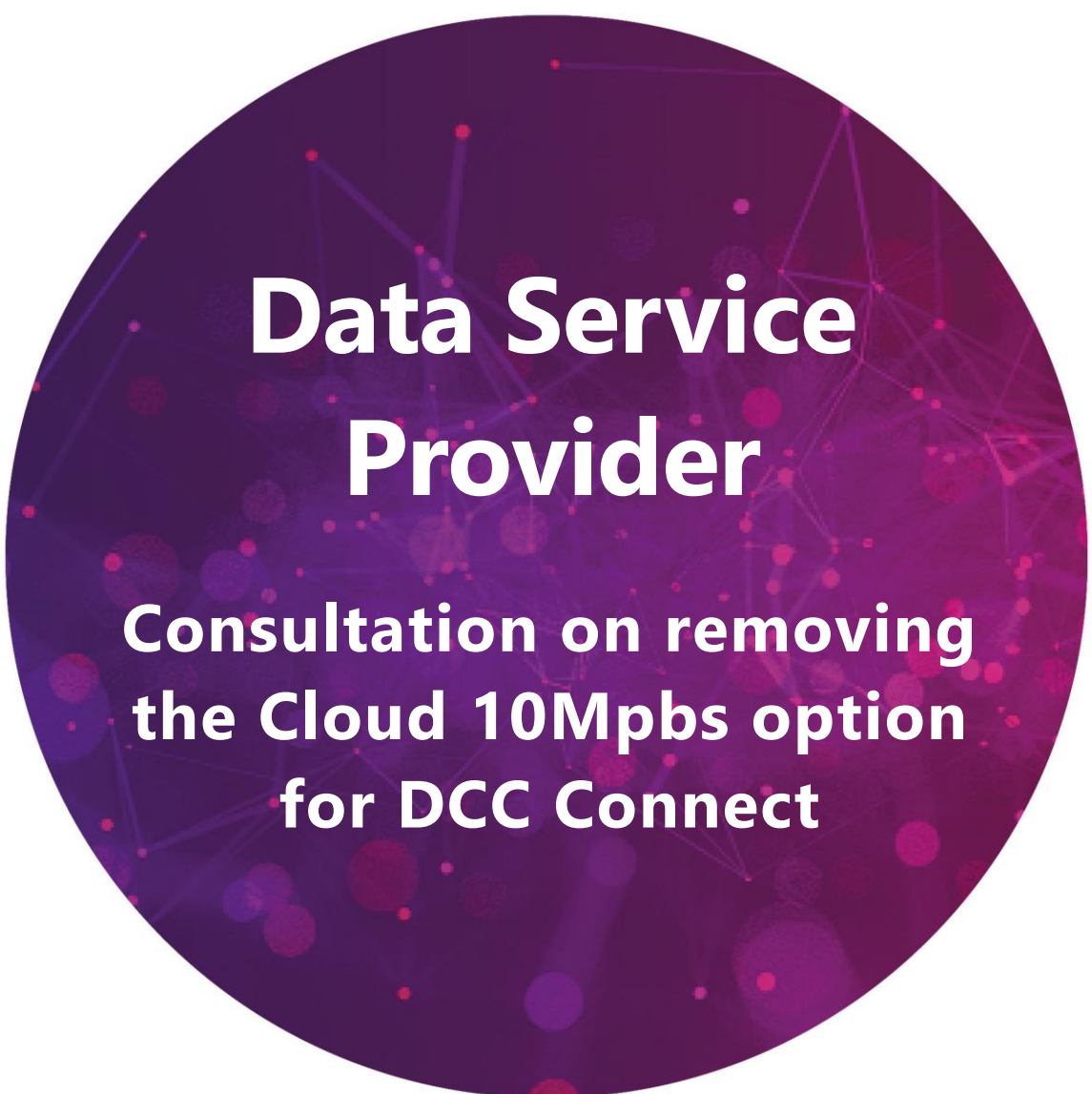




Data Service Provider

Consultation on removing the Cloud 10Mbps option for DCC Connect

Issued: 29 September 2026

Respond by: 17:00 on 30 October 2026

Contact: consultations@smartdcc.co.uk

Classification: DCC Public

Table of Contents

1. Background and context.....	3
1.1. The DSP Programme.....	3
1.2. Previous consultation and engagement	3
1.3. Approach to regulatory change.....	4
1.4. Scope and structure of this consultation	4
2. Regulatory changes for the removal of the 10Mbps cloud connection	5
3. Designation of the SEC changes	5
4. Next steps	6
5. Consultation questions and how to respond	6
6. Attachments	7
Appendix A – Draft direction text.....	8

1. Background and context

1. This consultation sets out and seeks your views on updates to Smart Energy Code (SEC) Appendix AU 'Network Evolution Transition and Migration Approach Document' (NETMAD) to remove the option for a 10Mbps DCC Gateway High Volume (HV) Cloud Connection.
2. We are seeking your responses to the questions set out in this consultation by **17:00 on Friday 30 October 2026**.

1.1. The DSP Programme

3. The Data Service Provider (DSP) sits at the heart of the smart metering infrastructure, providing data services that connect DCC Users to devices at consumers' premises. The DSP Data System is a central facility that controls the flow of messages to and from smart metering equipment, with User organisations (e.g. Energy Suppliers, Network Operators and Other Users) communicating via these central DSP facilities.
4. The contract for the current DSP solution (referred to as the 'As-Is DSP') is set to expire in 2028. This originally encompassed several different capabilities including (but not limited to):
 - Provision of **DCC Gateway Connection services** (i.e. network connectivity) to connect DCC Gateway Parties (referred to as 'Parties' in this document) and Service Providers to the DSP in both production and test environments.
 - The maintenance of the **DCC User Interface Specification** (DUIS) which sets out the structure of the messages that can be exchanged with the DSP.
 - The **Core DSP** which provides message routing, anomaly detection, registration services, inventory management, the DCC Key Infrastructure (DCKI),¹ the Certification Authority (CA), security checking, logging & reporting, and a Smart Metering Key Infrastructure (SMKI) repository.
 - A **DCC Service Management System** (DSMS) which supports DCC's service operation.
 - A **Systems Integrator** (SI), which manages elements such as change and testing to ensure the system functions optimally.
5. DCC completed its Full Business Case (FBC) for the new DSP contract in 2025 to reprocur a new solution for these capabilities. A disaggregated approach has been adopted, with different partner organisations providing different capabilities.
6. A replacement service for the DSMS capability was delivered separately on 16 March 2026 under DCC's Future Service Management (FSM) Programme. The DSP Programme will encompass the implementation of the new capabilities for the remaining areas of the original contract (except for the SI capability which is already in operation). This will include the provision of the new DCC Gateway Connections and the migration of devices from the As-Is DSP to the future DSP solution (referred to as the 'Future DSP').

1.2. Previous consultation and engagement

7. The first stage of the DSP Programme is the provision of the new DCC Gateway Connection service to connect Parties and Service Providers into the DSP. The legacy solution and service has been provided by Gamma. VodafoneThree was selected as the new provider for these connections, and the replacement solution is called 'DCC Connect'.

¹ This refers to the cryptographic certificates used within the Public Key Infrastructure framework of the DCC.

8. DCC began by engaging with Parties to understand the pain points with the legacy DCC Gateway Connections and associated processes (e.g. onboarding). It used this engagement to inform the requirements of the DCC Connect solution. DCC Connect has therefore been designed to respond to the pain points customers identified with legacy Gateway Connections and deliver a wide range of benefits for Parties that were outlined in the consultation on the regulatory changes for DCC Connect.
9. DCC subsequently issued a consultation in November 2025 on the regulatory changes required to deliver the DCC Connect solution.² These changes included the transitional arrangements for the delivery and cutover of Parties with existing DCC Gateway Connections to the DCC Connect solution as well as the enduring arrangements for the DCC Connect service. DCC published its conclusions to this consultation in January 2026.³ The changes were subsequently designated into the SEC by the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) (the Department) on 29 January 2026 using powers under Condition 22 of the Smart Meter Communications Licence and SEC Section X5 'Incorporation of Certain Documents into this Code'.⁴
10. DCC went live with the DCC Connect service in April 2026 and has been engaging with existing DCC Gateway Parties to receive orders, arrange surveys, and implement cutovers to DCC Connect. This process continues and Parties should continue to engage with DCC to ensure a timely completion of all cutovers by 30 March 2027.
11. During this initial engagement and cutover period, DCC was notified by VodafoneThree that the 10Mbps cloud connection option that was provided for in the SEC has since been removed by its cloud vendors. As such, this option is no longer available to DCC to provide to Parties, with the smallest cloud connection bandwidth option available now being a 50Mbps connection, reflecting global demand. This consultation is therefore required to remove the 10Mbps cloud connection option from the SEC, as this change impacts the way the delivery of and migration to DCC Connect will take place.

1.3. Approach to regulatory change

12. During the period where there are active DCC Gateway Connections provided under both the legacy (Gamma) solution and under the DCC Connect solution, the enduring changes to the SEC that are applicable to the DCC Connect solution have been temporarily included as annexes to the NETMAD. This includes the version of SEC Appendix G 'DCC Gateway Connection Code of Connection' applicable to DCC Connect, which is included as Annex 4 of the NETMAD. This sets out, among other items, the specific DCC Gateway Connection Options available to DCC Gateway Parties.
13. The changes to this annex to the NETMAD that are the subject of this consultation will be implemented following a Direction from the Department using powers under Condition 22 of the Smart Meter Communications Licence and SEC Section X5.
14. DCC notes that the current Charging Statement includes a price for requesting a 10Mbps cloud connection. For efficiency, DCC intends for the Charging Statement to be updated to remove this as part of its annual review and update of the Charging Statement that will apply from 1 April 2027. In the meantime, the removal of this option from the SEC will mean that this option would no longer be available for Parties to request in the first instance.

1.4. Scope and structure of this consultation

15. This consultation seeks your views on updates to Annex 4 of the NETMAD to remove the option for DCC Gateway Parties to be able to order a 10Mbps DCC Gateway HV Cloud Connection. A

² [DSP consultation on the regulatory changes for DCC Connect | Smart DCC](#)

³ [DSP Conclusions on the regulatory changes for DCC Connect | Smart DCC](#)

⁴⁴ [SEC v129.0 live - Department of Energy Security and Net Zero redesignation of SEC Appendix AU | Smart Energy Code](#)

summary of these changes can be found in Section 2 of this consultation document, and the redline changes to Annex 4 of the NETMAD can be found in Attachment 1.

16. This consultation is expected to impact any existing DCC Gateway Parties who are still in the process of choosing their replacement DCC Gateway Connection Option under DCC Connect and any prospective DCC Gateway Parties that are considering a DCC Gateway HV Cloud Connection.
17. This consultation closes at **17:00 on Friday 30 October 2026**. Following this, DCC will provide a report to the Department containing its consideration of the responses and its conclusion on the regulatory changes set out in this consultation. We will publish this conclusions document on the DCC website.

2. Regulatory changes for the removal of the 10Mbps cloud connection

18. DCC's Service Provider for the DCC Connect service, VodafoneThree, has made DCC aware that the vendors it uses as part of its cloud solution have withdrawn the 10Mbps option. This option specifically relates to the cloud service which is supported by Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft Azure. Both Amazon and Microsoft have withdrawn the 10Mbps option from their cloud portfolio, meaning this is no longer offered to anyone. Consequently, DCC is no longer able to provide this option as part of its DCC Connect offerings.
19. Annex 4 of the NETMAD sets out the version of SEC Appendix G that applies to the DCC Connect solution. This document sets out the DCC Gateway Connection Options that are available to DCC Gateway Parties. This includes a specific set of bandwidth options that are available for a DCC Gateway HV Cloud Connection. As the 10Mbps bandwidth option is no longer provided, this document will need to be updated to remove this option.
20. The proposed changes to Annex 4 of the NETMAD can be found in Attachment 1 to this consultation.
21. Following this change, the 50Mbps option will now be the smallest bandwidth option supported by Microsoft and Amazon for cloud connections. As such, this will now be the entry level DCC Gateway Connection Option for a DCC Gateway HV Cloud Connection.
22. For the avoidance of doubt, this change will not have any impact on the bandwidth options offered for a DCC Gateway HV Physical Connection or a DCC Gateway Low Volume (LV) Connection under the DCC Connect solution.

3. Designation of the SEC changes

23. DCC is currently in the process of engaging existing DCC Gateway Parties to receive their orders and arrange for their cutovers to the DCC Connect service. Therefore, the removal of the 10Mbps cloud connection option is required immediately, due to it not being available anymore. DCC has been informing both existing and prospective DCC Gateway Parties of this change during the engagement process but also needs to make the necessary regulatory changes to confirm this change in options.
24. DCC is therefore proposing that, subject to the timely receipt of DCC's conclusions report on this consultation, the Department will designate the changes to Annex 4 of the NETMAD on 7 December 2026, or as soon as reasonably practicable within one month thereafter as a contingency measure if required. A draft direction for the designation of the SEC documents can be found in Appendix A of this consultation document.

4. Next steps

25. Following the closure of this consultation, DCC will assess respondents' views and amend the draft SEC changes as required. DCC will then submit a version of the proposed changes to the Department that it considers suitable for designation by the Secretary of State.
26. DCC is aiming to provide a report to the Department by no later than 27 November 2026. This report will contain DCC's consideration of the responses to this consultation as well as the proposed updated version of the SEC changes and the proposed date for the re-designation of the SEC Appendix. DCC will publish its conclusions document on its website.

5. Consultation questions and how to respond

27. We are seeking your views on the following questions:

Q1	Do you agree with the proposed changes to Annex 4 of the NETMAD for the removal of the 10Mbps DCC Gateway HV Cloud Connection option? <i>Please provide your rationale for your response</i>
Q2	Do you agree with the proposed redesignation date for the NETMAD (incorporating the updated version of Annex 4) of 7 December 2026 (or as soon as reasonably practicable within one month thereafter)? <i>Please provide your rationale for your response</i>

28. Please provide responses using the attached response form by **17:00 on Friday 30 October 2026** to DCC at consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.
29. Consultation responses may be published on our website (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 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.
30. If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact us at consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.

6. Attachments

31. This consultation includes two attachments:
- Attachment 1: Proposed changes to SEC Appendix AU Annex 4
 - Attachment 2: Consultation response template

Appendix A – Draft direction text

This appendix contains the text that the Department plans to use for the approval of the changes to Annex 4 of the NETMAD.

This direction is made for the purposes of the smart meter communications licences granted under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Gas Act 1986 (such licences being the “DCC Licence”) and the Smart Energy Code designated by the Secretary of State pursuant to the DCC Licence (such code being the “SEC”).

Words and expressions used in this direction shall be interpreted in accordance with Section A (Definitions and Interpretation) of the SEC.

Pursuant to Condition 22 of the DCC Licence and Section X5 (Incorporation of Certain Documents into this Code) of the SEC, the Secretary of State directs that, with effect from 7 December 2026 the Network Evolution Transition and Migration Approach Document (NETMAD) previously designated and incorporated into the SEC as Appendix AU is hereby re-designated and incorporated in the form set out in Annex [XX] to this direction.

For the avoidance of doubt such re-designation of the NETMAD shall be without prejudice to anything done under the DCC Licence or the SEC on or after this document being re-designated, or the continuing effectiveness of anything done in this document prior to its re-designation (which shall have effect as if done under the re-designated document).

This direction is also being notified to the SEC Administrator.