

DCP 463 Working Group Meeting 06

11 March 2026 at 10am – Web-conference

Attendee	Company
Working Group Members	
Blessing Ekpe [BE]	SSE
Chris Ong [CO]	UKPN
Donna Jamieson [DJ]	IDCSL
Ed Grimsey [EG]	BU-UK
Edda Dirks [ED]	SSE
John Harmer [JH]	Waters Wye
Kavya Kavya [KK]	Brook Green Supply
Louise Bunney [LB]	NPg
Peter Waymont [PW]	UKPN
Code Administrator	
Andy Green [AG]	ElectraLink
Hannah Proffitt [HP]	ElectraLink
Apologies	
Ian Chadwick [IC]	AEN
Ryan Farrell [RF]	NPg

1. Administration

Recording

- 1.1. The Chair informed Working Group members that, as per the Terms of Reference, the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of aiding the Technical Secretary in producing an accurate record of the meeting. The recording will be deleted no later than 60 days after the meeting.

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.

Action Log & Review of Minutes

- 1.3. The Chair presented the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 1.4. The following amendments were agreed:
 - ‘AP’ updated to ‘EG’ under closed action 05/01.
 - Clarification on the outcomes of voting in section 3.41.
 - Action 06/03 added under 3.43 (now 3.45).
- 1.5. The Secretariat agreed to update the minutes and reupload them to the website. These are also included as Attachment 1.

07/01 – The Secretariat to update the minutes as per discussions at Meeting 07 and reupload them to the website.

- 1.6. A summary of the open actions and updates are included in the appendix.

2. Purpose of the Meeting

- 2.1. The Chair set out that the purpose of the meeting was to refine the solution options, discuss the legal text, and begin drafting a consultation.

3. Refine Options

Outcome of Panel Discussions on Intent

- 3.1. Regarding action 06/03, the Chair advised that the intent of the CP was discussed at the March Panel meeting, and the Panel decided the intent could not be changed. The Proposer (PW) has raised a new change which will be presented to the Panel for initial assessment on 15 April.
- 3.2. The Chair confirmed that this Working Group will continue its’ work while awaiting completion of the Panel process, and that once the new CP has been approved to progress, an invitation will be extended to Contract Mangers to join the existing Working Group. This will ensure current work is continued.
- 3.3. Once the new CP has been approved to progress, the Proposer confirmed they will withdraw DCP 463.

Solution Options

- 3.4. The Chair summarised that at the previous meeting, the group discussed three main options, charging for capacity, removing capacity, and disconnecting. Hybrid options were also considered.
- 3.5. The Chair added that the possibility of DNOs charging customers directly was explored, but ultimately discounted.
- 3.6. The Proposer determined that they wish to move forward with the original proposal as an option - to charge for capacity from the start of the de energisation period.
- 3.7. The Chair noted that the original proposal did not include a grace period, however that the possibility had been discussed. The Chair asked members for their thoughts on what an appropriate length would be.
- 3.8. JH suggested two years as a reasonable timeframe for Suppliers to attempt contact and for customers to respond if they do not want their capacity removed. PW clarified that this would mean a two year period of the customer being de energised with no charges, and then the DNO would be able to start charging them or reduce their capacity.
- 3.9. JH noted that during that two year period, the customer should be given multiple opportunities to respond before their capacity is reduced or removed. If no response is received, the capacity should be set to zero. If the customer responds and wishes to keep their capacity, they can be charged for it.
- 3.10. JH suggested the Supplier could send a letter to the customer when they request to be de energised, outlining the process/grace period, and then send a reminder letter every six months that their capacity will be reduced unless they respond.
- 3.11. The Working Group agreed to ask a question in the consultation regarding a 24 month grace period.
- 3.12. JH highlighted the circumstance in which there is no obvious contact at the site for the Supplier to reach. The Supplier will need to make reasonable attempts to identify the responsible party. The Chair noted that Suppliers already have processes in place for identifying unknown occupiers, so this could be linked into those.
- 3.13. Members discussed what would be classed as reasonable efforts to contact the customer, and considered whether specifics need to be included in the legal text. PW suggested that reasonable efforts could include writing to the site and to who they believe the responsible party is. Members agreed to ask a question on the consultation.
- 3.14. The Chair agreed to look into the current obligations around Suppliers identifying unknown occupiers.

07/02 – The Chair to identify current obligations on Suppliers regarding identifying unknown occupiers/customers.
- 3.15. JH questioned what the process would be for historic de energised sites, noting that a large number have been de energised for four or more years. PW suggested that for existing de energised sites, the grace period could start from the date the change is implemented.
- 3.16. ED asked when the two year grace period would begin. PW suggested it would be whichever date is later, the date of de energisation or the implementation date of this change.
- 3.17. One member questioned whether there could be scenarios in which the Supplier finds out about a site being de energised in the past and whether backdating would be needed. PW noted that this would not happen as the Supplier is the one who sets the status in the registration system.

- 3.18. JH asked what would happen if a site is de energised but incorrectly flagged as energised in the system. PW noted that they would still be being charged. JH asked what would happen if a site is flagged as de energised but is actually consuming electricity. PW noted that there is a change currently awaiting implementation that will allow charging these sites.
- 3.19. The Chair summarised that the group wish to take forward an alternative solution option of - after a two year grace period, a customer must either start paying for their capacity or it will be removed.
- 3.20. PW asked whether gaming needed to be considered, i.e. a customer re energising briefly to reset the grace period. The Chair suggested that this could be addressed within the legal text.
- 3.21. Members questioned whether there would be an audit trail of energisations/de energisations which would be able to show gaming. The Chair noted that this part of the Balancing and Settlements Code's (BSC) audit process. Members agreed to include this as a consultation question.

4. Draft Consultation

- 4.1. Based on the discussions above, members agreed to include the following questions in the consultation. Please note, these will be reordered in the consultation document.
- Are the processes open to gaming? If so, please elaborate on how and why and any steps that can be taken to mitigate?
 - For Suppliers, what are the processes/obligations you have to follow to ensure that any de energisation or energisation change is audited/auditable? If there are specific obligations, i.e. in the REC/BSC, what are they?
 - Is a grace period of 24 months an appropriate timescale before any charges/capacity removal for de energised sites occurs? If not please explain why and provide any alternative timescales.
 - Is the legal text sufficiently clear on what processes need to be followed before the capacity is removed or DUoS charges are passed by the DNO to the Supplier?
 - Are there any alternative solutions that the Working Group have not considered? If so, please elaborate.
 - (Leading text around land registry, site visits etc.) Are there any other steps you take to establish who is responsible for a site?

5. Discuss Legal Text

- 5.1. The Chair presented the National Terms of Connection (NTC) to the group. The group agreed that 12.11A, 12.11B and 12.11C are the relevant sections.
- 5.2. The group agreed to draft a flow diagram to clarify the process steps before drafting the legal text.
- 5.3. Members discussed how long the Supplier should wait before sending the customer a letter. Members agreed that this should be a commercial decision for the DNO to make but should be within 18 months of the de energisation date.
- 5.4. Members noted that writing to all customers as soon as they are de energised is not efficient as a large proportion will reconnect after a short period. Members agreed that Suppliers should make

customers aware when they request de energisation, that if they stay de energised for a longer period there will be consequences.

- 5.5. The Working Group considered whether the DUoS charges should begin when the customer confirms they want to keep their capacity, or after the two years. The group agreed it should be after two years as this will be the same for all customers.
- 5.6. Members suggested it would be helpful for the Supplier to contact the DNO three months before the grace period ends, to confirm whether the customer has accepted the charges, wishes to release the capacity, or has not responded. Members suggested that if the DNO has not heard from the Supplier, they could contact them to advise that capacity will be removed at the end of the grace period if no instruction is given.
- 5.7. The Working Group discussed a potential scenario in which the customer may want to re energise and keep their capacity, but the Supplier does not want to supply them due to previous bad debt, credit risk etc.
- 5.8. JH questioned what would happen if there is no longer a willing Supplier. PW noted that there is always a Supplier registered against an MPAN in the registration system.
- 5.9. JH raised that the Supplier may have requested the de energisation because the customer was taking power that they were not paying for, and therefore the Supplier would not want to agree to re energise. Members noted that there are certain obligations in place for a Supplier to supply a customer, however these are different for domestic and commercial customers.
- 5.10. The Chair agreed to investigate this further.

07/03 – The Chair to investigate and clarify Supplier obligations regarding maintaining contracts for non-domestic customers, especially in scenarios where Suppliers may not wish to supply a customer.

- 5.11. Based on the above discussions, the group drafted the following steps.

Step 1

The DNO writes to the customer, at the site address and a registered address they reasonably believe is the customers' registered office, landlord etc, within 18 months of the de energisation date or implementation date of the change, copying in the Supplier (Contract Manager) saying if the capacity is still required DUoS charges will be incurred, otherwise the capacity will be set to zero at the end of the two year period or six months from the date of the letter, whichever is the later of the two dates, which will be specified.

Step 2

If the DNO has not heard from the Supplier within 3 months of the end of the grace period, the DNO contacts the Supplier and customer raising that the grace period is due to end in 3 months and that capacity will be removed at the end of the grace period if no instruction is given.

Step 3

- (A) If the customer contacts the Supplier to advise they want to keep the capacity, the Supplier agrees and informs the DNO, and DUoS charges are to be incurred at the end of the grace period.

- (B) If the customer does not contact the Supplier, or says they do not want to incur the DUoS charges, the capacity is set to zero at the end of the grace period.
- (C) If the Supplier reasonably does not want to incur the charges (i.e. due to previous bad debt, revenue protection issues etc), then at the end of the grace period, the capacity is set to zero. This needs to be explained to the DNO and the customer by the Supplier.

6. Next Steps and Work Plan

6.1. Members agreed on the following next steps.

- The Chair to produce a draft of the consultation and issue to members, along with a process map of the agreed steps.

07/04 – The Chair to produce a draft of the consultation and issue to members, along with a process map of the agreed steps.

- Group to meet again on 29 April at 10am once the new CP has been approved to progress by the Panel.

7. Any Other Business

7.1. No other business was raised.

8. Next Meeting

8.1. The next meeting will be held on 29 April 2026 at 10am.

New and Open Actions

Action Ref.	Action	Owner	Update
01/04	The Secretariat to seek legal advice (and Ofgem views thereafter) once the Consultation responses have been collated and reviewed.	Secretariat	Action ongoing. <i>This is ongoing.</i>
07/01	The Secretariat to update the minutes as per discussions at Meeting 07 and reupload them to the website.	The Chair	Action closed. <i>Complete.</i>
07/02	The Chair to identify current obligations on Suppliers regarding identifying unknown occupiers/customers.	The Chair	New action.
07/03	The Chair to investigate and clarify Supplier obligations regarding maintaining contracts for non-domestic customers, especially in scenarios where Suppliers may not wish to supply a customer.	The Chair	New action.
07/04	The Chair to produce a draft of the consultation and issue to members, along with a process map of the agreed steps.	The Chair	New action.

Closed Actions

Action Ref.			Update
06/01	The Chair to contact SPEN to clarify their response to Qu 8. Specifically, their reference to physical works, as the WG do not believe any will be necessary.	The Chair	Action closed.

			<i>Clarified this was a misunderstanding.</i>
06/02	The Chair to contact Scottish Power Energy Retail to clarify their response to Qu 8. Specifically, what they are referring to when they mention that the DNO should own the process start middle and end.	The Chair	Action closed. <i>Clarified that this was referring to the DNO owning the whole process, contacting customers and billing them directly.</i>
06/03	The Chair to present the CP and WG discussions to the Panel at their March meeting, and request that the intent of the CP is changed.	The Chair	Action closed. <i>Complete.</i>