

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.	SSEPD – 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?	SSEs methodology for defining when and how they contacted customers, along with their identification of which market groups were approached and in what numbers is exemplary and should form a basis for how other DNOs convey this information.
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 WPD for 2015/16 was both broad in scope and detailed with respect to what would be delivered. SSE has delivered the entirety of its 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?	The outputs included by SSE were extremely detailed and tailored specifically to suit each Action in the workplan. The delivery of each output was met or surpassed by SSE.
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?	Feedback from stakeholders came from a broad demographic of stakeholders and was shown to be derived from the ongoing feedback received by SSE.

Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2016-17

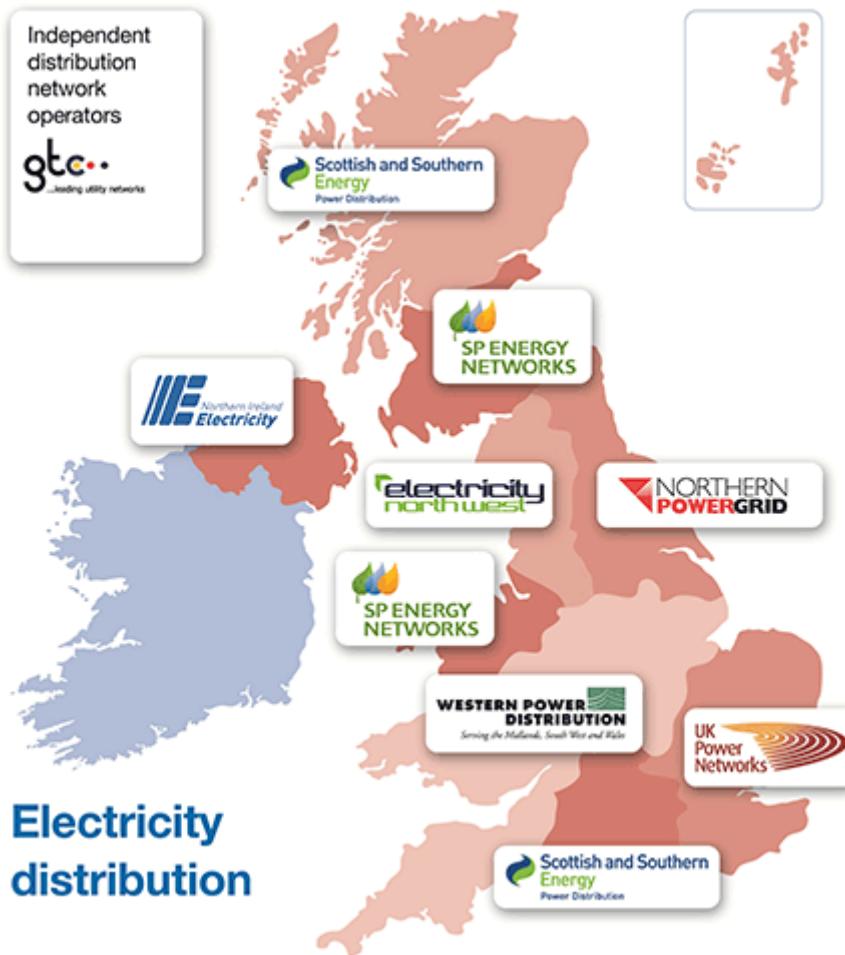
We want your views on what the DNOs aim to achieve in the coming year

5. Are you satisfied that the licensee has a	Yes, SSE have a comprehensive engagement strategy that should only be
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comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connection stakeholders and facilitating joint discussions where appropriate?	improved following their reorganisation to a regional model, and the provision of dedicated account managers for different stakeholder groups
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?	SSE have a comprehensive set of activities that shall better serve its connection stakeholders. Further improvements to the alternative provider register SSE provide as a result of direct engagement with ICPs for the benefit of connection customers would be beneficial to stakeholders. Due to ICPs withholding information there are instances where connection customers are prevented from contacting the correct ICP due to the generic nature of information issued to SSE
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.)?	Relevant delivery outputs identified by SSE are spread throughout the year and reflect reasonable targets and timelines for delivery.
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?	SSE operate ongoing engagement events throughout the year at various locations. With engagement events tending to be targeted to specific stakeholder groups. By specifying the numbers of stakeholders that attend each event alongside the stakeholder group that they belong to SSE underlines how fully they engage with 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?	The development of the Future Networks team that deal with innovative connections to the network including those that are to address curtailment levels shows the commitment of SSE towards delivering flexible connections as part of the workplan.
10. Where consortium connections are available, do you consider that the DNO's work plan for 2016-17 reflect requirements for clear and detailed	Following the creation of the consortia register, SSE have not identified specific areas for stakeholders to submit notes of interest in consortia connections limited to specific regions as identified by them. A greater depth of information relating to consortia connections could be included within the

information about where, how and under what conditions such projects can proceed?	work plan to show how far advanced consortia connections are within SSE.
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?	No. There appears to be very limited information on consortia connections as part of the looking forward 2016/16 work plan.
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?	It is uncertain exactly how information relating to new capacity on the market shall be made available, particularly as a result of withdrawn or released capacity from other stakeholders. An outline of how this information shall be provided would be beneficial to remaining stakeholders
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?	For those familiar with the SSEPD website, information relating to constrained areas on the network is already available online from SSEPD. The information available relates to both Demand And Distributed Generation connections
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)