

IB1 response to Ofgem's RIIO-3 Draft Determinations Consultation

This is Icebreaker One's response to Ofgem's RIIO-3 Draft Determinations Consultation¹.

It can be published openly. Please note that throughout this consultation, Icebreaker One uses the terms Open, Shared and Closed data as defined [here](#)².

If you have any questions about our submission or require clarifications please do not hesitate to contact us via policy@ib1.org. Thank you for considering our submission.

Consultation response:

Icebreaker One (IB1) is a public-benefit non-profit working on data sharing and sustainability, convening organisations and governments to design market-scale solutions to make data work harder to deliver Net Zero. It creates and runs programmes to reduce barriers and costs to finding, accessing, using, and sharing data, which will ultimately reduce costs for consumers. Through the UKRI Modernising Energy Data Access competition, in collaboration with over 400 industry stakeholders, IB1 developed [Open Energy](#)³ which identified and articulated the need to make it straightforward to find, access and share energy data. Given IB1's focus, we have responded to a number of the questions in the consultation.

IB1 supports RIIO-ED3's goals of moving away from gas infrastructure, toward renewables, and a more resilient grid. It is essential to have a joined-up approach and cross-sector thinking to achieve the size of impact outlined in the [Industrial Strategy](#)⁴ and [The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan](#)⁵ and unlock the widest range of potential benefits.

OVQ36. Do you agree with our position of not changing the Digitalisation licence condition?

IB1 supports digitalisation as key for energy sector decarbonisation, and required for the investment in flex services and the coordination between sectors who rely on energy to meet their decarbonisation targets (water, transportation, built environment, industry).

IB1 supports sector-wide convening and governance to ensure digitalisation happens in a coordinated manner and can enable 'whole system solutions,' as promoted in RIIO-ED2⁶ and realise the subsequent cost savings. IB1 supports Ofgem to continue to promote and finance whole system digitalisation coordination in RIIO-ED3.

¹<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/consultation/riio-3-draft-determinations-electricity-transmission-gas-distribution-and-gas-transmission-sectors>

² <https://ib1.org/open-shared-closed/>

³ <https://ib1.org/open-energy-uk/>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/invest-2035-the-uks-modern-industrial-strategy/invest-2035-the-uks-modern-industrial-strategy>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-power-2030-action-plan>

⁶ https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/docs/2020/12/final_determinations_-_core_document.pdf

As there are many ongoing data sharing and data governance initiatives e.g. consumer consent solution, flexibility services, Data Sharing Infrastructure (DSI), which are currently in progress at different stages of development (definition, prototype, or pilot). Ofgem should not expect these programmes and underlying challenges the projects aim to solve to be resolved by the end of RIIO-ED3 (2031). Data sharing and data governance needs and subsequent solutions will evolve over time as we continue to electrify and connect the UK's grid. As mentioned above, Ofgem needs to ensure ongoing governance and sector collaboration on data and digitalisation - reinforcement of this would be welcomed in addition to specific plans to expand/evolve data governance initiatives.

With the progress of the Data Sharing Infrastructure (DSI) programme, IB1 anticipates 'Shared Data'⁷ sharing will evolve and will inform the evolution of data best practice (DBP) guidance. In particular, as data sharing scales, the need to standardise and harmonise legal and technical approaches will become more pressing in order not to slow innovation and add unnecessary cost. IB1 recommends that DBP should include guidance around Shared Data within the triage processes and licensing decisions, highlighting the role of Shared Data Schemes (see OVQ37) to provide definitions that aid interoperability and maximise impact.

OVQ37. Do you agree with our proposed approach to the DSI licence condition?

IB1 welcomes the energy industry collaborating and agreeing on data sharing. Through IB1's Open Energy programme, we have co-designed the [Energy Sector Trust Framework](#) with sector stakeholders, including DNOs. Members are currently in the process of assuring their open data publication using the Assured Open Data Scheme⁸ governed by Open Energy. IB1 will continue to bring Open Energy learnings into the DSI development process.

We encourage more clarity on what DSI 'participation' entails, including anticipated associated costs and funding. As mentioned in IB1's response to DESNZ energy smart data scheme call for evidence,⁹ it is essential that a **Trust Framework is viewed holistically** - an entity incorporating technical, communications, engagement, legal and ongoing governance arrangements - rather than a technical solution. IB1 would recommend 'participation' in DSI is defined as being broader than operating data sharing nodes, including:

- In collaboration with stakeholders within and outside the energy sector:
 - Identifying and developing use cases
 - Designing technically- and legally- interoperable schemes
 - Agreeing, implementing and governing operational policies
 - Keeping in step with emerging trusted data approaches in other sectors of the economy, at home and abroad

⁷ <https://ib1.org/open-shared-closed>

⁸ <https://ib1.org/schemes>

⁹ <https://ib1.org/2025/03/26/ib1s-response-to-denszs-developing-an-energy-smart-data-scheme-call-for-evidence>

- Articulating the amount of technical and non-technical work required for a Trust Framework
- Articulating the role of consent and permissioning aligned with the 2025 Data (Use and Access) Act.¹⁰
- Setting out the expected amount of resourcing including external and internal communications, executive support, legal resource, and skilled involvement in data governance and technical implementation

Our experience is based on establishing an energy sector data sharing programme through sector engagement (convening 100s of organisations and 500+ public webinar attendees) and governance processes (80+ Steering and Advisory Groups members) to develop operational services for search and access control. These are now live and market-facing through the Energy Sector Trust Framework and Schemes, IB1 created, designed and developed Open Energy <https://ib1.org/energy/> to provide three services:

1. Community: an expert network of professionals – the IB1 Constellation
2. Governance: co-design of data sharing Schemes using our Icebreaking process
3. Trust Services: An Energy Sector Trust Framework for Scheme implementation, covering Open Data, commercial Shared Data with pre-authorised access controls, and commercial Shared Data where access requires end-user permission/consent. In addition, Trust Services deliver search and assurability services.

We recommend drawing upon this experience to both clearly and tightly define expectations for the DSI licence condition, and the roles of actors in the ecosystem (e.g. what is within the remit of regulators and code bodies, what could/should be precompetitive and what is open to commercial market competition).

¹⁰ <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3825>