charges, charging methodology models being updated and the disputes committee elections.
- With respect to IDNO EHV charges, DT explained that this was raised as a result of an IDNO Party seeking to progress this topic, which Ofgem had indicated that they wanted industry to take a lead on, by utilising the DCMDG but that Ofgem had indicated that it might be for the Transmission Charging Methodology Forum (TCMF) to pick this up. The Panel discussed this and questioned why the TCMF needed to be involved, but agreed that there might be some cross-over and so a joint approach might be necessary. The Panel noted this was a niche market but were comfortable with this being picked up by the DCMDG.

12.3 The Panel NOTED the DCMDG Headline Report.

13. IWG Headline Report

13.1 RC presented a verbal IWG Headline Report to the Panel, during which, the following points were highlighted:

- During the October meeting, members of the IWG had continued a discussion on issues related to phenolic cutouts and that this discussion had continued during the November meeting where members were provided with additional examples of these issues.
- The main action at the moment had been to consider next year's workplan, the 2025 workplan would be shared at the January meeting.

13.2 The Panel NOTED the IWG Headline Report.

14. DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan

14.1 DT presented the DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1120_08). The paper was taken as read.

14.2 DT noted that the DUoS SCR item had seen some updates to reflect that there had been a response from DESNZ following on from their Energy Code Reform Consultation focussed on Code Managing Licences.

14.3 The Panel APPROVED the updated DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 There was one items of Other Business raised, being:

Changes to the Panel

15.2 AF thanked Donna Jamieson for her two years' service as Chair and welcomed Simon Vicary as incoming Chair.

15.3 AF thanked Donald Preston for his past service and welcomed Clare Wagstaffe to the Panel.

16. Date of next meeting: 18 December 2024 at 10.00am

16.1 The next meeting will be held in person at ElectraLink's offices, 3rd Floor, Northumberland House, 303-306 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7JZ and via Microsoft Teams.

Appendix A: Summary of Actions

New and Open Actions – Open Session

Ref No.	Action	Owner	Update
221/01	Initial Assessments: The Secretariat to progress: (1) DCP 446 ‘Emergency Disconnections’, to the Definition phase and to set up a Working Group to further refine the proposed solution; (2) DCP 447 ‘NTC Section Footers’ to the Change Report phase; and (3) DCP 448 ‘Supercustomer Billing’ to the Definition Phase via a Working Group to further refine the proposed solution but that the Working Group are to be instructed to only agree on proposed legal drafting and that a consultation would not be required to be conducted as part of their process;	ElectraLink	
221/02	Accession Applications: The Secretariat to progress the Accession Applications for: (1) Field Force Utility Services Limited; and (2) Providor Limited, by drafting and sending the applicant an Accession Agreement and advising the DCUSA Board that the Panel have recommended that they countersign each Accession Agreement.	ElectraLink	
221/03	Withdrawal Notice: The Secretariat to progress Orsted Power Sales (UK) Ltd’s withdrawal from DCUSA to take effect on 4 December 2024.	ElectraLink	
221/04	Derogation Application ‘Production of the Annual Review Pack’: The Secretariat to issue out notice that the Derogation Application had been approved by the Panel and include the update regarding the fact that it is reliant upon DCP 437 being approved, and that with Ofgem’s intention being to send-back DCP 437 for further work, that it is unlikely to ever become effective and thus would not be used in all likelihood.	ElectraLink	
221/05	2025 DCUSA Panel meeting dates: The Secretariat to confirm DCUSA Meeting Dates for 2025 and to organise these meetings accordingly.	ElectraLink	

Closed Actions – Open Session

Ref No.	Action	Owner	Update
220/01	Change Reports: For DCP 445 ‘Implementation of Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Arrangement’: the Secretariat to issue the Change Report to Parties for voting for a period of 15 Working Days	ElectraLink	Update 20 November 2024: This had been completed. CLOSED