

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.*

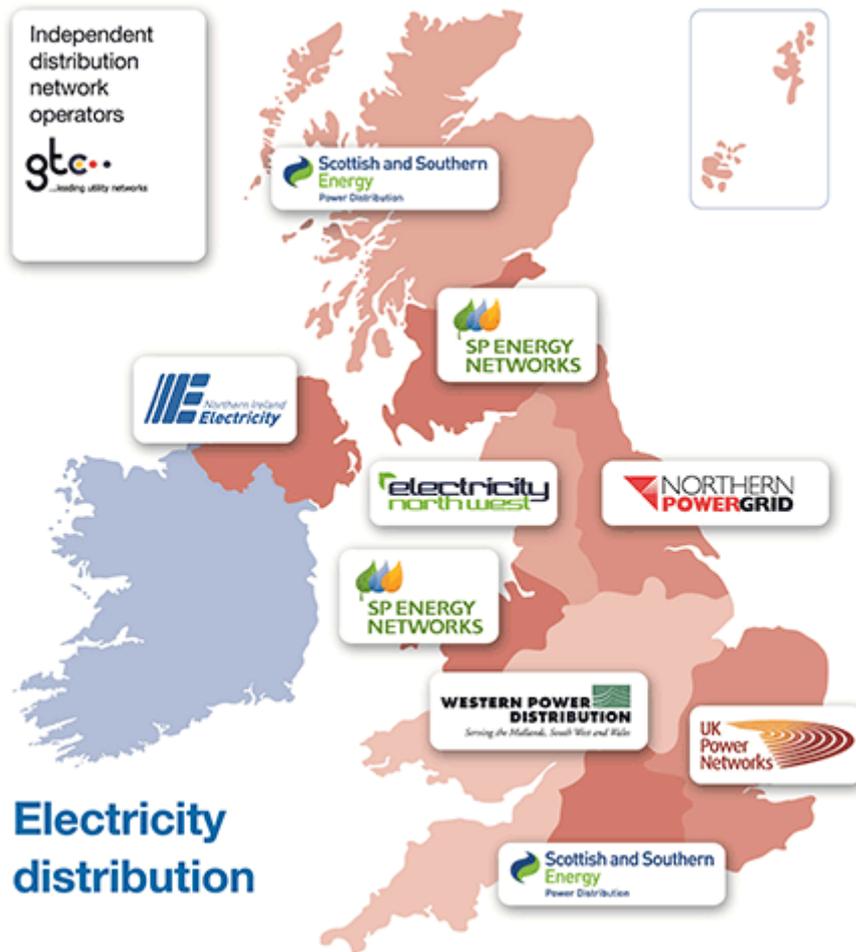
Response template

Question	Response				
About you and your work					
1. What is the name of your company?	Low Carbon Hub A Community Interest Company operating in Oxfordshire.				
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.	The main DNO for Oxfordshire is SSEPD and our comments below refer to them. The two other DNOs covering parts of Oxfordshire are WPN and UKPN. Our comments do not refer to them.				
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?	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	10	625 kWp	
		HV and EHV work			
	Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work			
Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work					
Other work					
Consultation questions					
1. Do you consider there are constraints on the network in this DNO's region? If there are no constraints please do	All SSEPD supply points in Oxfordshire are constrained for new generation connections by fault levels. (See https://www.ssepd.co.uk/GenerationAvailabilityMap/?mapareaid=1)				

not answer the following questions.	We have come to the view that this county-wide constraint is effectively a market failure, blocking new generators' access to the market. See attached paper.
2. What impact have these constraints had on your ability to get connected to the network?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A loss of a minimum of 1MW of installed renewable capacity. (We stopped developing more new schemes once the situation became clear.) • Lost development costs in working up viable schemes only for them to be made unviable by high connection charges.
3. To what extent has the DNO tried to find ways to help you get connected in constrained areas? For example:	SSEPD are very good at responding to requests for information and for update meetings. We hear a lot about the improvements they are making elsewhere in their network but have no evidence that they are developing plans to deal with distributed generation constraints on their network within Oxfordshire.
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?	<p>SSEPD have not offered flexible or alternative connection arrangements for fault level constrained connections. The reasons given are cost and the lack of alternative solutions.</p> <p>In the last week, we have submitted an application for a connection with a thermal constraint (the local supply cable to the sub-station is too small) and SSEPD have agreed a connection with an export limiter.</p>
b. If the DNO does offer alternative arrangements, is the information provided sufficient to decide whether or not to go forward with the connection?	In the thermal constraint connection above, yes.
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?	In the thermal constraint connection above, yes.
4. What information has the DNO shared with you on its work plan of activities designed	SSEPD is good at telling us about its work plan for the whole network and plans for upgrading the Oxfordshire network in response to growth. Arguably

to help enable connections in these areas?	it has shared its work plan for dealing with the fault level constraints, in telling us that it has no plans.
a. How comprehensive has this information been?	Headlines
b. To what extent has the DNO provided information on associated delivery dates of its work plan of activities?	Key dates
c. Are you aware if the DNO is forecasting future levels of growth in the type of connections you require?	No. (Difficult to do when demand is at the whim of government policy.)
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?	As far as we are aware, SSEPD has no plans to deal with fault level constraints in Oxfordshire at the moment. We have not been consulted on the decision not to develop any plans nor discussed routes to funding.
5. Please give details of any other activities you would expect the DNO to be undertaking to deal with constraints on their network.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Active partnership in Oxfordshire to tackle the fault level constraints, matching other DNOs (eg UKPN in London and its own efforts in the Scottish islands and the Isle of Wight). 2. Better provision of information where capacity might have been freed up through eliminating inactive developers from the queue. SSEPD do contact developers further down the queue but there are others who have not made an application in the belief that it would be a waste of money.

Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas¹



¹ Image from Electricity Networks Association (ENA)