

Switching Programme Summary – December/January 2019, Issue 3

Welcome

Welcome to the third issue of the Switching Programme newsletter, and the first for 2019.

Our aim is to keep our stakeholders informed of recent and upcoming Switching Programme activity, in a format that can be shared with your wider organisational teams. If you have any thoughts on the type of information you would like to see here, let us know by emailing to switchingprogramme@ofgem.gov.uk.

Latest news

REC v1.0 designation and licence modifications

On February 1st, the Retail Energy Code (the REC) version 1.0 was designated. The REC is a new dual fuel industry code, which is in due course intended to cover all retail requirements.

Companies holding a Gas Supplier, Electricity Supplier, Gas Transporter, Electricity Distribution or Smart Communications licence are required to accede to and comply with the REC.

The accession agreement, along with more information on the REC designation and accession process, can be found [here](#). Accession agreements will need to be returned before Thursday 28th February, on which date the REC will take effect.

In addition to the obligations to accede to and comply with the REC, we have also introduced a duty on all licensees to cooperate with the Authority in order to ensure the effective delivery of a Significant Code Review (SCR). This will include the current Switching Programme. This will provide the basis for ensuring that key market participants will operate in line with the Switching Programme plan and milestones. We intend to revise our current guidance on the SCR process to include more detail on the practical application of the new Duty to Cooperate.

We published the [REC 2019/20 Budget consultation](#) in January. Responses to the consultation are to be sent to switchingprogramme@ofgem.gov.uk and are due before Friday 15th February. Following parties accession to the REC, RECCo will be issuing invoices early March, for payment before the end of March.

You can find more information about Ofgem's decision to modify the standard conditions of the aforementioned licenses, including a summary of the responses to our consultation [here](#). We have also published more information about the REC development and retail code consolidation [here](#).

If you have any questions about the REC or accession process, then please enquire to switchingprogramme@ofgem.gov.uk.

Programme Coordinator announcement

In our last issue we set out that we had awarded the contract for the Programme Coordinator function to our preferred bidder. We are now able to announce that we have awarded the contract to PwC. PwC will provide the Programme with a PMO function, industry coordination, advice to the Programme Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) and Programme Assurance.

We have been busy in January on boarding PwC to the Programme. Many of the faces that have joined us have previous experience working with Ofgem and bring a wealth of knowledge working on large industry change programmes.

In support of this announcement, and to bring industry together for the latest information on mobilisation for the DBT phase, Ofgem is hosting two events, one in London and one in Birmingham.

The details of these events are below:

London Event

Date: 11 February 2019

Time: 14:00 – 17:30 (networking event invite to follow)

Location: CCT Venues Plus-Bank Street, Canary Wharf Level 32, 40 Bank Street, London, E14 5NR

Birmingham Event

Date: 18 February 2019

Time & Location: To be confirmed

PLEASE NOTE

- These events will work on a first come first serve basis.
- To RSVP for an Event, please click on the following link: [RSVP](#)
- Please note that we have limited capacity so we ask that only one member from your organisation attends.
- If you would like additional members to attend, please indicate this on the RSVP and we will let you know if we can accommodate them.
- The RSVP includes a selection for your preferred location London OR Birmingham.
- If you have any queries, please email us at SwitchingPMO@ofgem.gov.uk

What's coming up

DBT entry preparations

Ahead of entry in to the Design, Build and Test (DBT) phase, the Programme SRO will be making a decision on whether to proceed to DBT. The framework for this decision will be the DBT readiness framework, which the Programme Coordinator is currently preparing. It is Ofgem's intention that this will be discussed with Programme Participants in the coming weeks.

In addition to this, the Programme team is working through information received from our recent RFIs to existing system providers, and service procurement developments, to feed in to the Final Business Case (FBC) and decision.

The DCC are progressing well on the procurements ahead of entry in to DBT, with the DCC expecting to enter in to contract with the Systems Integrator in February. The DBT entry point in April 2019 is aligned with point of contract signature for the Central Switching Service (CSS) provider, which is also on track.

The FBC, outlining the decision, will be published externally in Q1 2019.

Mobilisation Survey – insights and next steps

We have had a good response rate so far from our stakeholders to our first Switching Programme Mobilisation survey. Some of the themes and suggestions that we have taken from this exercise:

- Programme participants would welcome a plan that sets out the activities required of them that are specific to their business activities only;
 - We are looking to gain further insights on planning at the Programme Coordinator launch event being held in London and Birmingham in February
- Some Programme participants had views that internal planning activity would commence at the point of the physical CSS design baseline;
 - We would like to note that our expectations are that industry are ready to mobilise in accordance with the DBT plan
- Some suggestion of irrelevance of the Switching Programme in the case of non-domestic suppliers
 - To reiterate, as set out in our logical design, the Switching arrangements apply both to domestic and non-domestic switches, with different requirements specific to non-domestic switches.

With the Programme Coordinator now on board and preparing for industry coordination events and communications, the above comments will be addressed in their key messaging.

A reminder to all that the survey link remains open and we are still welcoming views from our stakeholders. If your organisation has not yet completed the survey, you can access here: [Switching Programme Mobilisation Survey](#)

DBT Governance transition

We held the first 'shadow' Switching Delivery Group meeting on the 30th January. This group will fully take effect from 11th March. In the meantime we are holding elections for the small supplier representative on this group.

Details of the final DBT governance structure and representatives can be found [here](#).

FAQ – Retail Energy Location

See the link [here](#) to the information note on the Retail Energy Location.

What's coming up in diaries

Meetings:

Existing System Provider Forum:

Monday 11th February – 10am at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Monday 11th March – 10am at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Data Working Group:

Thursday 21st February – 10.30am at Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place

Thursday 21st March – 10.30am at Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place

Thursday 25th April – 10.30am at Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place

Switching Programme Design Forum:

Monday 11th February – 1pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Monday 25th February – 1pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Tuesday 12th March – 11.45am at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Switching Programme Delivery Group (Shutdown meeting)

Monday 11th February – 12.30pm, CCT Venues Plus, 40 Bank Street, Canary Wharf

Switching Delivery Group (DBT):

Monday 11th March – 1pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Regulatory Design User Group:

The February meeting will be rescheduled due to conflict with industry event – To be confirmed

Monday 25th March – 1pm, venue to be confirmed