

DCC Notice:

DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS)

Publication of draft SEC Subsidiary Document

1.1 Purpose of Notice

DCC sets out below a brief narrative describing the evolution of the DUIS from the consultation version to final draft SEC Subsidiary Document.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 DCC submitted the draft DUIS SEC Subsidiary Document to the Secretary of State on 29 January 2015 pursuant to the document development requirements of the Smart Meter Communications Licence Schedule 5 Annex 5 'Procedure for Document Development', and H3 and H6 of the SEC. On the same day DCC published the draft documents on its website. DCC notes that the designated version of SEC4, with an effective date of 14 January 2015, included a name change from DCC User Gateway Interface Specification (DUGIS) to DCC User Interface (DUIS). Where possible, DCC updated the draft SEC Subsidiary Document to align with this terminology.

1.2.2 DCC notes that the draft SEC Subsidiary Document aligns to GBCS v0.8. DCC will produce and consult on a further version of DUIS, which will align with GBCS v0.8.1, and provide this version of DUIS to the Secretary of State once completed. This consultation is scheduled for late March 2015.

1.3 Document status

1.3.1 DCC believes that the submitted DUIS is a complete, interim draft SEC Subsidiary Document and that it meets all relevant regulatory requirements, has been drafted to align with GBCS v0.8, consulted upon in line with SEC and Licence provisions, and updated to address identified errors and provide clarification where required.

1.3.2 DCC stresses however that the submitted document is a draft interim SEC Subsidiary Document, which is subject to the Secretary of State's consideration (the Secretary of State may request that further work is undertaken, may make further changes directly or may choose to approve the document in its current form). Further, stakeholders should note that DCC will be consulting at the end of March on an updated draft of the document, aligned to GBCS v0.8.1. This interim draft was therefore published for information only.

1.4 Changes / points of interest

This narrative is focused on responding to the bigger issues raised or where changes to the draft SEC Subsidiary Document have been made.

Question 1

- 1.4.1 Numerous consultation responses indicated that it was not clear to parties with which version of the SEC the consultation version of DUGIS was aligned. DCC clarifies that the DUIS consultation response is intended to be aligned with the SEC4.1 designated version. DCC would note that in this version of the SEC, the content of sections H3, H4, H5 and H6, with which DUIS primarily needs to align, is marked as 'intentionally blank'. DCC in its drafting has therefore assumed that the latest obligations for these sections are detailed within the SEC4 consultation version. DECC has advised that there are expected to be no major changes to obligations as a result of the development of a new SEC Subsidiary Document to be referenced by the updated legal drafting for sections H3, H4, H5 and H6. It is therefore thought that there is a low risk of any SEC changes having a direct impact on DUIS and resulting in new alignment issues.
- 1.4.2 Many respondents requested clarification of how each SEC obligation within sections H3, H4, H5 and H6 was being addressed within DUIS. DCC has clarified that the purpose of DUIS is to define rights and obligations in respect of the interface between the DCC and its Users; it should not define and describe how other processes between the DCC and its Users operate. As a result, a number of responses to question 1 could not be accepted as they would have prejudiced the particular purposes of the document and rendered it unsuitable for incorporation into the SEC; therefore associated changes to DUIS have not been made to describe these other processes.
- 1.4.3 Several respondents commented that the inclusion of diagrams in a specification of such a complex interface was essential to gain a sufficient understanding of the interface and build the required User systems. DCC was advised by DECC that diagrams of this nature and number would not be appropriate for a SEC Subsidiary Document; however DCC would note that it is actively exploring the need for additional guidance.
- 1.4.4 Some respondents asserted that the DUIS services, along with Parse & Correlate, are too complex to interface with and provide little more than a pass-through to the low-level meter complexities. DCC notes the comment but does not believe that the interfaces are excessively complex and further notes that they meet the obligations in the SEC. In order to continue to discuss User issues, DCC will continue to facilitate DUIS Design Forums during 2015 and will explore how best to meet the need for additional guidance.
- 1.4.5 DCC would conclude by noting that it has made various changes to the DUIS drafting to correct errors helpfully identified by respondents and to provide necessary clarifications.

Question 2

- 1.4.6 The majority of respondents advised that they thought the draft DUIS excludes key information and requires Users to refer to many documents in order to understand what needs to be implemented to utilise the GBCS use case services provided. Respondents also commented that the document set has differing format and structure, requiring significant effort to understand

Device Service Request responses and Alerts and to understand end-to-end transactions.

- 1.4.7 DCC has noted that User expectations do not align with the requirements of the draft DUIS, which is to set out the rights and obligations in respect of the DCC User Interface. Whilst Users expect DUIS to include informative text which sets the DCC User Interface in the context of the overall end-to-end solution, this does not align with the intended purpose of DUIS as set out in the Smart Meter Communication Licence. Annex 9A.2 of the Licence states its purpose as: "The DCC User Gateway Interface Specification is the document that specifies the technical details of the DCC User Gateway, including the protocols and technical standards for message exchanges across it." Based on this definition, and guidance from DECC, DCC maintains that the draft document is fit for purpose and it notes that sufficient information is provided across the suite of SEC Subsidiary Documents to enable Users to design systems to integrate with DCC Systems. DCC believes that the inclusion of informative text within DUIS would prejudice the particular purpose of the document and likely render it unsuitable for subsequent designation into the SEC, as the content of the draft document would not in that instance be consistent with the scope and purpose of that document specified in the Licence.

Question 3

- 1.4.8 The majority of respondents did not agree with the DCC's position that the Service References and Service Reference Variants included within DUIS accurately reflect the requirements that are set out in the GBCS. Concerns included: the size and complexity of DUIS, missing level of detail with Service Request Definitions, and Use Case permissions inconsistencies between GBCS and SEC4 User Gateway Service Schedule.
- 1.4.9 In order to address these responses, DCC has:
- a) made various changes to the DUIS drafting to correct identified errors and provide necessary clarifications
 - b) clarified with Users that SEC Subsidiary Documents cannot contain the informative and contextual information being requested

Question 4

- 1.4.10 DCC notes that many respondents disagreed that the draft DUIS document contained a complete and accurate set of the required Service Requests, as identified by their unique Service Reference Variants. DCC has corrected all errors identified in the consultation responses. However, DCC cannot resolve the comments on DUIS which relate to content that should not be included in DUIS (e.g. additional contextual or informative guidance) or would require changes to other SEC Subsidiary Documents (e.g. GBCS, SMETS). In consequence, these changes have not been made.

Question 5

- 1.4.11 The majority of respondents agreed with DCC's proposal that the four proposed new Service Requests for Job Status Reports should be included within DUIS and that the information requested within them is relevant and

appropriate. Following consideration of responses received, DCC has concluded that the new Service Requests for Job Status Reports should be included within the DCC design and also the DUIS document, and that the information requested within the new Service Requests is both relevant and appropriate. The document has therefore been updated.

Question 10

- 1.4.12 Based on consultation responses, DCC has discussed the commissioning process with DECC, with a view to clarifying and simplifying the DCC solution (and the associated SEC obligations). As a result, DCC has amended the Device commissioning process by removing the second step of the Device commissioning process from the DUIS document. This change will result in two distinct steps for Device commissioning for a smart meter: i. instructing the Device to synchronise its clock with the Communications Hub clock initiated by the User using Service Request 8.1.1, and ii. DCC setting the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI) Status of the Device to "Commissioned" to indicate that the meter is now in operation and available to Users.

Other concerns

- 1.4.13 Most respondents expressed concern that the DUIS does not provide sufficient information upon which to design systems to integrate with DCC Systems, and that additional contextual information is required. DCC maintains its belief that DUIS, when considered in the context of the suite of SEC documents, is sufficient for Users to build their system interfaces with DCC. The DCC also notes that the information in the DUIS is legally definitive, such that it can be relied upon. It would add that on bilateral calls with respondents, DCC set out the reasons why some information should not be included in DUIS and that it is actively considering the need for additional guidance to provide the contextual information which parties seek.
- 1.4.14 Concern was raised that the Message Mapping Catalogue (MMC) had not been consulted alongside DUIS and therefore the treatment of Service Requests, Service Responses and Device Alerts cannot be considered together. DCC confirms that it urged Users to respond to the consultation on the MMC which has recently closed. Furthermore, in recognising parties' concerns, DCC plans to conduct the future DUIS and MMC consultations (the uplift to GBCS 0.8.1) concurrently. These consultations are planned for late March 2015.

1.5 Contact

If you would like to discuss this Notice, please contact Richard Sullivan at richard.sullivan@smartdcc.co.uk.