RETAIL ENERGY CODE

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CHANGE UPDATE ON SPECIFIC CHANGE PROPOSALS

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FOR INFORMATION 	This paper provides an update on R0155 (Change of Tenancy: Evidentiary Standards and Timescales), R0137 (Introducing Third Party Intermediary (energy broker) assurance and accreditation) and R0188 (Changes to Terms of reference following acceptance of R0167).	
APPENDICES 	**n/a**	

1 BACKGROUND

As part of the Change update provided to PAB, it was agreed that a separate paper would be provided as and when more detailed updates were required.

2 THE ROLE OF THE PAB

There is no direct impact on PAB, this paper is for information only.

3 R0155 - CHANGE OF TENANCY: EVIDENTIARY STANDARDS AND TIMESCALES

- A working group was established to develop solutions which was made up of five supplier representatives, five Third Party Intermediaries (TPIs), Ofgem, RECCo, REC Performance Assurance, Citizens Advice, the Ombudsman, Federation of Small Businesses, and the Institute of Directors. The working group met six times from February to May 2024.
- A single solution was established, and the Code Manager used this to develop a new REC Schedule, supported by REC legal advisors.
- The solution will set out a non-exhaustive list of evidence Non-Domestic Suppliers can request of a Change of Occupier (CoO). It will also set out the timescales for review and feedback to the Consumer (or their representative). The list of evidence is also applicable for CoOs that coincide with a Switch. In the event of an Objection, the evidence is to be provided to the Losing Supplier by the gaining supplier, with timescales for review and feedback.
- The solution was impacted assessed by REC Performance Assurance and presented to the July PAB. Since then, the draft changes to the Performance Assurance Reporting Catalogue (PARC) have been drawn up.
- The new Schedule and updated PARC are available on the REC Portal.
- The R0155 Change Plan will be presented to REC Change Panel on 20 August 2024.
- Following the Change Panel meeting, R0155 will be issued on 23 August 2024 for a five week industry impact assessment until 27 September 2024. The extended period was requested by the R0155 working group to allow TPIs and consumer groups additional time to engage with the REC.
- Current expectations are that the REC Change Process will complete and hand over to the Authority for final determination by the end of 2024.

4 R0137 - INTRODUCING THIRD PARTY INTERMEDIARY (ENERGY BROKER) ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION

- The solution and legal text were developed by RECCo, supported by REC legal advisors.

- The solution will mandate Non-Domestic Suppliers to use accredited TPIs. The accreditation can either be by via the REC or an approved alternative.
- The solution was impacted assessed by REC Performance Assurance and presented to the July PAB. Since then, the draft changes to the Performance Assurance Reporting Catalogue (PARC) have been drawn up.
- The new Schedule and updated PARC are available on the REC Portal.
- R0137 was issued for industry impact assessment on 15 August 2024 and will close on 09 September 2024.
- The review identified some Change Proposals that are impacted. These are being put on hold until it is appropriate to progress the change. This may differ slightly between each Change Proposal depending on the nature of the change.
- The Proposers of these changes have been informed.
- An update was provided in the REC Change Bulletin on 16 April 2024.
- REC Responsible Committees are being updated and the MHHS programme and programme participants will also be updated (there are none for PAB).

5 R0188 - CHANGES TO TERMS OF REFERENCE FOLLOWING ACCEPTANCE OF R0167

- R0167 updated the REC change process following a review in 2023.
- It has resulted in the need for minor amendments to the REC Change Panel and PAB Terms of Reference (ToRs) to reflect that these Committees consider change Issues as well as Change Proposals.