

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.	NPG – 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 -	- - - -
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 -	- - - -											
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?	NPG have a broad and robust engagement strategy, identifying multiple stakeholder groups and offering a broad range of engagement options. NPG have further identified that they shall be broadening their scope of engagement to events where connections may become an issue such as agricultural events and community energy workshops to proactively engage with stakeholders.
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?	NPG have delivered well on the 2015/16 work plan.
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?	NPG's work plan was composed of relevant outputs which they have delivered upon.
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?	The licensee has taken on the feedback of connections stakeholders though it would be beneficial to have specific stakeholder numbers and an indication of which market segment the stakeholder falls into.

Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2016-17

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

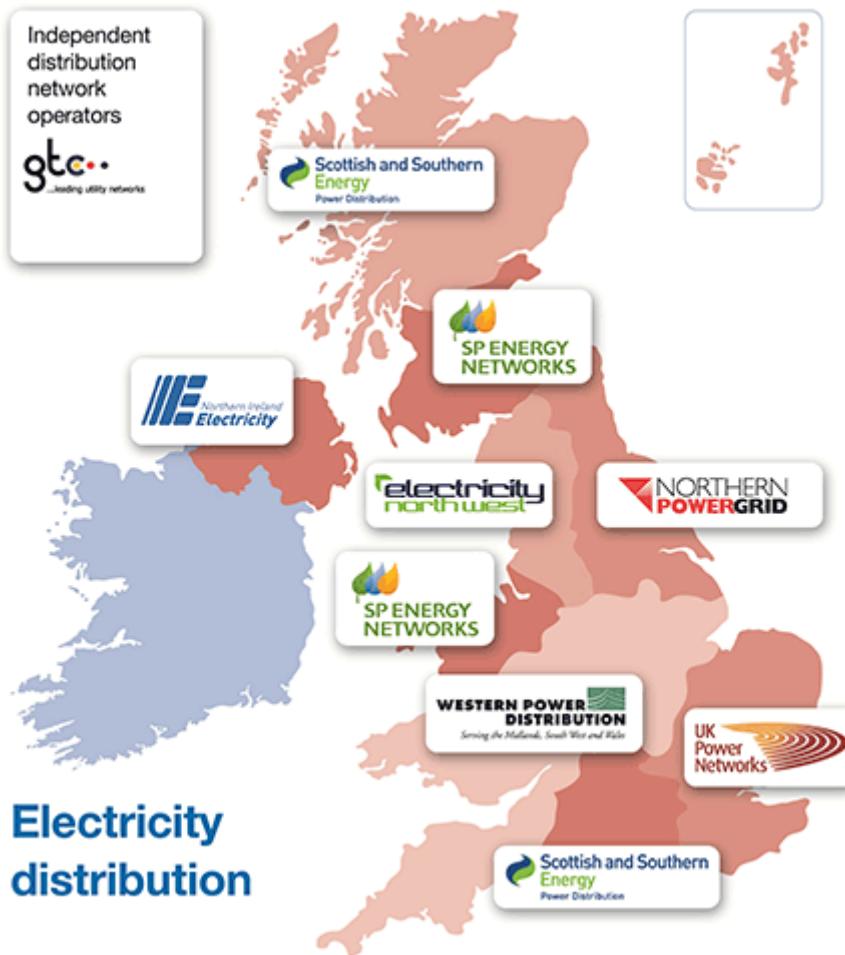
5. Are you satisfied that the licensee has a comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connection stakeholders and facilitating joint discussions where appropriate?	The licensee does have a comprehensive and robust strategy, though the Stakeholder panel lacks a diversity of inputs that would possibly benefit the business further. Namely there is a lack of representation of generation stakeholders within the stakeholder panel.
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?	NPG have developed a comprehensive work plan with clearly defined goals and outcomes. The lack of target date information is a shortcoming in the quick review table that should be addressed.
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 overall targets as identified by NPG we feel are relevant to stakeholders, however separating the target date information by including it as part of an Appendix seems unnecessary, this information could easily be included within the main document for the convenience of Stakeholders to review.
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 proposed strategy appears to come from a broad range of stakeholder engagement, however, it would be beneficial to gauge the depth and breadth of engagement by including the number of contributors to the strategy and plan, as well as the market segment they represent.

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?	Flexible connections within the work plan are limited beyond the implementation for flexible connections for housing schemes and a continuation of an existing Active Network Management option for DG schemes. NPG are moving in the right direction with respect to flexible connections, though it would be beneficial to stakeholders if the roll-out of such schemes could be increased.
10. Where consortium connections are available, do you consider that the DNO's work plan for 2016-17 reflect	There does not appear to be any option for consortia connections available within NPG's area based upon the work plan for 2016-17.

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?	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?	With respect to 'new capacity' we feel that this should include capacity released from capacity withdrawn 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?	NPG have addressed the issue of identifying constrained very well. This information is readily available to all stakeholders online.
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)