



**Connections strategic change & impact to CUSC
Meeting #7**

11th December 2023



Introduction



CMP427 – CISG Subgroup

CMP427

Context



The Connections Action Plan (DESNZ and Ofgem) put an action on the ESO to raise a modification to codify the Landowner LoA requirement for new Onshore Transmission Connection Applications, in order to raise entry requirements.



The action plan asked for this modification to be raised by “Q1 2024 or sooner”, and Ofgem expect the FMR to be with them by March.



The ESO plan to raise this modification to the CUSC (P427) at CUSC Panel on 15 December 2023



The ESO will seek to raise this modification on an Urgent Basis to expedite the process

What does the modification propose (1)?

- The LoA will provide confirmation that either: a) the project developer has formally engaged in discussions with the landowner(s) in respect of the rights needed to enable the construction of the project on their land (it will not require evidence at that stage that the rights have been granted though this will be required as part of the evidence for milestone M3 “Secure Land Rights” within the Queue Management process introduced under CMP376). b) demonstrate that the project developer is the landowner(s).
- This evidence is in addition to the current criteria required for the ESO to treat an Onshore Transmission Connection Application as effective (referred to as “clock start”). The current criteria for an application to become effective is noted in Exhibit B of the CUSC and includes the completion and submission of the following: (i) an application form (ii) the Data Registration Code template and (iii) payment of an application fee.

What does the modification propose (2)?

- This modification proposes that a template is produced by the ESO, which will be attached to the connection application proforma for the Onshore Transmission Connections Applicants to specify the type of engagement that has occurred in relation to (a) or (b), as mentioned on previous slide.
- This will provide consistency in the documentation submitted and further assist applicants to provide the relevant details to satisfy this requirement. It will also mitigate against potential delays to project developers' applications clock start dates due to insufficient or unclear information being provided and the need to revisit the application. The application will not be declared effective until the LoA has been confirmed to be satisfactory by the ESO.

What does the modification propose (3)?

- Further consideration of strengthening the scope of the LoA approach will be considered at a later date. This may include feasibility and suitability of applying the LoA to Offshore Transmission Connection Applications, Modification Applications and a process for duplication checks.

Timelines



- Nominations to open post CUSC Panel
- Urgency requested from CUSC Panel and Ofgem
- Non Urgent timeline will be confirmed if Urgency is not granted

We will be looking for workgroup members to join to aid the development of the solution. CISG connections subgroup members are well placed to help.

Urgency Criteria

Ofgem's current guidance states that an urgent modification should be linked to an imminent issue or a current issue that if not urgently addressed may cause:

- A significant commercial impact on parties, consumers or other stakeholder(s); or
- A significant impact on the safety and security of the electricity and/or gas systems; or
- A party to be in breach of any relevant legal requirements.

This modification has approached this from a commercial and consumer angle.

Feedback

- Do you have any feedback on the proposal?
- Are there other elements for the ESO to consider?

NB – We will not be going through the proposal on a line by line basis – development of solution will be undertaken in workgroup.

Next steps & Close

