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Smart Metering Implementation Programme – Roll-Out  
Team Department of Energy and Climate Change  
3 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2AW

Our ref

Your ref

Date

31 May 2012

Dear Smart Metering Implementation Team

**Consultation on Communications Company (DCC)n Licence Conditions and Licence  
Application Regulations Ref 12D/030**

I am writing on behalf of Western Power Distribution (South Wales) plc, Western  
Power Distribution (South West) plc, Western Power Distribution (East Midlands) plc  
and Western Power Distribution (West Midlands) plc.

Please see attached responses to the questions raised in the Government's  
consultation.

Yours sincerely

**Consultation on Communications Company (DCC)n Licence Conditions and  
Licence Application Regulations Ref 12D/030Western Power Distribution  
Response**

**Consultation Questions**

Number	Question	Response
5.	<b>Do you have any comments on Chapter 2 of the licence conditions, in particular do you have any views on: i) The general objectives of the DCC;</b>	We welcome the recognition in the DCC general objectives of its potential role in facilitating the efficient operation of electricity networks and the development and operation of smart grids as an objective to "facilitate innovation in the design and operation of energy networks as will contribute to the delivery of a secure and sustainable supply of energy".
7.	<b>Do you have any comments on Chapter 4 of the licence conditions, in particular do you have any comments on the drafting of: i) the transitional obligations on the DCC, possibly as part of a wider transition scheme; ii) the proposals for how the DCC would set out its future business development objectives; iii) the proposed inclusion of a licence condition that would facilitate future transfer of registration to the DCC?</b>	<p>We recognise the potential benefits of transferring registration, and agree that it is something to address once the programme is more established.</p> <p>Ofgem should be mindful that it is also a significant piece of work in terms of business process (ownership of data, update process, impact on DUOS billing) and integration with internal systems and should therefore be considered within the upcoming ED1 price control process.</p>