

# Connections Process Advisory Group

## Meeting 8 Minutes

Date: 19/06/2024

Location: MS Teams

### Participants

Attendee	Attend/Regrets	Attendee	Attend/Regrets
Merlin Hyman, Regen, CHAIR	Attend	Graham Parnell, BayWa r.e.	Attend
Shabana Akhtar, Ofgem	Attend	Jennifer Pride, Welsh Government	Regrets
Pete Aston, Roadnight Taylor	Attend	Grant Rodgers	Regrets
Neil Bennett, SSEN Transmission	Attend	Andrew Scott, SSE Distribution	Regrets
David Boyer, ENA	Attend	Annette Sloan, SSENT	Regrets
Lynne Bryceland, SPT	Regrets	Patrick Smart, RES Group	Attend
Chris Clark, Emtec Group	Regrets	Kyle Smith, ENA	Attend
Catherine Cleary, Roadnight Taylor	Regrets	Ian TheI, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	Attend
Mike Dutton, NGET	Attend	Spencer Thompson, INA	Regrets
Liam Cullen, Ofgem	Attend	Matt White, UKPN	Attend
Arjan Geveke, EIUG	Regrets	Jonathan Whitaker, SSE	Attend
Ben Godfrey, National Grid Electricity Distribution	Attend	Michelle Young, Scottish Government	Attend
Garth Graham, SSE Generation	Attend	Camille Gilsenan, ESO	Regrets
Paul Hawker, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	Regrets	Robyn Jenkins, ESO	Regrets
Claire Hynes, RWE	Attend	Laura Henry, ESO	Attend
Jade Ison, National Grid Electricity Transmission	Attend	James Norman, ESO	Attend
Kester Jones, National Grid Electricity Distribution	Attend	Mike Oxenham, ESO	Regrets
Allan Love, SPT	Attend	Mike Robey, ESO (Tech Sec to CPAG)	Attend
Holly Macdonald, Transmission Investment	Attend	Neil Copeland, ESO	Attend
Alasdair MacMillan, Ofgem	Attend	Sabrina Gao, ESO	Observe
Deborah, MacPherson, ScottishPower Renewables	Attend	Alex Markham, ESO	Observe
Zivanayi Musanhi, UKPN	Attend	Will Kirk-Wilson, ESO	Observe

### Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions	Merlin Hyman, Regen
2. Minutes and actions from meeting 7	Mike Robey, ESO
3. TMO4+ progress update	James Norman, ESO

4.	Embedded projects within TMO4+	Kyle Smith, ENA and Ben Godfrey, NGED
5.	Digital view of connections	Kester Jones, NGED
6.	Ofgem review of regulatory framework for end-to-end connections process	Alasdair MacMillan
7.	Transitional arrangements	Laura Henry, ESO
8.	Next steps	James Norman
9.	Any Other Business	Merlin Hyman

**Discussion and details**

# Minutes from meeting, including online meeting group text chat during meeting, where referenced as “[From online chat]”

**1. Welcome and Matters arising**

- Meeting apologies were noted

**2. Minutes and actions from meeting 7**

- **Decision 8.2.1:** CPAG approved the meeting 7 minutes.
- **Action 8.2.1:** ESO to publish meeting 7 minutes.

**3. TMO4+ progress update**

- ESO provided an update on the code change workgroups for TMO4+, reporting the intensity of effort for all involved with 14 workgroup meetings lasting 5-7 hours each across the four code modifications so far, with around 35 workgroup members per meeting, up to 20 observers. ESO thanked all those contributing, recognising the huge investment of time stakeholders were contributing to connections reform.
- ESO noted the reforms were high profile and the content complex, so it was important to get the reforms right. The scale of themes being discussed within the workgroups mean there will likely be a delay to the original timeline that would push back the workgroup consultation dates and the stages of the process following that. This may ultimately affect Ofgem's schedule to reach a decision and the go-live date for TMO4+.
- A member urged consideration of the holiday season within the rescheduling of the code change workgroup consultation.
- Another member recommended providing a longer consultation period given the holiday season and significance of the code modifications.
- Members discussed how to ensure as many stakeholders as possible had chance to review and respond to the consultation. A member noted that all CUSC parties will receive the consultation directly and it will also be distributed to embedded connection contacts. The consultation is planned to be in a number of sections with specific questions for each section.
- A member noted that for the code modification consultation on code modifications affecting the existing queue, that stakeholders will want to understand what is being proposed on what they would need to do by when.
- ESO highlighted three themes:
  1. The level of the detail the workgroups would like to see (more than ESO currently proposes would be in the amended codes)
  2. ESO would like an agile framework - to avoid the need for additional code modification processes for future tweaks to the connections process. ESO is seeking light codification for aspects such as the Gate 2 criteria and the network design methodology. These would still need Ofgem to agree the detail.
  3. Capacity holding security - this was a late addition to the code modification proposal and code modification workgroups flagged various concerns. ESO realises this won't have the desired impact so has agreed to remove this. Additional financial instruments for the reformed connections process could appear in a separate code modification.

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- A member reported that the CMP434 workgroup had discussed the level of codification and its impact on investor confidence. They felt it was good that ESO is proposing that Ofgem will oversee changes to guidance outside of the codes. They expressed comfort with changes to guidance that provided clarification but expressed concerns with changes that applied additional requirements / obligations on developers (where these are not codified).
  - The Chair asked ESO to circulate the new codes timeline to CPAG members as soon as it becomes available.
  - **Action 8.3.1** ESO to share the revised code modification timeline with CPAG once confirmed.
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#### 4. Embedded projects within TMO4+

- ENA thanked CPAG members for joining a recent workshop to review thinking on raising entry requirements for embedded projects. This workshop had enabled an updated paper on raising entry requirements to be created which will be taken to the Connections Delivery Board and then shared at CPAG.
  - A member asked for further details of the updated paper.
    - ENA noted the updated paper was currently in draft and that it would be shared before it is finalised.
    - The member noted that it was important for transmission to also review the outcome of this work on raising entry requirements for embedded connections to ensure alignment on entry requirements for transmission and distribution-connected projects.
  - On the Distribution Forecasted Transmission Capacity (DFTC), ENA noted that the final design of TMO4+ will be essential to finalise the DFTC approach. DFTC will be taken to the reform code modification workgroups.
  - ENA noted that governance of the DFTC 'rulebook' needed to be clarified.
  - A member welcomed the chance to review the draft DFTC rulebook and noted that concerns were being shared through the code change workgroups.
  - A member asked whether DNOs will be able to issue unlimited connection offers, beyond their DFTC forecast.
    - ENA stated that the idea is that DNOs will not be limited and the actual offers issued will be used to update their future forecasts.
    - The member expressed concern about what would happen and what the implications would be if connections offers exceeded the DFTC forecast.
    - Another member asked what would happen to additional applications when the forecast is exceeded.
    - ENA advised that the plan is that these applications would still receive an indicative offer.
    - A distribution network owner agreed that any applications into Gate 1 of the process will be considered within investment thinking and network design considerations that may trigger network build. Gate 2 then locks down the details with quite different processes being undertaken at Gate 1 and Gate 2.
    - A member highlighted that the DFTC forecasts are to be used for network modelling, and if actual offers issued differed to this the modelling would be wrong.
    - Another member shared a different understanding. Their view was that DFTC will be a forecast and would not be used to reserve capacity. They questioned the value of DFTC compared to the week 24 requirement.
    - ENA encouraged members to raise any concerns through the workgroups. They reiterated that the intention was to ensure that distribution connected projects were not held up. They accepted that DFTC had changed following the emergence of the overall TMO4+ approach and that it was now a mechanism closer to a week 24 approach for generation. ENA noted that DFTC would initially have a first-year focus but that this will become a ten-year forecast to support future network investment.
    - A member asked about the approach to embedded demand projects.
    - ENA noted that embedded demand was outside of the scope of the workgroup.
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- [From online chat: A member highlighted concerns about embedded demand projects being out of scope.]
- A member raised a concern about a difference in approach between the iDNO and DNO approach within the draft rulebook.
  - ENA noted that the rulebook only applies for small and medium-sized connections
- A member recognised the concept of DFTC but expressed concern that there was no proposed application fee and stressed the need for equality of treatment between transmission and distribution connected projects.
  - ENA noted that there would be a distribution connection fee and that DFTC seeks to provide a better solution than the current approach. Initially customers will receive an indicative offer and date, and then Gate 2 is the major milestone where thorough assessment is undertaken, and a connection date provided.
  - The member asked for clarification from transmission owners on their plans for network modelling.
  - A transmission owner reported that TO and ESO network design methodology was just getting underway.
  - [From online chat – A member noted all the work and success of Technical Limits and would like to better understand the vision for this and where it fits as part of DFTC/TMO4+.]
  - Another member asked for details of the modelling and expressed the view that modelling will be key to understand the impact and benefit of DFTC.
  - ESO noted that the network design methodology would not be completed by the end of June. They emphasised that the proposed approach is fully in line with the direction of travel towards a more strategically planned network design.
  - A member agreed that the approach should be towards more strategic modelling. They shared that in moving towards a more strategic approach DFTC should link to demand as well as generation, noting that transmission owners and ESO should both want this holistic modelling.
  - ENA reflected that these themes can be picked up within the network modelling discussions.
- A member noted the desire for alignment between transmission and distribution but highlighted that the process could not be identical and therefore the goal should be to seek a fair approach across both approaches. They questioned whether the different approaches proposed for transmission and distribution had a material affect or not.
- A member reflected that the proposed approach felt a little better than the current process. They supported the previous comments on the need to include demand projects, illustrating this by referring to the demand behaviour of storage projects. They also raised the need to consider variation in the scope of projects between Gate 1 and Gate 2.
- [From online chat: A member expressed the view that they felt that DFTC will need to involve GEMA (as per the existing statutory requirements for them to approve the terms and conditions / methodologies for connection).
- The Chair concluded that details of the governance of the DFTC methodology is needed.
- **Action: 8.4.1** ENA / SCG to return to CPAG once the network design methodology is clearer to share an update on the DFTC approach.

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## 5. Digital view of connections

- SCG presented a summary of progress in increasing accessibility of digital information for connection customers. This includes publishing a monthly data book (in conjunction with the Connections Delivery Board on the ENA website) and signposting to all licensees relevant data from a single page on the ENA's website.
  - SCG reported that half of DNOs have digital views of connection data on their websites with the remaining DNOs working to publish this by the end of the year.
  - SCG noted two next steps
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- Investigate disaggregating demand data, with discussions underway with Ofgem and DESNZ on this.
- Review data later this year, aligned to TMO4+ and the Ofgem end to end review.
- A member queried the link to Technical Limits. Would this work give more visibility of the technical parameters?
  - SCG noted this was the intention, for example NGED's 'Clearviewconnect' system does this.
- A member asked whether total connection data would be available; what's in the queue, what's connected, across GB, by TO, DNO regions and so on.
  - SCG noted this request and agreed to take these suggestions to the SCG data group to consider. They noted that GB-level data is already published within the CDB monthly data book.
  - The member felt it would be helpful to have this data at DNO level.
  - Another member offered to have a follow-up conversation to discuss how the data could be further broken down.
  - A member raised whether a third party might collate all of the data and create a single user-friendly platform (rather than signposting to each licensee's data).
  - SCG noted that this had not been the focus so far, but it could potentially be considered in future.
  - A member suggested that user feedback should be sought to judge its success. They noted that Northern Powergrid's data was excellent, but that data was not always consistent.
  - SCG welcomed feedback.

## 6. Ofgem review of regulatory framework for end-to-end connections process

- Ofgem shared progress of their review of the regulatory framework for the end-to-end connection process. An initial desktop study had been undertaken, which Ofgem is now engaging on before moving to a consultation exercise. Ofgem welcomed stakeholders getting in touch if they'd like to discuss this further.
- A member asked for details of the customer archetypes and how they were developed.
  - Ofgem referred to the slide containing the current archetypes and were open to be challenged on the current range of customer archetypes within the review.
- A member noted the statutory requirements on harmonisation and expressed concern that they could not see this in the documents. They felt harmonisation brings lower costs to consumers and that the approach was not harmonised at present. They asked whether this would be within the consultation.
  - [From online chat: a member strongly agreed with the member's point and thought SEUK members would also agree.]
  - Ofgem expressed the wish to avoid a postcode lottery and that they would look to draw this out within the review.
- A member noted that Ofgem will also be running a consultation over the summer on the licence changes required for TMO4+ in addition to the planned consultation for this end-to-end review.
  - Ofgem noted this and is keen to receive lots of responses and will design the consultations to reflect this.
- A member expressed a desire to be engaged in the review and noted the vast difference between network companies. For example, they felt NGED provide details and costs, whilst UKPN did not and that NGET provided no commercial detail.
- Ofgem encouraged CPAG member to share details of the review with their networks.
- The Chair thanked Ofgem for their work on this and for sharing progress with CPAG.

## 7. Transitional arrangements

- ESO shared an update on the developing plans for transition from the current connections process towards the TMO4+ reformed process. ESO noted any dates within the slides are indicative and subject to confirmation.

- ESO advised that the transitional arrangements will be subject to Ofgem derogation.
- The transitional arrangements propose adopting light-touch offers until the TMO4+ reformed process goes live with no Queue Management Milestones
- A member queried whether ESO was seeking a derogation or letter of comfort and whether this was from Ofgem or GEMA.
  - ESO noted that the considerations related to both Licence requirements and also from Code requirements. ESO confirmed that discussions with transmission owners' legal teams were continuing.
  - The member asked whether the Ofgem / GEMA response would be published.
  - ESO confirmed that Ofgem / GEMA's response would be published.
- ESO noted that some elements were still being developed, such as securities and liabilities.
- ESO noted that it proposes a temporary bar on Mod Apps that required TO studies to be undertaken for a few months before TMO4+ goes live as well as project progressions, this may not go live at the same time as new applications
- **Action: 8.7.1** ESO to share further details of transitional arrangements at the next CPAG meeting.

**8. Next steps**

- ESO proposed cancelling the August meeting, reflecting that there was lower availability during the summer holidays and there were no planned urgent agenda items planned for the August meeting.
  - **Action 8.8.1** ESO to cancel the August meeting.
- Following a members' query, ESO noted 600 responses had been received so far from the request for information issued to the current connections queue on their progress against key delivery milestones. ESO is seeking responses by the end of June.
  - **Action 8.8.2** ESO will share a high-level summary of responses at the July CPAG meeting.
  - ESO will also consider what further analysis could be shared at a future meeting.
- ESO noted that the next meeting's agenda will include updates on:
  - TMO4+ progress
  - Embedded projects within TMO4+
  - Transitional arrangements
  - Package 2 update – to be confirmed
  - High-level summary of the responses to ESO's Request for Information to the existing connections queue.

**Decisions and Actions**

Decisions: Made at last meeting

ID	Description	Owner	Date
8.2.1	Meeting 7 minutes agreed	Merlin Hyman	19/06/2024

Action items: In progress and completed since last meeting

ID	Description	Owner	Due	Status	Date
8.2.1	ESO to publish the minutes of meeting 7	Mike Robey	26/06/2024	Complete	19/06/2024
8.3.1	ESO to share the revised code modification timeline with CPAG once confirmed	Mike Oxenham	11/07/2024	To share when available	

8.4.1	ENA / SCG to return to CPAG once the network design methodology is clearer to share an update on the DFTC approach.	Kyle Smith	tbc	Subject to progress with the NDM.
8.7.1	ESO to share further details of transitional arrangements at the next CPAG meeting	Alex Curtis	11/07/2024	On agenda
8.8.1	ESO to cancel the August meeting	Mike Robey	26/06/2024	Complete 21/06/2024
8.8.2	ESO will share a high-level summary of responses to the Request for Information to the current queue at the July CPAG meeting	Ruth Matthew	11/07/2024	On agenda
7.3.3	ESO to continue discussion with Ofgem and to confirm if/how queue management implementation will be affected through the transition towards TMO4+	Laura Henry	19/06/2024	Ongoing
7.3.4	SCG to return to CPAG to share details after options have been presented to CDB	Su Neves e Brooks	11/07/2024	Ongoing
7.4.1	SCG will share the DFTC rulebook at the next CPAG meeting	Ben Godfrey & Kyle Smith	19/06/2024	Ongoing
6.5.1	ESO and TOs to develop formal bay sharing policy	ESO, TOs	28/06/2024	In progress
4.1.2	ESO to trial pre-recording some presentations to introduce topics in advance of the meeting.	Mike Robey	04/03/2024	ESO to trial

**Action Item Log - Action items: Previously completed.**

ID	Description	Owner	Due	Status	Date
7.2.1	ESO to publish minutes of meeting 6	Mike Robey	17/05/2024	Complete	14/05/2024
7.3.1	ESO to share a timeline for TMO4+ with CPAG	Mike Robey	19/06/2024	Share at next CPAG	19/06/2024
7.3.2	ESO to share the draft RFI with CPAG members for comment	Mike Robey	10/05/2024	Complete	10/05/2024
7.4.1	SCG will share the DFTC rulebook at the next CPAG meeting	Ben Godfrey & Kyle Smith	19/06/2024	Complete	19/06/2024
7.5.1	SCG to organise a stakeholder meeting and to invite interested CPAG members and to report back to CPAG	Kyle Smith & Paul Glendinning	05/06/2024	Complete	19/06/2024
7.10.1	ESO to reschedule June meeting	Mike Robey	17/05/2024	Complete	19/06/2024
6.2.1	The Strategic Connections Group to return to CPAG with a paper on the implications for embedded customers.	Ben Godfrey	09/05/2024	Complete	09/05/2024
6.2.2	ESO to publish minutes of meeting 5	Mike Robey	25/04/2024	Complete	14/05/2024
6.3.1	ESO to submit CUSC and STC code modifications on Friday 19 April	Paul Mullen	19/04/2024	Complete	19/04/2024

6.4.1	ESO to provide further clarification to CPAG on MITS definitions, and implication of potential impacts on Charging and User Commitment.	Djaved Rostom	09/05/2024	Complete	09/05/2024
5.2.1	ESO to publish the minutes of meeting 4	Mike Robey	21/03/2024	Complete	21/03/2024
5.3.1	The Gate 2 approach will be taken to the March CDB for their steer.	James Norman	21/03/2024	Complete	21/03/2024
5.4.1	ESO and DNO to consider the revised proposals within DFTC discussion	ESO & DNOs	25/04/2024	Ongoing and moved to DFTC updates	09/05/2024
5.4.2	ESO to take Package 3.1 recommendation to the March CDB meeting.	James Norman	21/03/2024	Complete	21/03/2024
5.5.1	DFTC to come back to CPAG to reflect how it would work if Gate 2 were applied to the whole queue.	Ben Godfrey	25/04/2024	Complete	25/04/2024
5.6.1	ESO to take its disincentivising mod apps recommendation to the March CDB meeting.	James Norman	21/03/2024	Complete	21/03/2024
5.7.1	ESO to take its paper on the single digital view CAP action to CDB for their steer	Adam Towl	21/03/2024	Complete	21/03/2024
5.8.1	ESO to schedule CPAG meetings beyond April 2024	Mike Robey	28/03/2024	Complete	28/03/2024
4.1.1	ESO to look into sending papers in more than one batch, if this allows at least some to be circulated earlier.	Mike Robey	29/02/2024	Ongoing	04/03/2024
4.2.1	ESO to publish Minutes of meeting 3	Mike Robey	29/02/2024	Complete	26/02/2024
4.3.1	ESO to return to CPAG to share its updated recommendation for Package 2.	Djaved Rostom	04/04/2024	Complete	18/04/2024
4.4.1	ESO will take forward the options Packages 3.1, 4.4 and 5 for more detailed discussion.	Mike Oxenham	07/03/2024	On agenda 07 March	07/03/2024
4.6.1	ESO to return to CPAG to discuss disincentivising mod apps	Ruth Matthew	07/03/2024	On agenda 07 March	07/03/2024
3.2.1	ESO to publish the minutes of meeting 2	Mike Robey	22/02/2024	Complete	16/02/2024
3.5.1	ESO agreed to look into holding a targeted workshop on Gate 2 to gather more views	Paul Mullen	28/02/2024	Scheduled	28/02/2024
3.7.1	ESO will bring fuller details on packages 3, 4 and 5 to the next CPAG meeting, providing clear links to the Connections Action Plan	Mike Oxenham	22/02/2024	Complete	22/02/2024
3.7.2	ESO to re-issue slides to address a typo on slide 36	Mike Robey	08/02/2024	Complete	08/02/2024
2.2.1	ESO to publish Terms of Reference	Mike Robey	08/02/2024	Complete	08/02/2024
2.2.2	ESO to publish minutes of meeting 1	Mike Robey	08/02/2024	Complete	08/02/2024
2.3.1	ESO to scope code defects and bring them to a future CPAG meeting	Paul Mullen	07/03/2024	On agenda 07 March	07/03/2024
2.4.1	ESO to bring update on queue position allocation to the 08 February CPAG meeting	Paul Mullen	08/02/2024	Complete	08/02/2024
2.5.1	ESO to bring bay re-allocation and standardisation back to CPAG	Shade Popoola	22/02/2024	Complete	22/02/2024
1.2.1	ESO to circulate the updated Terms of Reference document	Mike Robey	25/01/2024	Complete	22/01/2024
1.3.1	ESO to share its analysis of the impact of CMP376 on the existing TEC queue.	Kav Patel	08/02/2024	Quarterly updates to be provided	Ongoing

1.4.1	ESO to look at how and when details of the outcome of the ongoing transmission works review can be shared	Robyn Jenkins	08/02/2024	Update shared	08/02/2024
1.4.2	Technical secretary to follow-up liaison and co-ordination with CDB	Mike Robey	25/01/2024	In place	24/01/2024
1.4.3	ESO to confirm how much detail of code mods will be taken to CPAG before going to code mod working groups.	Paul Mullen	25/01/2024	Discussed 25 January	25/01/2024

**Decision Log – Decisions previously made**

ID	Description	Owner	Date
6.2.2	Minutes of meeting 5 approved for publication	Merlin Hyman	18/04/2024
5.2.1	Minutes of meeting 4 approved for publication	Merlin Hyman	07/03/2024
4.2.1	Minutes of meeting 3 approved for publication	Merlin Hyman	22/02/2024
3.2.1	Minutes of meeting 2 approved for publication	Merlin Hyman	08/02/2024
2.1.1	Terms of Reference v2 approved for publication	Mike Robey	25/01/2024
2.2.1	Minutes of meeting 1 approved for publication	Mike Robey	25/01/2024