

Response template – Incentive on 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. The questions we have asked are directly linked to the minimum criteria set out in the ICE guidance document. You can find this on our website [here](#).
- 1.3. If you have any questions on this document, please contact connections@Ofgem.gov.uk.
- 1.4. **Responses should be sent by e-mail by 28 August 2020 to the address above.**
- 1.5. Unless marked confidential, all responses will be published by placing them in Ofgem's library and on our 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 clear reasons for confidentiality. We ask you to consider this carefully as sharing the comments with the relevant DNO may help improve their performance and ensure a transparent and effective ICE process. Respondents are asked to put any confidential material in the appendices to their responses.
- 1.7. 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 or specific licence area** to which your experiences relate. Each DNO is group and individual DNO is listed on our [here](#). Please note that Northern Ireland is not subject to this consultation.

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.

1.11. **Please make sure you highlight which year a specific event happened in. The regulatory year runs from 1 April to 31 March.**

Annex: response template

About you and your work				
What is the name of your company?	JBM Solar			
Is your response confidential? Please explain which parts and why. For a fair process, we prefer the DNOs to be able to respond to any comments made, particularly if they are negative. Please consider carefully before marking any part of your response confidential.	No			
Which DNO's ICE submission is your response related to? If you wish to provide a response to the ICE submission of more than one DNO group, please use a separate template for each group.	SSEN			
What type of connection do you generally require? For each type of connection, how many applications have you made in the past year, and what is the total MVA (Mega Volt Ampere)?	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		
		HV and EHV work	3 Formal 10+ Budget	132MVA 500+ MVA
	Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work		
Private finance				

		initiatives (PFI) Work		
		Other work		

Section 1: Looking Back report 2019/20

We want your views on how well the DNOs have engaged with connections stakeholders over the last regulatory year

1. How many of the DNO's stakeholder engagement events have you been invited to this year? (This can include engagement outside official events.) Please tick a box.	none	1	2	3	4	5	6	>6
								X
2. How many DNO Stakeholder events have you been to? This can also include meetings outside of official engagement events. Please tick a box.	none	1	2	3	4	5	6	>6
								X
3. Tell us about how the DNO engaged with you: a) What did the DNO do? b) How did the DNO do it? c) Did the DNO have a robust engagement strategy?	<p>a) Sent out invites to Stakeholder Engagement Groups as well as connections surgeries and pre app meetings (at our request).</p> <p>b) Due to COVID SSEN used a virtual format for the meetings.</p> <p>c) Yes</p>							

The DNO's work plan

4. <i>Objectives:</i> Have you seen the DNOs work plans and the objectives they outline? a) Does it take into consideration your needs? If so, how? b) If it doesn't please explain why.	I have seen the plans. They take into consideration our needs with regards to greater provision of information and flexibility on the offers.
5. <i>Actions:</i> Do you think the DNO has delivered its work plan? a) How has the DNO done this? b) If you do not think the DNO has delivered its work plan, please explain why.	<p>SSEN has delivered on its work plan with 19.17 being quite useful but a few niggles persist.</p> <p>19.08 - The GIS website needs enhancements. The pace at which DNO assets are loading is quite slow, which on some occasions renders the website unusable. We also need access to schematic information. Other DNOs have it as an option on their GIS to transfer the view to the schematic along with search functionalities within the schematic view.</p> <p>19.11 - Considering the now wide spread usage of 66/132kV for Generation connections, more information is</p>

	<p>needed for those. Template designs of substation or connection arrangements. Perhaps the gap analysis identifies that.</p> <p>If the above are taken care off, it will enable us to self serve for the information to a greater degree and as such take strain off the DNO.</p>			
<p>6. <i>Outputs:</i> Were the outputs (KPIs, targets etc) in the DNO's work plan appropriate? Did the DNO meet these outputs? Please explain why.</p>	<p>Yes although some KPIs needed that bit extra to ensure the effort on the commitment is appreciated (see above comments).</p>			
<p>Your feedback on the DNOs stakeholder engagement performance</p>				
<p>7. Do you think the DNO's strategy, activities and outputs have taken into account ongoing feedback from a broad and inclusive range of connections stakeholders?</p>	<p>Yes</p>			
<p>8. How satisfied are you with the DNO's overall engagement performance? Please tick one box.</p>	<p>very unsatisfied</p>	<p>not satisfied</p>	<p>satisfied</p>	<p>very satisfied</p>
				<p>X</p>
<p>9. General feedback – please provide any further feedback on the DNO's 2019/20 engagement performance not covered in your responses above.</p>				

<p>Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2020/21</p>	
<p>We want your views on what the DNO aims to achieve in the coming year</p>	
<p>10. 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>Proposed action of monthly updates on heat map information would be great. If the heat maps included a filter for a user input on capacity which in turn would highlight the GSP/BSP/Primary substations with a traffic light system, it would be great.</p>
<p>11. 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</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The below point is a general concern for the industry as a whole.</p>

well-justified reasons? What other activities should the DNO do?	We need to see greater integration and common process/joined up way of thinking between all DNOs and National Grid. Currently the process from offer to connection of a project has too many steps, before the construction even begins. This needs to be streamlined to enable the speedy transition to the electrification of transport and heating as well as increased renewable generation (to the rates that #netzero commands), i.e. we need to think bigger and as a result the commitments need to grow from improvements to plans of action to meet the targets.
12. 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.
13. 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 not, has the DNO provided robust evidence that it has pursued this engagement?	Yes.