Energy Theft Reduction Expert Group
Headline Report
Meeting 03 (31 May 2023)

This Headline Report provides an overview of the discussion points of the Energy Theft Reduction Expert Group (ETREG) at its meeting on 31 May 2023.

- TDIS Update: it was noted that the submission deadline for the 2022/23 Theft Detection Incentive Scheme (TDIS) reporting year has now passed. Incentive payment amounts will be communicated by 23 August 2023. It was also highlighted that a number of changes have been introduced for the 2023/24 reporting year, including the introduction of a monthly data submission cut-off and a ten working day formal query window.

  Post Meeting Note: it is highlighted that as a result of a dispute determined by the Performance Assurance Board (PAB), some confirmed thefts from 2021/22 TDIS year have been carried forward and will be included in the financial reconciliation of the 2022/23 scheme year. The PAB Headline Report can be downloaded here (see section 7 – Theft Update).

  - Detecting Theft Using Smart Meter Data: it was noted that RECCo has initiated a project to establish the value of smart meter data in detecting energy theft. It was explained that Suppliers are being sought who could:
    - provide RECCo with permission to access their smart data via DCC, with this permission then being used to make a request to Ofgem for such access; and
    - share the smart data they hold on their own systems, particularly consumption data, which is not accessible via DCC.

    An action was taken to document what data items are being requested, how it would be stored and how it would be utilised for circulation to ETREG members.

  - Police Unit Draft Target Operating Model: it was explained that there is the opportunity to work with the City of London Police to create a dedicated Enforcement Department to tackle energy theft nationally. A number of points were raised in relation to the proposal, including:
    - An initial period of three years is considered to be the minimum required to get the unit established and have any meaningful data available to evaluate its effectiveness.
    - The importance of using data to drive insight and identify patterns was highlighted.
    - Funding would potentially be via market share, similar to how ETTOS is funded.
    - The return on investment would not be purely financial, for instance, it could also act as a deterrent.
    - It is not yet clear how many referrals per month could be taken forward by the department, work is needed to establish the volumes involved.
    - It was noted that the intent would be to focus on theft associated with greed rather than need.
    - The scheme could potentially be run alongside amnesty, e.g. to those who are vulnerable to meter replacement scams.

  - Theft Epics Overview: an overview was provided on how the actions taken at the Accelerated Solutions Environment (ASE) workshop in November 2022 link to the Theft Epics that make up RECCo's Energy Theft Reduction Programme.
  - Agenda for Theft Forum: the agenda for the June Energy Theft Forum was presented.
  - AOB: the following points were raised:
    - It was highlighted that RECCo will be running workshops in Glasgow, Birmingham and London where attendees can help shape the future of two of the REC Services – the Code Manager and Energy Enquiry Services. ETREG members were invited to attend.
    - An action was taken for RECCo to share a plan on a page setting out its planned activities around energy theft over the next 12 to 24 months.

There will be no June meeting of the ETREG, as the Energy Theft Forum will be held instead. The next meeting of the ETREG is scheduled for 26 July 2023.

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