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12 December 2018

SGN Response to the Consultation on Changes to the Stakeholder Engagement Incentive Scheme Guidance

SGN welcomes the opportunity to respond to this review of the Stakeholder Engagement Incentive (SEI) guidance to ensure it remains relevant, robust and continues to drive beneficial outcomes for stakeholders.

Firstly, we welcome the enhanced clarity the proposed changes would bring in relation to part one. Our only cause for concern is around the timeframes proposed under the new process. In order to prepare a presentation of sufficient quality, network companies must receive the questions at least 10 days prior to the panel session as proposed in the modified guidance. More than 10 days' notice of questions where possible would be appreciated.

We welcome the introduction of the public-facing Panel Report and realise that because of its introduction feedback will not be given on the day. However, the consultation suggests that this report will be published by 30 November each year (para. 4.12). It is imperative that networks receive feedback from the panel significantly prior to this date, as without this there will be insufficient time for companies to respond and make changes in their approach to stakeholder engagement as a result of the panel's valued feedback. We would request that feedback is provided to each company within 10 days of the panel, and the Panel Report is the mechanism used to formally make this information publicly available.

If you would like to discuss any of the points raised in more detail, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at <u>david.handley@sgn.co.uk</u>.

Yours sincerely,

David Handley Head of Regulation

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