The ENERGY CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION

Date: 1st June 2026
By email

To: Retail Energy Code Company
Cc: Ofgem; Elexon

Dear Caroline,

Re: R0290 – Legacy Data Item API Service: requirement for enduring retention and TPI access to historic legacy electricity data

We write on behalf of the Energy Consultants Association ("ECA") following our review of R0290.

The ECA represents the interests of energy consultants, TPIs and brokers operating in the non-domestic energy market. Our members support non-domestic consumers with procurement, contract review, billing validation, dispute resolution and supplier challenges. Access to accurate and complete industry data is essential to that work.

We are concerned that the ECA was not made directly aware of R0290 by RECCo, notwithstanding that the proposal expressly identifies TPIs as impacted stakeholders. We are also concerned that the consultation response level appears to have been exceptionally low, with only five responses received, limited to industry parties. There does not appear to have been any respondent representing the interests of non-domestic consumers or independent TPIs. That is particularly concerning where the proposal directly affects the ability of customers and their appointed representatives to access historic data needed to verify billing and tariff accuracy.

R0290 arises because Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement ("MHHS") removes, makes optional, or risks degrading access to legacy data items that have historically supported important market and consumer-facing processes. The affected data items include Profile Class, Standard Settlement Configuration ("SSC"), Time Pattern Regime ("TPR"), Measurement Class and Meter Timeswitch Code ("MTC").

These data items are not merely operational or internal industry references. They are often necessary to determine whether a non-domestic customer has been correctly billed. For example, MTC, SSC and TPR may be relevant to whether a meter was configured as single-rate or multi-rate, whether time-of-use charging was properly applied, whether a tariff was compatible with the metering arrangement, and whether related or auxiliary load arrangements were correctly recognised. Profile Class and SSC data may also be critical to determining whether a customer was historically allocated to the correct settlement and charging arrangements.

This is particularly important for TPIs and brokers who carry out historic contract and billing reviews for non-domestic customers. Such reviews may identify that a customer was charged on

a tariff that was inconsistent with their meter configuration or settlement data. If the relevant historic data items are no longer retained or retrievable, customers may be materially prejudiced in their ability to identify, evidence and recover overpayments.

The ECA is also concerned that historic Profile Class accuracy remains a live issue. BSCP516 governs the allocation of Profile Classes and SSCs for Non-Half Hourly Metering Systems registered in SMRS. Where suppliers have failed to apply or review Profile Classes correctly, historic data access will be essential to customer redress. It would be unacceptable for the implementation of MHHS to result in the practical loss of evidence needed to investigate past non-compliance or historic overcharging.

We recognise that the Code Manager has recommended rejection of R0290 on the basis that the proposed API may be costly and temporary. The ECA's concern is not limited to whether this particular API is the most efficient technical solution. The more fundamental issue is that rejection of R0290 without an enduring alternative leaves a significant gap in consumer protection and data transparency.

The current proposal appears to provide only the most recently communicated value for each relevant data item and only until MHHS Milestone M16. That is not sufficient. A "last known value" may not evidence what was correct during a historic billing period, particularly where the meter, profile, SSC, TPR or measurement class changed over time. The data must be retained as an effective-dated historical record, not simply as a final snapshot.

In addition, access should not depend on private commercial arrangements between individual parties and ElectraLink. That approach risks creating an imbalance between large market participants who can obtain data commercially and non-domestic customers or independent TPIs who require the same data to challenge historic charges. A customer's ability to evidence billing error should not depend on whether their appointed representative has a separate commercial data arrangement with a market service provider.

The ECA therefore asks RECCo to confirm, as a matter of urgency, how it intends to ensure that the following data remains preserved and accessible after MHHS migration:

Profile Class;

- Standard Settlement Configuration;
- Time Pattern Regime;
- Measurement Class;
- Meter Timeswitch Code;
- effective-from and effective-to dates for each relevant data item;
- the source and timestamp of the data;
- meter configuration and related metering indicators where relevant; and
- historic changes to those items.

The ECA's position is that these data items should be retained and made accessible for at least six years, and preferably seven years, to ensure that non-domestic customers and their representatives can carry out historic reviews within the ordinary limitation period applicable to contractual and statutory recovery claims.

We ask RECCo to adopt one of the following approaches:

First, R0290 should be approved or amended as an interim preservation and access measure, but without allowing the relevant data to be lost or made inaccessible at M16.

Alternatively, if RECCo maintains that R0290 should be rejected in its current form, then RECCo should immediately raise or support a replacement change proposal for an enduring historic data archive and controlled TPI access route.

In either case, there should be an immediate data preservation commitment to ensure that no relevant legacy data is lost while the enduring solution is being considered.

The ECA would support a proportionate access model. This does not necessarily require a costly real-time API if RECCo considers that disproportionate. A lower-cost portal, batch request or certified data extract process may be sufficient for historic review and dispute purposes, provided it is accessible to authorised TPIs and brokers acting with customer authority.

We would expect any such access route to include appropriate safeguards, including customer authority, data protection controls, access logging, audit rights and restrictions on misuse. However, those safeguards should not be used as a reason to deny non-domestic customers or their appointed representatives access to data that may be essential to verifying whether historic charges were lawful and accurate.

We also ask that the ECA is included in any further discussions, working groups or consultations concerning legacy data retention and TPI access. The absence of meaningful non-domestic consumer and TPI representation in the R0290 consultation should not be repeated.

Please confirm within 10 working days:

1. whether RECCo accepts that historic legacy data items must be preserved beyond M16;
2. what steps RECCo, ElectraLink and relevant REC parties are taking to ensure that Profile Class, SSC, TPR, Measurement Class and MTC data is not lost or made inaccessible following MHHS migration;
3. whether RECCo will support an enduring access route for authorised TPIs and customer representatives;
4. whether RECCo will pause or revisit the rejection of R0290 pending a proper assessment of non-domestic consumer detriment; and
5. how Ofgem, Elexon, TPIs and non-domestic consumer representatives will be engaged in developing the enduring solution.

The ECA's position is simple. MHHS should not result in the loss of evidence required by non-domestic customers to verify historic billing accuracy, tariff compatibility or supplier compliance. If legacy data items are sufficiently important for suppliers and market participants to operate their own processes, they are equally important for customers and their appointed representatives when checking whether those processes were applied correctly.

We look forward to your urgent response.

Yours faithfully,

The Executive Team
For and on behalf of the Energy Consultants Association