

# Grid Code Review Panel

## Minutes: 25 January 2021

### Grid Code Review Panel Minutes

<b>Date:</b> 25/01/2021	<b>Location:</b> Microsoft Teams
<b>Start:</b> 10:00am	<b>End:</b> 14:00pm

### Participants

Attendee	Initials	Company
Trisha McAuley	TM	Independent Panel Chair
Joseph Henry	JH	Code Administrator Representative (Alternate)
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
Gurpal Singh	GS	Authority Representative
Graeme Vincent	GV	Alternate, Network Operator Representative
John Harrower	JH	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
Roddy Wilson	RW	Panel Member, Onshore Transmission Operator Representative
Sigrid Bolik	SB	Panel Member, Generator Representative

## Observers/Presenters

Attendee	Initials	Company
James Daniels	JD	Presenter (for GC0130 update).
Phil Smith	PS	Observer/presenter (for GC0130 and Brexit update).
Ross Kirkwood	RK	Observer

## Apologies

Attendee	Initials	Company
Steve Cox	SC	Panel Member, Network Operator Representative
Guy Nicholson	GN	Panel Member, Generator Representative

### 1. Introductions and Apologies

8516. Apologies were received from Steve Cox and Guy Nicholson.

### 2. Minutes from previous meeting

8517. Subject to the incorporation of minor amendments proposed by AC, the minutes from the Grid Code Panel meeting held on the 17 December 2020 were approved.

### 3. Review of actions log

8518. The Panel reviewed the actions log from the meeting held on 17 December 2020. Actions **381, 386, 387** were closed as agreed by Panel. The actions log can be found [here](#).

### 4. Chair's update

8519. The Chair advised Panel that Michael Gibbons, Chair of the BSC (*Balancing and Settlement Code*) Panel had attended the CUSC (*Connection and Use of System Code*) Panel, together with JC, in the interest of understanding what others are doing to help increase collaboration where it may be required across codes. TM also advised that she planned to attend a future BSC Panel meeting.

### 5. Authority decisions

8520. There was no update from the Authority.

### 6. New modifications

8521. There were no new modifications submitted in January 2021.

### 7. In flight modification updates

8522. JH outlined the progress of the in-flight modifications where guidance was required from Panel in order to progress further.

**GC0121** *'Grid Code changes in the event the UK leaves the EU without an agreement'*

8523. The ESO (*Electricity System Operator*) stated, having withdrawn support for the 'no deal' modification, that a new modification would be developed to make any changes necessary as a result of the 'deal'. However, the details of what this would require were not yet clear. The ESO are speaking to Ofgem and BEIS (*Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy*) to gain a clearer view on what is required.
8524. BEIS are due to raise several pieces of Brexit-related legislation over the coming months and, until the ESO have more clarity on this, they can't confirm if the required legal text changes are any different to what they were in the previous no deal mods.
8525. As no other support for the modification had been received, the proposer requested to Panel that this modification should be officially withdrawn by the Panel.
8526. **DECISION:** Panel approved that modification **GC0121** be withdrawn.

**GC0130** *'Update on progress of IS solution towards 02 February 2021 implementation date'* James Daniels (ESO)

8527. JH explained that, as had been outlined in a 20 January 2021 letter to Panel, completion of the IS solution for **GC0130** by the implementation date of 02 February 2021 was now at risk. Prior to the meeting, Panel had approved a revised implementation date of 18 March 2021 for **GC0130**.
8528. A letter to Ofgem was submitted on 22 January 2021 for approval of the new requested implementation date of the 18 March 2021.
8529. JC also advised Panel that a similar letter requesting extension to implementation for **P408** was sent to Ofgem and that Elexon are working closely with ESO.
8530. GS from Ofgem advised Panel that a decision is looking to be made, by 29 January 2021, for **GC0130** and **P408**.
8531. JD gave an update to Panel on the reasons why the ESO was seeking an extension on the implementation. Three main components were highlighted: **System Integration Test completion, User Acceptance Test completion** and **End to End integration with Elexon – completion**, all of which were impacted by a delay in testing due to system alignment issues.
8532. Panel was assured of the additional controls which have been put in place to ensure delivery is completed by 18 March 2021. Test windows will be extended to allow a full second pass of scripts that are unsuccessful, with additional contingency for defect resolution. Escalations are in place to director level within the ESO and additional senior technical resources have joined the project. Escalation routes are open with ESO CIO (Norma Dove Edwin) and Kayte O'Neill (ESO Head of Markets).
8533. JD assured Panel on the lessons learnt for future projects with Delivery Models being adapted to a more product centric / continuous agile delivery approach, to de-risk large system replacement projects. Integrated plans and roadmaps are also being developed for RII0-2 (*Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs*) to ensure delivery across ESO

IT delivery towers and partners, and to provide increased visibility of regulatory commitments.

8534. TM at this point sought governance advice from Code Admin on whether works can still progress while an Authority decision is still pending.
8535. RWi stated that works will need to continue in advance of an Ofgem decision but that, if approval is not granted, then there will likely be a compliance issue.
8536. RL suggested having an external audit to see if there was anything else that could have been done to mitigate the events and learn lessons for future projects. JD advised RL that this is something they are looking into and that a full lesson learnt review will be taking place.
8537. AF raised concerns around communications being sent out to the industry and how to tell customers that they need to continue with the current arrangements, as no formal agreement from Ofgem had yet been received. At this point, JD advised AF that communications were sent out on 22 January to advise industry of the requested change but that he would ensure that further, timely communication takes place.
8538. **ACTION:** JD to provide further communications for Code Admin to add to the headline report to help stakeholders understand that **GC0130** is awaiting an Authority decision and that the current arrangements will need to continue until further notice. Post meeting note: This was actioned in the headline report.
8539. **ACTION:** JD to confirm if all customers have been updated

**GC0109** *'Publication of the various GB electricity Warnings or Notices or Alerts or Declarations or Instructions or Directions etc. ("System Warning Alerts") issued by or to the Network Operator(s).'*

8540. JH advised Panel that the **GC0109** workgroup report will be presented to Panel at the February 2021 Grid Code Review Panel meeting for Panel to confirm if the Terms of Reference have been met.

**GC0145** *'Updating the Grid Code to include the Manually Activated Reserve Initiative MARI'*

8541. JH advised the Panel that the **UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement** (published on 24 December 2020) does not mention European Balancing Services, which means that there is uncertainty around whether GB can participate in MARI.
8542. He provided an update to Panel on the challenges of progressing the modification, given this uncertainty. Workgroup members have fed back that, because of this uncertainty, there is not enough information to have informed opinions. It has also now been deemed low priority for many workgroup members.
8543. The Workgroup Consultation draft had been created based on known information at the time and had been sent to the Workgroup for review. This had been due to be issued prior to Christmas. However, the decision was made to postpone it to January to wait for more information about the EU Trade Deal.

8544. Workgroup meeting had been scheduled for 13 January 2021 to review the Workgroup Consultation documents. However, the ESO and Elexon proposed to hold off rescheduling the next workgroup until more detail is known about GB participation in MARI. It was also proposed to send a link to the material completed to date (e.g. the MARI reference document, workgroup slides, draft consultation document etc.). The ESO did engage with Ofgem before cancelling the Workgroup meeting and advised that Ofgem was supportive of this approach as it would make the best use of industry time.
8545. Panel was therefore requested to provide their views on next steps for **GC0145**: on whether it should be placed on hold immediately or whether a final Workgroup meeting to tie off loose ends and get it into a good place to be paused could be sensible.
8546. The general consensus from Panel was to put **GC0145** on hold and to communicate this to Workgroup members, and in conjunction with Elexon.
8547. **ACTION:** Chair of **GC0145** to provide concise communication to all members to put modification on hold as per Panel advice as well as getting workgroup materials into a good place so that the modification could be resumed efficiently in due course in the future.

## 8. Discussion on Prioritisation

The Panel reviewed the prioritisation stack. The updated Prioritisation Stack can be found via the Headline Report [here](#).

The following modifications were discussed as, in the Panel's view, they have strategic priorities but are not sufficiently progressing due to their position in the prioritisation stack:

**GC0117** '*Improving transparency and consistency of access arrangements across GB by the creation of a pan-GB commonality of PGM requirements*';

**GC0137** '*Minimum Specification Required for Provision of Virtual Synchronous Machine (VSM) Capability*'; and

**GC0148** '*Implementation of EU Emergency and Restoration Code Phase II.*'

8548. It was agreed that **GC0137** was of increasing importance as feasibility studies are to be completed by February 2021 for the Stability Path Finder 2 Works.
8549. AC suggested that, as **GC0148** is due by a deadline of Dec 2022, then **GC0117** should take its place. RWi agreed, from an ESO perspective, as **GC0117** is the most important modification in the stack strategically.
8550. It was agreed that some modifications still need to be higher on the priority stack to progress, especially those close to completion which should not be moved down the stack.
8551. AF stated that a number of current modifications are coming to an end or require a Code Admin Consultation, therefore no changes should be made to the prioritisation stack, but that additional capacity was anticipated.
8552. **DECISION** - Panel agreed to move **GC0117** up one space above **GC0148** as **GC0148** doesn't need to progress as urgently.



8553. Following the prioritization decisions, SB raised concerns around **GC0146** not being progressed, and outlined its relevance to offshore windfarm costings. The modification had been raised due to the costs being incurred for SCADA (*Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition*) equipment in the current round of connections and this has a material impact for generators.
8554. TM advised SB to bring more detail on the prioritization of modification **GC0146** to the February Grid Code Review Panel and she asked Panel members to take some time to review this modification ahead of the meeting.

## 09. Workgroup Reports

There were two Workgroup reports presented to Panel.

### **GC0147** '*Last resort disconnection of Embedded Generation enduring solution*'

8555. TM provided feedback on the consultation summary and that it was not clear which modification the summary was referring to in every instance (between **GC0147** and the temporary solution **GC0143** which this replaces). She asked that this be rectified for the Code Administrator Consultation.
8556. Panel fed back that, given the likely volume of responses to this consultation, they wished to see them as they came in, or at least well in advance of the next panel meeting. RWi confirmed that, with the consultation planned to run from 28 January 2021 – 28 February 2021, there would be a good window before submission of material to the March panel meeting, at which it is planned to present the DFMR.
8557. **ACTION:** Code Admin to send all non-confidential consultation responses to Panel and Workgroup members directly, so they don't have to wait for the Code Admin summary. This would, however, just be to allow panel to read them and should not lead to parallel discussions that could disrupt the governance process.
8558. AF raised a question around a few of the WAGCMs which cover compensation to be provided as per arrangements in the CUSC and DCUSA as he was unable to identify if compensation was within the scope of Grid Code.
8559. RWi clarified that compensation is not within the scope of the Grid Code so it does not appear in the legal text for **GC0147**, but that the alternatives do include different routes to compensation, even if not directly through the Grid Code, by linking this to work that would be required elsewhere.
8560. AF also mentioned that further clarification on WAGCM 2 was needed as it referred to, 'asking the Panel to decide.'
8561. RWi stated that the key concern for Generators was that the **GC0147** solution would not just be used as a last resort but would happen more regularly. WAGCM 2 had been raised by RWi to refer the issue to Panel if more than one use was made of the 'last resort' option in a rolling 12-month period, in order to gain Panel's opinion on whether compensation arrangements needed then to be progressed. It also required data to be captured for the second, and any subsequent, event so that they could be included retrospectively in any arrangements that then developed.

8562. GS noted that WAGCMs 1-3 relate to compensation and WAGMSs 4 – 7 link implementations of the last resort option to be only where commercial mechanisms are to be exhausted first (such as ODFM (*Optional Downward Flexibility Management*)) and have been put in place.

8563. RWi advised that all the WAGCMs maintain the same general mechanism for the modification, but with WAGGM 1-2 clauses amended to either make it contingent upon ODFM, or similar, being in place or to address the issue of compensation and capture of data.

8564. Panel was asked to agree whether the **GC0147** Workgroup has met its Terms of Reference and if it could proceed to Code Admin Consultation.

8565. **DECISION:** Panel unanimously agreed that the **GC0147** Terms of Reference had been met.

8566. **DECISION:** Panel unanimously agreed that **GC0147** could proceed to Code Admin Consultation.

#### **GC0144 'Alignment of Market Suspension Rights to the EU Emergency and Restoration Code Article 35.1(b)'**

8567. TM noted the legal text amendments proposed by AC and GV.

8568. RWi recommended, and the Panel agreed, to send this modification back to the workgroup offline to address the proposed legal text changes, before re-circulation to the Panel for offline approval to proceed to Code Admin Consultation.

8569. **ACTION:** **GC0144** to be circulated to Panel offline for approval once reviewed by the workgroup.

8570. **DECISION:** Panel unanimously agreed that the **GC0144** Workgroup had met its Terms of Reference and that it could proceed to Code Admin Consultation on the condition that the remaining comments on the legal text were dealt with as noted.

## **10. Draft Self-Governance Report**

One Draft Self-Governance Modification Report was presented to Panel.

#### **GC0136 'Non-material changes to the Grid Code following implementation of the EU Connection Codes'**

8571. JH provided an update to Panel with a presentation on **GC0136**.

8572. Prior to the meeting, a few members had raised concerns around the Annexes as they had found it difficult to identify which versions of the Annexes are relevant. JH clarified that the correct Annexes had since been uploaded to the website and sent to the Panel members prior to the meeting.

8573. The Panel undertook its vote. 8 members supported making the modification and approved the original solution. Therefore, the Panel's self-governance decision was made to implement the modification.

8574. **Next steps:** Panel would have 5 working days to review their votes and then the Appeals Window will open on the 05 February 2021.
8575. AC enquired that, given that every part of the code was being updated, whether it would be more appropriate to produce a new issue of the Grid Code (rather than a revision to the current issue).
8576. TM advised Code Admin to take this offline and provide clarity back to Panel.
8577. **ACTION:** Code Admin to advise Panel whether **GC0136** would be implemented as a new issue or a revision of the Grid Code.

## 11. Reports to Authority

8578. There were no reports to the Authority.

## 12. Implementation updates

8579. JH advised Panel that modification [GC0142](#) '**Adding Non-Standard Voltages to the Grid Code**' had been implemented on 24 December 2020.

## 13. Governance

8580. There were no updates on Governance.

## 14. Grid Code Development Forum (GCDF)

8581. JH advised Panel that due to no content being provided for the January GCDF, a cancellation email would shortly be sent out to industry.
8582. RWi advised that the ESO will discuss the Frequency Risk Control Report at the SQSS (*Security and Quality of Supply Standard*) panel on 29 January 2021 but not at the upcoming GCDF slot, although a consultation on the FRCR (*Frequency Risk and Control Report*) will be held in Feb-March.

## 15. Standing Groups

### Distribution Code Review Panel Update

8583. There were no updates on DCRP as there has been no meeting since the December Grid Code Review Panel meeting

### Joint European Stakeholder Group ([JESG](#))

The Panel noted the update provided in the papers.

8584. JH advised Panel that the next JESG meeting will be held on 09 February 2021.

## 16. Updates on other Industry Codes

8585. There were no updates.

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

8586. This is a quarterly update.

## 18. Horizon Scan (February, May, August, November)

8587. There were no updates.

## 19. Electrical Standards



## Extension of Communications Standard to include Wider access API

8588. There were no updates.

## 20. Forward Plan Update

- 8589. JH provided Panel with an update on Code Admin's Critical Friend activity. It was noted by RL that CUSC and GC proposal forms were more complete and ready to go over the last few months since the critical friend work had been done by Code Admin.
- 8590. Questions around how resources in Code Admin are prioritised between CUSC and Grid Code modifications were raised.
- 8591. JH advised that the Code Administrator holistically looks across the team's capacity and tries to prioritise modifications based on their positions within the prioritisation stacks and divide resources equally where they can, while work on Significant Code Reviews and Urgent modifications will take precedence on the direction of the Authority.

## 21. Any Other Business (AOB)

- 8592. On process, TM asked Panel members, in the interest of ensuring the best informed debate, to advise herself and Code Admin in the first instance whenever they want to discuss any item in System Incidents Report, and before seeking the collective Panel view.
- 8593. JC stated that the trip of the Western Link on 25 October (Event 20201025-1) seemed to bear a lot of similarity to the incident on 9 August 2019, hence his request for the briefing on the System Incidents report. A voltage dip due to a fault on a transmission line caused a local large power station to trip (in this case Hunterston B nuclear power station) as well as more remote wind farms (Crystal Rig on the east coast of Scotland) and took off embedded generation. He stated that, had Hunterston been at full load (around 1200 MW), then the event could have been as big as the 9 August 2019 event.
- 8594. RWi agreed but noted that it was an unusual event since it wasn't a loss of infeed, although a consequence was that it caused loss of infeed through tripping of embedded generation.
- 8595. TM suggested that, as a short briefing note had been circulated to provide some visibility of the incident that took place on the 25 October, Jeno Abraham (ESO) will be invited to the February GCRP to enable a deeper dive on the issues and address any questions Panel wishes to raise. JH advised Panel that if further queries and concerns are raised then to contact Code Admin in the first instance.
- 8596. **ACTION:** Code Admin to invite Jeno Abraham (ESO) to next month's GCRP to talk through the 25 October 2020 incident.
- 8597. **ACTION:** Panel Members to send any questions on the incident to Code Admin to in order to ensure they are addressed by the ESO at the February Panel meeting.
- 8598. GS sought Panel's view on whether there was any industry appetite for the Authority to undertake, in 2021, the annual CACOP cross-code survey which helps monitor and assess the GB Code Administrators' performance.

8599. He reminded the Panel that this survey is part of the Code Governance Framework which was put in place in 2016 to help monitor and assess the Code Admin function.

8600. JH stated that Code Admin recently undertook an independent survey which is ongoing, and that all results will be shared with Panel in due course.

8601. NH added that, although the ESO and Elexon may carry out their own surveys, they are not cross-code comparisons.

8602. RWi, as part of AOB, advised Panel for information only in relation to GC0147, that the '**Optional Downwards Flexibility Management**' (ODFM) service which was put in place in 2020 was going to be progressed again for 2021. In the ESO's view, it was unlikely to be required but would be an effective insurance policy. RWi noted to panel that it was likely that a consultation on this (under EBGL Art 18 rules) would commence in February before the next panel meeting. RL noted that this would likely make progressing GC0147 easier.

The Chair and Panel expressed their sincere thanks to Joe Henry for all his work in managing the GRCP elections, the new panel induction and for covering the work of the Panel in January.

**The next Grid Code Review Panel meeting will be held on 25 February 2021 at 10:00 via Microsoft Teams.**

**New Modification Proposals to be submitted by 10 February 2021.**

**Grid Code Review Panel Papers Day is 17 February 2021.**