

Terms of Reference for the Digital Platform for Leakage Analytics (DPLA) Working Group

Change history

Version	Date	Description of changes made	Author
0.1	02/02/2026	Draft version shared with stakeholders for consultation	Tom Lewis
1.0	01/04/2026	Published version for RIIO-3	Tom Lewis

DPLA Working Group Terms of Reference

Purpose

- 1.1. The DPLA Working Group (DPLA WG) is established to act as a collaborative forum during Cadent's two-year rollout of the DPLA. Its purpose is to support a consistent implementation of the DPLA and to enable transparent sharing of progress, insights and issues across all gas distribution networks (GDNs). The DPLA WG will discuss Cadent's implementation activities, including both the observed measurement and probabilistic modelling components, to ensure that learning is captured effectively and used to inform the future sector wide rollout.
- 1.2. The DPLA WG will contribute to the preparation and scrutiny of Cadent's cost-benefit analysis (CBA) for the DPLA. The DPLA WG should provide an independent recommendation on whether a Full DPLA Rollout or Partial DPLA Rollout should be directed with supporting rationale. This should capture all views from the WG and is in addition to Cadent's recommendation.

Objectives and outputs

Objectives

- 1.3. The objectives of the DPLA WG are to support the effective and consistent implementation of the DPLA and to provide a structured forum for cross GDN engagement. The DPLA WG will identify and review key issues, risks and learning arising from both the observed measurement and probabilistic modelling components of the DPLA, building an evidence base that enables a well informed recommendation to Ofgem¹ on whether a Full DPLA Rollout or Partial DPLA Rollout should be directed.

Outputs

- 1.4. The DPLA WG will produce a final recommendation to Ofgem by 1 April 2028 on whether a Full DPLA Rollout or Partial DPLA Rollout should be directed, supported by evidence. If members do not agree on a recommendation, the views of all members should be captured and included in the report.
- 1.5. This final recommendation will help inform Ofgem's decision ahead of the Small Decarbonisation Projects Re-opener window in year three of RIIO-GD3, during which other GDNs are expected to apply for funding to implement the directed scope of DPLA, as set out in paragraph 3.23 of the gas distribution annex of our RIIO-3 Final Determinations. Through its collective assessment and advice to Ofgem, the DPLA WG will support the aim of ensuring that all GDNs adopt a consistent version of the DPLA by the end of RIIOGD3.

Authority and decision-making

- 1.6. The DPLA WG is an advisory group with no decision-making powers regarding the direction of the DPLA.
- 1.7. Any decision and subsequent direction will be made by Ofgem.

Membership and roles

- 1.8. The DPLA WG is composed of a Chair, members and stakeholders.

¹ The terms "Ofgem", "the Authority", "we" and "us" are used interchangeably in this document.

Chair

- 1.9. The Chair will be Cadent representative, and it is therefore responsible and accountable for:
- chairing the DPLA WG;
 - coordinating DPLA WG meetings;
 - ensuring DPLA WG members (and stakeholders, where appropriate) are kept informed;
 - ensuring the DPLA WG fulfils the criteria outlined in the Purpose and Objectives and Outputs sections above;
 - requesting proportionate information from DPLA WG members and project partners; and
 - raising concerns with the DPLA WG and/or Ofgem, as appropriate.

Members:

- 1.10. The members of the DPLA WG are representatives of each of the other three GDNs (namely NGN, SGN and WWU) and Ofgem. These four members are responsible for their attendance at the DPLA WG.
- 1.11. GDNs should expect to engage or involve a range of their internal stakeholders in the work of the DPLA WG to assist with its progress toward a recommendation. This may include subject matter experts from business areas such as IT, data, operations and regulation. Support services to the work of the DPLA WG may be required and will be selected by the Chair in consultation with all DPLA WG members.

Stakeholders:

- 1.12. The Chair may extend invitations to stakeholder organisations and sector experts to attend their meetings when it, the members and the stakeholder organisations themselves deem it appropriate. For example, this may include delivery and/or project partners, such as Guidehouse).

Meetings

Frequency:

1.13. Quarterly, with the first meeting expected to be held within the first quarter of RIIO-3. Additional meetings can be called by the Chair where necessary.

Procedure:

1.14. The Chair will present on Cadent's progress in implementing the DPLA and share any added value or lessons learned. This will be followed by a forum for discussion and questions. Cross-GDN collaboration is strongly encouraged for the purposes of progressing DPLA and ALD best practice.

Quorum:

1.15. The Chair and one representative from each of the members. Where Ofgem considers that a delay would materially prejudice time-critical work, Ofgem may deem a meeting to be quorate notwithstanding that absence.

Agenda:

1.16. The Chair should share an agenda with the members no later than 5 working days ahead of the meeting.

Minutes

1.17. The Chair should minute all meetings of the DPLA WG and submit these for comment within 5 working days of the meeting.

Review and amendment

1.18. The Terms of Reference for the DPLA WG may be reviewed and amended by the Authority at any time.

Definitions

Full DPLA Rollout means a full implementation of the Digital Platform for Leakage Analytics across all applicable network pressure tiers, comprising:

- (a) the observed measurement component, which involves

the deployment and use of in-field sensor data for low pressure and medium pressure networks, and fixed and/or hand-held technologies at above ground installations; and (b) the probabilistic modelling component, which involves the application of probabilistic hydraulic modelling techniques for intermediate pressure and high pressure networks.

Partial DPLA Rollout means the limited implementation of the Digital Platform for Leakage Analytics, either:

- a) restricted to the observed measurement component only, involving the deployment and use of in-field sensor data for low pressure and medium pressure networks and fixed and/or hand-held technologies at above ground installations, without the inclusion of the probabilistic modelling component for intermediate pressure and high pressure networks; or
- b) an alternative form of implementation that is not the Full DPLA Rollout.