

## **Annex 1 – Open letter consultation on the Incentive of Connections Engagement**

- 1.1. We would like to hear the views of interested parties in relation to any of the issues set out in our open consultation letter.
- 1.2. We would especially welcome responses to the specific questions in our consultation, which are replicated below.
- 1.3. If you have any questions on this document please contact:  
  
James Veaney  
Head of Connections and Constraint Management  
Ofgem, 9 Millbank, London, SW1P 3GE  
020 7901 1861  
[Connections@Ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:Connections@Ofgem.gov.uk)
- 1.4. **Responses should be sent, preferably by e-mail by 27 July 2017 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](http://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.
- 1.9. Please ensure that you **indicate the DNO group or specific licence area** to which your experiences relate.
- 1.10. Please ensure that you indicate clearly the type of connection you generally require.
- 1.11. 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 – Incentive on Connections Engagement June 2017

Question	Response																								
<b>About you and your work</b>																									
1. What is the name of your company?	Muirden Energy LLP																								
2. Which DNO's ICE submission is your response related to (see Annex 2 for DNO map)?  Please indicate clearly in your response to the questions below whether your comments refer to the DNO's plans as a whole, or to one of the DNO's licence areas.  If you wish to provide a response to the ICE submission of more than one DNO, please use a separate template for each DNO.	SSEN																								
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?  Please note that we will assess storage within the relevant metered generation market segment.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of connection</th><th>Total number of connections</th><th>Total MVA of connections</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="4"><b>Metered Demand Connections</b></td><td>Low Voltage (LV) Work</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>High Voltage (HV) Work</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>EHV work and above</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2"><b>Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</b></td><td>LV work</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and EHV work</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3"><b>Unmetered Connections</b></td><td>Local Authority (LA) work</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Other work</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of connection	Total number of connections	Total MVA of connections	<b>Metered Demand Connections</b>	Low Voltage (LV) Work		High Voltage (HV) Work		HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work		EHV work and above		<b>Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</b>	LV work		HV and EHV work	3	<b>Unmetered Connections</b>	Local Authority (LA) work		Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work		Other work	
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<b>Consultation questions</b>	
<b>Section 1: Looking Back report 2016-17</b>	
<b>We want your views on how well the DNOs have performed over the last year</b>	
1. Are you satisfied that the DNO had a comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connections stakeholders? Do you consider that the DNO implemented its strategy? If not, are you satisfied that the DNO has provided a reasonable and well-justified explanation?	Yes I believe SSEN have made significant steps to create and promote a clear strategy for engaging stakeholders. We have attended a number of Customer Steering Events which allow the opportunity to meet and engage directly with the relevant staff within SSEN.
2. Are you satisfied that the DNO had a comprehensive work plan of activities (with associated delivery dates) to meet the requirements of its connections stakeholders? Do you consider that the DNO delivered its work plan? If not, are you satisfied that the DNO has provided a reasonable and well-justified explanation?	Yes, SSEN have clearly presented a work plan of activities. In most instances I believe they have successfully delivered the objectives set out. I believe they have fallen short in one area however – Flexible Connections. While it would appear they have been working hard to deliver these, they have yet to allow any formal applications to be made, of which could benefit our organisation greatly. Whilst the justification for such delays are reasonable to an extent, there has been no clear timeframe for a resolution and I believe more could be done by SSEN to achieve this. (For info, SSEN have been working with Ofgem to approve a charging methodology for ANM or flexible connections – this has been ongoing for at least 6 months since we were led to believe SSEN would be able to provide a flexible connection.).
3. Do you consider that the DNO's work plan provided relevant outputs (eg key performance indicators, targets etc.)? Are you satisfied that the DNO has delivered these outputs? If not, do you view the reasons provided to be reasonable and well justified?	Yes I believe they justified the objectives that they met.
4. Do you agree that the DNO's strategy, activities and outputs have taken into account ongoing feedback from a broad and inclusive range of connections stakeholders? If not, has the DNO provided reasonable justification?	Yes, SSEN have made it simple to provide feedback, either through questionnaires or steering panels. It appears to me they take feedback seriously.

**The following two questions refer to the specific areas we discuss in our letter – meeting the needs of all types of connections customers, and connecting when the networks are constrained.**

<p>5. Do you consider that the DNO's activities and outputs over the past year were adequate in meeting the needs of all types of connection customers, including the particular needs of newer types of connection customers?</p>	<p>Given our experience with SSEN and Grid connections, it would be difficult to judge, but I believe a new customer would probably find it easier to sit down and discuss a design and reach a full understanding of everything that is involved that a few years ago.</p> <p>From our point of view – the push is on new flexible connections, and I don't believe the SSEN's output to be satisfactory given they have not achieved this.</p> <p>I also believe a more common sense approach to available capacity should be considered – we have examples of complicated flexible connections which could be avoided should a straightforward approach be accepted.</p>
<p>6. Do you consider that the DNO's activities and outputs over the past year were adequate in meeting the needs of customers looking to connect when the networks are constrained?</p>	<p>As per the above, work has been ongoing on flexible connections, but little appears to be possible with network constraints in North East Scotland.</p>

## Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2017-18

**We want your views on what the DNOs aim to achieve in the coming year**

<p>7. Are you satisfied that the DNO has a comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connection stakeholders and facilitating joint discussions where appropriate?</p>	<p>Yes, the strategy is clearly presented.</p>
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8. Do you agree that the DNO has a comprehensive work plan of activities (with associated delivery dates) that will meet the requirements of its connection stakeholders? If not, has the DNO provided reasonable and well-justified reasons? What other activities should the DNOs do?	Yes I believe the workplan for the forthcoming year looks to build on the positive work over the past year, while improving services such as wayleaves and design information.
9. Do you consider that the DNO has set relevant outputs that it will deliver during the regulatory year (eg key performance indicators, targets, etc.)?	Yes, KPI's are clear and detailed.
10. Would you agree that the DNO's proposed strategy, activities and outputs have been informed and endorsed by a broad and inclusive range of connection stakeholders? If they have not been endorsed, has the DNO provided robust evidence that it has pursued this?	Yes, I believe the looking forward strategy is based on feedback from stakeholders.
<b>The following two questions refer to the specific areas we discuss in our letter – meeting the needs of all types of connections customers, and connecting when the networks are constrained.</b>	
11. Do you consider that the DNO's planned activities and outputs will be sufficient to meet the needs of all types of connection customers, including the particular needs of newer types of connection customers? What other activities should the DNO undertake in this area?	I believe that introduction of Flexible connections is only just the beginning. At the moment SSEN (and others) are moving to what would be considered a simple and straightforward ANM design, however, as constraints grow and capacity diminishes, I believe the need for more complex systems will need to be explored such as mixed ANM (for examples combined Timed Export/Third Party) connections.
12. Do you consider that the DNO's planned activities and outputs will be sufficient to meet the needs of customers looking to connect when the networks are constrained? What other activities should the DNO undertake in this area?	Unfortunately not, this is not all to the fault of SSEN, but network constraints will likely impede out development potential for the foreseeable future.

## Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas<sup>1</sup>

### Electricity Distribution



<sup>1</sup> Image from Electricity Networks Association (ENA) – note the ICE only applies to distribution networks operating in GB