

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?	TUSC Ltd												
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.	UKPN – All areas												
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 (across GB)?	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Type of connection</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total number of connections</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total MVA of connections</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Metered Demand Connections</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Low Voltage (LV) Work - High Voltage (HV) Work 6 HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work - EHV work and above -</td> <td style="text-align: center;">- - - - -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">LV work - HV and EHV work 20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">- - 170</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unmetered Connections</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Local Authority (LA) work - Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work - Other work -</td> <td style="text-align: center;">- - - -</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of connection	Total number of connections	Total MVA of connections	Metered Demand Connections	Low Voltage (LV) Work - High Voltage (HV) Work 6 HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work - EHV work and above -	- - - - -	Metered Distributed Generation (DG)	LV work - HV and EHV work 20	- - 170	Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work - Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work - Other work -	- - - -
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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?	Stakeholder engagement is obviously treated with utmost importance with UKPN. Guidelines for contact and dedicated engagement have improved dramatically year-on-year in our dealings with UKPN.
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?	The work plan for 2015/16 issued by UKPN was comprehensive and well thought through. Delivery of this plan has seen the service level of UKPN increase further from the perspective of stakeholders.
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 view the reasons provided to be reasonable and well justified?	The targets set by UKPN were generally well thought through, in some instances such as 15.29 it would have been beneficial to have seen the 2014/15 figure quoted against the 2015/16 figure to show the improvement.
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?	UKPNs methods for obtaining feedback are spread throughout the year and target multiple stakeholder groups in a variety of ways. A further service to consider would be the inclusion of webinar sessions to work through specific issues or share new developments

Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2016-17

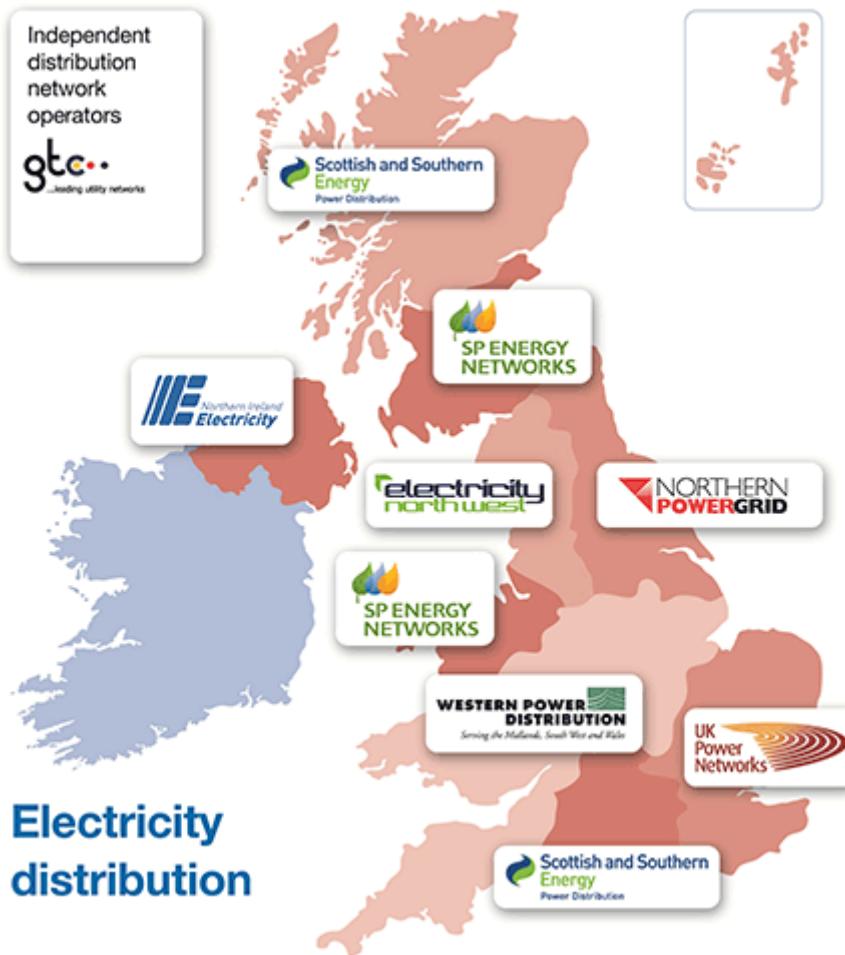
We want your views on what the DNOs aim to achieve in the coming year

5. Are you satisfied that the licensee has a	The model for developing a comprehensive engagement strategy is an
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comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connection stakeholders and facilitating joint discussions where appropriate?	improvement on the already formidable strategy utilised for 2015/16.
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?	The work plan activities taken forwards by UKPN in 2016/17 are ambitious with clearly defined targets for attainment. Delivery of said activities shall see a great improvement in the quality of service afforded to stakeholders
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.)?	The target dates and KPIs will be well formulated and clear. This will facilitate the review of which output targets were met or surpassed.
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 endorsed, has the licensee provided robust evidence that it has pursued this?	The breadth and depth of engagement shows the extent to which UKPN sought stakeholder opinion when developing their work plan. In terms of showing endorsement it would be beneficial to see where a specific action in the work plan was raised at a stakeholder event and which market segment that stakeholder belonged to.
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?	UKPN are actively pursuing flexible connections within their areas. This was seen within the announcement of the Eastbourne-Lewes flexi DG announcement that was issued to the mailing list.
10. Where consortium connections are available, do you consider that the DNO's work plan for 2016-17 reflect requirements for clear and detailed	n/a we would like to see what UKPNs provision for consortia connections are.

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?	n/a
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?	Reference 15.16 of the 2016/17 work plan shows a commitment to provide a greater level of capacity information from September 2016, though the effectiveness of this action shall depend on the frequency with which the heat maps are updated.
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?	Publishing capacity information in the form of heat maps shall facilitate the distribution of information relating to constrained areas within the UKPN network
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?	n/a

Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas¹



¹ Image from Electricity Networks Association (ENA)