

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												
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.	SPEN – 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?	SPEN have a comprehensive and highly active stakeholder engagement strategy. There are multiple potential methods of contacting and feeding information back to SPEN.
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 issued by SPEN was evidently well thought out with a very high level of delivery. That delivery of work plan goals such as Emergency Service Provision remains an ongoing target is entirely reasonable given the importance and long reaching impact that Emergency Provision shall have.
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?	For certain Actions within the Work Plan it would be beneficial to stakeholders to be able to review Actions against a KPI which has a defined metric, such as DG4. A KPI for this action could be to have operated the 'buddy' system with all first time applicants with a satisfaction score in excess of 70%.
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?	SPEN have maintained continual engagement across a wide breadth of Stakeholders, utilising a range of engagement options both high tech, and traditional.

Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2016-17

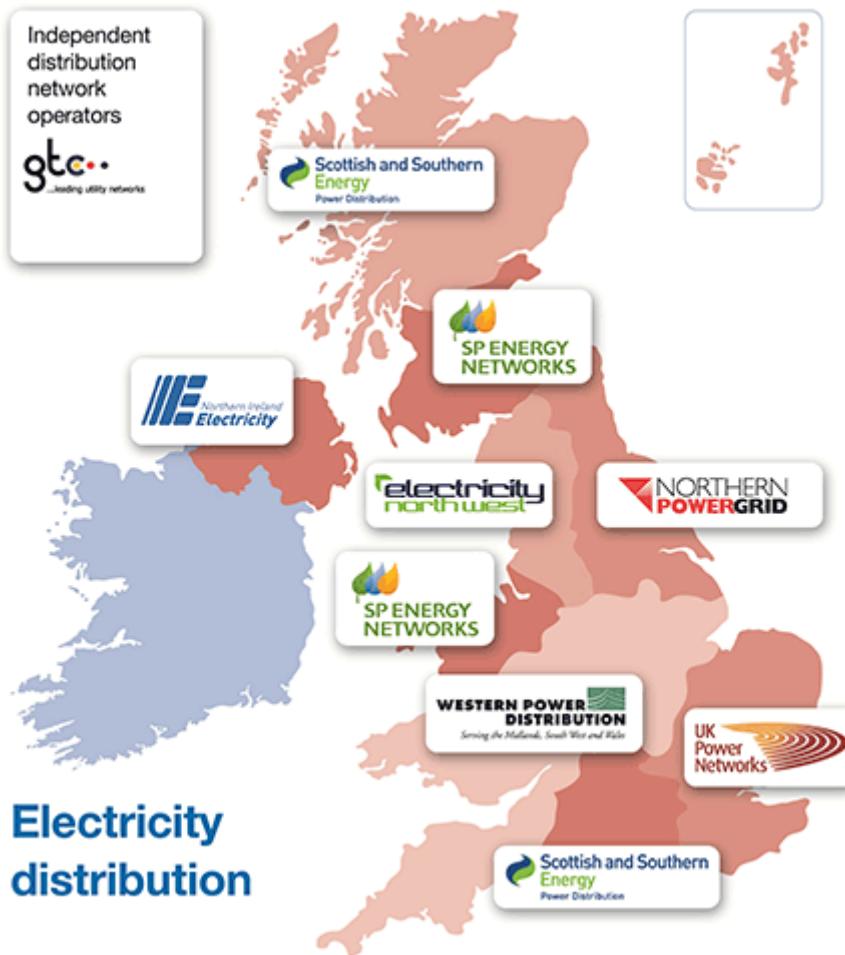
We want your views on what the DNOs aim to achieve in the coming year

5. Are you satisfied that the licensee has a	SPENs engagement strategy with stakeholders is diverse in terms of both the
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comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connection stakeholders and facilitating joint discussions where appropriate?	engagement methodology and the spread throughout the year. SPENs senior management have also shown to be available where the situation demands a greater level of experience or authority.
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?	Whilst the work plan is extensive past experience of SPEN has in our opinion seen SPEN not adhere to the Grantors Charter. It will be good to see SPEN follow through on their plans.
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 actions identified for each market segment are relevant to the stakeholders concerned.
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?	Given that SPEN have identified the source of the Actions included in the Work Plan, it is evident that these outputs are relevant to stakeholders.
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?	SPEN include a range of flexible and innovative connections options within each of the DNO areas they operate in. The provision of workshops to deal with the issue of constraint and the action to develop a plan for stakeholders to inform themselves about connection constraint.
10. Where consortium connections are available, do you consider that the DNO's work plan for 2016-17 reflect requirements for clear and detailed	There does not appear to be an option for consortia connections within the SPEN network area under the Work Plan

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?	There is a lack of clarity over how announcements of new capacity shall be made available to stakeholders, in particular where this capacity comes from voluntarily released capacity or that secured from slow moving projects
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?	The inclusion of ongoing constraint workshops together with ongoing improvements to the heat maps and publication of which areas shall and shall not be impacted by constraint is a welcome provision from SPEN.
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?	Having reviewed the land process, this case study requires further details

Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas¹



¹ Image from Electricity Networks Association (ENA)