

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.*

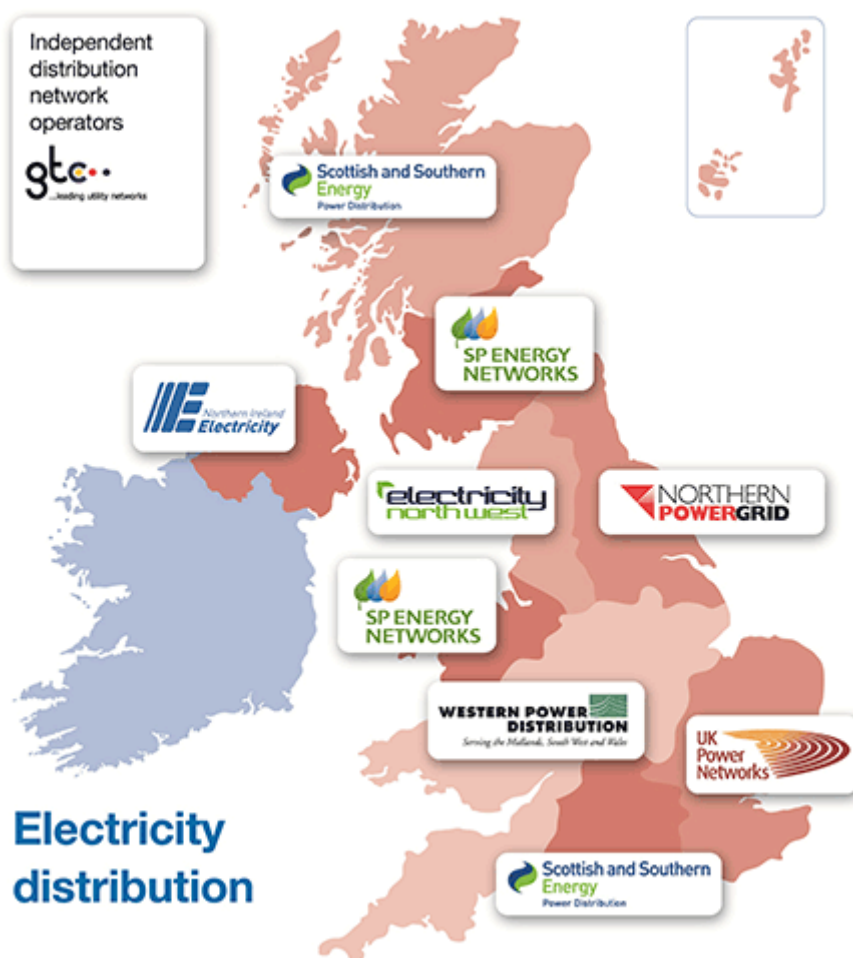
Response template

Question	Response																																		
About you and your work																																			
1. What is the name of your company?	Isle of Wight Council																																		
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.	SSEPD																																		
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 colspan="2">Type of connection</th><th>Total number of connections</th><th>Total MVA of connections</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="4">Metered Demand Connections</td><td>Low Voltage (LV) Work</td><td>Various</td><td>Unknown</td></tr> <tr> <td>High Voltage (HV) Work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>EHV work and above</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</td><td>LV work</td><td>Various</td><td>Unknown</td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and EHV work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Unmetered Connections</td><td>Local Authority (LA) work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work</td><td>Various</td><td>Unknown</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of connection		Total number of connections	Total MVA of connections	Metered Demand Connections	Low Voltage (LV) Work	Various	Unknown	High Voltage (HV) Work			HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work			EHV work and above			Metered Distributed Generation (DG)	LV work	Various	Unknown	HV and EHV work			Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work			Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work	Various	Unknown	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																																		

2. What impact have these constraints had on your ability to get connected to the network?	Only G83 firm connections have been possible for c. 2 years. All other connections are non-firm with additional risk and connection costs. This has greatly reduced smaller scale (<80kW) installations and investment in larger schemes. This has affected both the council and wider stakeholder group which the council represents. The council has been looking at the installation of rooftop PV systems on its own properties, but was limited to systems below the G83 threshold.
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?	The DNO has recently installed an ANM scheme and has published a list of flexible connection options. Since the DNO's modelling of new generation connected to buildings is as load reduction, firm connections for systems above the G83 threshold are not offered, even when export limitation is installed. We believe that ANM will only be commercially viable for larger systems (c. 80kW+), therefore there are no solutions for systems up to this size. We are aware that some projects have applied for ANM connections, but are not aware to what extent this, and the other flexible options, will be acceptable to developers.
b. If the DNO does offer alternative arrangements, is the information provided sufficient to decide whether or not to go forward with the connection?	We are aware that the DNO is required to offer the cheapest option. We are not aware to what extent the other options are discussed, not whether smart grid solutions are discussed with the developer.
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?	We believe that for non-firm connections the onus is on the developer to calculate the potential level of curtailment and this will add additional project risks.
4. What information has the DNO shared with you on its work plan of activities designed to help enable connections in these areas?	
a. How comprehensive has this	Information has been obtained from the LTDS. However, this does not

information been?	contain any information on infrastructure to alleviate the current constraint and we are not aware of a plan to create capacity over and above ANM.
b. To what extent has the DNO provided information on associated delivery dates of its work plan of activities?	The DNO provided information on the ANM scheme before installation and presented at a workshop for project developers. We have no information on delivery dates for other activities.
c. Are you aware if the DNO is forecasting future levels of growth in the type of connections you require?	We are not aware if the DNO is forecasting this 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?	The council has been pushing this agenda and is keen to formulate plans with the DNO that facilitates its strategic objectives for DG. It is concerned that investment in larger-scale renewable generation has slowed down as a result of the constraint and schemes between G83 and c. 80kW have become unviable. The DNO has invested in an ANM scheme but it is not clear whether the commercial arrangements for this will be attractive to project developers. There is ongoing dialogue with the DNO and two recent meetings to discuss the issues. We are not aware of any plans to create additional capacity. We believe that new network capacity would be funded by developer contributions to network reinforcement in the usual way. Further development will likely require contributions to a new undersea interconnector, the costs of which will be completely prohibitive.
5. Please give details of any other activities you would expect the DNO to be undertaking to deal with constraints on their network.	The council is keen to participate in innovation actions which free up grid capacity and explore smart grid solutions. Since the ability to apply for national funding (NIC / NIA) sits only with the DNO and the DNO has many competing demands, we believe that there should be a mechanism for the submission of proposals by a wider group of stakeholders, including local authorities. We would be happy to discuss this and other issues in more detail with Ofgem.

Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas¹



¹ Image from Electricity Networks Association (ENA)