

Conclusions on the RF Noise Derogation in the ICHIS

DCC Conclusions on the consultation issued on the draft changes to the Radio Frequency (RF Noise) Derogation specified in the Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS)

Date: 03.02.2023

Author: consultations@smartdcc.co.uk

Classification: DCC Public

Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction and Context 3
 - 1.1. Background 3
- 2. Consultation Responses..... 3
 - 2.1. Responses..... 3
- 3. Next Steps..... 3
- 4. Attachments 3

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. Under Smart Energy Code (SEC) Section H12.5, DCC has an obligation to keep the Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS) under review to ascertain whether the specification remains fit for purpose as envisaged by the SEC. At its discretion the DCC may consult with Parties as to whether they consider the specification to be fit for purpose.
3. The ICHIS defines the mandatory features required to ensure that an Intimate Communications Hub can be used with any ICHIS compliant Host (the side of an ICHIS interface which provides power and physical mount for a Device. It defines a common interface between the Communications Hub and Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME). Part F of the ICHIS sets out the requirements for radiated (wireless) RF interference.
4. In December 2022 DCC issued a consultation¹ seeking comments on proposed changes to the ICHIS Part F in relation to the RF noise Derogation Period. Specifically, to retrospectively amend Part F to correctly define the period in which temporary RF limits applied for installations up to and including 31 March 2022.

2. Consultation Responses

2.1. Responses

5. DCC received written responses from two parties; an Energy Supplier and an Other SEC Party.

Respondent View

6. Both respondents supported the proposed changes to Part F of the ICHIS, with one noting that this is reflective of discussions and agreements regarding the derogation.
7. No further comments were received in response to this consultation.

DCC Response

8. DCC appreciates the responses to the consultation and notes the support for the change.

3. Next Steps

9. Published alongside this consultation conclusion document is the new version of the ICHIS (v2.4).

4. Attachments

Attachment 1: ICHIS v2.4

¹ <https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/consultations/radio-frequency-noise-derogation-in-the-ichis/>