

DCUSA Panel Meeting 236 (Open Session)

18 February 2026 at 10:00am

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

Attendee	Role	Company
Panel Members		
Kevin Woollard [KW]	Alternate Panel Member [CHAIR]	DCUSA Ltd
Tim Ellingham [TE]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Donna Jamieson [DJ]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Kim-Marie Mortimer [KMM]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Urszula Thorpe [UT]	Alternate Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Clare Wagstaffe [CW]	Alternate Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Peter Waymont [PW]	Panel Member [CHAIR]	DCUSA Ltd
Simon Yeo [SY]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Observers		
Mark Bellman [MB]	Observer	Scottish Power
Mark De Souza Wilson [MDW]	Observer	BSC
Caroline Freimuller [CF]	Observer	REC
Nadir Hafeez [NH]	Observer	Ofgem
Code Administrator		
Richard Colwill [RC]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Angelo Fitzhenry [AF]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Andy Green [AG]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Melissa Kendall [MK]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
George Kestner [GK]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Hannah Proffit [HP]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Dylan Townsend [DT]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Apologies		
Karl Marylon [KM]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd

1. Administration

Election of Chair for the meeting

- 1.1 The Panel RESOLVED that KEVIN WOOLLARD would take the Chair for the meeting.

Notice of recording of Meeting

- 1.2 The Panel NOTED that the meeting is being recorded purely to aid with the production of the minutes and that the recording will be deleted once the minutes for the meeting are approved.

Welcomes and Introductions

- 1.3 The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Apologies

- 1.4 It was NOTED that 'Apologies' had been received from: KARL MARYLON.

Non-Confidential Minutes

- 1.5 The draft minutes of the last meeting had been circulated ahead of this meeting. No comments had been received. The Panel AGREED that these minutes were a true and fair representation of the meeting.

Updated Actions

- 1.6 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 the following:
- The MHHS programme had concluded its early life support phase on 12 February 2026. Currently, there were 300k MPAN migrations per day, and a total of 2.6 million MPAN migrations to date.
 - The BSC was holding a webinar on the smart secure electricity system on 19 February 2026. This would examine the governance framework and there would be opportunities to join the technical governance group and the security governance group.
 - Additional MHHS work was progressing, particularly relating to SMRS changes, and anybody wishing to get involved in this was encouraged to contact the BSC.

- 2.2 The Panel NOTED the BSC update.

Ofgem

- 2.3 NH provided the Panel with a verbal update on Ofgem related following topics:
- With respect to the Expected Decision Dates (EDD) for Change Proposals that are with the Authority for their decision:

- DCP 412 'Allocation of banding for TCR Charges for 'Peak' Final Demand Customers': due to the complexity of this modification and interaction with related and ongoing workstreams, no EDD was currently available.
- DCP 446 'Emergency Disconnections': A sendback letter had been due to be published in January 2026; this had been delayed but was expected shortly. Ofgem wanted additional information on disconnections and consumer impacts before progressing this Change Proposal further. This letter had been delayed until next week but was anticipated next week. PW NOTED that this letter had been delayed for several months, NH said that this had been delayed due to resource issues and confirmed that the letter had been drafted and was awaiting final signoff. He had relayed concerns re continuing delays but had received assurances that this would be sent very shortly.
- With respect to Energy Codes reform: on 26 January 2026 expressions of interest for phase 2 Code Manager candidates had been launched and Eligibility Assessment forms had been invited from prospective candidates. This process would remain open until 28 March 2026 and any parties wishing further information was encouraged to contact the Ofgem Industry code team

2.4 The Panel NOTED the Ofgem update.

Smart Energy Code (SEC)

2.5 There was no SEC update this month.

Retail Energy Code (REC)

2.6 CF presented the REC change update paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2026_0218_01). The paper was taken as read. CF highlighted key points, including the following:

- For the related changes DCP 467 'Online reporting tools for Category A and B defects' and REC I0306 'REC Change to Align with DCP467 Asset Condition Reporting': due to delays with the DCUSA change, the RFIs for these two changes would no longer be issued in parallel; instead, the results of the REC RFI would be used to inform the DCUSA RFI.
- For REC I0278 'Establishing the Safe Isolation Provider (SIP) as a Standalone REC Metering Part', REC was now able to confirm DCUSA impact as the SIP definitions would need to be updated.

2.7 The Panel NOTED the REC update.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 There was one Matters Arising.

Additional Solutions for DCP 461

3.2 The January 2026 Meeting had agreed to approve the development of three possible solutions to DCP 461 'Reducing the Impact of Transmission Distribution Charges' and to progress these via ex-committee decision. These papers had been circulated to the Panel on 16 January 2026, which had been two days ahead of this Panel Meeting. Due to this, the Panel agreed to SCRUTINISE these three Additional Solutions at the Panel Meeting, but RESOLVED to make any final decision via ex-committee decision after the meeting, to allow a full 5 working days for the Panel to fully consider these Change Proposals.

3.3 The Panel SCRUTINISED these proposals. Points raised included the following.

- The Panel discussed the history of this Change Proposal and the rationale for progressing so many different solutions. The Panel NOTED that the original proposer had not really advocated for a particular solution, and had rather identified an issue and asked the WG to develop a solution.
- The Panel discussed how the voting system might work, discussing how ranking of preferences could be presented or if the three potential worked-up options would be progressed independently with a final decision to be deferred or made by Ofgem.
- NH NOTED that Ofgem generally disliked being presented with multiple competing options and recommended that the working group should identify and progress a single preferred solution. NH FURTHER NOTED that the way in which the Working Group was seeking to progress multiple competing solutions seemed to be a way of circumventing DCUSA's limit of allowing up to three solutions to be progressed within a single Change Proposal, and as such was not in line with spirit of the Code.
- The Panel agreed that the onus should lie on Industry to identify and develop a preferred solution. PW suggested that the working group should issue a consultation with all possible options and use the feedback to inform next steps.
- RC NOTED that, separately to DCUSA, a CUSC working group was separately working on some of these issues, and that there was a chance that their conclusions might end up superseding DCUSA's conclusions.

3.4 The Panel RESOLVED to reject the proposal to split DCP 461 into three separate Change Proposals. Instead, they would relay Ofgem and the Panel's steer to avoid progressing multiple alternative solutions, and instead encourage the working group in consultation with industry to develop a solution within a single CP.

236/01 Additional Alternative Solutions for DCP 461: The Secretariat to: (1) relay the Panel and Ofgem's concerns that progressing multiple alternative solutions lacked clarity and was outside the spirit of the DCUSA; and (2) and to relay the Panel's direction and Ofgem's feedback to the DCP 461 working group that that they continue with their consultation and seek to use the industry responses to reduce the number of options by identifying and progressing preferred solutions in line with the number allowed in the DCUSA.

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_2026_0218_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 all changes since the previous month. The Panel NOTED and SCRUTINISED this update. Points raised included the following:
- DCP 461 'Reducing the Impact of Transmission Distribution Charges': The Panel NOTED that the progress of this Change Proposal had been discussed under Matters Arising.
 - DCP 469 'Cross Code Standardisation of Charging Arrangement Notice Periods': NH queried if the Cross Code Steering Group was involved in the progression of this Change Proposal. RC PROVIDED ASSURANCES that this had been discussed at CCSG and that NESO and UNC representatives had participated in the meeting, so all affected codes were aware that this Change Proposal was being progressed.
- 4.3 RC presented the timetable tab and highlighted the following changes:
- DCP 459 'DNO invoices to Embedded DNO': An RFI had been issued on 06 February 2026, with responses due by 27 February 2026. A date for the next meeting was being confirmed.
- 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_2026_0218_03). The paper was taken as read. It was NOTED that no new Change Proposals had been tabled for Initial Assessment by the Panel this month.
- 5.2 The Panel NOTED the Initial Assessment Cover Paper.

6. Change Reports

- 6.1 RC presented the Change Report Cover Paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2026_0218_04). The paper was taken as read. It was NOTED that no Change Reports had been tabled for approval by the Panel this month.
- 6.2 The Panel NOTED the Change Reports 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_2026_0218_05). The paper was taken as read.
- 7.2 DT NOTED that between the previous Panel meeting and the drafting of this paper, no new housekeeping items had been identified by a Party or by the Secretariat.
- 7.3 DT advised that some issues had been raised after the preparation of this month's Report and these would be progressed at a future meeting.

7.4 The Panel NOTED the Housekeeping Log.

8. Accession Applications

8.1 GK presented the Accession Applications paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2026_0218_06). The paper was taken as read.

8.2 The Secretariat confirmed that there were three new Accession Applications this month, from:

- JF Developments (Sussex) Limited
- L&B Electrical Limited
- Openreach Limited

8.3 The Panel NOTED that The REC Code Manager had PROVIDED ASSURANCES that L&B Electrical Limited and Openreach Limited had completed REC's testing and qualification processes to allow them to operate as a SIP and were at a stage where their DCUSA Accession could be progressed.

8.4 The Panel FURTHER NOTED that The REC Code Manager had ADVISED that JF Developments (Sussex) Limited had not yet sufficiently progressed through their Qualification and Testing to be at a stage where their DCUSA Accession could be progressed.

8.5 The Panel SCRUTINISED the Accession Application and supporting evidence and AGREED to: (1) APPROVE L&B Electrical Limited's Accession to the DCUSA; (2) to approve Openreach Limited's Accession to the DCUSA.

236/02 Accession Applications: The Secretariat to progress the Accession Applications for (1) L&B Electrical Limited; and (2) Openreach Limited, by drafting and sending the applicants an Accession Agreement and advising the DCUSA Board that the Panel have recommended that they countersign the Accession Agreement.

8.6 The Panel FURTHER RESOLVED NOT to approve JF Developments (Sussex) Limited's application at this time, but instead to hold this on file until they had completed the REC Code Manager's Qualification and Testing.

9. DCMDG Headline Report

9.1 RC presented the DCMDG Headline Report to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2026_0218_07). The paper was taken as read.

9.2 RC highlighted key points, including the following:

- Ofgem had advised that they had received several derogation requests had been received in relation to managing the effects of surplus residual charges.
- Ofgem had advised that DCP 446 'Emergency Disconnection' was likely to receive a send back decision.
- DCMDG had discussed how DNOs would determine allowed revenues for the 2028/29 charging year, which was challenging because DNOs were required to set tariffs before the data from the Price Control Financial Model (PCFM) outputs for 2028/29 would be available.

9.3 The Panel NOTED the DCMDG Headline Report.

10. IWG Headline Report

- 10.1 RC presented a verbal IWG Headline Report to the Panel. RC that there was no IWG activity this month.
- 10.2 The Panel NOTED the IWG Headline Report.

11. DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan

- 11.1 DT presented the DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2026_0218_08). The paper was taken as read.
- 11.2 DT NOTED that, as per Action 235/05, the three additional items 1) Ofgem consultation on enhancing asset visibility and DNO options; 2) DESNZ consultation on smart, secure electricity systems; and 3) Ofgem statutory consultation on a debt relief scheme had been added to the Horizon Scan.
- 11.3 DT NOTED that the proposed debt relief scheme in particular was likely to lead to a Change Proposal in the future.
- 11.4 The Panel NOTED the DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1 No items of 'Other Business' were raised.

13. Date of next meeting: 18 March 2026 at 10.00am

- 13.1 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
234/01	Housekeeping Log: The Secretariat to progress a Housekeeping Amendment to incorporate the open Housekeeping Items within the June 2026 DCUSA Release.	ElectraLink	Update 21 January 2026: This will be taken to SIG for approval ahead of a change being raised. No action until April/May 2026. KEEP OPEN
234/03	Embedded Capacity Register Change Request Notice: The Secretariat to progress the addition of a new field to the ECR to include a unique site identifier, to take effect alongside the February 2026 DCUSA Release.	ElectraLink	Update 21 January 2026: Template in process of being updated in line with the February deadline. KEEP OPEN
235/04	ECR Change Request Notice: The Secretariat to: (1) contact Parties and encourage them to provide feedback on the proposal; and (2) to table this proposal at the next available Panel Meeting, with additional comments in support or against this proposal, to allow the Panel to make an informed decision.	ElectraLink	Update 18 February 2026: A call has been scheduled for 19 February 2026 to discuss concerns and next steps with NGED, ahead of amendment and the re-circulation of the Change Request. This is anticipated to be brought back to the Panel in March 2026. KEEP OPEN
236/01	Additional Alternative Solutions for DCP 461: The Secretariat to: (1) relay the Panel and Ofgem's concerns that progressing multiple alternative solutions lacked clarity and was outside the spirit of the DCUSA; and (2) and to relay the Panel's direction and Ofgem's feedback to the DCP 461 working group that that they continue with their consultation and seek to use the industry responses to reduce the number of options by identifying and progressing preferred solutions in line with the number allowed in the DCUSA.	ElectraLink	
236/02	Accession Applications: The Secretariat to progress the Accession Applications for (1) L&B Electrical Limited; and (2) Openreach Limited, by drafting and sending the applicants an Accession Agreement and advising the DCUSA Board that the Panel have recommended that they countersign the Accession Agreement	ElectraLink	

Closed Actions – Open Session

Ref No.	Action	Owner	Update
235/01	<u>Additional Alternative Solutions for DCP 461:</u> The Secretariat to: (1) progress the development of Alternative Solutions for DCP 461, as agreed; and (2) once developed, to submit the worked up alternative solutions to the Panel for ex-Committee decision by email.	ElectraLink	Update 18 February 2026: Completed. CLOSED
235/02	<u>Initial Assessments:</u> The Secretariat to: (1) progress DCP 468 to the Definition phase and for a Working Group to be established to further refine the proposed solution, as agreed; (2) progress DCP 469 to the Definition phase as an URGENT CHANGE and for a Working Group to be established to further refine the proposed solution, as agreed; and (3) progress DCP 470 to the Definition phase and for a Working Group to be established to further refine the proposed solution, as agreed.	ElectraLink	Update 18 February 2026: Completed. CLOSED
235/03	<u>Accession Applications:</u> The Secretariat to progress the Accession Application for (1) Evolve Home Energy Solutions Limited, by drafting and sending the applicants an Accession Agreement and advising the DCUSA Board that the Panel have recommended that they countersign the Accession Agreement; and (2) 24-7 Electrical Services Yorkshire Limited, by, pending final confirmation that the applicant had completed the REC Code Managers' Qualification and Testing processes, drafting and sending the applicants an Accession Agreement and advising the DCUSA Board that the Panel have recommended that they countersign the Accession Agreement.	ElectraLink	Update 18 February 2026: Completed. CLOSED
235/05	<u>Horizon Scan:</u> The Secretariat to add the additional items to the Horizon Scan: 1) Ofgem consultation on enhancing asset visibility and DNO options; 2) DESNZ consultation on smart, secure electricity systems; and 3) Ofgem statutory consultation on a debt relief scheme.	ElectraLink	Update 18 February 2026: Completed. CLOSED