

Meeting Summary

CISG Sub-Group - Connections strategic change & impact to CUSC (Meeting #7)

Date: 11/12/2023 **Location:** MS Teams
Start: 1:30pm **End:** 2:30pm

Participants

Attendee	Company	Attendee	Company
Camille Gilsean (CG)	ESO (Chair)	Alison Price (AP)	ESO (Tech Sec)
Joseph Henry (JH)	ESO (Presenter)	Folashadé Popoola (KP)	ESO (Presenter)
Dennis Gowland (DG)	Research Relay	Garth Graham (GG)	SSE
Joe Colebrook (JC)	Innova	Liam Cullen	Ofgem
Lee Wilkinson	Ofgem	Paul Jones (PJ)	Uniper
Deborah MacPherson (DMP)	Scottish Power	Grace March (GM)	Sembcorp
Paul Youngman (PY)	Drax	Helen Stack (HS)	Centrica
Ciaran Fitzgerald	Scottish Power	Alex Ikonic (AI)	Orsted
Paul Youngman (PY)	Drax	Alex Howison	Low Carbon

Introduction – CG

CG introduced the meeting. A CISG subgroup meeting has been called outside normal timescales to discuss a modification the ESO Connections team are seeking to progress as urgent – [CMP427: Update to the Transmission Connection Application Process for Onshore Applicants](#).

This meeting is to review the draft modification proposal form and to gather feedback from attendees which we can use to help finalise the modification before it is put before CUSC panel.

Overview of CMP427

JH walked the attendees through a slide deck which outlined the scope of the modification.

The modification has been raised in response to the publication of [Connections Action Plan](#) (CAP) published by DESNZ and Ofgem in November 2023. Within the CAP, there is an action on the ESO to raise a modification to codify the landowner Letter of Authority (LoA) (requirement) for new Onshore Transmission Connection Applications, in order to raise entry requirements. Within the CAP document, is documented the expectation that the Final Modification Report (FMR) will be with Ofgem by March 2024.

The intention is that we raise this modification under the “urgent” criteria¹, with the view that this is discussed at a special CUSC panel on the 15th of December.

There was support from the attendees that the intent for the ESO to progress the mod as urgent was appropriate, given the ask from within the CAP document to raise a modification and have submitted a FMR before March 2024.

DMP noted that the DNO’s have had a LoA as part of their connection’s application process for the last couple of years. DMP asked what checks in-situ for sites will be where multiple LoA’s are in place.

AP noted that subsequent LoA mods for Duplicates, Modification applications and Offshore applications are likely to follow-on and are currently out of scope for this mod, to ensure we hit the FMR deadline of before March 2024.

GG noted that we might need to consider if LoA’s are dated/have an expiry period.

JH noted that this would form part of workgroup discussions around the LoA template and process.

JC welcomed this mod and noted that to currently raise an application form, you do not need to provide landowner details. This mod will bring alignment with the distribution process.

HS, whilst in support of this mod, noted that we may need to think about what we mean by the term “formal engagement” – it was suggested either define it or remove the term from the modification submission..

JH confirmed that we will note on the modification proposal that workgroup discussion will be required to look at this in more detail.

DG asked if we are going to provide a template for completion. FP replied yes and GG noted that within the mod we reference that we will look to see if a separate version is needed for Scotland.

DG asked a question about confidentiality of the landowners. FP confirmed that we are not intending to publish this information.

Next steps

JH noted that we will take forward any relevant comments into the mod or as workgroup discussion points. The next CIG sub-group is 19th December.

¹ [Urgency Criteria](#) as outlined in the CUSC mod template