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REC CONSUMER CONSENT CENTRAL WORKING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING	**REC CCCWG_26_0115**
DATE	**15 January 2026, 14:00**
LOCATION	**By teleconference**

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the REC Consumer Consent Central Working Group (REC CCCWG).

2. RECAP OF REVISED CCS WORKING GROUP ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair took attendees through the revised model for Consumer Consent Solution (CCS) Working Groups moving forward. They advised that RECCo had made the changes following feedback received from members that the previous three-group set up resulted in overlap, duplication, and a high time burden for those attending multiple groups, as well as gaps in cross-group sharing.

The Chair outlined the new engagement setup to members. This meeting was the first of the CCS Central Working Group, which would revert to a webinar format going forward. These sessions would be held twice per quarter (approximately every six weeks) to provide plan updates, cross-topic summaries, and upcoming topics.

The Chair added that Topic-specific Solution Groups would be held approximately fortnightly, starting on 29th January. Each meeting would focus on a different topic in depth, to invite constructive challenge, and inform project recommendations and governance decisions. The topics for the first four meetings have been confirmed, with the rest to follow at later dates.

Existing members are auto-invited to webinars and Solution Groups. The Chair encouraged members to accept or decline Topic Solution Group invites per relevance or expertise in the specific topic. Stakeholders outside the prior groups may register interest to join by contacting consumerconsent@retailenergycode.co.uk. Forthcoming topic lists will be posted on the REC Portal so people can plan attendance.

3. CCS QUARTERLY REVIEW & PLAN HEADLINES

MJW took members through the quarterly review of the CCS project plan. They outlined the planned goals for RECCo to achieve between August and November 2025 and added that all but three of these goals had been achieved. This included key procurement activities, such as the procurement and onboarding of a UX partner and Trust Framework Advisory, supporting Ofgem in the production and publication of the Impact Assessment and Working Group Reports, and maintaining high engagement levels with industry stakeholders.

MJW outlined progress on the three goals not yet completed during this quarter, adding that there is no negative critical path impact:

- The internal MMP draft is almost complete, the capacity available to complete this was impacted by the need to support with other tasks first. MJW added that the rich feedback received in the Working Groups has helped with the development of this draft and thanked members for their support.
- A first draft of the CC Product Roadmap is complete, with further development coming shortly. MJW added that there is no impact to the wider project as the roadmap is not driving other tasks at present.
- RECCo realised that more prerequisite work was required before commencing the Data Privacy Impact Assessment (DPIA). MJW confirmed that this work had now been completed and a first draft of the DPIA was done, with much more development to come.

MJW outlined the quarterly goals for the CCS Project running through to the end of March 2026. They added that RECCo had prioritised the goals, with the highest priority tasks being confirming the preferred bidder for the Tech Partner, issuing the first consultation and creating the first draft for the Consumer Experience Guidelines (CEGs). They added that RECCo are still on track for MMP go-live by the end of March 2027.

4. CONSULTATION PLAN

MPW outlined the high-level plan for the first consultation to members. MPW advised that drafting for the consultation is underway, with the publication target of mid-February on the RECCo website and REC Portal. The consultation will be open for six weeks, after which RECCo will review responses, implement changes where appropriate and provide an update to members before the REC Change phase begins. They advised members to expect a lot of detail on the consultation and to put some time aside to prepare consultation responses.

5. PRODUCT ROADMAP

MPW took members through the product roadmap, emphasising the focus on longer-term goals of continuous improvement as the CCS Product Owner for RECCo, in addition to the current work on the initial iterations of CCS.

They took members through the planned delivery phases for CCS:

- MVP (2026) - A validation phase using a controlled environment to test core technology, more information to follow following further progress with procurement.
- MMP (March 2027) – Improvements based on MVP learnings, leading to Version 1.0 of CCS
- Enhancement phase – previously referred to as “fast followers”. Additions to the initial CCS solution to form Versions 1.1, 1.2, 1.X etc.
- Expansion and future phase – End of the “project” phase, with all the key features enabled and CCS is operating successfully (Version 2.0). Focus turns to expansion of CCS past the current project scope.

MPW introduced product pillars to help break down the planned development of the CCS across different phases. Different capabilities have been grouped together into separate pillars. MPW added that they hoped this would form the backbone of the product roadmap, with the ability to go into each pillar in detail to support the enhancement and expansion of the CCS solution. MPW added that the initial pillars cover the key functionality of the CCS for now, with the flexibility to remove or add pillars based on future development plans. MPW also outlined “swim lanes” for each of the pillars, with each lane focusing on the key goals for each pillar in the MMP, Enhancement and Expansion phases. This will help to clarify the planned progress for each pillar throughout the project, and the scope of each phase.

MPW added that this is an initial version of the project pillars and welcomed feedback from Members.

6. POSITION UPDARE – DESIGN PRINCIPLES

SJ provided an update on the governance work for CCS, focusing on how RECCo has reviewed and evolved the Ofgem-defined CCS design principles since the project transitioned from Ofgem to RECCo.

Ofgem’s August 2024 consultation set out six core design principles. SJ clarified that these continue to underpin CCS development:

- Simple and low-friction for consumers and users
- Transparent and informative
- Interoperable with wider industry initiatives and data-sharing frameworks
- Agile, flexible and scalable, supporting future enhancements.
- Inclusive by design, ensuring accessibility for all consumer groups.
- Secure by design, given the sensitive personal data involved.
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In the consultation responses, industry suggested additional principles. Ofgem noted these should be considered by RECCo during the handover. SJ summarised RECCo’s position on each:

Value for Money:

- Recognised as important but not adopted as a specific design principle. SJ advised that RECCo already embeds value-for-money requirements across all work, pointing to the published clear procurement principles that address cost-effectiveness.

A member raised concerns that value for money should not be interpreted only as RECCo procuring cost-effectively. CCS will impose wider costs across industry—API integration, implementation activities, compliance work—and that overall cost-effectiveness should be assessed. SJ clarified that value for money applies across the whole project, not just procurement. It is not framed as a design principle, because it already sits as a fundamental overarching project principle.

Effective Competition:

- Elevated to a design principle, aligning with an existing REC objective regarding competition and consumer impact. Adding this principle will also recognise the need for CCS to support fair and open market competition.

Collaboration and Fairness:

- By adding Effective Competition as a design principle, the fairness and level-playing-field aspects are already captured, therefore no separate design principle is proposed. Collaboration and fairness will instead be ensured through the new governance model and inclusive working group structures.

Privacy by Design:

- RECCo proposes elevating this to a design principle, replacing the existing “transparent and informative” principle. This will ensure alignment with GDPR, consent requirements and broader regulatory expectations.

Consistency:

- Added as a design principle, with RECCo noting consistency is core to customer experience guidelines, centralised consent handling, and standardised interactions. CCS aims to reduce industry variance in consumer engagement methods.

Some members raised concerns with the use of the phrase “replacing fragmented processes” with regards to the consistency design principle. They added that this could be interpreted as mandating CCS and eliminating all other consent routes. Another member warned that many organisations currently follow strict, approved processes and that RECCo should not underestimate the transition effort for these current varied processes. SJ and MPW clarified that the wording on the slide was over-simplified and the design principles are high-level. The expectation is a gradual move from today’s varied processes towards CCS because of its benefits—not immediate mandation. The detailed implementation will be

handled through working groups, technical development, customer experience guidelines, and future roadmap phases.

Minimising Scope:

- RECCo will not adopt this as a design principle. CCS is intentionally being built as a flexible, scalable model with future enhancements. A principle about limiting scope contradicts the design intent.

7. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

MJW reiterated the forward plan for both the CCS Central Webinar and Topic Solution Groups, with the intention to make involvement manageable, predictable and meaningful for all parties. They advised that Webinars would continue remain at project-level, with focus on providing information on progress against the quarterly plan.

MJW advised that the first Topic Solution Group on 29 January will focus on Issue and Resolution, with additional work on the consumer journey, reflecting feedback and clarifying RECCo's position. The following three Topic Solution Groups will focus on the upcoming consultation, and in particular governance, technology and user experience. These will allow detailed discussion of the consultation content and facilitate industry feedback.

MJW added that it is too early to set the agenda for any Topic Solution Groups beyond late March, but RECCo will provide updates as soon as possible. They encouraged organisations to think about who is best placed to attend each session on their behalf.

MJW added that the working group structure is experimental and will learn and adapt. Attendees are asked to provide honest feedback—positive or negative—to shape how sessions evolve.

8. AOB

The Chair asked attendees for any items of AOB.

A member asked about supplier APIs and when CCS will integrate with the DCC, noting previous work relied on DCC APIs for efficiency. They added that that value for money and efficiency discussions should consider whether DCC connectivity remains the best route. MPW confirmed that RECCo is already in discussions with DCC, mindful of major changes in that ecosystem. A DCC representative confirmed this and offered a direct conversation with the member to discuss further.

Next meeting date: 05 March 2026

Attendee	Representing	Initials	Role
Tracy Hardy	Retail Energy Code Company	TH	Chair
Michael Walsh	Retail Energy Code Company	MJW	Committee Member
Matt White	Retail Energy Code Company	MPW	Committee Member
Sarah Jones	Retail Energy Code Company	SJ	Committee Member
Nathan Gould	Retail Energy Code Company	NG	Committee Member
Chris Stock	Retail Energy Code Company	CS	Committee Member
Ann Perry	Retail Energy Code Company	AP	Committee Member
Vicky Brown	Retail Energy Code Company	VB	Committee Member
Teresa Thompson	Retail Energy Code Company	TT	Committee Member
Rose Galloway-Green	Ofgem	RG	Committee Member
Charles Clark	Ofgem	CC	Committee Member
Liam Bennett	Ofgem	LB	Committee Member
Isha Dwesar	Ofgem	ID	Committee Member
Ransford Amponsah	Ofgem	RA	Committee Member
Rosalyn Tandy	DESNZ	RT	Committee Member
Simone Chiappi	DESNZ	SC	Committee Member
Emma Johnson	Centrica	EJ	Committee Member
Mehdi Rizvi	PRIME	MR	Committee Member
Camilla Winlo	Talan	CW	Committee Member
Govindhan Rengan	Elexon	GR	Committee Member
Chris Wood	Elexon	CW	Committee Member
Robert Golding	Elexon	RG	Committee Member
Pete Noyce	Kraken	PN	Committee Member
Robin Seaby	DCC	RS	Committee Member
Richard Vernon	DCC	RV	Committee Member
James Edgar	Which?	JE	Committee Member
Byron Mann	Which?	BM	Committee Member
Chris Pointon	Icebreaker One	CP	Committee Member

Attendee	Representing	Initials	Role
Matt Roderick	n3rgy	MR	Committee Member
Tereza Borges	n3rgy	TB	Committee Member
Ghela Boskovich	SDATA	GB	Committee Member
Sam Cannons	OVO	SC	Committee Member
Chloe McLaren-Webb	Centre for Sustainable Energy	CMW	Committee Member
Andrew Greer	SSE	AG	Committee Member
Colin Griffiths	Citizens Advice	CG	Committee Member
Simon Hames	Cadent	SH	Committee Member
Oli Meggitt	SECCo	OM	Committee Member
Greg Johnston	NESO	GJ	Committee Member
Cathy Mulliss	E.ON Next	CM	Committee Member
Harry Firth	REC Code Manager	HF	Secretariat