



## Smart Meters Implementation Programme 2016 progress update

In 2016, the Department has continued to focus on ensuring all parties are making the necessary preparations for the main installation stage so that energy suppliers are able to complete the rollout by the end of 2020 and deliver the expected benefits of smart metering to consumers. 2016 has seen significant progress across all aspects of the Programme and there are now 4.9 million meters operating across Britain - putting consumers in control, putting an end to estimated bills and helping them to save money and energy. Key areas of activity include:

- In March we introduced new licence conditions allowing [energy suppliers to apply for time-limited trials of In Home Display \(IHD\) alternatives](#) in order to develop robust, independent and GB-based evidence on potential alternative approaches to IHDs. Three trials have been approved.
- Smart Energy GB has continued to roll out its national awareness campaign, with [Gaz & Leccy](#) making their TV debut in June and focusing on how consumers can get their energy bills under control with smart meters. Smart Energy GB has [partnered](#) with a range of third party organisations at national, regional and local level to promote smart meter messaging to priority groups of vulnerable consumers. In July Smart Energy GB published '[A smart route to change](#)', setting out the role of behavioural science in helping consumers benefit from Smart Meters. In August, Smart Energy GB published [Smart Energy Outlook](#), research by Populus, that showed that nearly eight in ten (79 per cent) of people with a smart meter would recommend one to others and eight in ten (80 per cent) of people with a smart meter have taken at least one step to reduce their energy use.
- In July the Alternative Home Area Network governance arrangements were established, providing a way for suppliers to work together to deliver solutions for more challenging properties (such as high rise flats).
- By end of September 2016, [4.9 million smart and advanced meters were operating in homes and businesses across Great Britain](#).
- BEIS Published, in November, an [updated Cost-Benefit Analysis of the rollout](#) – smart meters are set to deliver significant net present value benefits to consumers, estimated at £5.7 billion over the lifetime of the programme.
- In November the [Data and Communications Company's \(DCC\)](#) national communications infrastructure went live across Great Britain and the DCC launched a [consultation](#) on proposals for enrolling the first generation of smart meters (SMETS1) into its systems.
- BEIS has put in place and activated [Smart Energy Code content](#) necessary to enable the national data and communications system to go live. The Code details the rights and obligations of industry parties who use smart metering systems and the information it provides.
- BEIS has facilitated the sharing of good practice for supporting vulnerable and prepayment consumers, focussing on the post-installation period and drawing on expertise from across industry and consumer groups.