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7 July 2010

Gareth Evans  
Ofgem  
9 Millbank  
London SW1P 3GE

*By email*

Dear Gareth,

## LTDS Consultation

I have studied your letter dated 8 June 2010 concerning the form of the LTDS produced by the Distribution Network Operators, and would make the following comments.

### Background

I am a consultant electrical engineer, concentrating on the provision of advice to third parties (mostly, but not exclusively, generators or potential generators) on dealing with transmission and distribution companies. Understanding how these networks function is essential to this role, and I consider the Seven Year Statement, and the Long Term Development Statements, essential to providing full and professional advice to my clients.

### General Comments on LTDS

The LTDS are in two parts, a summary (free) and the detailed information document. I have never found the summary to be of any assistance: if I need to refer to a LTDS then I need to access the detailed information.

I have never had any problems getting hold of the detailed statement (normally on CD), although in at least one case this was inadequate: a large A0 diagram had been reduced to a pdf but this had resulted in a significant

loss of detail. I spoke to the DNO about this and they sent me the relevant diagram as a hard copy.

### **Access to LTDS**

The normal fee (I believe it is still £50) is, I guess, set at a level to dissuade frivolous requests while not preventing *bona fide* access. However, I find the mere fact of needing to apply to the DNO for access to the data somewhat intrusive, although this has never led to any practical problems, and is in stark contrast to the approach of NGET.

(There is a similar issue with respect to the DCUSC: the CUSC is freely available from NGET's web-site, but – unless there has been a recent change in policy – the same is not true of the DCUSC).

I would support making the LTDS's available for general download from the internet. **There should be no requirement to register for this information.** I can see no requirements for such a requirement, with its "Big Brother" overtones, to be put in place, and I do not believe the DNO's have a need to know who accesses the information. There should also be no charge for accessing this information (in any case, the cost to a DNO of setting up a system of charging and registration would probably exceed the income obtained).

I have no objection to you publishing this response.

Yours truly

P. T. Manning