



# DCC Consultation on Updates to the Traffic Management Mechanism Document

Proposal to allocate Service Responses  
and Requests to a Priority Band in  
Northbound Prioritisation

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Respond by: 27 March 2025

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# 1. Introduction and Context

1. The Data Communications Company (DCC) is Britain's digital energy spine, supporting the transformation of the energy system. DCC is licensed by the Government and regulated by the energy regulator Ofgem to connect smart meters in homes and small businesses across Great Britain to a single secure, digital network. DCC supports the roll-out of second-generation (SMETS2) smart meters, as well as the migration of existing first-generation (SMETS1) meters onto our network.

## 1.1. Background

2. Change Request CR4668, formerly part of SECMP0208<sup>1</sup>, was Implemented as the first part of the MHHS Capacity Uplift changes in November 2023 and introduced a mechanism for the prioritisation of traffic Northbound from the Data Service Provider (DSP), thus accelerating the passage of a business process that requires processing within seconds, such as Prepayment commands and important Alerts.
3. For those moments when, for a variety of reasons, the network is particularly busy, the receipt of large volumes of DCC Scheduled Responses at the DSP could slow down the delivery of High Priority Alerts. As part of the Northbound Prioritisation solution, 'High Priority' Alerts as defined in Paragraph 7 are placed at the front of the queue for Alerts, to be returned to Service Users before DCC Scheduled Responses.
4. For the purposes of Northbound Prioritisation, 'High Priority' relates to those Alerts associated with processing patterns where the Customer requires a rapid response to complete a business process within seconds. DSP Northbound processing shall be changed to prioritise selected High Priority messages over Low Priority messages. The configuration shall be such that Northbound Prioritisation is always applied.
5. The Traffic Management Mechanism Document (TMMD), first introduced by SECMP0062, will show the configurable priority levels assigned to Northbound messages and Alerts. These Priority Bands could then be altered by a consultation, approval from SEC Panel, and a simple re-configuration not requiring a system outage.
6. After a series of workshops with SEC Parties, and presentations at the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC), and approval from those attending, DCC implemented Northbound Priority Bands.
7. The priorities of message responses and Alerts are as follows:

### Priority , Response and Alert Type

1. High Priority – all On Demand Service Request Responses
2. High priority Alerts (includes N56)
3. Other Alerts – Device Alerts and DCC Alerts
4. Scheduled Service Request responses:

Further configuration details are provided in the draft TMMD v5.0.

<sup>1</sup> [Northbound Prioritisation of N56 Alerts - Smart Energy Code](#)

## 1.2. Purpose of the consultation

8. DCC wishes to document the existing configuration and provide a mechanism for proposed changes to the Priority Bands within the TMMD.
9. This consultation is expected to impact the following Parties:
  - Large Suppliers
  - Small Suppliers
  - Electricity Network Operators
  - Prepayment Customers
10. If you believe a Party category is impacted which isn't listed above, please let us know.

## 2. Proposed Changes and Options

11. This question relates to the method of changing the configuration and Service Responses and in the Priority Bands.

**Q1**

Does the inclusion of the configurations for Northbound Prioritisation and the associated Priority Bands in the TMMD provide a clear definition of how the configuration is implemented?

## 3. Next Steps

12. Following the closure of this consultation, DCC will consider the responses from SEC Parties in regard to changes to the TMMD.
13. If there is a majority of Parties agreeing to the change, DCC will implement the appropriate changes to the TMMD in line with the June 2025 SEC Release (26 June 2025).
14. DCC will confirm the outcome at SEC Panel and the Operations Group meeting in May 2025.

## 4. How to Respond

15. Please provide responses by 17:00 on 27 March 2025 to DCC at [consultations@smartdcc.co.uk](mailto:consultations@smartdcc.co.uk).
16. Consultation responses may be published on our website [www.smartdcc.co.uk](http://www.smartdcc.co.uk). Please state clearly in writing whether you want all or any part, of your consultation to be treated as confidential. It would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. Please note that responses in their entirety (including any text marked confidential) may be made available to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (The Department) and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority). Information provided to The Department or the Authority, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information legislation (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If The Department or the Authority receive a request for disclosure of the information we/they will take full account of your explanation (to the extent provided to them), but we/they cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality

disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.

17. If you have any questions about the consultation documents, please contact DCC via [consultations@smartdcc.co.uk](mailto:consultations@smartdcc.co.uk).