

DCP 477 Working Group – Meeting 09

12 October 2026 at 11:00 – 13:00 via Microsoft Teams

Attendee	Company
Working Group Members	
Alex Lam [AL]	National Grid Electricity Distribution
Georgia Preece [GP]	Northern Powergrid
Edda Dirks [ED]	SSE Generation
Ofgem Observer	
Tim Aldridge [TA]	Ofgem
Code Administrator	
Dylan Townsend [DT] (Chair)	ElectraLink
Apologies	
Emma Clark [EC]	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
Lorna Murray [LM]	SP Energy Networks
John Harmer [JH]	Waters Wye Associates

1. Administration

Recording

- 1.1 The Chair noted that the meeting is being recorded. The purpose of this recording is purely to aid the Technical Secretariat in producing an accurate report of the meeting.

Apologies

- 1.2 The Chair noted that apologies had been received by Emma Clark (SSEN) and Lorna Murray (SP Energy Networks). The Working Group noted that both had advised in advance that they would be unable to attend and that comments had been received from Lorna Murray in relation to the draft Change Report.

Competition Law Guidance and Terms of Reference

- 1.3 The Working Group agreed to be bound by the Competition Law Guidance for the duration of the meeting.

Previous Minutes

- 1.4 The Chair noted that the previous meeting minutes had yet to be circulated and so could not be reviewed during the meeting.

Open Actions

- 1.5 The Chair ran members through the open actions which are captured within Appendix A below.

2. Purpose of the Meeting

- 2.1 The Chair advised that the purpose of the meeting was to undertake a final review of the draft Change Report, complete the Working Group's assessment of the relevant DCUSA Objectives and review the latest version of the legal text prior to submission to the DCUSA Panel

3. Review of Draft Change Report

"How?" Section and Explanation of the Two-Solution Approach

- 3.1 The Working Group reviewed the updated "How?" section of the Change Report, which had been substantially revised following discussions at previous meetings to provide a clearer explanation of the two solutions being progressed. Members noted that the revised drafting explained both the Schedule 17 methodology changes and the additional notice period provisions proposed under Solution B.
- 3.2 The Chair noted that comments received from Lorna Murray indicated that the revised explanation was clearer and more accessible to readers. Members agreed that the section appropriately summarised the distinction between:
 - **Solution A**, comprising the Schedule 17 methodology amendments only; and
 - **Solution B**, comprising the methodology amendments together with the proposed notice period and notification arrangements.
- 3.3 The Working Group considered a suggestion from Edda Dirks that the description of Solution B should more explicitly state that it incorporates all elements of Solution A and would additionally introduce reduced notice period arrangements. Members agreed that this amendment would improve clarity for voters and should be incorporated into the Change Report.

General Review of Change Report Content

- 3.4 The Working Group reviewed the remaining sections of the Change Report on an exceptions basis.
- 3.5 Members noted that Sections 5 to 9 accurately reflected the consultation process, Working Group discussions and final conclusions reached through the development of DCP 477. No substantive amendments were requested to the summaries of either consultation exercise, the Working Group conclusions or the description of the two proposed solutions.
- 3.6 The Chair advised that a final review of attachment numbering and cross-references would be undertaken following the meeting to ensure consistency throughout the document.

Review of Legal Text Commentary

- 3.7 The Working Group reviewed the commentary included within Section 13 of the Change Report explaining the purpose of the proposed legal text amendments.

3.8 Members noted that additional explanatory text had been included to summarise in plain language:

- the Schedule 17 methodology changes;
- the consequential amendments for new connectees;
- the new Annex 1 provisions;
- the reduced notice period provisions under Clause 19; and
- the consequential Schedule 16 amendments.

3.9 The Working Group agreed that the commentary appropriately explained the intent of the legal drafting and would assist Parties in understanding the practical effect of each element of the proposal without needing to review the legal text in detail. No further amendments were requested.

Voting Arrangements

3.10 The Working Group reviewed the proposed voting arrangements in light of the two-solution approach. Members noted that the Change Report proposed that Parties should be able to:

- vote to accept both solutions and indicate a preferred option;
- vote to accept one solution and reject the other; or
- reject both solutions.

3.11 The Working Group was supportive of this approach and agreed that it would provide Parties with the flexibility necessary to express views on the methodology amendments separately from the notice period provisions.

4. Assessment Against the DCUSA Objectives

Charging Objectives - Solution A

4.1 The Working Group reviewed the proposed assessment against the DCUSA Charging Objectives for Solution A.

4.2 Members noted that the Change Report concluded that Solution A better facilitates Charging Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 6, namely:

- facilitating compliance with licence obligations;
- supporting competition;
- promoting cost-reflective charging methodologies; and
- improving efficiency in implementation and administration.

4.3 No Working Group member expressed disagreement with this assessment and the Working Group agreed that, relative to the status quo, Solution A better facilitates DCUSA Charging Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 6.

- 4.4 The Working Group also agreed that Charging Objectives 4 and 5 were not materially impacted by the proposal and should therefore remain neutral.

Charging Objectives and General Objectives - Solution B

- 4.5 The Working Group reviewed the assessment for Solution B.
- 4.6 Members agreed that Solution B contains all components of Solution A and therefore better facilitates the same Charging Objectives for broadly the same reasons.
- 4.7 The Working Group then considered whether Solution B should additionally be assessed against the DCUSA General Objectives because it contains amendments to Clause 19 of Section 2A and Schedule 16 in addition to Schedule 17 methodology changes. Members discussed whether inclusion of the General Objectives was necessary given the close relationship between the notice period provisions and the charging methodology arrangements themselves.
- 4.8 The Working Group acknowledged comments submitted by Lorna Murray, who considered that Solution B could additionally facilitate certain General Objectives due to the removal of repeated derogation processes and the increased efficiency associated with incorporating the arrangements directly within the DCUSA.
- 4.9 Following discussion, members agreed that, if the General Objectives were referenced within the Change Report, General Objective 4 (promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the DCUSA) would be positively impacted. This was on the basis that the reduced notice period arrangements would remove the need for affected DNOs to repeatedly seek derogations against the notice period requirements, thereby improving administrative efficiency for both DNOs and Ofgem.
- 4.10 Members did not identify any compelling rationale for concluding that the remaining General Objectives would be positively or negatively impacted and therefore agreed that these should be considered neutral.
- 4.11 The Working Group agreed that the Change Report should be updated to reflect this position.

5. Next Steps and Workplan

- 5.1 The Chair confirmed that, subject to final review comments, the Change Report would be included within the papers for the October 2026 DCUSA Panel meeting. Members noted that comments would therefore be required no later than midday on 14 October 2026 to enable completion of the final document.
- 5.2 The Working Group discussed the proposed timetable set out in the Change Report, including:
- Panel consideration on 21 October 2026;
 - issue of the Change Report following Panel approval;
 - a proposed ten Working Day voting period closing on 4 November 2026; and
 - issue of the Change Declaration on 6 November 2026.

- 5.3 Members considered whether the proposal would still be capable of supporting the 2028/29 tariff setting process. Representatives from industry advised that DNOs would typically identify any potential excessive surplus residual revenue issues during November or December and therefore an Authority decision around the end of November or early December 2026 would still provide value by reducing or potentially removing the need for future derogation requests.
- 5.4 The Working Group therefore remained supportive of progressing the Change Proposal according to the proposed timetable.

ACTION 09/01 Review of Draft Change Report: Working Group members to review the draft Change Report and provide comments by no later than midday on 14 October.

ACTION 09/02 Review of Draft Change Report: Secretariat to submit the final Change Report for inclusion within the October 2026 DCUSA Panel meeting papers

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 The Chair asked the group whether there were any other items of business to discuss.
- 6.2 There were no items of other business raised.
- 6.3 The Chair thanked Working Group members for their contribution throughout the development of DCP 477 and noted that the proposal had progressed through nine Working Group meetings in order to reach the Change Report stage. The meeting was then closed.

Appendix A – Actions Log

New and Open Actions

Ref	Action	Owner	Update
09/01	Review of Draft Change Report: Working Group members to review the draft Change Report and provide comments by no later than midday on 14 October.	Secretariat	
09/02	Review of Draft Change Report: Secretariat to submit the final Change Report for inclusion within the October 2026 DCUSA Panel meeting papers	Secretariat	

Closed Actions

Ref	Action	Owner	Update
08/01	Draft Legal Text Review: Secretariat to provide the Working Group's comments on the draft legal text to the DCUSA legal advisors and request a final version for review.	Secretariat	Update as of 12 October 2026: Legal text was issued to legal advisors and their final version and comments back to the Working Group were reviewed during meeting 09. COMPLETED
08/02	Review of Draft Change Report: Secretariat to update the "How?" section of the Change Report to reflect the final two-solution approach and any further minor updates needed and circulate an updated draft to the Working Group as soon as possible for their review.	Secretariat	Update as of 12 October 2026: Document was updated and circulated to members for review. COMPLETED
08/03	Review of Draft Change Report: Working Group members to review the draft Change Report and updated consultation response document and provide comments ahead of the next meeting.	Working Group members	Update as of 12 October 2026: Comments on document were received by one Working Group member. COMPLETED
08/04	Arrange Follow-up Meeting: Secretariat to arrange DCP 477 Working Group Meeting 09 for 12 October 2026 from 11:00 to 13:00.	Secretariat	Update as of 12 October 2026: meeting was arranged. COMPLETED