

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
- 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. 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																																		
About you and your work																																			
1. What is the name of your company?	FES Ltd																																		
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 (Scotland)																																		
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 colspan="2">Type of connection</th><th>Total number of connections</th><th>Total MVA of connections</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="4">Metered Demand Connections</td><td>Low Voltage (LV) Work</td><td>10</td><td>1MVA</td></tr> <tr> <td>High Voltage (HV) Work</td><td>10</td><td>8MVA</td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work</td><td>1</td><td>12MVA</td></tr> <tr> <td>EHV work and above</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</td><td>LV work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and EHV work</td><td>0</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Unmetered Connections</td><td>Local Authority (LA) work</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other work</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of connection		Total number of connections	Total MVA of connections	Metered Demand Connections	Low Voltage (LV) Work	10	1MVA	High Voltage (HV) Work	10	8MVA	HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work	1	12MVA	EHV work and above	0	0	Metered Distributed Generation (DG)	LV work			HV and EHV work	0		Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work	0	0	Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work	0	0	Other work	0	0
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Consultation questions	
Section 1: Looking Back report 2016-17	
We want your views on how well the DNOs have performed over the last year	
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?	FES have no issues with the engagement process adhered to by SSEN. Engagement days, monthly meetings, news letters and bulletins all inform FES of all elements associated with the connection industry.
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?	The detailed work plan compiled by SSEN was communicated effectively to FES. It provided FES with a clear understanding of the full process from application to connection and timescales associated with each stage of the process.
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?	FES is satisfied with the delivery of meeting the out puts specified, especially the wayleave process. The introduction of the land rights and wayleave guide for new connections provides an informative document that educates all operatives at FES but more importantly our customers. The simple format provides an easy to read document that details the process and responsibility of each stakeholder.
4. Do you agree that the DNO's strategy, activities and outputs have taken into account on-going feedback from a broad and inclusive range of connections stakeholders? If not, has the DNO provided reasonable justification?	Yes, SSEN has clearly taken on board feedback from the ICP market within Scotland.
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.	
5. Do you consider that the DNO's activities and outputs over the past year were	Yes, the activities and out puts that SSEN have introduced enhance the

adequate in meeting the needs of all types of connection customers, including the particular needs of newer types of connection customers?	process and service the customer receives.
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?	FES has had minimal experience with a flexible connection and cannot comment.
<p style="text-align: center;">Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2017-18</p>	
<p>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?	Yes, SSEN are maintaining the engagement process with FES, stakeholder engagement days and monthly meetings, provide both organisations a platform to discuss all elements related to current connections, process and future plans.
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, SSEN have followed on from last year and provided a work plan that coincides with the connection market.
9. Do you consider that the DNO has set relevant outputs that it will deliver during the regulatory year (e.g. key performance indicators, targets, etc.)?	Yes, the KPI set by SSEN that are relevant to FES connection business. Specifically Queue Management for the SoW process and the timescales associated with the Wayleaves process.
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	Yes, FES could not attend the initial engagement day proposed by SSEN. SSEN Networks arranged an independent seminar with FES to discuss the proposed strategy and future outputs.

stakeholders? If they have not been endorsed, has the DNO provided robust evidence that it has pursued this?	
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.	
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?	At the moment, they should, the outputs provided have covered all aspects of the connection process associated with the FES connection business. The customer base of FES ranges from community consortiums to private landowners. The outputs defined by SSEN seem meet FES and our customer's expectations.
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?	With the increasing status of connection being constrained, the flexible connection approach is ideal to facilitate customer needs. To include additional outputs objectives associated with flexible connection can only add value to connection experience.

Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas¹

Electricity Distribution



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