

The Questionnaire – For customers

Hello. Thank you for taking the time to complete our questionnaire.

We hope all the questions are clear, but if you have any difficulties please email connections@ofgem.gov.uk.

Once you have completed the questionnaire please send it back to us to the email address above. You need to return the completed questionnaire to us by 31 July 2014.

After we have read your answers we might want to have a chat with you to understand a bit more. We'll try and do this in August.

Part 1 - About you

Question	Your response
What is your name?	
What is your position?	
What are your contact details?	

Part 2 - About your business

Question	Your response
What is your company's name?	Kent County Council
What is the nature of your company's business?	Local Authority
Why do you need to make new connections to the electricity	To provide supply to electrical highway furniture

distribution network?	
What past experience does your business have in getting new connections to the electricity distribution network?	Application for connection had to be made directly to local DNO. For larger schemes a quotation was required
What areas of the country does your business have facilities in that have required new connections to the electricity distribution network?	Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling, Swale, Ashford, Canterbury, Thanet, Shepway, Dover.
What type of connections do you make to the distribution network?	Underground and overhead. Service transfers, new services

Part 3 - About how you get a new electricity connections to the local grid.

Question	Your response
Does your business manage the process of getting a connection using your own staff, or do you use a consultant to guide you through the process?	Our own staff
What issues are important for you when getting a connection? Please rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 7 the least important.	<div>1 The cost of connection</div> <div>4 Customer service</div> <div>5 The time it takes to issue a connection quote</div>

	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 The time in which a connection can be made <input type="checkbox"/> 3 The certainty around the cost of connection and the timetable for delivery <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Ability to offer innovative connection solutions <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Other _____(please specify)
In the past have you had quotes for connection(s) from a range of companies, or solely from the local DNO? Please tick one box.	<input type="checkbox"/> A range of quotes – <u>please go to part 4</u> <input type="checkbox"/> x Just a quote from the local DNO – <u>please go to part 5</u>

Part 4 – About how you choose between a range of quotes.

Question	Your response
You've indicated that you normally receive a range of quotes for connection, both from your local DNO and other independent connection providers. When deciding which quote to accept, what factors do you consider?	
Please rank these factors that you described in the previous question in	1. 2.

order of importance to you, with 1 being the most important.	3. 4. 5. Etc.
Please give an indication of who you have tended to award work to.	<p>Please tick one box only.</p> <div data-bbox="734 411 819 472"><input type="checkbox"/></div> Always the DNO <div data-bbox="734 520 819 580"><input type="checkbox"/></div> Mainly the DNO <div data-bbox="734 619 819 679"><input type="checkbox"/></div> About half and half between the DNO and others <div data-bbox="734 708 819 769"><input type="checkbox"/></div> Mainly an ICP or IDNO <div data-bbox="734 807 819 868"><input type="checkbox"/></div> Always an ICP or IDNO
What do you think are the risks/problems with using an independent connections provider?	
How has your view on who to award work to changed with experience?	
When would you only seek a quote from the local DNO?	

Part 5 – About why you chose to use the local DNO

<p>Before engaging with this process, were you aware that you could use a company other than the local DNO to complete your connection?</p>	<div data-bbox="736 308 819 368"><input type="checkbox"/></div> Yes <div data-bbox="736 387 819 448"><input type="checkbox"/></div> No
<p>What do you think are the benefits in using a company other than the local DNO to provide a connection?</p>	<p>Ability to program works effectively Chepaer than DNO Better overall control of works</p>
<p>What do you think are the risks/problems with using an independent connections provider?</p>	<p>Connection providers are restricted to what they can do. For example they are not permitted to work on 5th core cables, or work on overhead connections. Service transfer for underground service is limited to 2 mtrs. Although they are allowed to go back on mains cable, they cannotgo further more than 2 mtrs. They are not allowed to break the duct where cable is too short to do the transfer</p>
<p>What would need to change in order for you to use a different connections provider?</p>	<p>Independent connection providers should have same powers as local DNOs. In kent we are using more than one ICP company. If one ICP company obtains authorisation for a conection ect they cannot pass that to another ICP provider to carry out the work</p>

Part 6 - About how the cost of connections informs the location of new business development

<p>How much opportunity is there for you to freely choose the location of new business developments?</p>	
<p>How big a factor is the cost of connection in your decision on where to locate your business?</p>	

Part 7- Other comments

The questions we've asked are designed for you to give us important information for our review. We'd also welcome any other comments about the market for new electricity connections, or problems you've experienced.

I feel ICP companies are too limited to what they can do.

Sometimes ICP companies are not aware of the limitations until they excavate the cable. By that time there are cost implications and delay in completing the works.

Once an ICP company obtained an approval from the local DNO, they cannot pass that approval to another ICP if they cannot do the work i.e. jointer off sick etc. alternative ICP has to apply for another approval.