

# Consultation

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## **Notice of Statutory Consultation on a proposal to modify the standard licence conditions of the electricity licence that we are minded to grant to Sphere Energy Connect Limited**

Publication date:	8 September 2025
Response deadline:	8 October 2025
Contact:	Martin Nelson
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We are consulting on proposals to modify the standard conditions of the electricity licence that we are minded to grant to Sphere Energy Connect Limited (SC814857). We would like views from people with an interest in electricity distribution. We particularly welcome responses from those who are Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNOs). We would also welcome responses from other stakeholders and the public.

This document outlines the scope, purpose and questions of the consultation and how you can get involved. Once the consultation is closed, we will consider all responses.

We want to be transparent in our consultations. We will publish the non-confidential responses we receive alongside a decision on next steps on our website at [ofgem.gov.uk/consultations](https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/consultations). If you want your response – in whole or in part – to be considered confidential, please tell us in your response and explain why. Please clearly mark the parts of your response that you consider to be confidential, and if possible, put the confidential material in separate appendices to your response.

**Consultation** – Notice of Statutory Consultation on a proposal to modify the standard licence conditions of the electricity licence that we are minded to grant to Sphere Energy Connect Limited

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## Contents

Background .....	4
What are we consulting on .....	4
Next steps .....	5
<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Appendix 1 – Amended standard conditions particular to this licence</b>	
<b>section BA. Specific.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Standard Condition BA1. Not used .....	7
Standard Condition BA2. Regulation of charging arrangements .....	7
Standard Condition BA3. Credit Rating of Licensee .....	10
Standard Condition BA4. Indebtedness .....	11
Standard Condition BA5. Valid Bad Debt Claims.....	16
<b>Appendix 2 - Proportion of recoverable bad debt in respect of use of</b>	
<b>system charges overdue for payment at the date of the Defaulting</b>	
<b>Electricity Supplier's .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix 3 – Your response, data and confidentiality .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Consultation stages.....	21
How to respond .....	21
Your response, your data and confidentiality .....	22
General feedback.....	22
How to track the progress of the consultation .....	23
<b>Appendix 4 – Privacy notice on consultations .....</b>	<b>24</b>
Personal data .....	24

## **Background**

- 1.1 On 28 March 2025 the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority ('the Authority')<sup>1</sup> received an application from Sphere Energy Connect Limited (SC814857) for an electricity distribution licence ('the Licence') under section 6(1)(c) of the Electricity Act 1989 ('the Act').

## **What are we consulting on**

- 1.2 Under section 8A(2) of the Act, we propose to modify the standard conditions of the Licence, which we are minded to grant to Sphere Energy Connect Limited by removing the entire of Section B (Additional Standard Conditions for Electricity Distributors who are Distribution Services Providers).
- 1.3 We also propose to insert into the Licence a new Section BA to include the following amended standard conditions:
- (a) Standard Licence Condition BA1. Not used;
  - (b) Standard Licence Condition BA2. Regulation of charging arrangements;
  - (c) Standard Licence Condition BA3. Credit Rating of Licensee-
  - (d) Standard Licence Condition BA4. Indebtedness; and
  - (e) Standard Licence Condition BA5. Valid Bad Debt Claims
- 1.4 These conditions are set out in the appendix to this notice.
- 1.5 We are proposing these modifications to protect the interests of consumers by:
- (a) ensuring that the standard licence conditions applicable to Distribution Services Providers are disapplied in relation to Electricity Distributors to whom the requirements of Section B of the standard conditions do not apply;<sup>2</sup>
  - (b) regulating Sphere Energy Connect Limited's charges in respect of domestic customers for the use of its distribution system on grant of the Licence;
  - (c) imposing requirements on Sphere Energy Connect Limited in respect of its creditworthiness and indebtedness on grant of the Licence; and

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<sup>1</sup> The terms "the Authority", "we" and "us" are used interchangeably in this document.

<sup>2</sup> Under Standard Condition 32.1, Section B of the Distribution Licence has effect if either of the following two circumstances apply: (a) the Secretary of State has provided, by a scheme made under Schedule 7 to the Utilities Act 2000, that Section B will have effect; or (b) the Authority has given a Distribution Services Direction to the licensee under paragraph 3 of Standard Condition 3. Neither of these circumstances applies to Sphere Energy Connect Limited.

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- (d) ensuring that Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNOs) are treated on an equivalent basis to Distribution Network Operator (DNOs) with respect to Bad Debt.

1.6 The effect of the proposed licence modifications is to:

- (a) establish arrangements for regulating Sphere Energy Connect Limited's charges to domestic customers for the use of its distribution system on grant of the Licence;
- (b) set out requirements for Sphere Energy Connect Limited to maintain an investment grade credit rating or to comply with alternative arrangements approved by us on grant of the Licence;
- (c) place restrictions on Sphere Energy Connect Limited relating to its indebtedness and the types of payments and transfers it can make on grant of the Licence; and
- (d) enable IDNOs to make a bad debt claim to each relevant distributor.

## **Next steps**

- 1.7 A copy of the proposed modifications and other documents referred to in this Notice have been published on our website ([www.ofgem.gov.uk](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk)). Alternatively they are available from [foi@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:foi@ofgem.gov.uk).
- 1.8 Any representations with respect to the proposed licence modifications must be made on or before 8 October 2025 to: Industry Codes and Licensing, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4PU or by email to [licensing@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@ofgem.gov.uk).
- 1.9 We normally publish all responses on our website. However, if you do not wish your response to be made public then please clearly mark it as not for publication. We prefer to receive responses in an electronic form so they can be placed easily on our website.



**Heather Stewart**

**Duly authorised on behalf of the  
Gas and Electricity Markets Authority  
8 September 2025**

## Appendices

### Index

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Name of appendix</b>	<b>Page no.</b>
1	Amended standard conditions particular to this licence section BA. Specific.	7
2	Proportion of recoverable bad debt in respect of use of system charges overdue for payment at the date of the Defaulting Electricity Supplier's insolvency	21
3	Your response, data and confidentiality	21
4	Privacy notice on consultations	24

## **Appendix 1 – Amended standard conditions particular to this licence section BA. Specific**

### **Standard Condition BA1. Not used**

Not used

### **Standard Condition BA2. Regulation of charging arrangements**

#### **Introduction**

1. The licensee must make, and continue to make, charges available, in accordance with the requirements of this condition, for the provision of Use of System to any Authorised supplier of electricity that uses or wishes to use the licensee's Distribution System to supply electricity to Domestic Customers.

#### **Setting and restriction of charges**

2. The licensee's Use of System Charges in relation to Domestic Customers may vary according to the Distribution Services Area of the Electricity Distributor within which Domestic Premises are connected to the licensee's Distribution System.
3. The licensee must set those Use of System Charges so that, except with the Authority's consent, the standing charge, unit rate, and any other component of the charges does not exceed the Use of System Charges to equivalent Domestic Customers ("the equivalent charges").
4. For the purposes of paragraph 3, equivalent charges are the Use of System Charges made by the Electricity Distributor which has a Distribution Services Direction that specifies the Distribution Services Area in which the Domestic Premises connected to the licensee's Distribution System are located.
5. The Authority may give the licensee a direction that specifies which of the Use of System Charges made by the Distribution Services Provider for the Distribution Services Area mentioned in paragraph 4 are relevant for the purposes of determining the equivalent charges.

#### **Procedure for disapplying this condition**

6. The charging arrangements set out above apply for so long as this licence continues in force but shall cease to have effect (in whole or in part) if the licensee makes a Disapplication Request to the Authority in accordance with paragraphs 7 to 18 of this condition and:
  - (a) the Authority agrees in Writing to the Disapplication Request; or
  - (b) the provisions that are the subject of the Disapplication Request are disappplied by a Disapplication Notice given by the licensee in accordance with the provisions of this condition.

7. The licensee may ask the Authority to consent to the disapplication of this condition (in whole or in part) by giving it a Disapplication Request made in accordance with paragraph 8.
8. A Disapplication Request must:
  - (a) be in Writing addressed to the Authority;
  - (b) specify the paragraph or paragraphs of this condition (or any part or parts thereof) to which the request relates;
  - (c) provide a full statement of the licensee's reasons for making the Disapplication Request;
  - (d) contain such other information or analysis as the licensee considers necessary to enable the Authority fully to assess the Disapplication Request; and
  - (e) state the date that is proposed by the licensee (which must not be earlier the date specified in paragraph 9) on and after which the specified paragraph or paragraphs (or any part or parts thereof) would no longer have effect ("the Disapplication Date").
9. Except with the Authority's consent, no disapplication of this condition following its receipt of a Disapplication Request under paragraph 7 may have effect until a date not less than 18 months after receipt of the Disapplication Request.
10. A Disapplication Request may apply to a specified geographic area.
11. If, within 10 working days of receipt of a Disapplication Request, the Authority gives notice to the licensee:
  - (a) specifying any further information or analysis that it reasonably considers is required in order to assess the Disapplication Request; and
  - (b) requesting the licensee to provide that information or analysis, the Disapplication Request will be treated for the purposes of this condition as not delivered to the Authority until that further information or analysis is provided. If in consequence the Disapplication Date set out in the Disapplication Request no longer complies with paragraph 9, the Disapplication Date shall be treated as being the earliest date that would comply with that paragraph.
12. The giving of notice under paragraph 11 shall not preclude the Authority from making such further requests for information or analysis, or for the reformatting of information or analysis already provided, as it may consider it requires to assess the proposal.



13. The licensee may withdraw a Disapplication Request at any time.

**Licensee's right to disapply this condition under a Disapplication Request**

14. If the licensee has made a Disapplication Request that complies with the requirements of paragraphs 8 and 9 of this condition, and the circumstances described in paragraphs 15 or 17 of this condition apply, it may subsequently serve a Disapplication Notice on the Authority disapplying some or all of the provisions that are the subject of the Disapplication Request.

**Disapplication without involvement of the Competition and Markets Authority**

15. The licensee may serve a Disapplication Notice on the Authority if, by the Disapplication Date specified in the relevant Disapplication Request, the Authority has not responded to the request by publishing a decision under section 11A of the Act to modify this condition in either of the ways described in paragraph 16.
16. The ways referred to in paragraphs 15 are:
- (a) modify any of the provisions referred to in the Disapplication Request; or
  - (b) modify this condition so as to remove the licensee's right to serve a Disapplication Notice on the Authority in respect of the relevant Disapplication Request.

**Disapplication after involvement of the Competition and Markets Authority**

17. The licensee may also serve a Disapplication Notice on the Authority if the Authority has published a decision described in paragraph 16 of this condition but:
- (a) the licensee has exercised its right to appeal to the Competition and Markets Authority against the decision of the Authority as provided for by section 11C of the Act;
  - (b) the Competition and Markets Authority has quashed the Authority's decision, and has included in its direction to the Authority a provision relating to the right for the licensee to serve a Disapplication Notice on the Authority; and
  - (c) no more than 20 working days have elapsed since the date from which the licensee may serve a Disapplication Notice on the Authority under the Competition and Markets Authority's direction.
18. A Disapplication Notice under paragraphs 15 and 17 must also comply with any terms or conditions specified in the Competition and Markets Authority's direction.
19. For the purposes of this condition:

(a) **Disapplication Notice** means a notice served on the Authority in accordance with paragraphs 15 and 17 of this condition disapplying some or all of the provisions the subject of a Disapplication Request.

(b) **Disapplication Request** means a request made to the Authority in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of this condition to disapply some or all of the charging provisions of this condition.

(c) **Writing** includes writing that is sent or received by Electronic Communication.

### **Standard Condition BA3. Credit Rating of Licensee**

1. The licensee shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that the licensee maintains at all times an investment grade issuer credit rating, or with the prior written permission of the Authority, any such arrangements as the Authority considers appropriate.

2. In this condition:

“issuer credit rating” means:

(a) an issuer credit rating by Standard & Poor’s Ratings Group or any of its subsidiaries; or

(b) an issuer credit rating by Moody’s Investors Service Inc. or any of its subsidiaries; or

(c) an issuer credit rating by Fitch Ratings Ltd or any of its subsidiaries; or

(d) an issuer credit rating by DBRS Ratings Limited or any of its affiliates; or

(e) a rating which, in the opinion of the Authority, notified in writing to the licensee, is equivalent to those referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c), or (d) and issued by:

(i) any of the credit rating agencies referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d); or

(ii) any other reputable credit rating agency which, in the opinion of the Authority, notified in writing to the licensee, has comparable standing in the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

In relation to any issuer credit rating, “investment grade” means:

(a) unless sub-paragraph (b) below applies:

(i) an issuer credit rating of not less than BBB- by Standard & Poor’s Ratings Group or any of its subsidiaries; or

(ii) an issuer credit rating of not less than Baa3 by Moody’s Investors Service Inc. or any of its subsidiaries; or

(iii) an issuer credit rating of not less than BBB- by Fitch Ratings Ltd or any of its subsidiaries; or

(iv) an issuer credit rating of not less than BBB (low) by DBRS Ratings Limited or any of its affiliates; or

(v) a rating which, in the opinion of the Authority, notified in writing to the licensee, is equivalent to those referred to in sub-paragraphs (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) and issued by:

aa) any of the credit rating agencies referred to in sub- paragraphs (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv), or;

bb) any other reputable credit rating agency which, in the opinion of the Authority, notified in writing to the licensee, has comparable standing in the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

(b) such higher rating as may be specified by those agencies from time to time as the lowest investment grade issuer credit rating.

### **Standard Condition BA4. Indebtedness**

1. In addition to the requirements of standard condition 29 (Disposal of Relevant Assets) as in force at 31 May 2008, the licensee shall not without the prior written consent of the Authority (following the disclosure by the licensee of all material facts):

(a) create or continue or permit to remain in effect any mortgage, charge, pledge, lien or other form of security or encumbrance whatsoever, undertake any indebtedness to any other person or enter into or continue or permit to remain in effect any guarantee or any obligation otherwise than:

(i) on an arm's length basis,

(ii) on normal commercial terms,

(iii) for a permitted purpose, and

(iv) (if the transaction is within the ambit of standard condition 29 (Disposal of Relevant Assets)) in accordance with that condition;

(b) transfer, lease, license or lend any sum or sums, asset, right or benefit to any affiliate or related undertaking of the licensee otherwise than by way of:

(i) a dividend or other distribution out of distributable reserves,

(ii) repayment of capital,

(iii) payment properly due for any goods, services or assets provided on an arm's length basis and on normal commercial terms,

(iv) a transfer, lease, licence or loan of any sum or sums, asset, right or benefit on an arm's length basis, on normal commercial terms and made in compliance with the payment condition referred to in paragraph 2,

(v) repayment of or payment of interest on a loan not prohibited by sub-paragraph (a),

(vi) payments for group corporation tax relief or for the surrender of Advance Corporation Tax calculated on a basis not exceeding the value of the benefit received, or

(vii) an acquisition of shares or other investments in conformity with paragraph 2 of standard condition BA2 (Restriction on Activity and Financial Ring Fencing) as in force at 31 May 2008, made on an arm's length basis and on normal commercial terms,

provided, however, that the provisions of paragraph 3 or 4 below, as the case may be, shall prevail in any circumstances described or referred to therein;

(c) enter into an agreement or incur a commitment incorporating a cross-default obligation; or

(d) continue or permit to remain in effect any agreement or commitment incorporating a cross-default obligation subsisting at date of this licence, save that the licensee may permit any cross-default obligation in existence at that date to remain in effect for a period not exceeding twelve months from that date, provided that the cross-default obligation is solely referable to an instrument relating to the provision of a loan or other financial facilities granted prior to that date and the terms on which those facilities have been made available as subsisting on that date are not varied or otherwise made more onerous, provided, however, that the provisions of sub-paragraphs (c) and (d) shall not prevent the licensee from giving any guarantee permitted by and compliant with the requirements of sub-paragraph (a).

2. The payment condition referred to in paragraph 1(b)(iv) is that the consideration due in respect of the transaction in question is paid in full when the transaction is entered into unless either:

(a) the counter-party to the transaction has and maintains until payment is made in full an investment grade issuer credit rating; or

(b) the obligations of the counter-party to the transaction are fully and unconditionally guaranteed throughout the period during which any part of the consideration remains outstanding by a guarantor which has and maintains an investment grade issuer credit rating.

3. Where the Authority has not granted permission for the use of alternative arrangements in accordance with paragraph 1 of standard condition BA3 (Credit Rating of Licensee), then except with the prior consent of the Authority, the licensee shall not enter into or complete any transaction of a type referred to or described in paragraph 1(b) save in accordance with paragraph 10, if any of the circumstances set out in paragraphs 4 to 8 applies.

4. The circumstance described by this paragraph is that the licensee does not hold an investment grade issuer credit rating.

5. The circumstance described by this paragraph is that the licensee holds more than one issuer credit rating, and one or more of the ratings so held is not investment grade.

6. The circumstance described by this paragraph is that any issuer credit rating held by the licensee is BBB- by Standard & Poor's Ratings Group or Fitch Ratings Ltd or Baa3 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or BBB (low) by DBRS Ratings Ltd or any of its affiliates (or such higher issuer credit rating as may be specified by any of these credit rating agencies from time to time as the lowest investment grade issuer credit rating), or is an equivalent rating from another agency that has been notified to the licensee by the Authority as of comparable standing for the purposes of standard condition BA3 (Credit Rating of Licensee) and:

- (a) is on review for possible downgrade; or
- (b) is on Credit Watch or Rating Watch with a negative designation; or, where neither (a) nor (b) applies:
- (c) the rating outlook of the licensee as specified by any credit rating agency referred to in paragraph 6 which at the relevant time has assigned the lower or lowest

investment grade issuer credit rating held by the licensee has been changed from stable or positive to negative.

7. The circumstance described by this paragraph is that the licensee has:

- (a) given the Authority a certificate in the form of Certificate 3F under the requirement set out in paragraph 30.2 of standard condition 30 (Availability of resources) and has not subsequently given the Authority a certificate in the form of Certificate 1F or Certificate 2F as set out in the same condition; or
- (b) given the Authority a certificate in the form of Certificate 3R under the requirement set out in paragraph 30.4 of standard condition 30 (Availability of resources) and:

- (i) the opinion expressed in the certificate arises in whole or in part from circumstances affecting an associate of the licensee, and
- (ii) the licensee has not subsequently given the Authority a certificate in the form of Certificate 1R or Certificate 2R as set out in the same condition;

or

- (c) informed the Authority of any circumstance of the type referred to at paragraph 30.7 of standard condition 30 (Availability of resources) and:

- (i) the circumstances giving rise to the licensee's report relate to the licensee's financial resources and the licensee has not subsequently given the Authority a certificate in the form of Certificate 1F or 2F as set out in the same condition; or
- (ii) the circumstances giving rise to the licensee's report relate to the licensee's operational resources and:
  - (aa) relate in whole or in part to circumstances affecting an associate of the licensee; and

(bb) the licensee has not subsequently given the Authority a certificate in the form of Certificate 1R or 2R as set out in the same condition.

8. The circumstance described by this paragraph is that the licensee has, after 1 April 2013, materially breached any formal covenant contained in any loan agreement, commercial paper, bond issue or committed facility that it has entered into with a counterparty, unless one of the following applies:
- (a) the licensee has remedied the breach to the satisfaction of the counterparty concerned;
  - (b) the licensee has renegotiated the covenant or arrangement to the satisfaction of the counterparty concerned;
- and in either case (a) or (b) the remedy or renegotiation has been notified in Writing to the Authority;
- or
- (c) in response to a written request from the licensee, either the Authority has in Writing, before the breach occurs, that the breach in question shall not trigger the provisions of Part D, or the Authority has not provided a substantive response to such a written request within seven days of receiving it.
9. Where the Authority has granted permission for the use of alternative arrangements in accordance with paragraph 1 of standard condition BA3 (Credit Rating of Licensee), then except with the prior consent of the Authority, the licensee shall not enter into or complete any transaction of a type referred to or described in paragraph 1(b) save in accordance with paragraph 10, if:
- (a) the alternative arrangements for which the Authority has granted permission are not maintained in accordance with the conditions imposed by the Authority when giving written permission pursuant to paragraph 1 of standard condition BA3 (Credit Rating of Licensee); or
  - (b) either of the circumstances described in paragraphs 7 and 8 applies.
10. Where, under the provisions of either paragraph 3 or paragraph 9, the licensee is prohibited from entering into or completing any transaction of a type referred to or described in paragraph 1(b), the licensee may not without the prior written consent of the Authority (following disclosure of all material facts) transfer, lease, license or lend any sum or sums, asset, right or benefit to any associate of the licensee as described or referred to in paragraph 1(b), otherwise than by way of:
- (a) payment properly due for any goods, services or assets in relation to commitments entered into prior to the date on which the prohibiting circumstances arose, and which are provided on an arm's length basis and on normal commercial terms;
  - (b) a transfer, lease, licence or loan of any sum or sums, asset, right or benefit on an arm's length basis, on normal commercial terms and where the value of the consideration due in respect of the transaction in question is payable wholly in cash and is paid in full when the transaction is entered into;

(c) repayment of, or payment of interest on, a loan not prohibited by paragraph 1(a) and which was contracted prior to the date on which the prohibiting circumstances arose, provided that such payment is not made earlier than the original due date for payment in accordance with its terms; and

(d) payments for group corporation tax relief calculated on a basis not exceeding the value of the benefit received, provided that the payments are not made before the date on which the amounts of tax thereby relieved would otherwise have been due.

11. In this condition:

“associate”

means:

- a) an Affiliate or Related Undertaking of the licensee;
- b) an Ultimate Controller of the licensee;
- c) a participating owner of the licensee; or
- d) a common control company.

“common control company”

means any company, any of whose Ultimate Controllers (applying the definition set out in standard condition 1 (Definitions for the standard conditions) but substituting that company for the licensee) is also an Ultimate Controller of the licensee.

“cross-default obligation”

means a term of any agreement or arrangement whereby the licensee’s liability to pay or repay any debt or other sum arises or is increased or accelerated or is capable of arising, increasing or of acceleration by reason of a default (howsoever such default may be described or defined) by any person other than the licensee, unless:

- a) that liability can arise only as the result of a default by a subsidiary of the licensee;
- b) the licensee holds a majority of the voting rights in that subsidiary and has the right to appoint or remove a majority of its board of directors; and
- c) that subsidiary carries on business only for a purpose within paragraph (a) of the definition of permitted purpose set out in standard condition BA2 (Restriction on Activity and Financial Ring Fencing) as in force at 31 May 2008.

“indebtedness”

means all liabilities now or hereafter due, owing or incurred, whether actual or contingent, whether solely or jointly with any other person and whether as

	principal or surety, together with any interest accruing thereon and all costs, charges, penalties and expenses incurred in connection therewith.
"investment grade"	has the meaning given in paragraph 2 of standard condition BA3 (Credit Rating of Licensee).
"issuer credit rating"	has the meaning given in paragraph 2 of standard condition BA3 (Credit Rating of Licensee).
"participating owner"	For the purposes of the definition of associate above, a person is subject to a participating interest by another person (a "participating owner") if:  a) that other person holds a Participating Interest in the person; or  b) the person is subject to a participating interest by a person who is himself subject to a participating interest by that other person.
"participating interest"	has the meaning given in section 421A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

## **Standard Condition BA5. Valid Bad Debt Claims**

### **Ability to make claim**

1. If the licensee has received the Authority's consent under paragraph 5 of this condition, it may make a Valid Bad Debt Claim under standard condition 38C, Treatment of Valid Bad Debt Claims.
2. The licensee may make a Valid Bad Debt Claim to each Relevant Distributor in accordance with paragraphs 9, 11 and 13 of this condition.

### **Process for making claim**

3. If the licensee intends to make a Bad Debt Claim in respect of bad debts incurred in a regulatory year not before 2018/19, no later than three months after the end of a Regulatory Year in respect of that Regulatory Year, it must:  
  
(a) give Notice to the Authority of its claim; and  
  
(b) in a statement in a form prescribed by the Authority, provide to the Authority the amount of the bad debt plus any interest.
4. If the licensee intends to make a Bad Debt Claim in respect of bad debts incurred in 2015/16, 2016/17 or 2017/18, it must no later than 30 June 2019:  
  
(a) give Notice to the Authority of its claim; and



- (b) in a statement in a form prescribed by the Authority, provide to the Authority the amount of the bad debt plus any interest.
5. If the Authority considers it appropriate in all the circumstances of the case for the licensee to make the Bad Debt Claim notified to it in accordance with paragraph 3 or paragraph 4 of this condition, the Authority shall, by Notice within three months of having received the claim, give its consent to the licensee for the licensee to make a Valid Bad Debt Claim and direct the amount to be included in the Valid Bad Debt Claim (the "Relevant Amount").
6. The Authority may only adjust the amount specified in the statement submitted by the licensee in accordance with paragraph 3 or paragraph 4 of this condition for: (a) any amount of the bad debt that has arisen because of the licensee's failure to follow Schedule 1 ('Cover') of the Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement ("the DCUSA"); and (b) the proportion of the value of bad debt relative to the age of that bad debt at the time of the Defaulting Electricity Supplier's insolvency, calculated as shown in Appendix 1 of this condition.
7. A direction issued by the Authority under paragraph 5 of this condition will be of no effect unless, before issuing it, the Authority has:
- (a) by Notice to each Relevant Distributor, set out the terms of the proposed direction;
  - (b) specified in the Notice the reasons for the Authority's proposed modifications;
  - (c) specified in the Notice the period (which may not be less than 14 days from the date of the Notice) within which the licensee may make representations to the Authority about its proposals; and
  - (d) Given due consideration to any representations received in response to the Notice.
8. If the Authority makes a direction under paragraph 5 of this condition, the amount specified by it must be treated as the Relevant Amount for the purpose of paragraph 9 of this condition.

### **Submissions to Distribution Services Providers**

9. A Valid Bad Debt Claim by the licensee to each Relevant Distributor must specify:
- (a) the respective proportion of the Relevant Amount to be paid by the Relevant Distributor (being the bad debt incurred by the licensee relating to premises in the Relevant Distributor's Distribution Services Area supplied by the Electricity Supplier which has had its Electricity Supply Licence revoked);
  - (b) any interest on the Relevant Amount calculated as simple interest for the period beginning on the date of the Valid Bad Debt Claim and ending on the date that is 31 March of the Regulatory Year before the Valid Bad Debt Claim

will be paid in accordance with paragraph 2 of standard condition 38C, Treatment of Valid Bad Debt Claims; and

- (c) the payment instalments that have been agreed with the Relevant Distributor. In the absence of such agreement, payments will be made in 12 monthly instalments.

10. Where the licensee intends to make a Valid Bad Debt Claim to a Relevant Distributor, it shall submit such claim within six months beginning with the date that the Authority gives its consent to the licensee pursuant to paragraph 5 of this condition.

**Adjustment to previous claim**

11. Within 60 days of receipt of the Final Reconciliation Settlement Run for the final day of supply by the Electricity Supplier which has had its Electricity Supply Licence revoked, the licensee must revise the Relevant Amount (the "Revised Relevant Amount") and, if the Revised Relevant Amount differs by more than or equal to 10% of the Relevant Amount, the licensee must:

- (a) give Notice to the Authority of the difference between the Revised Relevant Amount and the Relevant Amount;
- (b) give Notice to each Relevant Distributor of the respective proportion of the Revised Relevant Amount and the Relevant Amount;
- (c) where the Revised Relevant Amount is lower than the Relevant Amount, submit a further Valid Bad Debt Claim for the difference between the Revised Relevant Amount and the Relevant Amount (the "Lower Difference") plus any interest on the Lower Difference in accordance with paragraph 9 of this condition and pay the Lower Difference to the Relevant Distributor on the date of the next payment instalment from the Relevant Distributor (the "Lower Difference Payment Date"), providing that the Lower Difference Payment Date is not less than 30 days from the date the licensee provided Notice to the Relevant Distributor. If the Lower Difference Payment Date is less than 30 days from the date on which the licensee provided Notice to the Relevant Distributor, the Lower Difference Payment Date shall be the date on which the Relevant Distributor is due to make the second payment instalment to the licensee. If the Relevant Distributor is not required to make any further payment instalments, the Lower Difference Payment Date shall be within 30 days from the date on which the licensee provided Notice to the Relevant Distributor; and
- (d) where the Revised Relevant Amount is higher than the Relevant Amount (the "Higher Difference"), submit a further Valid Bad Debt Claim for the Higher Difference plus any interest on the Higher Difference in accordance with paragraph 9 of this condition.

12. Any revision to a Valid Bad Debt Claim made in accordance with paragraph 11 of this condition must be made within 60 days of receipt of the Final Reconciliation Settlement Run for the final day of supply by the Electricity Supplier which has had its Electricity Supply Licence revoked.

13. If the licensee makes a successful claim to recover bad debts from the administrator of a Defaulting Electricity Supplier, within 60 days of recovering any bad debt ("the Recovered Amount"), the licensee must:

- (a) give Notice to the Authority of the value of the Recovered Amount;
- (b) give Notice to each Relevant Distributor of the amount to be returned, being the proportion of the Recovered Amount relative to the Relevant Amount paid by the Relevant Distributor to which the Recovered Amount relates; and
- (c) submit a further Valid Bad Debt Claim for the Recovered Amount plus any interest on this amount in accordance with paragraph 9 of this condition and pay the Recovered Amount to the Relevant Distributor on the date of the next payment instalment from the Relevant Distributor (the "Recovered Amount Payment Date"), providing that Recovered Amount Payment Date is not less than 30 days from the date the licensee provided Notice to the Relevant Distributor. If the Recovered Amount Payment Date is less than 30 days from the date on which the licensee provided Notice to the Relevant Distributor, the Recovered Amount Payment Date shall be the date on which the Relevant Distributor is due to make the second payment instalment to the licensee. If the Relevant Distributor is not required to make any further payment instalments, the Recovered Amount Payment Date shall be within 30 days from the date on which the licensee provided Notice to the Relevant Distributor.

## **Interpretation**

14. For the purposes of this condition:

"Bad Debt Claim"	means a claim for bad debt incurred after 1 April 2015 by a Non-Distribution Services Provider with respect to Use of System Charges as a result of the insolvency of one or more Electricity Suppliers whose Electricity Supply Licences have been revoked.
"Defaulting Electricity Supplier"	means an Electricity Supplier whose insolvency has resulted in the licensee incurring bad debt. For the purposes of this condition the timing and definition of insolvency is as per the Insolvency Act 1986.

**Consultation** - Notice of Statutory Consultation on a proposal to modify the standard licence conditions of the electricity licence that we are minded to grant to Sphere Energy Connect Limited

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"Final Reconciliation Settlement Run"	means has the meaning given to that term in Section U2.3 of the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC).
"Non-Distribution Services Provider"	means any Electricity Distributor in whose Electricity Distribution Licence the requirements of Section B of the standard conditions of that licence do not have effect (whether in whole or in part).
"Relevant Distributor"	means each Distribution Services Provider in whose Distribution Services Area the relevant Electricity Supplier, which has had its Electricity Supply Licence revoked, supplied electricity to premises connected to a Distribution System not owned by such Distribution Services Provider.
"Valid Bad Debt Claim"	means a claim for bad debt incurred by a Non-Distribution Services Provider with respect to Use of System Charges as a result of the insolvency of one or more Electricity Suppliers whose Electricity Supply Licences have been revoked and in respect of which the Bad Debt Claimant has received the Authority's consent under paragraph 5 of this condition.

## **Appendix 2 - Proportion of recoverable bad debt in respect of use of system charges overdue for payment at the date of the Defaulting Electricity Supplier's**

<b>No. of business days past due</b>	<b>Percentage of face value recoverable</b>
Not yet due	100
0 – 30	100
31 – 35	90
36 – 40	80
41 – 45	70
46 – 50	60
51 – 55	50
56 – 60	35
61 – 65	20
>65	5

## **Appendix 3 – Your response, data and confidentiality**

### **Consultation stages**

- 1.10 Any representations with respect to the proposed licence modifications must be made on or before 8 October 2025.

### **How to respond**

- 1.11 We want to hear from anyone interested in this consultation. Please send your response to [licensing@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@ofgem.gov.uk) or to: Industry Codes and Licensing, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4PU.
- 1.12 We've asked for your feedback in each of the questions throughout. Please respond to each one as fully as you can.
- 1.13 We will publish non-confidential responses on our website at [www.ofgem.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/consultations).

## **Your response, your data and confidentiality**

- 1.14 You can ask us to keep your response, or parts of your response, confidential. We'll respect this, subject to obligations to disclose information, for example, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, statutory directions, court orders, government regulations or where you give us explicit permission to disclose. If you do want us to keep your response confidential, please clearly mark this on your response and explain why.
- 1.15 If you wish us to keep part of your response confidential, please clearly mark those parts of your response that you *do* wish to be kept confidential and those that you *do not* wish to be kept confidential. Please put the confidential material in a separate appendix to your response. If necessary, we'll get in touch with you to discuss which parts of the information in your response should be kept confidential, and which can be published. We might ask for reasons why.
- 1.16 If the information you give in your response contains personal data under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) as retained in domestic law following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union ("UK GDPR"), the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority will be the data controller for the purposes of GDPR. Ofgem uses the information in responses in performing its statutory functions and in accordance with section 105 of the Utilities Act 2000. Please refer to our Privacy Notice on consultations, see Appendix 4.
- 1.17 If you wish to respond confidentially, we'll keep your response itself confidential, but we will publish the number (but not the names) of confidential responses we receive. We won't link responses to respondents if we publish a summary of responses, and we will evaluate each response on its own merits without undermining your right to confidentiality.

## **General feedback**

- 1.18 We believe that consultation is at the heart of good policy development. We welcome any comments about how we've run this consultation. We'd also like to get your answers to these questions:
1. Do you have any comments about the overall process of this consultation?
  2. Do you have any comments about its tone and content?
  3. Was it easy to read and understand? Or could it have been better written?
  4. Were its conclusions balanced?

**Consultation** - Notice of Statutory Consultation on a proposal to modify the standard licence conditions of the electricity licence that we are minded to grant to Sphere Energy Connect Limited

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5. Did it make reasoned recommendations for improvement?
6. Any further comments?

Please send any general feedback comments to [stakeholders@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:stakeholders@ofgem.gov.uk)

## How to track the progress of the consultation

You can track the progress of a consultation from upcoming to decision status using the 'notify me' function on a consultation page when published on our website. Choose the notify me button and enter your email address into the pop-up window and submit.

[ofgem.gov.uk/consultations](https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/consultations)

Notify me +

Would you like to be kept up to date with *Consultation*  
*name will appear here?* subscribe to notifications:

**Email\***

Submit >

Once subscribed to the notifications for a particular consultation, you will receive an email to notify you when it has changed status. Our consultation stages are:

**Upcoming** > **Open** > **Closed** (awaiting decision) > **Closed** (with decision)

## **Appendix 4 – Privacy notice on consultations**

### **Personal data**

The following explains your rights and gives you the information you are entitled to under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Note that this section only refers to your personal data (your name address and anything that could be used to identify you personally) not the content of your response to the consultation.

#### **1. The identity of the controller and contact details of our Data Protection Officer**

The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority is the controller, (for ease of reference, “Ofgem”). The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at [dpo@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:dpo@ofgem.gov.uk)

#### **2. Why we are collecting your personal data**

Your personal data is being collected as an essential part of the consultation process, so that we can contact you regarding your response and for statistical purposes. We may also use it to contact you about related matters.

#### **3. Our legal basis for processing your personal data**

As a public authority, the GDPR makes provision for Ofgem to process personal data as necessary for the effective performance of a task carried out in the public interest. i.e. a consultation.

#### **4. With whom we will be sharing your personal data**

(Include here all organisations outside Ofgem who will be given all or some of the data. There is no need to include organisations that will only receive anonymised data. If different organisations see different set of data then make this clear. Be as specific as possible.)

#### **5. For how long we will keep your personal data, or criteria used to determine the retention period.**

Your personal data will be held for (be as clear as possible but allow room for changes to programmes or policy. It is acceptable to give a relative time e.g. ‘six months after the project is closed’)

#### **6. Your rights**

The data we are collecting is your personal data, and you have considerable say over what happens to it. You have the right to:



- know how we use your personal data
- access your personal data
- have personal data corrected if it is inaccurate or incomplete
- ask us to delete personal data when we no longer need it
- ask us to restrict how we process your data
- get your data from us and re-use it across other services
- object to certain ways we use your data
- be safeguarded against risks where decisions based on your data are taken entirely automatically
- tell us if we can share your information with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties
- tell us your preferred frequency, content and format of our communications with you
- to lodge a complaint with the independent Information Commissioner (ICO) if you think we are not handling your data fairly or in accordance with the law. You can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/>, or telephone 0303 123 1113.

**7. Your personal data will not be sent overseas** (Note that this cannot be claimed if using Survey Monkey for the consultation as their servers are in the US. In that case use “the Data you provide directly will be stored by Survey Monkey on their servers in the United States. We have taken all necessary precautions to ensure that your rights in term of data protection will not be compromised by this”.

8. Your personal data will not be used for any automated decision making.

**9. Your personal data will be stored in a secure government IT system.** (If using a third party system such as Survey Monkey to gather the data, you will need to state clearly at which point the data will be moved from there to our internal systems.)

**10. More information** For more information on how Ofgem processes your data, click on the link to our “[ofgem privacy promise](#)”.