

Annex 1 – Consultation on getting an electricity connection responses and questions

- 1.1. We would like to hear the views of interested parties in relation to any of the issues set out in our consultation.
- 1.2. We would especially welcome responses to the specific questions which we have set out in our consultation and are replicated below.
- 1.3. If you have any questions on this document please contact:

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0207 901 1861
Connections@Ofgem.gov.uk

- 1.4. **Responses should be sent, preferably by e-mail by 29 April 2016 to the address above.**
- 1.5. Unless marked confidential, all responses will be published by placing them in Ofgem's library and on its website www.ofgem.gov.uk. Respondents may request that their response is kept confidential. Ofgem shall respect this request, subject to any obligations to disclose information, for example, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
- 1.6. Respondents who wish to have their responses kept confidential should clearly mark the document/s to that effect and include the reasons for confidentiality. Respondents are asked to put any confidential material in the appendices to their responses.
- 1.7. Next steps: We will consider the responses to this consultation and these will be used alongside other evidence for our assessment of the ICE plans.
- 1.8. *Each of the questions asked by this consultation is set out in the template below. **Note that an editable version of this response template is available on our website as an associated document to this consultation.***
- 1.9. *Please ensure that you indicate the DNO to which your experiences relate.*
- 1.10. *When considering your responses to these questions, please consider your experiences, the actions that the DNO has undertaken or committed to undertake, and the actions that you consider it could reasonably undertake.*

Response template

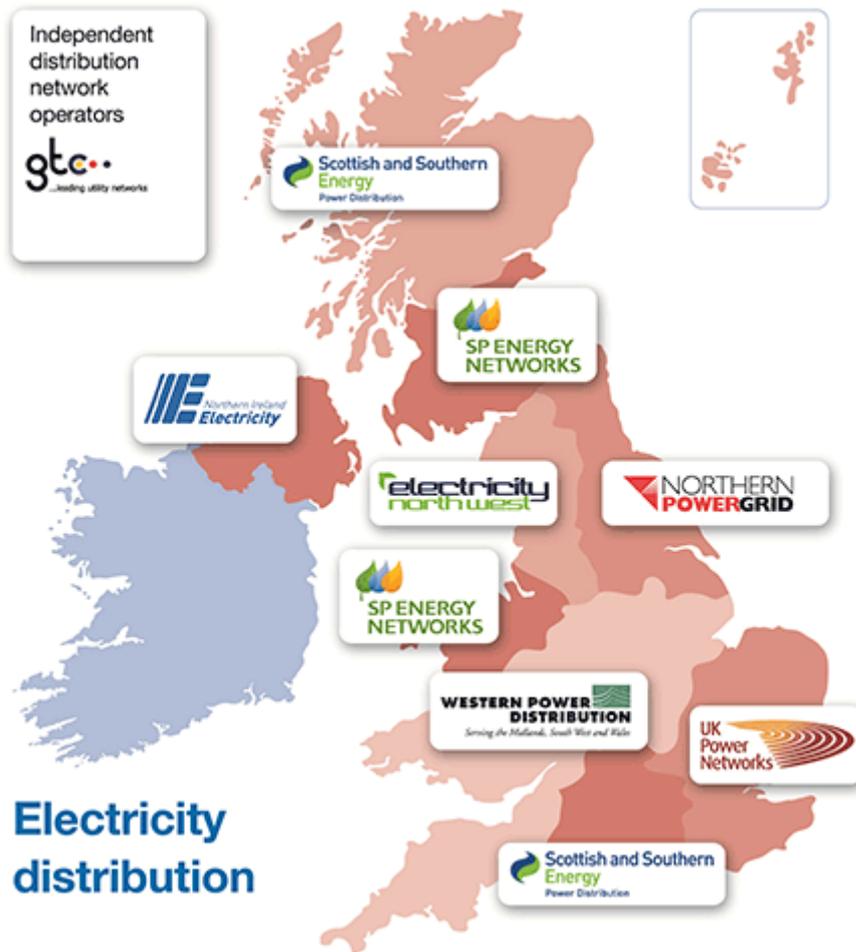
Question	Response																								
About you and your work																									
1. What is the name of your company?	Public Sector Organisation																								
2. In which DNO's region do you generally operate (see Annex 2 for DNO map)? If you operate in more than one DNO's region please indicate which DNO your responses to the following questions refer to.	Western Power & Distribution																								
3. What type of connection do you generally require? And for each type of connection, how many connection applications, including total MVA (Mega Volt Ampere) of connections have you made in the past year?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="808 616 1368 679">Type of connection</th> <th data-bbox="1368 616 1610 679">Total number of connections</th> <th data-bbox="1610 616 1843 679">Total MVA of connections</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="808 679 1021 871" rowspan="4">Metered Demand Connections</td> <td data-bbox="1021 679 1368 727">Low Voltage (LV) Work</td> <td data-bbox="1368 679 1610 727"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 727 1368 775">High Voltage (HV) Work</td> <td data-bbox="1368 727 1610 775"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 775 1368 839">HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work</td> <td data-bbox="1368 775 1610 839"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 839 1368 871">EHV work and above</td> <td data-bbox="1368 839 1610 871"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="808 871 1021 991" rowspan="2">Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</td> <td data-bbox="1021 871 1368 935">LV work</td> <td data-bbox="1368 871 1610 935"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 935 1368 991">HV and EHV work</td> <td data-bbox="1368 935 1610 991"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="808 991 1021 1126" rowspan="3">Unmetered Connections</td> <td data-bbox="1021 991 1368 1038">Local Authority (LA) work</td> <td data-bbox="1368 991 1610 1038"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 1038 1368 1086">Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work</td> <td data-bbox="1368 1038 1610 1086"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 1086 1368 1126">Other work</td> <td data-bbox="1368 1086 1610 1126"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of connection	Total number of connections	Total MVA of connections	Metered Demand Connections	Low Voltage (LV) Work		High Voltage (HV) Work		HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work		EHV work and above		Metered Distributed Generation (DG)	LV work		HV and EHV work		Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work		Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work		Other work	
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Consultation questions																									
1. Do you consider there are constraints on the network in this DNO's region? If there are no constraints please do not answer the following questions.	Yes. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight that the constraints are having a negative economic impact on the region in terms of jobs within the																								

	low carbon sector and enabling organisations to reduce their energy costs and increase productivity.
2. What impact have these constraints had on your ability to get connected to the network?	We have a number of sites (c. 30MW) which a developer was interested in but this all stopped when the grid connection embargo came in. Since then the uncertainty over the type of connection, curtailment levels, 1MW installation size limits and changes to the subsidy regime have come together to make plans stall. In addition, the size of roof-mounted solar PV schemes taken forward by a community energy organisation has been restricted – reducing the benefit to DCC and the size of the community fund to be spent on fuel poverty.
3. To what extent has the DNO tried to find ways to help you get connected in constrained areas? For example:	
a. To what extent has the DNO offered you more flexible and alternative connection arrangements alongside conventional firm connections? If not, then have they explained why not?	We have been told we may be able to get an Active Network Management connection for some of the sites that fit into the AMN trial areas (c. 10MW) and that curtailment will probably be around 30% but one of our sites ‘will be subject to a much higher level of routine curtailment’. We are in the process of deciding whether to complete a connection application to try and gain more certainty on the potential sites.
b. If the DNO does offer alternative arrangements, is the information provided sufficient to decide whether or not to go forward with the connection?	The levels of uncertainty seem too high to justify going ahead and making a connection application in relation to curtailment levels and maximum export levels.
c. If the DNO does offer alternative arrangements, do you find the associated terms (eg. level of potential curtailment and certainty around maximum curtailment levels) acceptable?	No, as the uncertainty over curtailment levels means it is very difficult to secure finance or interest from developers.
4. What information has the DNO shared with you on its work plan of activities designed	We have been given a map of the Active Network Management trial area, a link to information on their website and over the phone explanation from a

to help enable connections in these areas?	WPD member of staff.
a. How comprehensive has this information been?	We have been told that everything to the left of the line denoting the trial area should be in the AMN area and it might be possible for items close to the line to also be included. It would be good if the map came with a list of post codes which are in the trial area to speed up assessment and provide greater clarity prior to connection application.
b. To what extent has the DNO provided information on associated delivery dates of its work plan of activities?	We have been told the connections using the alternative scheme, which I assume is the Active Network Management scheme, will be allowed by Oct 2017.
c. Are you aware if the DNO is forecasting future levels of growth in the type of connections you require?	We are aware that WPD commissioned Regen SW to conduct a Strategic Grid Investment Options study which will provide a better evidence base for them to investment in the grid to enable growth. This is a very important piece of work and we urge Ofgem to work with WPD to ensure that there are genuine mechanisms for enabling investment in the grid to accommodate growth of distributed energy.that WPD will act on this work to prevent the negative impact of future growth.
d. Are you aware of any plans the DNO has to invest in new network capacity where the network is constrained, to enable further customer connections? Have you been consulted on these plans? Has the DNO explored with you ways in which this could be funded?	We have been told they are not reinforcing the F Route 'due to the large cost, small benefit and conflict with Hinkley Point'. We have been told for one of our sites that to enable a conventional offer it would need a 'major 132kV reinforcement, 5-8 year delay and significant cost implication'.
5. Please give details of any other activities you would expect the DNO to be undertaking to deal with constraints on their network.	<p>There is substantial amount of renewable energy capacity tied up in connections that have not been developed. Regen SW conducted some work with WPD to addressing this queue and we understand that there is a new ENA agreed approach. However, we think that WPD could assess the likelihood of projects going ahead – for example through their planning status - and discount many of them in assessing the constraints.</p> <p>It would be good if there was a more accurate map, by postcode, showing</p>

	the constraints associated with a given size of renewable energy development.
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Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas¹



¹ Image from Electricity Networks Association (ENA)