

By Email

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Andrew Wallace,
Smarter Markets,
Ofgem,
9 Millbank,
London

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Dear Andrew

MOVING TO RELIABLE NEXT-DAY SWITCHING

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

As you are aware, the Master Registration Agreement (MRA) plays a pivotal role in the current switching arrangements in electricity and consequently will be impacted by the outputs from this consultation. Our main thoughts are set out below, and cover mainly the areas covered within chapter 5, together with some observations about the process as a whole; therefore, we have not attributed our comments to the specific questions in the consultation.

The MRA Executive Committee (MEC) welcomes the move towards faster switching for consumers, confirms its support, and will commit the necessary resources. We believe this represents a significant step towards realising the full benefit from the roll out of smart meters, such as making markets simpler, clearer and fairer for consumers.

The last significant changes made to the MRA was to introduce the Green Deal requirements in 2012/13. Coordinating the introduction of these changes with DECC and effecting the changes under a Secretary of State powers led to the successful introduction of the Green Deal Central Charge database on time.

MEC do not underestimate the level of work that will need to be undertaken before the changes are enacted in late 2016 / early 2017. To that end, the sooner that Ofgem is able to provide formal notice of its intention, the sooner that MEC will have the mandate to start work with regard to the MRA.

It is worth reiterating that the registration governance held within the MRA link to a number of key industry processes, such as the Green Deal Central Charge database, the Microgeneration Certification Scheme, through ECOES. ECOES is a database managed and maintained under the MRA and has a direct dependencies on the data held in the individual registration systems (Meter Point Registration System) owned by the individual Distribution Businesses.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions in the meantime or there is any immediate support we can provide for your work going forward.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Travell