RETAIL ENERGY CODE

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STATUS	FOR INFORMATION

R0253 - THEFT - DNO/NETWORKS NOT PROVIDING PHOTOS

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1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to update Members of the REC Theft Issues Group (TIG) on the outcome of the Impact Assessment conducted against REC Issue R0253 - Theft - DNO/Networks not providing photos.

2 BACKGROUND

Under the Theft Detection Incentive Scheme (TDIS), Parties who wish to Qualify for rewards under the scheme must support their claim of Energy Theft with documentary evidence. An Energy Supplier has identified an issue relating to the provision of supporting evidence for TDIS. Where Gas Transporters (GTs) and Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) attend a property and in the course of their visit become aware of suspected or actual Energy Theft, they are required to make the site safe, which may involve changes or modifications to the Metering Asset.

This presents an issue; modifications to the Metering Asset made by the attending Network Party are essential for safety, but in doing so, they will remove the evidence of tampering (i.e., the evidence of Energy Theft) that necessitated their visit in the first place. As a result, when the Supplier attends following the visit by the Network Party, the evidence of Energy Theft that they would use to claim under the TDIS scheme will have been removed already by the Network Party. This will therefore affect their ability to claim under the scheme.

3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Code Manager published a REC Party Impact Assessment (IA) on 16 October 25, which closed on 07 November 25. The Code Manager received the following responses:

Table 1: Overall Stance

Party Class	Total Responses	Overall Stance			Recommended changing TDIS Evidentiary Standards?
		Support	Support/ Caveats	Oppose	
Supplier	6	6	0	0	2
DNO	9	2	3	4	7
Totals	15	8	3	4	9

Table 2: Cost Assessment – Network Parties

Party Class	Total Responses	Quantified Costs		
		£nil	>£9,999	Unquantified
Electricity	6	3	3	0
Gas	3	1	0	2
Totals	9	4	3	2

Quantifiable Supplier Benefits:

- All Supplier respondents indicated that they would benefit from the proposed solution.
- No Supplier respondents were able to provide an expected quantifiable, £££ benefit arising from the proposed solution when prompted by the Code Manager.
- One Supplier indicated that they expected to incur costs arising from the proposed solution up to £9,999. However, the Code Manager believes that this response may have been submitted in error as Suppliers are not anticipated to incur costs as a result of the proposed solution. The Code Manager has reached out to this respondent to clarify their response but has not received any clarification at the time of publication.

Lead Time:

Based on responses received, the Code Manager would include 6 months of lead time between approval and release, and as such, would target this Change for the November 2026 release, subject to approval by the Responsible Committee. This implementation date will be subject to Consultation.

Cost Benefit Assessment:

The Code Manager is still in the process of making a cost-benefit assessment. The assessment will be based on the:

- Responses received to the Party Impact Assessment;
- Individual follow-up conversations resulting from the Party Impact Assessment;
- Broader considerations relating to perceived Consumer benefit; and
- Conversations with other industry stakeholders, such as RECCo.

The Code Manager will also consider points raised in the November meeting of the Theft Issues Group as part of the cost-benefit assessment.

4 QUESTIONS FOR THE REC TIG

- Do you have any thoughts or comment on the outcome of the Party Impact Assessment
- Do you have any views on the cost-benefit assessment?
- Do you have any other comments?