



Smart Metering Implementation Programme – Product Delivery
Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London, SW1A 1AW

By email to : smartmetering@decc.gsi.gov.uk

29 March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

**New Smart Energy Code Content and Related Licence Amendments,
consultation document published on 24 February 2016**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the abovementioned consultation and for the extension of time in which to do so. In our response below, we have focused on questions 4 and 5.

Question 4.

We agree with the proposed additional legal text, with regard to Sections F5, F6, F7 and F8, except for Section F7.4A paragraphs (a) and (c), which we consider in more detail below.

Paragraph (a)

We do not agree with the requirement to be subject to Section F7.5 (where the Supplier shall ensure that consent or agreement is obtained in advance) with regard to the aerial needed for the Special Installation Mesh Communications Hub. Suppliers hold the relationship with the energy account holder at the premises: in the case of a tenanted property, this is extended to the landlord. Suppliers have accepted, by virtue of the SEC provision F7.5, that this requirement is extended to the landlord or owner of the premises.

We do not think it is reasonable to extend the scope of this engagement to planning authorities around the country who may or may not grant approval to install the specific Special Installation Mesh Communications Hubs high gain aerial. This engagement and the consequences to the technical solution should be the responsibility of the DCC. We believe that Sections F7.6, F7.7 and F7.18 (b) should be amended accordingly to reflect DCC's responsibilities for the



specific Special Installation Mesh Communications Hubs high gain aerial.

In our view, it is more appropriately for the DCC to secure the appropriate planning consent from the relevant authorities relevant to the location where the aerial is to be fitted prior to the site visit to install the Special Installation Mesh Communications Hub and aerial.

Paragraph (c)

We believe the proposed legal text may conflict with others: this clause is subject to Sections F6.5 and F6.6; however, Section F6.19 excludes Special Installation Mesh Communications Hubs, with "All references in this Section F6 to Communications Hubs shall be deemed to exclude Special Installation Mesh Communications Hubs."

We understand the intent for the proposed amendment, and suggest that specific provision for transfer of risk, and ownership for Special Installation Mesh Communications Hubs are set out as subsections to this paragraph (c).

Question 5.

We do not understand why the reporting obligation as set out in Section F7.21 should only apply prior to 1 January 2021. If Network Enhancement Plans continue after this date, then the DCC should continue to be obliged to produce the relevant progress reports.

The proposed legal text for Section F7.22 appears to contain a typo, and refers to Section H7.21, when it should refer to Section F7.21.

Should you have any questions on this response, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,