

Annex 1 – Open letter consultation on the Incentive of Connections Engagement

- 1.1. We would like to hear the views of interested parties in relation to any of the issues set out in our open consultation letter.
- 1.2. We would especially welcome responses to the specific questions which we have set out in our consultation and are replicated below.
- 1.3. If you have any questions on this document please contact:

James Veaney
Head of Connections and Constraint Management
Ofgem, 9 Millbank, London, SW1P 3GE
020 7901 1861
Connections@Ofgem.gov.uk
- 1.4. **Responses should be sent, preferably by e-mail by 17 August 2016 to the address above.**
- 1.5. Unless marked confidential, all responses will be published by placing them in Ofgem's library and on its website www.ofgem.gov.uk. Respondents may request that their response is kept confidential. Ofgem shall respect this request, subject to any obligations to disclose information, for example, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
- 1.6. Respondents who wish to have their responses kept confidential should clearly mark the document/s to that effect and include the reasons for confidentiality. Respondents are asked to put any confidential material in the appendices to their responses.
- 1.7. Next steps: We will consider the responses to this consultation and these will be used alongside other evidence for our assessment of the ICE plans.
- 1.8. Each of the questions asked by this consultation is set out in the template below.
- 1.9. Please ensure that you **indicate the DNO or specific licence area** to which your experiences relate.
- 1.10. When considering your responses to these questions, please consider your experiences, the actions that the DNO has undertaken or committed to undertake, and the actions that you consider it could reasonably undertake.

Response template – Incentive on Connections Engagement July 2016

Question	Response																								
About you and your work																									
1. What is the name of your company?	Power On Connections (POC)																								
2. Which DNO's ICE submission is your response related to (see Annex 2 for DNO map)? Please indicate clearly in your response to the questions below whether your comments refer to the DNO's plans as a whole, or to one of the DNO's licence areas. If you wish to provide a response to the ICE submission of more than one DNO, please use a separate template for each DNO.	WPD																								
3. What type of connection do you generally require? And for each type of connection, how many connection applications, including total MVA (Mega Volt Ampere) of connections have you made in the past year?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of connection</th><th>Total number of connections</th><th>Total MVA of connections</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="4">Metered Demand Connections</td><td>Low Voltage (LV) Work</td><td>15% of a total of approx. 60 projects PA</td></tr> <tr> <td>High Voltage (HV) Work</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work</td><td>15%</td></tr> <tr> <td>EHV work and above</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</td><td>LV work</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and EHV work</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Unmetered Connections</td><td>Local Authority (LA) work</td><td>None</td></tr> <tr> <td>Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work</td><td>None</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other work</td><td>None</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of connection	Total number of connections	Total MVA of connections	Metered Demand Connections	Low Voltage (LV) Work	15% of a total of approx. 60 projects PA	High Voltage (HV) Work	60%	HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work	15%	EHV work and above		Metered Distributed Generation (DG)	LV work	0%	HV and EHV work	0%	Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work	None	Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work	None	Other work	None
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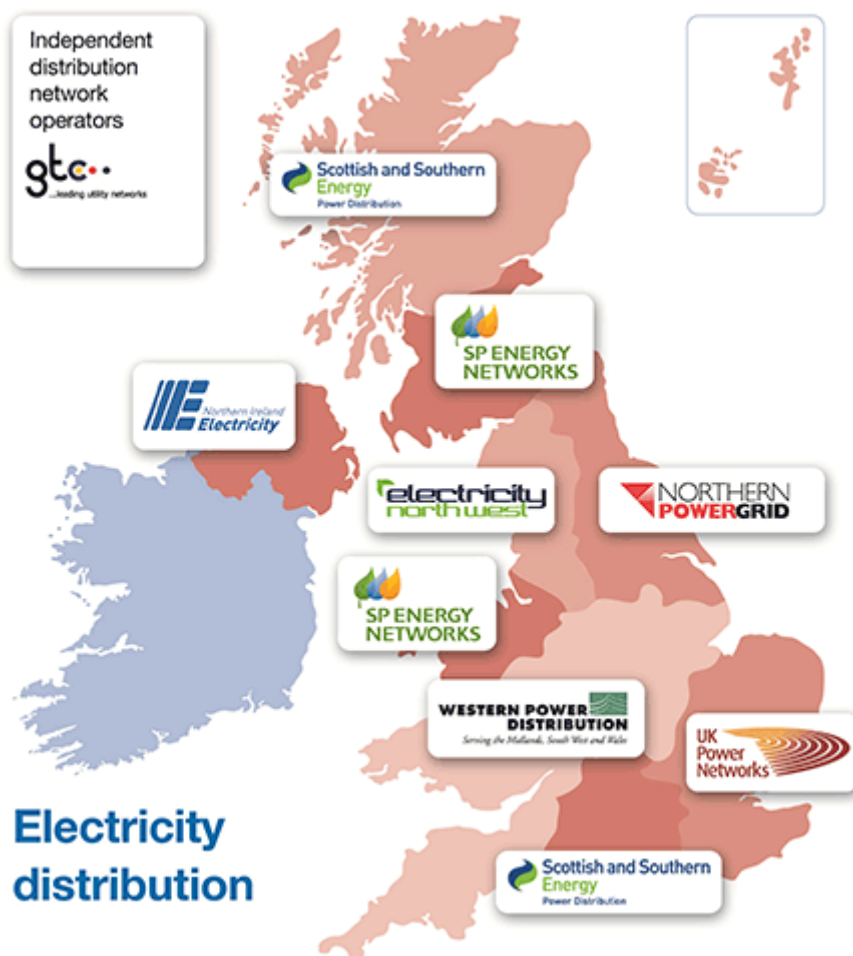
Consultation questions	
Section 1: Looking Back report 2015-16	
We want your views on how well the DNOs have performed over the last year	
1. Are you satisfied that the licensee had a comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connections stakeholders? Do you consider that the licensee implemented its strategy? If not, are you satisfied that the licensee has provided reasonable and well justified reasons?	Yes, we are also pleased to see that they have employ an independent accreditation to demonstrate how successfully they are engaging with customers.
2. Are you satisfied that the licensee had a comprehensive work plan of activities (with associated delivery dates) to meet the requirements of its connections stakeholders? Do you consider that the licensee delivered its work plan? If not, are you satisfied that the licensee has provided reasonable and well justified reasons?	<p>WPD had a comprehensive plan.</p> <p>However, we have been disappointed with WPD's approach to some of the Self Service Initiatives. Whilst we would agree that many of the activities were technically available to Competitors prior to the introduction of the COP, the qualification criteria imposed by WPD has been in some instances unreasonably stringent.</p> <p>The next two paragraphs cover two examples which are of particular concern.</p> <p>HV Self Connect: Whilst WPD are amongst best in class for the LV Self Connect process, HV Self Connect has not been as successful when compared to some of the other DNOs. The current process is more difficult for Competitors to take advantage of in comparison to other DNO processes in this area.</p> <p>Self Design Approval: POC have been operating in the WPD DSA for many years and rarely have had design rejections in the past, yet this past performance is not being considered by WPD in any way when determining if we can Self Approve their own designs.</p>
3. Do you consider that the licensee's work plan provided relevant outputs (eg key performance indicators, targets etc.)? Are you satisfied that the licensee has delivered these outputs? If not, do you	For most of the activities WPD have delivered against their promises.

view the reasons provided to be reasonable and well justified?	
4. Do you agree that the licensee's strategy, activities and outputs have taken into account ongoing feedback from a broad and inclusive range of connections stakeholders? If not, has the DNO provided reasonable justification?	<p>Yes we do for most of the activities, with the exception of the two highlighted above.</p> <p>We are really pleased to report that WPD have agreed to adopt the process produced by ENW and the C NA to help public lighting authority customer incorporate UMS connections to IDNO networks into their host DNO's inventories. WPD have been very supportive of IDNOs and UMS customers in the past and have made a significant contribution to help IDNOs find a way around this issue.</p>
Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2016-17	
We want your views on what the DNOs aim to achieve in the coming year	
5. Are you satisfied that the licensee has a comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connection stakeholders and facilitating joint discussions where appropriate?	Yes, we are happy with the engagement strategy.
6. Do you agree that the licensee has a comprehensive work plan of activities (with associated delivery dates) that will meet the requirements of its connection stakeholders? If not, has the licensee provided reasonable and well-justified reasons? What other activities should the DNOs do?	We welcome the content of the work plan and agree with the activities proposed.
7. Do you consider that the licensee has set relevant outputs that it will deliver during the regulatory year (eg key performance indicators, targets, etc.)?	Yes we do, WPD has provided clear KPIs that will be easily measured.
8. Would you agree that the licensee's proposed strategy, activities and outputs have been informed and endorsed by a broad and inclusive range of connection stakeholders? If they have not been	<p>We believe that WPD do listen to connections stakeholders, we are confident that WPD will refine the Self Service activities in response to our feedback.</p> <p>We expect to see WPD offering for all three Self Connect accreditation options so competitors can choose what works best for them.</p>

endorsed, has the licensee provided robust evidence that it has pursued this?	
We also want your views on how DNO plans will address issues for new connections in constrained areas	
9. Where flexible connection offers are available, do you consider that the DNO's work plan for 2016-17 sufficiently addresses concerns about the uncertainty of curtailment levels? For example, do their plans ensure that stakeholders have access to the data they require for an investment decision?	This is less of an issue for demand customer and more applicable to the DG market.
10. Where consortium connections are available, do you consider that the DNO's work plan for 2016-17 reflect requirements for clear and detailed information about where, how and under what conditions such projects can proceed?	
11. Where consortium connections are available, do you consider that the DNO's work plan for 2016-17 reflect requirements for clear and detailed information about where, how and under what conditions such projects can proceed?	
12. Do you consider that the DNO's work plans include appropriate engagement to ensure that network investment plans are well communicated to stakeholders, including when new capacity will become available?	
13. Do you consider that the DNOs' plans include appropriate activities to improve, where necessary, the provision of information on constrained areas of the network to provide better data about where connections may be viable?	
14. Are there particular additional activities or outputs which you consider should be	

included in the work plan of activities to better facilitate grid connections?	
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Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas¹



¹ Image from Electricity Networks Association (ENA)