Data Communications Company



Data Service Provider

DCC conclusions on removing the Cloud 10Mpbs option for DCC Connect

Date: 6 November 2026
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Classification: DCC Public

Table of Contents

1. Background and context 3
   1.1. The DSP Programme 3
   1.2. DCC Connect 3
   1.3. Consultation responses and next steps 4
2. Analysis of responses 4
   2.1. Question 1 4
   2.2. Question 2 5
3. Summary of drafting changes 5
4. Next steps 5
5. Attachments 5

1. Background and context

1. The purpose of this document is to conclude the Data Communication Company's (DCC's) recent consultation 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.[1]

1.1. The DSP Programme

2. 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.

3. 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 (DCCKI),[2] 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.

4. DCC completed its Full Business Case (FBC) for the new DSP contract in 2025 to reprocure a new solution for these capabilities. A disaggregated approach has been adopted, with different partner organisations providing different capabilities.

5. 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. DCC Connect

6. 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'.

7. 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

[1] DSP consultation on removing the Cloud 10Mbps option for DCC Connect | Smart DCC
[2] This refers to the cryptographic certificates used within the Public Key Infrastructure framework of the 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.

8. 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 was therefore issued 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. Consultation responses and next steps

9. The consultation, which ran from 29 September 2026 to 30 October 2026, sought 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.

10. A summary of the comments received and DCC's responses to these are set out in Section 2 of this document. DCC has not made any changes to the drafting that it consulted upon, and its conclusions on this are set out in Section 3 of this document.

11. DCC submitted its conclusions to the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) (the Department) on 2 November 2026, which were subsequently approved by the Department. The changes to the NETMAD are due to be incorporated into the SEC on 20 November 2026 (or as soon as reasonably practicable within one month thereafter).

12. 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.

2. Analysis of responses

13. DCC received one response to this consultation from the SEC Panel.

14. DCC has analysed the feedback provided. This section sets out an overview of the responses received to this consultation and DCC's response.

2.1. Question 1

15. DCC sought views on the proposed changes to the NETMAD.

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?

Respondent views

16. The respondent agreed with the proposed changes and supported the timely removal of the option discussed. The respondent noted that maintaining a connection option that is unusable could create unnecessary confusion for existing and prospective DCC Gateway parties.

DCC response

17. DCC appreciates and agrees with the response to this question and will continue with the removal of this option.

2.2. Question 2

18. DCC sought views the proposed redesignation date for the NETMAD to incorporate these changes.

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)?

Respondent views

19. The respondent agreed with the redesignation date, or as soon as reasonably practicable within one month thereafter.

DCC response

20. DCC welcomes the respondents support for the redesignation date. As no objections were raised to either question, the Department will bring forward the redesignation date of the NETMAD from 7 December 2026 to 20 November 2026 (or as soon as reasonably practicable within one month thereafter).

3. Summary of drafting changes

21. After reviewing the responses received, DCC has not made any changes to the drafting of Annex 4 of the NETMAD that it consulted on.

22. The version of this document that DCC will submit to the Department for approval can be found in Attachment 1 of this document.

4. Next steps

23. DCC is of the view that it has had appropriate engagement and consultation with industry on the proposed updates to the NETMAD for DCC Connect. As the responses to the consultation and engagement with the industry were broadly supportive of the proposed drafting, DCC will submit these updates to the Department for incorporation into the SEC.

24. DCC has, where necessary, addressed the comments that have been received from industry. DCC does not believe that the views expressed result in fundamental amendments to the proposed drafting and, as such, further consultation is neither necessary nor appropriate.

5. Attachments

25. This document includes one attachment:

- Attachment 1: Proposed changes to SEC Appendix AU Annex 4