

Sent by email

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19th December 2017

Dear Neil,

Future supply market arrangements – call for evidence

The MRA Executive Committee (MEC) was pleased to receive your call for evidence on future supply market arrangements dated 14th November 2017.

Whilst we are not presently in a position to respond to the specific questions posed, we would like to comment more generally on some of the themes within the call for evidence, including reiterating some of the work currently being progressed within the code space to support innovation, as well as the enhancement of the market arrangements for the benefit of the consumer.

MRA parties are committed to continuously improving the arrangements laid out within code to facilitate the objectives set out in the MRA; these include the efficient operation of change of supplier procedures, promotion of effective competition between electricity suppliers, and efficiency in administering the MRA arrangements. Through this mechanism, MRA parties have demonstrated their openness to innovation towards the advancement of the supply market arrangements.

With specific reference to Topic 1 (*Guiding criteria to evaluate a successful supply market*) within your call for evidence, we agree in principle with each of the guiding criteria that have been proposed. Indeed, we would consider that many of the criteria can be met within existing market arrangements. For example, having met the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) Order to provide Price Comparison Websites (PCWs) with access to data on the Electricity Central Online Enquiry Service (ECOES) (*Energy Market Investigation (ECOES/DES) Order 2016*), MRA parties have exceeded the requirements by developing and implementing an automated, machine-to-machine Application Protocol Interface (API) to allow PCWs far more efficient access to industry data. Further still, we have been working with the Uniform Network Code (UNC) and Xoserve in gas to launch a dual fuel service, which combines electricity and gas data into a single API, available to all PCWs and third parties subject to reasonable access conditions being met.

This initiative is one of many ways that MRA parties have been engaged in reducing 'barriers for consumers and wider market participants seeking to share access to their energy system data' and assisting 'firms offering intermediary and other services to consumers... compete on an equal basis'.

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MRA parties are committed to supporting Ofgem in facilitating the continued improvement and evolution of the supply market arrangements, and would be happy to work further with Ofgem to identify ways in which current arrangements both facilitate and hinder innovation. We look forward to your proposed workshops over the coming months, and the publication of your initial views on a way forward in Spring 2018.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AGT', followed by a series of horizontal strokes.

Alex Travell

Chairman of the MRA Executive Committee

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