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| **Draft Determination Publication** | |
| **Network Queries** | |
| **Network Reference number** | NGN \_DDQ\_45 |
| **Licence** | Northern Gas Networks |
| **Topic/Activity:** | GSoP Exemptions |
| **Question:** | In 2.60 of the GD sector Specific Document you outline your proposal to remove the exemption for connection quotation GSOPs so that the standards would extend to domestic developments and non-domestic developments of more than five properties, isolations (ie disconnections) and diversions (including mains diversions and diversions related to pipes of up to 7 bar gauge of pressure) for exit connections, and green gas enquiries for entry connections.  In response to a previous SQ you clarified that this applies to GSoP 4, 5 and 6 only.  Can you please clarify what constitutes “standard” and “non-standard” for the amended exemptions and also how the application of the >250 KWh and <250KWh is to be applied across the exemptions to differentiate between GSoP 4,5 and 6, particularly diversions which are not requests for supply and therefore there is no kWh to use. |
| **Confidential** | No |
| **DDQ raised by** | Greg Dodd |
| **Date query raised** | 11/08/2020 |
| **Expected response date** | 14/08/2020 |
| **Ofgem Response:**  Ofgem discussed a number of points related to this query in the RIIO\_2 customer and social working group on Tuesday 25 August. Minutes will be made available in due course.  In summary, we discussed:   * The Gas (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005 contain definitions for “standard quotations” and “non-standard quotations”. Based on these, our working assumption was that isolations/disconnections would best be covered by the “standard quotation” parameters set out in GSoP 4 (4 working days), where no site visit is required and the pressure falls under 7 bar. One GDN responded to suggest desktop quote, standard pricing jobs would go under GSoP 4, but where there are multiple mains and pipes on site/site visit necessary, suggested this would follow GSoP 5 timescales. The small number of IP jobs that need visit/bespoke work could fit into GSoP 6. The terms of isolation/disconnections are used interchangeably in * With regard to diversions, our starting point is for diversions to follow the same timescales as GSoP 6 (21 working days), under the parameters of a non-standard quotation request. However, we have received comments that the bandings of ‘kWh per hour’ gas flow do not apply to diversionary work, and we are also aware of different timescales regarding diversions in the NRSWA diversions code of practice. There is also an additional level of complexity involved in some diversionary work (for example overbuilds, issues around diameter of pipe, diversions from IP/MP pipelines, third party land, mains not being digitised and if site visits/extensive surveys are required). Therefore, we are also considering whether some diversions services could be outlined in the statements of excluded/complex gas connections, and welcome views on this. There was also a discussion as to whether some diversionary work, pertaining to a single pipe under 180mm in diameter, low pressure pipeline on land all owned by the customer could be set out under the GSoP 4 timelines. * Our working assumption is for GSoPs 5 and 6 to cover domestic and non-domestic developments of greater than 5 premises, where the non-standard quotations process would apply due to the potential for greater than 275kWh per hour requirements (in respect of sites falling under GSoP 6) greater than 5 number of gas connections required, and where there is potential of multiple ownership and occupants, domestic and non-domestic supply at multiple supply points. Implementation would likely involve the repealing of the current exemptions in relation to quotation requests for domestic and non-domestic developments. One respondent suggested that mixed developments (of domestic and non-domestic premises combined) could also fit into routine jobs under GSoPs 5/6, and stated that GDN would add up whole load for all properties. We would invite further representations in the Draft Determinations that reference MoBs. As well as this, one GDN suggested GSoPs for developments/the SI could be written differently, as it currently relates to direct customers, not requests on behalf of customers. There was mention that these requests shouldn’t fall under voluntary scheme, and needs terms mirrored in voluntary scheme/GSoP 12. This relates to the idea/definition of ‘customer’ in respect of connections. * For Green Gas Entry, the process will be slightly different in that the quotations process doesn’t mirror the exit connections standards of performance, nor do all GDNs run a universally similar process in respect of (green gas) entry. The working assumption is for the standards of performance to cover the initial and full capacity studies, and GDQ6 published in the ‘Draft Determinations: GD Sector’ document relates specifically to asking how to implement these standards for green gas enquiries on entry. GDNs stated that discussions have been taking place between one another on the extension to Green Gas, and stated ther’s a variance of services offered across the network, some common and some more bespoke. Within WWU the majority of requests are to the distribution network, whilst at Cadent the requests are to the LTS. Customers are looking for a bespoke entry service so it is not a routine process given the volumes and standards (services variance, gas cleanup connections etc.). It was mentioned 9/10 requests are to LTS/have larger loads/bespoke service, not routine. One GDN suggested they are quite bespoke and customers prefer quality as opposed to a quick quote. Timeliness is not the issue, and GDNs don’t want to jeopardise quality for timeliness. There was mention too of looking at a Design Feasibility Study for these standards. * Other discussions revolved around GSoP 8 – land enquiry, and whether this could be defined differently (e.g. related to design appraisal), as this is a capacity assessment and can relate to IGT/UIP responses. One GDN suggested the title for land enquiry could be clearer.   We are inviting representations on the policy positions as outlined in the Draft Determinations, as well as on the merits of the working assumptions as outlined above. | |
| **Attachments:** | |