**Smart Secure Electricity Systems**
**Tariff Interoperability Implementation Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference (2026)**

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of the Implementation Working Group (IWG) is to support the delivery, implementation, testing, and operationalisation of the Tariff Interoperability solution developed through the Smart Secure Electricity Systems (SSES) programme. This includes supporting the phased implementation of the Tariff Interoperability arrangements, beginning with the delivery of the Public Tariff Pricing Data API (Phase 1a) and preparing for the subsequent delivery of Customer Specific Tariff Information (Phase 1b), which is expected to align with the Consumer Consent Solution (CCS).

The IWG will support assurance of the build of the Supplier Application Programme Interfaces (APIs), the Supplier Endpoint Register, and the Monitoring Tool (MT), as well as ensuring readiness for live operation and transition into business-as-usual (BAU). The group will also support consideration of the integration points between Tariff Interoperability and the Consumer Consent Solution, including technical, operational and governance dependencies required to enable access to Customer Specific Tariff Information.

The IWG supports the implementation of outcomes from the November 2025 Tariff Interoperability consultation. It is an advisory group; final decisions will be taken by Government. Its role, actions and objectives remain subject to the final outcome of the ongoing SSES TI Arrangements consultation in May 2026.

**2. Background**

A smart and flexible electricity system is critical to decarbonise our economy, help manage electricity demand and reduce consumer bills. Energy smart appliances like electric vehicle charge points and smart heat pumps, as well as organisations who provide services to consumers to manage their electricity usage, will play an important role in this future energy system.

The Smart Secure Electricity Systems (SSES) programme, within the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, broadly aims to enable the widespread use of domestic scale consumer-led flexibility (CLF)[1]programme in its July 2022 consultation[2]. Government confirmed these objectives through its March 2023 government response[3]. Those objectives are:

- To create the right technical frameworks to unlock the potential of flexibility for domestic- and small non-domestic energy consumers.

[1] July 2022 consultation.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62c59fdce90e07747eb9b246/smart-secure-energy-system-consultation.pdf

[3] March 2023 Government response.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6425a2d23d885d000fdadfc0/smart-secure-energy-system-government-response.pdf

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- To improve security of the electricity system.
- To ensure consumers' confidence to engage with a smart energy system and creating a level playing field for participating companies.

In this 2023 response, government also committed to **require energy suppliers to make time-of-use tariff data openly available in a common format, accessible over the internet.** Government consulted on the detail of these technical and governance proposals and aims for the technical solution to be operational by 2026

In advance of the 2024 consultation, government procured support from an external consultancy to support with initial solution option development and evaluation, considering impacts on consumers, energy suppliers and users of tariff data. As part of that work, a high-level view of user requirements was developed and preferred solutions were identified. Interviews were conducted to test the requirements and options with consumer groups, suppliers, service providers, manufacturers and Ofgem, to understand their view of CLF market evolution and their view of the approaches from a consumer and stakeholder perspective. The options were refined based on the feedback and assessed in terms of support for use cases, ease of use, implementation times, deliverability, and complexity.

Based on this work, Government has presented its minded-to position of a standardised API schema in the 2024 consultation documents. The Tariff Interoperability Working Group (TIWG) has been operational since summer 2024. Government has worked with the TIWG to further develop policy positions. Government published the response to the 2024 consultation in April 2025, which confirmed these policy positions.

RECCo assumed control of the TIWG in May 2025, with DESNZ retaining oversight, and developed the API Technical Specification, REC Schedule, User Agreement, and Energy Market Data Specification (EMDS), which went out for industry consultation led by DESNZ in November 2025.

Following the November 2025 consultation, suppliers and other stakeholders raised concerns about the feasibility of delivering both Public Tariff Pricing Data and Customer Specific Tariff Information within the proposed implementation timeline, as well as the risk of duplicating consent arrangements ahead of the Consumer Consent Solution (CCS). In response, RECCo and DESNZ undertook further engagement with industry and assessed alternative delivery approaches. This work concluded that a phased implementation approach would be more appropriate, delivering the Public Tariff Pricing Data API first and aligning the delivery of Customer Specific Tariff Information with CCS.

**3. Scope**

The IWG will focus on supporting and advising on the implementation of the Tariff Interoperability solution, specifically in relation to:

- **Phased Implementation** – IWG will support Phase 1a (Public Tariff data) implementation and Phase 1b (customer-specific tariff via CCS) readiness
- **Supplier API Implementation** - Advising on practical delivery and integration of the Supplier-hosted APIs in line with the final API Technical Specification and the associated REC Schedule.
- **Enabling Services Development** - Supporting the build and configuration of:

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    - The Supplier Endpoint Register (to enable discovery of Supplier APIs)
    - The User Webhook Register (to support communication with Registered TI Users and facilitates Supplier access to RTI User Webhooks and operational contact information)
    - The monitoring tool, which will monitor and assure performance and compliance of Supplier APIs
- **Testing Activities** - Input into the design and delivery of sandbox environments, integration testing, and live operational testing. This includes developing and reviewing detailed test scenarios, test plans, test cases, and assurance processes for both Suppliers and TI Users/RTI Users.
- **Operational Readiness -** Providing input into the design of operational processes required to transition the new arrangements into business-as-usual. This includes:
    - Support and onboarding processes for Suppliers and RTI Users
    - Service management considerations
    - Incident management and escalation routes
    - Ongoing data quality and performance monitoring
- **Feedback and Issue Resolution -** Acting as a forum for identifying risks, issues, or dependencies during implementation, reviewing design changes to address defects, and recommending mitigations.

The IWG will not revisit policy decisions or design principles agreed under the TIWG, nor will it define changes to the REC Schedule or Licence Conditions. Where input from the IWG highlights a material issue that requires policy reconsideration, this will be escalated to DESNZ.

**4. Group Objectives**

The IWG has the following objectives:

- Provide assurance that the design for both Supplier and Tariff Interoperability User arrangements is fit for purpose and meets quality standards required by RECCo and DESNZ.
- Advise on supplier readiness and API implementation support, including considerations arising from the phased delivery approach.
- Support the development and testing of the Supplier Register and Monitoring Tool.
- Advise on and oversee testing activities including sandboxes, test scenarios, and live testing coordination.
- Advise on changes or additions of data items to the API specification.
- Provide input on implementation dependencies between Tariff Interoperability and the Consumer Consent Solution, including integration of consent, identity, and accreditation arrangements required for Customer Specific Tariff Information.
- Contribute to the design of operational readiness plans, including onboarding, data quality monitoring, service management, and support processes.
- Identify and resolve implementation issues and blockers as they arise, including those related to programme dependencies.
- Provide feedback and insight on enduring BAU requirements and service transition plans.
- Recognising the interaction with wider industry programmes such as MHHS and CCS, the IWG will support coordinated implementation planning.

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The Retail Energy Code Company (RECCo) will provide chairing and secretariat functions to the IWG in support of the delivery of the Tariff Interoperability solution, with documentation held on the REC Portal. Policy ownership remains with the DESNZ.

The IWG will act in an advisory capacity and will not make policy or governance decisions. Any issues that require changes to policy intent, licence conditions, or the REC Schedule will be escalated through appropriate governance routes.

**5. Attendees**

Membership of the IWG is expected to consist of individuals and organisations directly involved in, or impacted by, the delivery and implementation of the Tariff Interoperability solution. This includes, but is not limited to, energy suppliers, prospective TI and Registered TI Users (such as Optimisers and third-party service providers), technical delivery partners, ESA Manufacturers, and service providers. Group members are expected to have practical expertise relevant to the implementation and operationalisation of the solution. This may include expertise in:

- API development and integration;
- System or solution architecture;
- Platform or portal development;
- Information security and authentication models;
- Operational testing, UAT, and live trial design;
- Service monitoring, performance assurance, and operational support models.

We also expect participation from organisations or individuals with experience in service operations, onboarding and compliance monitoring to ensure the solution is supportable and scalable in BAU.

Where relevant, industry trade bodies may attend to coordinate member feedback and support testing coordination. Ad hoc technical experts, delivery partners, or REC service providers may also be invited to specific meetings by the Chair to support discussion of relevant items.

The Group will be chaired by the appointed RECCo Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), supported by a RECCo secretariat who will coordinate meetings, agendas, and actions. Technical leads and governance specialists from RECCo may attend to present draft deliverables or updates for group review.

**6. Frequency and Reporting**

Meetings are envisaged to take place every month with meeting length determined by the group and its workload. Meetings may be added or removed depending on need.

The secretariat will aim to share the agenda and any pre-read materials 5 working days in advance.

**7. Member Confirmation**

Before a person may serve on the IWG, that person shall provide written confirmation to the RECCo Secretariat that:

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- They agree to serve on the IWG in accordance with these Terms of Reference.
- They will endeavour to attend at least 50% of meetings and miss no more than 2 meetings in a row.
- They shall be prepared to undertake some work outside of meetings.
- They shall act independent of other Group members, and act at all times in a manner designed to assist the performance by the IWG of its scope within these Terms of Reference.
- They shall be prepared to give their expert view and contribute to discussions on matters within the scope of these Terms of Reference.

**8. Review**

- The Terms of Reference, membership, and operation of the IWG may be reviewed by the Group Chair at any time to ensure that they remain appropriate to reflect the requirements of DESNZ/RECCo.
- Amendments to these Terms of Reference will be made available for review by the IWG ahead of any amendments.
- Changes to the Terms of Reference will be signed off ultimately by DESNZ.

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