

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?	FES 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.	SPEN																																		
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 colspan="2">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>20</td><td>1.5MVA</td></tr> <tr> <td>High Voltage (HV) Work</td><td>20</td><td>10MVA</td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work</td><td>2</td><td>12MVA</td></tr> <tr> <td>EHV work and above</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</td><td>LV work</td><td>2</td><td>0.25MVA</td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and EHV work</td><td>3</td><td>2MVA</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Unmetered Connections</td><td>Local Authority (LA) work</td><td>N/A</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Other work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of connection		Total number of connections	Total MVA of connections	Metered Demand Connections	Low Voltage (LV) Work	20	1.5MVA	High Voltage (HV) Work	20	10MVA	HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work	2	12MVA	EHV work and above			Metered Distributed Generation (DG)	LV work	2	0.25MVA	HV and EHV work	3	2MVA	Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work	N/A		Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work			Other work		
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Consultation questions																																			

Section 1: Looking Back report 2015-16

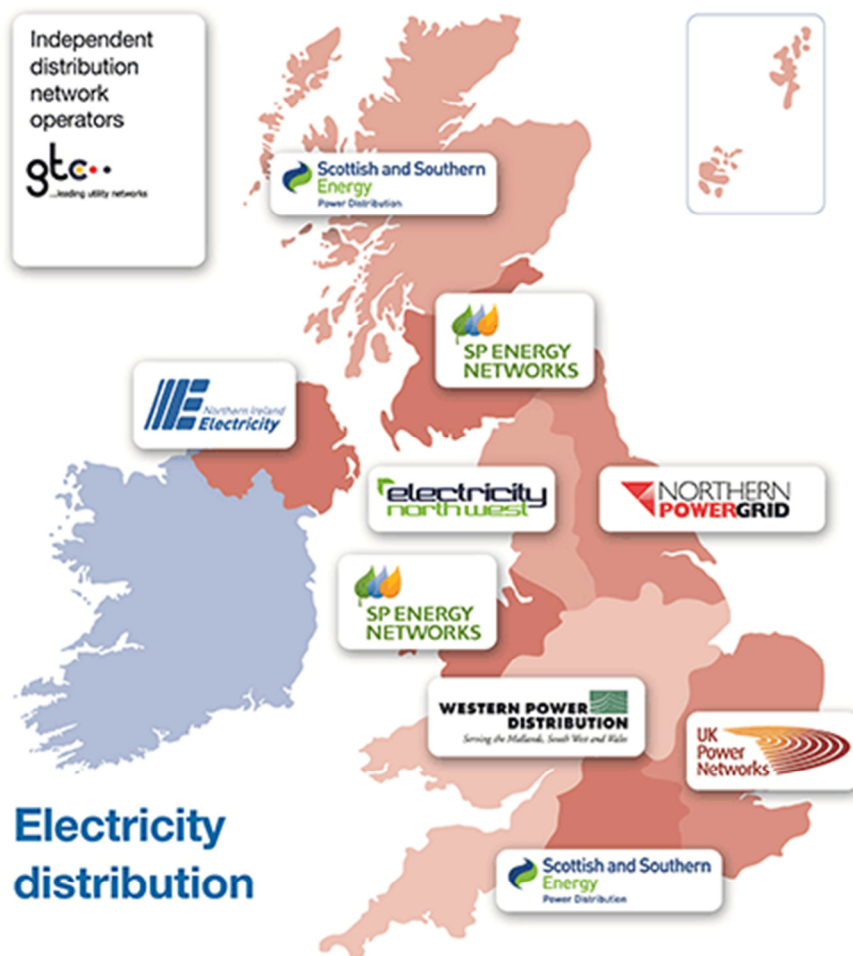
We want your views on how well the DNOs have performed over the last year

<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes, SPEN have allocated an allocated person where we have monthly meetings to raise any issues / opportunities relating to the connection process.</p> <p>Other DNO's hold engagement days where the ICP's meet the team that work within the connection process from the co-ordinators to the wayleave officers.</p> <p>It maybe worthwhile SPEN carrying out a similar exercise. FES feel this has been success as it allows the DNO and ICP to build a collaborative relationship.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes, SPEN have provided a timeline of events associated with the connection process. Timescales for receiving a non-contestable quotations, design approvals and connections provide FES a manageable process which can meet the customers' expectations. FES has no issues with SPEN when it comes to meeting the connection process timescales.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>FES are satisfied with the engagement with FES relating to the code of practice and the change in which connection are procured.</p> <p>FES is unaware of any outputs in which SPEN have set.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>FES is unaware of outputs set out by SPEN.</p>

provided reasonable justification?	
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?	<p>Yes, SPEN have allocated an allocated person where we have monthly meetings to raise any issues / opportunities relating to the connection process.</p> <p>Other DNO's hold engagement days where the ICP's meet the team that work within the connection process from the co-ordinators to the wayleave officers.</p> <p>It maybe worthwhile SPEN carrying out a similar exercise. FES feel this has been success as it allows the DNO and ICP to build a collaborative relationship.</p>
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?	Yes, On the current process model that FES applies which is SPEN carrying out poc locations, design approval and connection. FES has still to fully explore the self-determination and self-approve designs. Once FES implements this approach the delivery dates etc. shall need to be reviewed.
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.)?	FES requires to review the KPI set out by SPEN for the future.
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?	Not as yet, FES has still to be informed of SPEN's KPI for the future.
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?	FES has yet to explore consortium connections.
10. 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?	FES has yet to explore consortium connections.
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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?	FES has yet to explore consortium connections.
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?	FES has yet to explore consortium 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?	FES has yet to explore consortium connections.

Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas¹



¹ Image from Electricity Networks Association (ENA)