



# Conclusion to DCC Consultation on April 2026 – March 2027 BCDR Test Schedule

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## Contents

1. Executive Summary .....	3
2. Background.....	4
2.1. The need for BCDR Tests and Exercises .....	4
2.2. Approach and improvements over time .....	4
3. Consultation Responses.....	5
3.1. BCDR Test schedule 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2027 .....	5
4. Next Steps.....	6
4.1. BCDR Test Schedule .....	6
5. Appendix One – Non-Service Impacting BCDR Tests Outside of DCC Live System - April 2026 to March 2027....	7
6. Appendix Two – Non-Service Impacting DCC Live System BCDR Test Schedule - April 2026 to March 2027 .....	8
7. Appendix Three – Service Impacting DCC Live System BCDR Test Schedule - April 2026 to March 2027 .....	9

# 1. Executive Summary

1. Business Continuity Disaster Recovery (BCDR) procedures help to ensure Services can continue to be provided with as little disruption as possible for DCC customers and consumers in the event of unexpected outages. BCDR Tests help to validate that these procedures enable Services to continue to function or be effectively recovered in the event of a disaster or unforeseen outage.
2. In November 2025 we published our consultation<sup>1</sup> on our proposed BCDR Testing schedule covering April 2026 to March 2027. This is the conclusion to that consultation. As well as this consultation we have also engaged with Parties through the SEC Operations Sub-Committee as part of discussions related to the annual outage plan.
3. The original consultation period was extended by two weeks due to a typographical error identified by one of the respondents, we expand on this in section 3.
4. In scheduling our BCDR Tests we continue to implement opportunities to reduce the impact of those tests while ensuring confidence that BCDR procedures can be successfully implemented in the event of unplanned outages.
5. BCDR Tests have been organised into the following categories:
  - a. Non-Service Impacting BCDR Tests outside of DCC Live Systems (see Appendix One)
  - b. Non-Service Impacting DCC Live System BCDR Tests (see Appendix Two)
  - c. Service Impacting DCC Live System BCDR Tests (see Appendix Three)
6. We received two responses to the consultation from one large Supplier Party and one Network party. On the non-service impacting tests the respondents did not have any challenge on the proposed timings.
7. On system impacting tests one respondent agreed with the proposed testing and one respondent had no reason to challenge those tests.
8. On service impacting tests both respondents raised concerns with the timing of tests and the disruption such tests may cause.
9. In total we have scheduled 17 BCDR Tests across nine Service Providers. Of these, 11 BCDR Tests will not result in additional disruption of Services. Six of these tests will impact the provision of Services with a total of 42 hours across the 12-month calendar. The 2026 - 2027 schedule includes tests for two new, additional, Service Providers for this year but we have been able to reduce the overall outage compared to the planed 88 hours for the 2025 – 2026 schedule.
10. One respondent highlighted their concern regarding concentrated tests in April 2026 and we intend to reschedule those test dates. We have not proposed any other changes to the BCDR Test schedule provided in our original consultation.
11. The confirmed test schedules are provided in the Appendices, separated into the categories of tests detailed above.

<sup>1</sup> [DCC Consultation on BCDR Tests | Smart DCC](#)

## 2. Background

13. 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 and operation of second-generation (SMETS2) smart meters, as well as the operation of existing first-generation (SMETS1) meters on our network.

### 2.1. The need for BCDR Tests and Exercises

14. BCDR procedures are a vital part of DCC Services that provides resilience where unforeseen outages or disruptions occur. They also ensure Services can continue to be provided, minimising the impact or disruption for DCC customers and consumers.
15. BCDR Tests and exercises allow for a formal assessment of procedures and provide confidence that in the event of a disaster, DCC can continue to provide Services to customers. They also help to highlight areas for improvement so that the recovery actions are corrected and improved in preparation for any unforeseen real-world disaster.
16. SEC Section H10.9 requires that DCC comply with the BCDR Procedures described in SEC Appendix AG.<sup>1</sup> It is that appendix which describes DCC Disaster Impacts, and the recovery action DCC should complete.
17. We also work to compliance with ISO 22301 which sets out standards and best practices for business continuity. This standard describes BCDR exercises, which we consider to be another term for a BCDR Test.

### 2.2. Approach and improvements over time

18. Our approach to testing has evolved over time and we will continue working to minimise any disruption to Parties caused by BCDR Tests and manage risk. Following engagement and customer feedback from previous years, a broader range of approaches to testing and exercising have been considered and implemented to reduce the impact of BCDR Tests on DCC customers.
19. Over the previous two periods our approach has changed in particular with regard to the efforts we make to reduce the impact of testing, and we will continue to consider customer feedback and any suitable changes to our approach in the future. For example, we have reduced the impact of BCDR Tests by:
  - a. The reduction of contingency time within a scheduled test
  - b. The removal of contingency dates from the testing schedule
  - c. Completing live tests during existing periods of planned downtime
  - d. Completing live BCDR tests within the same window as other BCDR Tests
  - e. Remaining on secondary infrastructure for longer durations
  - f. Utilising Planned Maintenance and incidents to further validate and assess procedures

<sup>1</sup> [SEC Appendix AG - Incident Management Policy](#)

- g. Implementing a risk-based approach, which requires live testing only when necessary or when deemed to be required based on the size of the risk exposure to DCC and its Services

### 3. Consultation Responses

#### 3.1. BCDR Test schedule 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027

20. In the consultation we made efforts to provide details of tests in the most useful way for readers of the document. We provided details of scheduled BCDR Tests in the consultation, organised in three categories:
  - a. Non-Service Impacting BCDR Tests outside of DCC Live Systems (see Appendix One)
  - b. Non-Service Impacting DCC Live System BCDR Tests (see Appendix Two)
  - c. Service Impacting DCC Live System BCDR Tests (see Appendix Three)
21. Our consultation seeking Parties views closed 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and we received one response. That response noted an error in the question which only asked Parties to comment on Appendix One and Two. Having been made aware of this error we corrected the question and extended the closure of the consultation by two weeks.
22. We asked one question within the consultation

#### Question One

Do you agree with the proposed dates and timing of the BCDR Test activity provided in Appendix One, Two and Three? Please provide rationale for your response.

23. We received two responses to the consultation, one from a large Supplier Party and one from a Network party. On tests that would not impact Service availability the Network Party agreed with the proposed timings and the Supplier Party stated that they had no reason to challenge the schedule.
24. On BCDR Tests that will impact Service availability the Supplier Party noted that:
  - a. Consistency in the timing of events would allow all parties to plan more easily (e.g. testing completed on a standard day of the week with standard timing, or consistent overnight timing)
  - b. Daytime outages have a large impact for Prepayment consumers compared to overnight outages
  - c. Overnight outages are less impactful and show that such tests are technically feasible
25. DCC has made efforts to reduce the impact of BCDR Tests as much as possible and we note that there are different operational impacts depending on the time during which a test is completed. We have provided our BCDR Test Approach document with information on how we aim to keep disruption to a minimum. On standardising the timing of system impacting events, we will consider where such an approach could be delivered.
26. Parties have informed us that tests completed during the day on Sundays pose additional disruption compared to test events during overnight time periods. We have worked to keep Sunday daytime tests to a minimum, but to ensure quality of testing we have proposed that one Service Provider

complete a Sunday daytime test in this test schedule. We will continue to work with Service Providers and keep away from service impacting daytime tests wherever possible.

27. The Network Party responses raised concerns with the spacing of BCDR Tests. They highlighted that April 2026 will see multiple weekends where BCDR Tests are planned and an outage will occur. This is in part due to Network Party requests, and our actions, to keep Service impacting BCDR Tests away from winter months due to the increased risk of adverse weather and impacts to supply. This inevitably leads to a condensed testing timeframe for BCDR Tests which also need to be planned around Maintenance activity and SEC Releases. However, we appreciate that the proposed schedule concentrates Service impacting tests in April.
28. While rescheduling these tests will not result in less overall down time, we recognise that this concentration of Service impact could cause negative impacts to Parties. We are therefore intending to reschedule tests originally scheduled 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April. Alternative test dates are not yet confirmed but we will notify Parties of finalised dates as soon as possible.

## 4. Next Steps

### 4.1. BCDR Test Schedule

29. The confirmed BCDR tests schedule at this time is presented in Appendices One, Two and Three.
30. DCC will engage further to understand the impact of concentrated BCDR Tests and review testing dates if required. Where changes are made, we will provide an updated testing schedule with as much notice as possible.
31. We continue to work with Parties in the development of SEC MP289. This includes the formalisation of our BCDR Test Approach Document and the consideration of notification requirements for those BCDR Tests that do not impact the provision of Services.

## 5. Appendix One – Non-Service Impacting BCDR Tests Outside of DCC Live System - April 2026 to March 2027

The following table provides details of our plans for completing BCDR Tests outside of the DCC Live System. These tests may be conducted during normal office hours, but they **will not** result in disruption of Services. This approach has been established utilising the methodology set out in our BCDR Test Approach Document.

Service Provider (Service)	Timing
Accenture (ECoS)	Quarter 2 2026
Vodafone (4G CSP)	Quarter 3 2026
VMo2 (CSP C&S)	Quarter 3 2026
Toshiba (4G)	Quarter 4 2026
CGI (DSP)	Quarter 4 2026
Capgemini (DCO)	Quarter 1 2027
CGI SIE (IOC S1SP)	Quarter 1 2027

## 6. Appendix Two – Non-Service Impacting DCC Live System BCDR Test Schedule - April 2026 to March 2027

The following table provides details of our plans for completing BCDR Tests on DCC Live Systems where there is **no impact** to core Services or the sending and receiving of Service Requests. These BCDR Tests have been established utilising the methodology set out in our BCDR Test Approach Document.

To reduce overall service impact, one of these test activities have been combined with other Service impacting activity where we consider that other activity to be the primary source of the Service disruption. Parties are informed separately about those other activities and the disruption to Services they cause.

Service Provider (Service)	Combined with other activity	Date and time period	Test description
Accenture (4G Device Manager)**	Yes	Tuesday 26th May 2026 20:00 – 02:00 (6 hours)	Failback
BT (SMKI)*	No	Thursday 4th June 2026 20:00 – 02:00 (6 hours)	Failover (new Service)
BT (SMKI)*	No	Thursday 11th June 2026 20:00 – 02:00 (6 hours)	Failback (new Service)
Capgemini (FSM)	No	Tuesday 16th July 2026 20:00 – 02:00 (6 hours)	Resilience testing
Capgemini (DCO)**	No	Thursday 11th March 2027 20:00 02:00 (6 Hours)	Resilience testing

\*During the BT (SMKI) BCDR Test SMKI Internet Portal and SMKI Portal will not be available for the duration of the test.

\*\*DCO may be removed based on March 2026 testing, though this test is not combined with other activity, no outage is anticipated when completing this test.



## 7. Appendix Three – Service Impacting DCC Live System BCDR Test Schedule - April 2026 to March 2027

The following table provides details of our plans for completing BCDR Tests on DCC Live Systems where their execution **will** result in the disruption of Services. These BCDR Tests have been established utilising the methodology set out in our BCDR Test Approach Document.

Some DCC Live System BCDR Tests cannot be combined with other activity. The table below details where those impacts on the provision of Services and we have focused on the impact to pre-payment vend, Install and Commission activity and power outage Alerts, since these have been highlighted as the most significant by our customers.

Service Provider (Service)	Date and time period	Test description	Key service impact area (region or SMETS1 cohort)*				
			SMETS1 / SMETS2 / Both	Pre-Payment	Install and Commission	Power Outage Alerts	Hours of Service impact*
Secure (MOC S1SP)	Saturday 11th April 2026 20:00 – 02:00 (6 hours)	Failback	SMETS1	MOC	Not applicable	Not applicable	6
Accenture (4G Device Manager)**	Thursday 21st May 2026 20:00 – 04:00 (8 hours)	Failover	SMETS2	Not applicable	Not applicable	4G CH	8
Secure (MOC S1SP)	Saturday 6th June 2026 20:00 – 02:00 (6 hours)	Failover	SMETS1	MOC	Not applicable	Not applicable	6
CGI (FOC)***	Thursday 4th March 2027 20:00 – 02:00 (6 hours)	Failover and failback	SMETS1	FOC	Not applicable	Not applicable	6
Arqiva (CSP N)	TBC	Failover	SMETS2	CSP N	CSP N	CSP N	
Arqiva (CSP N)	TBC	Failback	SMETS2	CSP N	CSP N	CSP N	

\*Details the service impact of BCDR Testing where that service is not expected to be available (prepayment vend and install and commission activity).

\*\*During the Accenture (4G Device Manager) BCDR Test, AD1 and Over The Air Firmware update will not be available.

\*\*\*Test planned for post go-live test of new service provision, subject to date change.