

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?	CCG (Scotland) 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.	SP Energy Networks																								
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></td></tr> <tr> <td>High Voltage (HV) Work</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work</td><td></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></td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and EHV work</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Unmetered Connections</td><td>Local Authority (LA) work</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Other work</td><td></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		HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work		EHV work and above		Metered Distributed Generation (DG)	LV work		HV and EHV work		Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work		Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work		Other work	
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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, as a business we are satisfied with the continuing development of SP's stakeholder engagement strategy, in particular 'district launches' are a positive aspect as we can see a clear communication strategy making engagement from the customer easier.
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?	Yes, SP's commitment to providing national IDNO's with greater access/permissions to work on the network has made a huge improvement to timescales.
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?	As far as CCG have been advised SP have met their required KPI's, where this hasn't been possible it has been explained and 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?	I have been involved in the stakeholder engagement process for a number of years and whilst timescales and costs can be frustrating at time SP have committed to improvements and have delivered, where possible their customers wish lists, notably implementing regional based district structure.

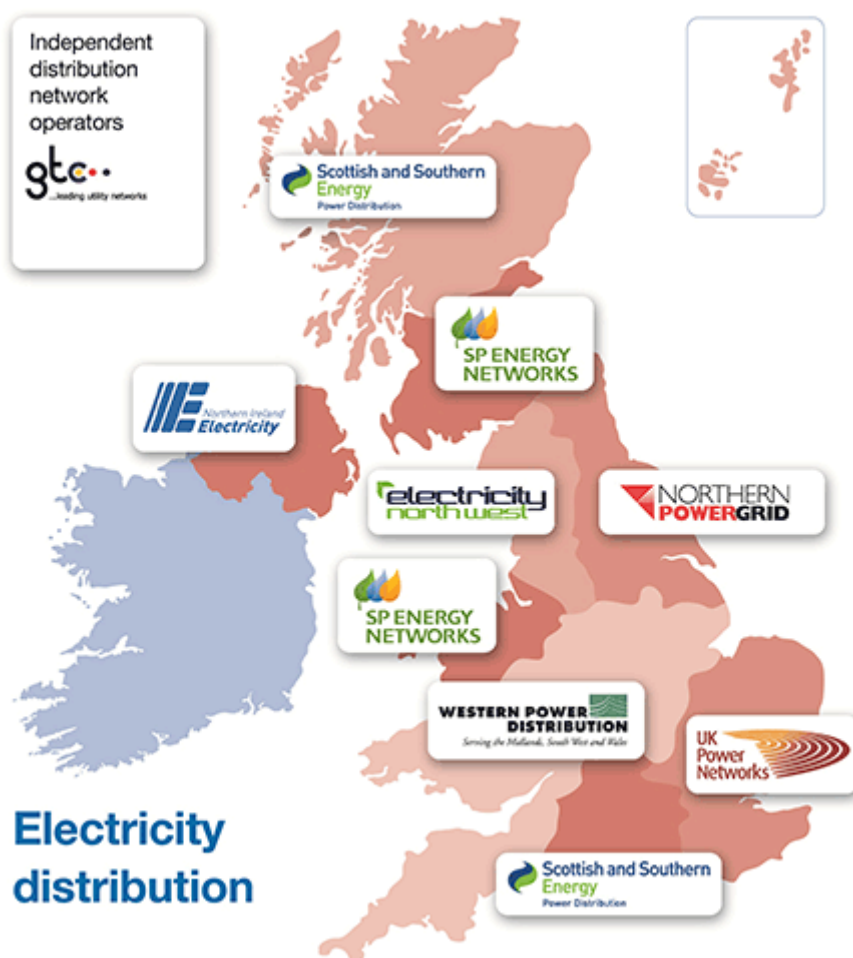
Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2016-17

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?	I have not been invited to any stakeholder events for the coming year.
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?	I look forward to continued stakeholder engagement and would hope that the land process review and quote delivery timescales continue to be improved.
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, as a business we are hopeful that SP can deliver their targets.
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?	As before I have not been invited to any stakeholder events this year so cannot comment.
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?	I would like to see more workshops to enable customers to interrogate heat maps etc, this would be an excellent tool for a customer such as CCG who is heavily involved in the tendering of projects, often not having the required time to obtain formal quotes.
10. Where consortium connections are available, do you consider that the DNO's work plan for 2016-17 reflect	I would need further information to allow me to comment.

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?	Further communication in the form of email/newsletters would be helpful, rather than waiting on stakeholder events.
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?	As above
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?	In response to this I feel further focus on the quotation timescales is required, it is extremely frustrating awaiting quotations. Also, I understand that certain information needs to be provided, however sometimes in the tender situation we do not have all the relevant information and need to make certain assumptions. SP are very constrained in that they will not deal with each project on a site specific basis, more flexibility is required in this regard. It is wholly unacceptable to cancel a project on the system due to a form not being submitted when all required technical data has been submitted. This is an ongoing frustration. On occasion it appears that quotes will be cancelled and rejected at the first opportunity in order to reduce work-load.

Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas¹



¹ Image from Electricity Networks Association (ENA)