



## SEC Release Conclusions on the November 2023 Testing Approach Document

DCC Conclusions on the consultation issued on the draft  
Testing Approach Document for the November 2023 SEC  
Release

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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. Under SEC Section D10.18, DCC has an obligation to produce a SEC Release Testing Approach Document (TAD) which defines the approach to testing changes to DCC Systems arising from a SEC Release.
3. In June 2023 DCC issued a consultation<sup>1</sup> seeking comments on the draft November 2023 DCC Testing Approach Document which has been produced to satisfy the requirements set out in SEC Sections D10.18 – D10.20.
4. DCC presented the consultation responses and amended draft TAD to the SEC Testing Advisory Group (TAG) on 28 June 2023 for approval. This document sets out the response and conclusions prior to publication.

# 2. Consultation Responses

## 2.1. Responses

5. DCC received written responses from four parties, three of which are Energy Suppliers and one being a DCC Service Provider. In addition to the written responses, DCC received comments from stakeholders through engagement activities such as the SEC Testing Advisory Group (TAG).

# 3. Analysis of Responses

6. DCC has analysed the feedback provided and views of stakeholders. Subject matter experts within DCC have reviewed every response. DCC has structured the analysis of responses by question. Thus, this section presents DCC's analysis by question in several separate subsections; with an overview of the responses on the topic and a DCC response.

## 3.1. Question 1

7. DCC sought views on the overall testing approach asking: **“Do you support the overall approach and scope of the draft November 2023 DCC Testing Approach Document? Please provide rationale for your views.”**

### Respondent Views

8. All four respondents supported the overall approach and scope outlined in the draft June 2023 TAD attached to the consultation. It was noted that the document followed the same approach and format as previous approved TADs.
9. One respondent noted that on Page 14 of the draft TAD provided as part of the consultation, DCC stated that “existing GBCS v4.2 Communications Hub Firmware will also support and cover any new GBCS v4.3 Devices. The respondents highlighted that the CSP will not be supplying GBCS v4.2

<sup>1</sup> [November 2023 Testing Approach Document | Smart DCC](#)

Communications Hubs as they will not have been approved for delivery at the start of System Integration Testing (SIT).

### DCC Response

10. DCC notes the support for the overall approach.
11. In response to the respondents' comments in relation to the use of Devices that support GBCS v4.2, DCC has updated page 14 of the TAD to clarify that where GBCS v4.2 Devices are not available emulators will be used as there are no functional changes to GBCS Use Cases between v4.2 and v4.3.

### 3.2. Question 2

12. DCC sought any additional comments on the TAD asking: **“Do you have any other comments on the draft November 2023 DCC Testing Approach Document? Please provide details and rationales for your views.”**.

### Respondent Views

13. One respondent questioned whether a regression test for November 2023 SEC Release will be performed by switching off Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) and SMETS1 Device Swap Out changes.
14. Another respondent highlighted a statement on page 28 of the draft TAD which noted “there is no new, device impacting functionality being delivered in the November 2023 SEC Release. DCC will therefore utilise the emulators that have been tested and assured for the June 2022, November 2022 SEC Releases and the GBCS v4.1 Programme.”. The respondent asked whether this meant that going forward the testing strategy will be to test against emulators if there is no device impacting functionality. They also noted that MP216 ‘Incorporation of Category 2 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 9’, requires changes to GBCS, so their expectation would be that some devices would be used during testing.

### DCC Response

15. DCC has amended Section 2.3 of the TAD to clarify that DCC will test with MHHS changes both ‘on’ and ‘off’ in SIT-B. This is to ensure that nothing has been introduced by November 2023 SEC Release or SMETS1 Device Swap Out that may cause a failure.
16. Regarding the use of emulators, DCC will use Devices that have been tested and assured for the June 2022 SEC Release, November 2022 SEC Release and the GBCS v4.1 Programme. As with previous testing strategies, where Devices are not available, tests will be undertaken with the use of emulators. DCC has updated Section 7.1 in the TAD to reflect this.

## 4. TAG Decision

17. On Wednesday 28 June 2022, DCC presented the consultation responses and the proposed amendments to the November 2023 SEC Release TAD.
18. Following amendments and clarifications, TAG approved the TAD in accordance with SEC Section D10.20.

## 5. Next Steps

19. Published alongside this consultation conclusion document is the approved version of the November 2023 SEC Release TAD (V2.0).

## 6. Attachments

Attachment 1: November 2023 SEC Release Testing Approach Document v2.0