

SSI Consultation

Consultation on proposed changes to the Self-Service Interface Change Governance Process

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

1.1. Background

2. The Self-Service Interface (SSI) is a web-based portal which allows Users to obtain information about, and interact with, Data Communications Company (DCC) Services. The requirements of which are set out in section H8 of the Smart Energy Code (SEC).
3. The SSI Change Governance Process was developed as part of the solution to SEC MP058 which removed low level SSI requirements from SEC section AH and allowed for SSI amendments to be progressed outside of the SEC Modification Process. The SSI Change Governance Process is a DCC owned document, and any amendments require consultation with DCC Users and approval by SEC Panel.
4. The SEC requires that any changes to the SSI are processed following the SSI Change Governance Process. This initially resulted in complications where an SSI change was driven by a SEC Modification and where two processes (the SEC Modification Process and the SSI Change Governance Process) needed to be followed.
5. In June 2021 DCC consulted with Parties on a change to the SSI Change Governance process that would allow SSI changes driven by SEC Modifications to be managed through the SEC Modification process. This proposal was approved by Panel in November 2021 and the SSI Change Governance Process was updated to reflect the decision.
6. Recent proposals to change the regulatory framework to support the Communications Hub and Networks (CH&N) Programme, facilitated by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNEZ) has highlighted another area where SSI changes may be complicated by multiple governance processes.
7. DCC considers that the governance for SSI changes that are required to fulfil Secretary of State (SoS) mandated SEC changes might be considered in a similar way to those linked to SEC Modifications.
8. DCC is consulting now so that Party views can be gathered on how to best manage SSI changes linked to SoS designated SEC changes, and so that changes anticipated as part of the CH&N Programme can be managed appropriately. The closure date of this consultation is 20 November 2023.

2. SIPs linked to SEC Modification

9. SEC H8.15A requires that any changes to the SSI are processed following the SSI Change Governance Process. Section One of the Change Governance Process allows for SEC Modification related changes to be governed by the SEC Modification process.

10. DCC proposes that changes required to the SSI as part of a SoS designated SEC change should not need to follow the full SSI Change Governance Process, and specifically the requirement for SEC Panel sign off since these steps would be duplicated as part of the wider Programme of work.
11. DCC has provided a tracked changes version of the proposed amendments to the SSI Change Governance Process that would allow SSI changes, linked to a SoS designated change to be governed through the wider programme work.
12. The proposed amendments would remove the requirement for SEC Panel to approval through various stages of the change, it does not remove the requirement for DCC to consult on proposed changes and to gather and consider Party feedback on the proposals.

Question one

Do you agree that the development of SIPs related to SoS designated change should be governed by the wider Programme of change? Do you agree that the proposed amendment to the SSI Change Governance Process retains an appropriate level of engagement with Parties while allowing such SSI changes to be governed appropriately? Please provide a rationale for your response.

3. Next Steps

13. These are the next steps following the consultation closure on 20 November 2023.
14. DCC will review consultation feedback and engage with SEC Operations on the proposal to gather additional views. The proposal and Party feedback will be provided to SEC Panel to request their approval for any changes.

4. How to respond

15. Please provide responses by 17:00 on 20 November 2023 to DCC at: consultations@smartdcc.co.uk
16. Consultation responses may be published on our website www.smartdcc.co.uk. Please state clearly in writing whether you want all or any part, of your consultation response 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 of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority). Information provided to BEIS 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 BEIS 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.