RETAIL ENERGY CODE

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REC CHANGE PANEL MEETING
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING	**RECCP_25_0318**
DATE	**18 March 2025, 13:00**
LOCATION	**By teleconference**

Attendee	Representing	Initials	Role
Lindsay Biginton	Retail Energy Code Company	LB	Chair
Ben Atkinson	Domestic Suppliers	BA	Committee Member
Dan Tarasco-Fittock	Non-Domestic Suppliers	DTF	Committee Member
Alex Travell	Electricity Networks	AT	Committee Member
Andy Clasper	Gas Networks	AC	Committee Member
Dave Wright	MEMs	DW	Committee Member
Jon Dixon	RECCo	JD	Committee Member
Sebastian Eyre	Independent SME	SE	Committee Member
Lynne Fallon	Independent SME	LF	Committee Member
Paul Gath	Independent SME	PG	Committee Member
Alice Williams	Consumers	AW	Committee Member
Cristina Ullastre	Ofgem	CU	Committee Member
Lorna Mallon	Code Manager	LM	Subject Matter Expert
Beth Brown	Code Manager	BB	REC Technical Services
Caroline Mettam	Code Manager	CM	REC Technical Services
Paul Witton-Dauris	Code Manager	PW	Head of Change
Caroline Freimuller	Code Manager	CF	Change Analyst
Florentina Monea	Code Manager	FM	Change Analyst
Harriet Truss	Code Manager	HT	Change Analyst
Holly Law	Code Manager	HL	Change Analyst
James Hardy	Code Manager	JH	Change Analyst
James Rees	Code Manager	JR	Secretariat

1 INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting of the REC Change Panel (RECCP). Apologies were received from Grace Royall at Ofgem.

2 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Chair invited any additional items of business for consideration during the meeting; no additional items of business were raised.

3 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

RECCP Members unanimously approved the draft minutes from the previous meeting held on 04 March 2025. The approved minutes will be published as 'final' and made available via the Portal no later than 19 March 2025.

4 ACTIONS LOG

JR provided Members with an overview of the Actions Log:

RECCP_25_0218_05_01: The Code Manager to investigate Parties who provide FIT, however, do not supply any customers and whether they need a license or qualify to carry out this work- Closed

JR informed Members that Ofgem have confirmed that Feed In Tariff (FIT) only Suppliers do have to qualify under and comply with the REC,

RECCP Members agreed this action can be closed after the update provided.

5 R0173 – THEFT DETECTION INCENTIVE SCHEME (TDIS)

The Chair informed Members this change was a late addition to the agenda. A draft response letter to Ofgem regarding their send-back of R0173 was published on the REC portal and sent to Members for review on 18 March 2025.

JD informed Members that Ofgem issued a send-back on 03 March 2025 to R0173, which set out their concerns on the nature of the proposal. JD explained legal advice has been sought, and they agree that the response from Ofgem stated in the send-back letter is not what the rules allow for. JD highlighted if the Desktop Investigations and Site Visits are stripped out, the scope of R0173 will be limited, which would mean the legal text will need to be redrafted. JD noted the response to the send-back letter reinforces the rationale that the Desktop Investigations and Site Visits are consistent with the design principles for the incentive scheme.

JD informed Members the approach will now be to respond to Ofgem, setting out the rationale, however maintaining the integrity of R0173. JD advised the intention is to have a decision from

Ofgem before the end of March 2025, as a later decision could affect the operation of the scheme year from 01 April 2025 and onwards, if R0173 is to be approved and implemented. JD highlighted Ofgem have been made aware of this in various communications.

AT asked if the response will be labelled as from REC Change Panel or the REC Code Manager. JD advised the response will be provided by the REC Code Manager, however it was beneficial to share the response letter with Members, to clarify if the recommendation will be changed. AT highlighted R0173 was presented to Ofgem, recommending approval, following Change Panel's approval of the Final Change Report and Implementation date.

AT noted another detail of the Ofgem response was around the volumes of energy theft. AT asked if a wider investigation will need to be initiated to identify the amount of energy theft cases, rather than this being estimated. JD advised Ofgem have not specifically asked for that level of detail, however it could be that Parties are asked directly to provide the volumes of Desktop Investigations and Site Visits they are undertaking. JD commented the interpretation of the send-back letter was not around the volumes of energy theft, it was more in relation to the principle to incentivise Parties, given this could provide more competition in the industry.

DW asked whether it will help the approval of R0173 if the response to the send-back letter stated that it was endorsed by the REC Change Panel, and they were supportive of the change. JD explained the send-back letter does stipulate that REC Change Panel recommend approval of R0173, however it can be emphasised to Ofgem that the recommendation is still to approve the change.

DTF noted they felt the tone of the response letter was quite assertive, and they would prefer more of a conservative approach. DTF mentioned with this being the first send-back letter which has been received from Ofgem in relation to a change, it may be beneficial to try and work through the issues, as more of an education piece. AT agreed with these comments and provided a few examples whereby the tone of the response letter can be made less assertive and direct.

AT highlighted it is important to understand the reasons why R0173 has been rejected by Ofgem and ensure it does not happen again for future changes. JD agreed with this and noted it is important to play the role of a critical friend, which would mean be constructively critical if required.

Several REC Change Panel members agreed that an updated draft of the response letter does not need to be presented again. A first draft of the response letter was provided to RECCP Members, who have provided guidance on how the letter can be updated, therefore the Code Manager can send the final version to Ofgem when the updates have been made.

6 R0233 – INTRODUCTION OF AN ENERGY THEFT UNIT (ETU) UNDER THE REC

As the Lead Analyst for R0233, FM provided Members with an overview of the Change.

FM informed Members that energy theft is a significant issue, which poses safety risks, particularly due to tampered meters, which have caused fatal incidents. FM noted while industry Parties undertake activities to detect, investigate and prevent energy theft, in line with their licence obligations, consistent feedback suggest they find it hard to secure the support of the Police to pursue investigations.

FM explained the proposal was initially outlined in RECCo's outline business case, where RECCo conducted a consultation. Therefore, the Code Manager will not conduct a Party Impact Assessment. FM advised R0233 will open for consultation on 18 March 2025 and will be issued for a 10 working-day consultation period.

AT noted it may be beneficial to provide the Police with a definitive number of energy thefts in previous years, rather than providing estimates. AT highlighted these volumes could be provided in the Impact Assessment. LF advised publishing the number of confirmed thefts could open the industry up for criticism. LF elaborated if during the scope of this change it was calculated that energy theft was a huge issue, however the confirmed number of thefts proves to be lower than estimated, it would question the efficiency of the ETU.

FM informed Members they would be voting on whether the solution contains sufficient detail to progress to consultation, proposed by the Code Manager.

Milestone	Activity	From	To
Definition		**13 Jan-25**	**28 Feb-25**
	Legal Review	**Complete**	**Complete**
Change Proposal		**28 Feb-25**	**06 May-25**
	Business Case Assessment	**Complete**	**Complete**
	Consultation	March	April
	Solution Refinement	April	May
	Final Determination	May	May
Voting		**06 May-25**	**06 May-25**
	Issued for Authority Decision	**07 May-25**	**07 May-25**

RECCP Members noted the contents of the Change Report for R0233 and:

- **AGREED** that the solution has sufficient information and detail to progress to consultation.

7 I0223 – RECONCILIATION OF UNALLOCATABLE TRANSACTIONS REVIEW

As the Lead Analyst for I0223, JH provided Members with an overview of the Issue.

JH informed Members where the Pre-Payment Meter Infrastructure Provider (PPMIP) is unable to identify the relevant Energy Supplier to allocate a prepayment transaction, it becomes an Unallocated Transaction. JH explained Energy Suppliers are required to identify Unallocated Transactions belonging to them and rectify the issue preventing it from being allocated. JH advised the Code Manager is required to carry out a review of Unallocated Transactions up to the Backstop Date and to distribute the value associated to them. This is according to the market share of the relevant meter type to Suppliers, as defined in the Code.

JH informed Members that to develop the solution requirements, and more clearly define the problem statement for this change, an Information Request was carried out between 20 December 2024 and 17 January 2025. JH explained following on from this Information Request, the Code Manager has found that Parties were supportive of a process review. Several areas have been identified where there needs to be work undertaken. The responses to this Information request will be used during solution development, to best address the feedback gathered from Parties.

PG asked as part of the Business Case Assessment, will the value of Unallocated Transactions be investigated and identify any trends over a period of time. JH advised this will be picked up during the progression of the Issue.

JH provided Members with an overview of the milestones within the Proposal Plan:

Milestone	Activity	From	To
Definition		**06 Dec-24**	**19 May-25**
	Solution Development	December	March
	Request for Party Feedback	**Completed**	**Completed**
	Legal Review	March	April
	Impact Assessment	April	May
	Solution Refinement	May	May
Change Proposal		**20 May-25**	**24 June-25**
	Business Case Assessment	May	May
	Consultation	May	June
	Solution Refinement	June	July
	Final Determination	July	July
Voting		**15 July-25**	**15 July-25**
	Appeal Window	16 July	30 July

RECCP Members noted the contents of the Proposal Plan and:

- **AGREED** to approve the Proposal Plan for I0223.

8 R0242 – MISSING SCENARIO VARIANT FROM D0043

As the Lead Analyst for R0242, CF provided Members with an overview of the Change.

CF informed Members R0043 – Commissioning of Works by the Crowded Meter Room Coordinator (CMRC) to Resolve issues in Crowded Meter Rooms introduced the CMRC and Crowded Meter Room MOA (CMRM) to the REC. CF advised both of these Parties are expected to send Market Messages, but one scenario variant was missed from the Data Specification in the implementation of R0043. The scenario variant should be in the D0139/MM00036 – Confirmation or Rejection of Energisation Status Change and be sent from the CMRC to the DNO.

CF informed Members this change was raised with a fully formed solution, therefore the Code Manager has accepted this in as a Change Proposal, rather than an Issue. CF explained the Code Manager still intends to conduct a full Party Impact Assessment and Consultation. It could be possible that Parties built their systems off the Data Specification, rather than the Schedule 14 legal text, therefore system changes may need to be made.

CF provided Members with an overview of the milestones within the Proposal Plan:

Milestone	Activity	From	To
Change Proposal		**06-Feb-25**	**24-Jun-25**
	Code Manager assessment	February	March
	Party impact assessment	March	April
	Business case assessment	April	May
	Consultation	May	June
	Final Determination	June	June
Voting		**25-Jun-25**	**25-Jun-25**
	Appeal Window	26-Jun-25	10-Jul-25

RECCP Members noted the contents of the Proposal Plan and:

- **AGREED** to approve the Proposal Plan for R0242.

9 CHANGE PROPOSAL TRACKER

HL provided Members with a number of updates regarding REC Changes and Issues.

HL informed Members that the solution development has finished earlier than planned for I0227 – Domestic Elective HH Switching. HL advised this issue has now processed to Party Impact Assessment, which closes on 04 April 2025. The Code Manager will present an extension to the plan to Change Panel in April.

HL informed Members that R0183 – DPI Extract from CSS has been withdrawn by the Proposer. This was due to the Service Provider costs and the progression of I0224 – Agile Reporting within CSS, which made R0183 redundant as a separate change.

HL informed Members the Code Manager has issued a Party Impact Assessment for I0232 – Non-Domestic Change of Occupier SDEP Screens (R0155 Solution), which will close on 04 April 2025. HL explained this is to allow Parties to confirm, and input on the requirements for the SDEP screens before the Service Provider Impact Assessment (SPIA). HL advised the Code Manager will provide an updated Proposal Plan following the Party Impact Assessment and once the SPIA dates are known.

HL informed Members that following discussions at the Change Issues Group (CHIG) on 06 March 2025, part one of the Party Impact Assessment for I0241 – MHHS Incremental Changes for Go-Live was issued, which will close on 28 March 2025.

HL informed Members that due to the outstanding Impact Assessment for Data Integration Platform (DIP) reporting, the Metering Equipment Manager (MEM) requirements will be progressed under R0202 – Performance Assurance Report Catalogue Updates (MHHS), and a separate change will be raised to progress the DIP requirements. The Code Manager is targeting REC PAB on 25 March 2025 to progress R0202 to Consultation. A re-plan approval request will be made to Change Panel ex-committee for approval by 25 March 2025 to support the review of the milestones to support this change.

HL informed Members on 12 March 025, Metering Expert Panel (MEP) voted to reject the Code Manager recommendation to approve R0207 – Import/Export MOA Charging Clarification. This has been sent to the Authority for decision.

HL informed Members on 12 March 2025, MEP voted to approve R0217 – Amending Contractual Obligations for Safe Isolation Provider's (SIP's) at Non-Domestic Premises. Subject to no appeal being raised, this will be implemented on 01 April 2025.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No additional business was discussed. The Chair closed the meeting.