

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?	Ayrshire Roads Alliance
What is the nature of your company's business?	Local Authority Roads Authority
Why do you need to make new connections to the electricity distribution network?	Unmetered connections for street lighting and other miscellaneous items

What past experience does your business have in getting new connections to the electricity distribution network?	Occasional need for new connections. Service/response is fine but cost is very high. Regular need for service transfers from old to new lighting columns. Again, service is fine but very costly. We have used an ICP for this work recently. Their service was much better and more cost effective. We will use them again.
What areas of the country does your business have facilities in that have required new connections to the electricity distribution network?	South-west Scotland (South Ayrshire Council)
What type of connections do you make to the distribution network?	Unmetered.

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?	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"/> 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 checked="" 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 order of importance to you, with 1	1. 2. 3.

being the most important.	4. 5. Etc.
Please give an indication of who you have tended to award work to.	<p>Please tick one box only.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Always the DNO</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mainly the DNO</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> About half and half between the DNO and others</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mainly an ICP or IDNO</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Always an ICP or IDNO</p>
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

Before engaging with this process, were you aware that you could use a company other than the local DNO to complete your connection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What do you think are the benefits in using a company other than the local DNO to provide a connection?	The biggest advantage is the reduced cost over Scottish Power's charges. The ICP we used for service transfers also provides a better service "in the field". We will use this ICP for new connections as well from now on.
What do you think are the risks/problems with using an independent connections provider?	None.
What would need to change in order for you to use a different connections provider?	Nothing – see above.

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

How much opportunity is there for you to freely choose the location of new business developments?	None
How big a factor is the cost of connection in your decision on where to locate your business?	n/a

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.

We operate in Scottish Power's operational area. The service provided by Scottish Power has improved over the years, albeit very slowly. We now receive a fairly good level of service however the cost is very high.

Last year, we used an ICP for the first time to provide service transfers from old to new lighting columns. The improved service and lower costs were hugely beneficial and we will have no hesitation in using the same ICP in future.