nationalgridESO

Grid Code Review Panel
Minutes: 26 November 2020

Grid Code Review Panel Minutes

Date:	26/11/2020	Location:	Microsoft Teams
Start:	10:00am	End:	14:00pm

Participants

Attendee	Initials	Company
Trisha McAuley	TM	Independent Panel Chair
Nisar Ahmed	NA	Code Administrator Representative
Kavita Patel	KP	Panel Technical Secretary (Code Administrator)
Alan Creighton	AC	Panel Member, Network Operator Representative
Alastair Frew	AF	Panel Member, Generator Representative
Christopher Smith	CS	Panel Member, Offshore Transmission Operator Representative
Damian Jackman	DJ	Panel Member, Generator Representative
Guy Nicholson	GN	Panel Member, Generator Representative
Gurpal Singh	GS	Authority Representative
Graeme Vincent	GV	Alternate, Network Operator Representative
Joseph Underwood	JU	Panel Member, Generator Representative
Nadir Hafeez	NH	Authority Representative
Jeremy Caplin	JC	BSC Panel Representative
Robert Longden	RL	Panel Member, Supplier Representative
Rob Wilson	RWi	Panel Member, National Grid ESO

nationalgrid ESO

| Richard Woodward | RWo | Alternate, Onshore Transmission Operator Representative |

Observers/Presenters

Attendee	Initials	Company
Bryan Rhodes	BR	Alternate, Offshore Transmission Operator Observer
Sigrid Bolik	SB	Alternate, Generator Observer
Louise Trodden	LT	National Grid ESO Presenter
Jennie Groome	JG	Code Administrator Presenter
Leon Walker	LW	National Grid ESO Presenter
John Walsh	JW	National Grid ESO Presenter

Apologies

Attendee	Initials	Company
Ross McGhin	RM	Panel Member, Onshore Transmission Operator
Steve Cox	SC	Panel Member, Network Operator Representative

1. Introductions and Apologies

8428. Apologies were received from Steve Cox.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

8429. The minutes from the Grid Code Panel meeting held on the 29 October 2020 will be approved via email circulation post Panel meeting.

8430. The Panel reviewed the actions log from the meeting held on 29 October 2020. Actions 375, 379,380 and 382 were closed as agreed by Panel. The actions log can be found **here.**

4. Chair update

8431. There were no updates from the Chair.

5. Authority decisions

8432. GS stated that Ofgem have, this month, published their decision on **GC0131** *'Quick Win' Improvements to Grid Code Open Governance Arrangements'*.

8433. NA advised Panel that the Code Administrator will implement Modification **GC0131** into the Grid Code on 26 November 2020. It was noted that a similar modification may be progressed for the CUSC.

8434. GS advised Panel that Ofgem are looking to make their decisions, for **GSR026** *'Adding Non- Standard Voltages to the SQSS'* and **GC0142** *'Adding Non-Standard Voltages to the Grid Code'* together in the second week of December.

8435. GS advised that Ofgem's normal Christmas moratorium will run from the 18 December 2020 to 3 January 2021 inclusive. The only decision they may have to make during the moratorium will be granting urgency for a new Brexit modification in the event that there is a 'deal'. In the event of 'no deal', then the current modification which (GC0121) is out for consultation will need Panel to undertake a self-governance decision vote at the special meeting being arranged in early January.

6. New modifications

8436. There were no new modifications submitted for November 2020.

7. In flight modification updates

8437. NA outlined the progress of the in-flight modifications where guidance was required from Panel in order to progress further.

GC0130 *'OC2 Change for simplifying 'output useable' data submission and utilising REMIT data.'*

8438. Panel was asked to provide any feedback on **GC0130** as per the presentation slides circulated pre-panel meeting.

8439. A RAG status was presented to Panel where the progress against each milestone was captured. Panel suggested providing an overall RAG status each month to highlight any risk to the implementation date.

8440. **ACTION** - The ESO took an action to provide Panel with an update on the implementation plan using the RAG status for modification **GC0130**.

8441. RL as an observation stated that although Ofgem have approved the amended implementation date of this modification, we need to ensure that lessons have been learnt and the right measures are put in place for recovery and to prevent a recurrence.

8442. RWi advised that various measures have been put in place with IS '**Information Systems**' to ensure better visibility of project progress and risks.

8443. RWo challenged the ESO representatives to ensure that no further delays to the IT deployment would prevent go-live for **GC0130**. RWo and RL in particularly sought reassurance that NG Teams and Code teams were aligned and managing this as a project.

8444. LT advised that steps have been taken to help **GC0130** stay on target, where meetings with IS are taking place more frequently to allow the right level of visibility of any risk at an early stage if things were not going to plan.

8445. NA provided Panel with an update on all upcoming workgroup meetings for GC '**Grid Code***,' CUSC '**Connection and use of System Code**s,' STC '**System operator and Transmission Owner Code**' and SQSS '**Security and Quality of Supply Standard'** for the next 3 months, which were in line with their prioritisation stacks.

8446. A few Panel members raised concerns around resource constraints and how this was having an impact on progress of various modifications. **GC0139** '***Enhanced Planning-Data Exchange to Facilitate Whole System Planning***' and **GC0138** '***Compliance process technical improvements (EU and GB User)*** **GC0141** '***Compliance Processes and Modelling amendments following 9th August Power Disruption***' were cited as being a few modifications where progress was being hampered by Code Administrator resources.

8447. NA advised Panel that Code Admin are reviewing each week to ensure balance has been provided across the team and codes - and constant monitoring of workload is in place due to holidays in December as meetings were being brought forward.

At this point, the Chair expressed her awareness of the ongoing issues raised regarding Code Admin resource and advised Panel that it has been raised with the senior ESO manager.

8448. RWo suggested having visibility on how cancellations of workgroup meetings are impacting on modifications where panel members are making decisions on the prioritisation stack.

8. Discussion on Prioritisation

The Panel reviewed the prioritisation stack. The updated Prioritisation Stack can be found via the Headline Report **here**.

8449. A few Panel members raised concerns around **GC0117** '***Improving transparency and consistency of access arrangements across GB by the creation of a pan-GB commonality of PGM requirements***' and **GC0137** '***Minimum Specification Required for Provision of Virtual Synchronous Machine (VSM) Capability***' which should be strategic priorities but are not progressing due to their position in the prioritisation stack.

8450. RWo challenged his fellow Panel members to ensure that prioritisation decisions were provided with rationale, particularly in respect of the prioritisation and/or applicable objectives criteria. He also raised concerns that as the Code Administrator resource covers workgroups for multiple codes, that CUSC didn't excessively bias the available workgroup scheduling time each month at the detriment of Grid Code.

At this point, the Chair expressed her awareness and assured Panel that the CUSC Panel has been made aware that, following the near-completion of the TCR-related CUSC Modifications, Grid Code modifications are currently taking priority. RL raised a point on how Code Admin are planning to function in the future and how the level of resource going into RIIO 2 (***Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs***) could be enhanced.

9. Blockers to Modification progress (February, May, August, November)

The Panel was presented with the blockers to modification progress slide:

Blocker Code	Count	Sept 2020 Mods affected	Count	Oct 2020 Mods affected	Count	Nov 2020 Mods affected	Comments

Quoracy	**0**		**2**	GC0146 GC0144	0		GC0146 – need additional two workgroup members to be quorate. Only 3 workgroup members secured during nominations. GC0144 – short of one workgroup member.
Prioritisation	**2**	GC0137 GC0117	**2**	GC0137 GC0117	**2**	GC0137 GC0138/141	GC0137 - New modifications received higher priority at Panel. However, work has been done in the background through active workgroup members. GC0138/141 down capacity due to other modifications taking priority.
ESO delay	**1**	GC0126	**1**	GC0126	**1**	GC0126	GC0126 – The implementation timeline has been delayed due to Covid-19 complications; implementation is currently targeted in December 2021.
CA delay	**1**	GC0136	**1**	GC0136	**1**	GC0136	GC0136 Implementation deferred following conversion issues for legal text. Is being reissued for another CAC hence further delay in implementation.
Industry delay	**0**		**0**		**0**		
Legal issues	**0**		**0**		**1**	GC0142	GC0142 Resulted in a send back due to additional work required in the Legal Text. A special Panel meeting took place on the 16 November for a recommendation vote.
Ofgem send back	**1**	GC0133	**1**	GC0142	**0**		GC0133 – GC0142 resulted in send backs.

10. Workgroup Reports

8428. There were no Workgroup reports presented to Panel.

11. Draft Modification Reports (DFMRs)

8429. There were no Draft Final Modification Reports presented to Panel.

12. Reports to Authority

8430. NA advised Panel that the Final Modification Report for **GC0142** '***Adding Non-Standard Voltages to the Grid Code****'* was issued to Ofgem on 19 November 2020 following the recommendation vote at the Special Panel meeting held on 16 November 2020.

13. Implementation updates

8431. NA advised Panel that modification **GC0131** "***Quick Win' Improvements to Grid Code Open Governance Arrangements****'* will be implemented on 26 November 2020 by the Code Administrator.

8432. RWo asked NA if **GC0131** now helps alleviate any Quoracy blockers previously highlighted to Panel, to which NA advised it will help. A new requirement is for workgroups to have a minimum of 3 members and not 5.

At this point the chair advised that Code Admin will investigate inflight modifications from here onwards and how workgroups will now progress with the quoracy blocker alleviated.

14. Electrical Standards

Extension of Communications Standard to include Wider access API

8433. LW/JW delivered a presentation to Panel and explained what 'wider access API' entailed in the Communications Standard. LW listed all the drivers for the wider access initiatives which looks at removing barriers to entry:

- *Improving existing routes to market*

- *Developing new, more cost-effective routes to market*

- *Enhancing IT systems*

8434. The goal remains to ensure that the BM '***Balancing Mechanism***' is open to all technologies and facilitates increased competition in the BM market which will help drive down cost for consumers.

8435. JW advised Panel on the updates which have been made to the Communications Standard to incorporate API which will be a cheaper and easier way to meet the communications requirements on participants in the BM. An additional section to cover the use of the API and a few recommendations to thresholds for the use of internet services have been made in a table on page 6 of the communications standard.

8436. LW advised Panel that the process to amend the standard as set out in GC.11.3 will be followed, so the revised standard will be circulated for comment for a period of 20 days following which it will either be agreed or the next steps in the process followed.

8437. AF asked the presenters if this is for new or existing participants, to which LW stated that the intention is that it is applied to new participants, and for existing participants to upgrade their technology over time as they wish.

8438. AF also asked if the remit implications have been considered for certain dynamic parameters which are moving from EDL to EDT. JW advised that this has not been picked up and will be investigated.

8439. CS asked the presenters if this will affect all users to which LW advised that API is an optional way of meeting the standard.

8440. NA advised that Panel now has 20 working days to provide any comments or any objections to this Electrical Standard being implemented and the changes adopted.

15. Governance

Approval of Terms of reference post workgroup meeting - **GC0109** '***The open, transparent, non-discriminatory and timely publication of the various GB electricity Warnings or Notices or Alerts or Declarations or Instructions or Directions etc., issued by or to the Network Operator(s)***'

8441. Panel was advised that **GC0109** was issued for workgroup consultation on the 25 November 2020 and will close on the 16 December 2020.

8442. Panel was advised of the two proposed changes to the Terms of Reference.

1. Clarifying what the supporting document is, and
2. More importantly, ensuring the reasons for the send back decision on **GC0133** '***Timely informing of the GB NETS System State condition***' are considered specifically in terms of the benefits of sharing the system warnings to market participants and stakeholders.

8443. RL was concerned that the consultation had been sent out already and that, if revised Terms of Reference are added, then this will not be reflected in the consultation. RWi stated that a question had been proposed to be added to the workgroup consultation addressing the GC0133 send-back but that this had been rejected by the Proposer.

8444. It was confirmed that the ToR can be changed after the consultation has been issued. The Panel will ultimately need to consider if Ofgem has received all the information that it needs to make a decision on the mod.

8445. RWo reflected back to **GC0133** *'Timely informing of the GB NETS System State condition'* where the Panel agreed that the proposed Terms of Reference didn't sufficiently address the explicit requirements stipulated by Ofgem which then resulted in a send back.

8446. **DECISION** – The Panel agreed approval of the Terms of Reference for **GC0109**.

16. Grid Code Development Forum (GCDF)

8447. NA advised Panel that GCDF took place on the 04 November where Garth Graham delivered a presentation on **GC0133** '*Timely informing of the GB NETS System State condition.'*

8448. The December GCDF was brought forward into November but was cancelled due to no agenda items for discussion being proposed.

17. Standing Groups

Distribution Code Panel Update

8449. There were no new updates.

Joint European Stakeholder Group (JESG)

8450. KP advised Panel that the JESG meeting due on the 13 October 2020 was cancelled.

8451. KP advised Panel that the next JESG meeting will be held on 08 December 2020. Link below:
https://www.nationalgrideso.com/industry-information/codes/european-network-codes

18. Updates on other Industry Codes

8452. JC advised Panel that the subsequent changes made to **GC0130** have been backed out of the November system release and Elexon are awaiting test files from ESO '*Electricity System Operator*' so a new system can be developed for February.

19. Horizon Scan (*February, May, August, November*)

8453. NA presented to Panel the quarterly update on the Horizon scan which gave a pipeline of potential future modifications for the next few years.

8454. DJ asked for an explanation on what 'whole system technical code digitisation' meant.

8455. RWi advised that the 'whole system technical code digitisation' is one of the RIIO T2 deliverables which is subject to Ofgem's determination on this, but it's included as one of the future items of work that is within RIIO T2 which ESO are seeking to deliver. There are two parts to this deliverable, being the potential creation of a whole system combined Grid Code and Distribution Code and their digitalisation for all users.

8456. The Chair advised that Gareth Davies had previously presented this to the Panel. CS advised NA to remove 'HDVC Data Modules' from the Horizon scan, as this will be looked into further on the back of **GC0138** '*Compliance process technical improvements EU and GB User*' and **GC0141** '*Compliance Processes and Modelling amendments following 9th August Power Disruption.'*
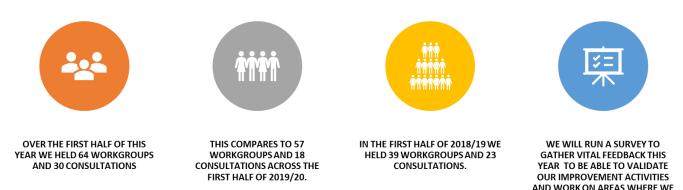
8457. AC raised concerns on why **GC0117** '*Improving transparency and consistency of access arrangements across GB by the creation of a pan-GB commonality of PGM requirements'* was on the Horizon scan.

8458. RWi advised AC that **GC0117** has not been actively progressed and it is planned to progress the work in 2021. Having this on the Horizon scan will help drive those conversations.

20. Forward Plan Update

8459. NA advised Panel that, due to Ofgem not having a **CACoP** '*Code Administrators Code of Practice'* survey this year, Code Admin will not be able to measure the delta in the improvements which have been made.

8460. In 2019 NA advised Panel that the Code Admin team received disappointing results in the **CACoP** survey, and a result the team undertaken various improvement activities. The Code Admin team have decided to carry out their own survey for 2020 as they feel it's important that they continue to listen to stakeholders' feedback.

8461. NA provided Panel with the 3 key themes which came out of the 2019 **CACoP** survey.

   1. **Reduced industry resource** – the survey saw a decrease of resource across industry which in turn meant that Code Administrators would need to provide better communications and a tailored service.

   2. **ESO Code Governance seen to not be acting independently** – the data didn't tell us if this was a conflict of interest between ESO & NGET or conflicts within the role of ESO. We felt for either of those, transparency was key in helping industry to see why & how decisions would be made.

8462. **Website improvements** – feedback told us our web pages were out of date or information was difficult to find. We pledged to make changes to improve our stakeholders' experience

8463. NA advised Panel that based on the feedback received, the Code Admin team have put together a list of improvements:

Stakeholders told us:	We responded by:
Website needed major improvement	Engaging with an external agency and our comms team to overhaul all code admin web pages.
Our documents such as reports or proposal forms were repetitive, lengthy and hard to navigate	Redesigning all documents by engaging with stakeholders in a consultative approach. The team did Plain English training and a course to help improve the style of writing in the reports.
We could do more in our role as Critical Friend	We have a robust process in place now to ensure we fulfil this role, supported by our updated and improved documents and training.
Information for industry as a whole could be better	We realised that along with increased numbers of modifications, more new entrants to industry had been engaging with us. We revamped all of our information that might be helpful to new parties wishing to get involved with code change.
Communications could be better	We have overhauled our comms to industry so it is now consistent in its appearance and style. We ensure that all important updates are communicated in this way regularly to our distribution list.

Next   steps:

OVER THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR WE HELD 64 WORKGROUPS AND 30 CONSULTATIONS

THIS COMPARES TO 57 WORKGROUPS AND 18 CONSULTATIONS ACROSS THE FIRST HALF OF 2019/20.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2018/19 WE HELD 39 WORKGROUPS AND 23 CONSULTATIONS.

WE WILL RUN A SURVEY TO GATHER VITAL FEEDBACK THIS YEAR TO BE ABLE TO VALIDATE OUR IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES AND WORK ON AREAS WHERE WE CAN STILL DO BETTER.

8464. RWo stated to Panel that the critical friend role of the Code Administrator is very much valued in delivering modifications.

The Chair expressed her feedback on the support that has been received from the Code Administrator team and how seeking of continuous improvement has driven many changes to support the work of the Grid Code Panel.

21. Any Other Business (AOB)

Consumer Benefit Analysis Guidance update

The Chair introduced this item which was for the Panel's information and not decision.

8465. JG delivered a presentation on the new proposal form and updated Panel with an update on the Consumer Benefit section. This is in line with the discussions which took place at the CACoP forum. CACoP have put forward a recommendation for what the consumer benefits section should look like. The Panel was presented with the new template.

8466. RL supports the inclusion of the new section to the proposal forms but feels that stakeholders who are going through this process understand that this is additional to the main basis on which proposals are put forward.

8467. TM advised that this is additional guidance for those filling in the forms and that there is no change to the Code Process itself.

8468. AC raised a concern that the 'identified impact' criteria which relate to stakeholder/consumer benefits didn't align with the stakeholder/consumer benefits in the prioritisation stack spreadsheet. He highlighted that the proposer may take a more positive view on their proposal if 'positive' was selected on the proposal form knowing that Panel may look at this more favorably when prioratising.

8469. JU feels that this new addition to the form will add an extra, onerous layer to the proposal form.

8470. RWo, stated that he was very supportive of the new recommendation from CACoP. He also stated that the onus should lie with the proposer to consider the wider benefits as the rationale is to be provided by the proposer which the Panel can either agree to or disagree.

8471. JU asked JG, if harmonisation was to take place across all codes then is this recommendation being put forward to ElectraLink of the DCUSA or Elexon of the BSC to which JG replied in the affirmative.

8472. NA advised all feedback which Panel has suggested will be taken to CACoP for them to review.

8473. GS advised Panel of the consultation which was being published on 27 November 2020 by Ofgem. This will mark the end to the Brexit transition period to license changes. A decision will be published in January 2021 which will then ensure that all of Ofgem's licence is fit for purpose. The consultation will cover the changes needed to the licences in terms of the transition from EU legislation to SI or GP pieces of legislation.

General discussion on impacts of coronavirus outbreak (ALL)

8474. There were no further updates from the Grid Code Panel.

The next Grid Code Review Panel meeting will be held on 17 December 2020 at 10:00 via Microsoft Teams.

New Modification Proposals to be submitted by 02 December 2020.

Grid Code Review Panel Papers Day is 09 December 2020.