

Notice of Price Control Decisions, Determinations and Directions

To: Smart DCC Limited

1. This Notice of Decisions, Determinations and Directions is issued by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority¹ ("the Authority") under the Licence² granted to Smart DCC Limited³ ("the Licensee").⁴

Purpose of this Notice

2. The Licensee is subject to price control provisions set out in Chapter 9 of the Licence. On 31 July 2018 the Licensee submitted to the Authority the Price Control Information relating to Regulatory Year⁵ 2017-2018 as required by condition 32 of the Licence.
3. Licence Condition 36 Part C provides that the Licensee's Allowed Revenue⁶ in relation to Regulatory Year t⁷ is to be determined in accordance with the Principal Formula⁸. The Principal Formula includes terms reflecting:
 - a) IC_t , meaning the actual amount of the Licensee's Internal Costs⁹, as calculated for Regulatory Year t by the Licensee except to such extent (if any) as may be otherwise directed by the Authority acting under Part B of Licence Condition 37;
 - b) the BM_t meaning the Baseline Margin that is specified for the Regulatory Year t in Appendix 1 to Licence Condition 36, as multiplied by the price index adjuster for that year, as described in Licence Condition 36.8;
 - c) $ECGS_t$, meaning the amount of revenue adjustment in respect of External Contract Gain Share, as calculated for Regulatory Year t in accordance with Condition 39 (Determination of External Contract Gain Share), as described in Licence Condition 36.8.

¹ The Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) supports the Authority in its day to day work. In this document 'we', 'us', 'Ofgem' and 'Authority' are used interchangeably.

² The Smart Meter Communications Licences granted pursuant to Section 7AB(2) and (4) of the Electricity Act 1989 and Sections 6(1A) and (1C) of the Gas Act 1986 (such licences together referred to as 'the Licence').

³ Smart DCC Ltd is registered in England and Wales under Company Number 08641679.

⁴ All terms used in this Notice shall have the meaning given to them under the Licence, unless expressly stated otherwise.

⁵ Defined in Condition 1.4 of the Licence.

⁶ Defined in Condition 35.5 of the Licence.

⁷ The terms 'Regulatory Year t' and 'Regulatory Year t-1' are defined in Condition 35.5 of the Licence.

⁸ Defined in Part C of Condition 36 of the Licence.

⁹ Defined in Condition 35, Part B of the Licence

4. This Notice sets out the Authority's:

- i. Direction excluding Unacceptable Costs in accordance with Licence Condition 37.8, on the basis that some Internal Costs were not economically and efficiently incurred;
- ii. Determination amending the Licensee's proposed Relevant Adjustment to the BM values specified in Licence Condition 36 Appendix 1, in accordance with Licence Condition 36 Appendix 2;
- iii. Determination amending the Licensee's proposed Relevant Adjustment of the ECGS term specified in Licence Condition 39

IC_t Internal Costs: Exclusion of Unacceptable Costs from any future calculation of the Licensee's Allowed Revenue

5. Under Licence Condition 37, Part B, the Authority may:

(a) direct that any External Costs or Internal Costs that it considers were not economically and efficiently incurred in the Relevant Regulatory Year (the "Unacceptable Costs") are to be excluded from any future calculation of the Licensee's Allowed Revenue under Condition 36; or

(b) accept an undertaking given by the Licensee with respect to the Unacceptable Costs on terms that relate to either or both of:

- (i) the Licensee's future management of those costs, and
- (ii) the Licensee's future procurement of Relevant Service Capability.

6. The Authority has considered the Licensee's reports¹⁰ dated 31 July 2018 and further information submitted by the Licensee between 31 July 2018 and the close of the price control consultation on 28 December 2018. The Authority has consulted¹¹ the Licensee and other relevant stakeholders on its proposed decisions and has duly considered all responses received. The Authority has considered the matters set out in Part B of Licence Condition 37.

7. Having regard to the provisions set out in Licence Condition 37, the Authority considers that £1.016 million of the Licensee's Internal Costs were not economically and efficiently incurred¹² and are Unacceptable Costs.¹³

8. The Licensee did not submit any undertaking with respect to the Unacceptable Costs.

¹⁰ The Price Control Information Report submitted under Condition 32 and the annual report on cost performance required under Condition 37.3 of the Licence.

¹¹ The DCC Price Control Consultation is available at: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/dcc-price-control-consultation-regulatory-year-201718>

¹² Details of the Internal Costs that were not economically and efficiently allowed are set out in our Price Control Decision 2017/18 which accompanies this Notice.

¹³ Defined in Condition 37.8(a) of the Licence.

Direction as to Internal Costs

9. The Authority hereby directs, pursuant to Licence Condition 37.8 (a) that £1.016 million of the Licensee's Internal Costs are Unacceptable Costs and are to be excluded from any future calculation of the Licensee's Allowed Revenue under Licence Condition 36.

CRSIC_t Centralised Registration Service Internal Costs: Exclusion of Unacceptable Costs from any future calculation of the Licensee's Allowed Revenue

10. Under Licence Condition 37, Part B, the Authority may:

- (a) direct that any Centralised Registration External Costs or Centralised Registration Service Internal Costs that it considers were not economically and efficiently incurred in the Relevant Regulatory Year (the "Unacceptable Costs") are to be excluded from any future calculation of the Licensee's Allowed Revenue under Condition 36; or
- (b) accept an undertaking given by the Licensee with respect to the Unacceptable Costs on terms that relate to either or both of:
- (i) the Licensee's future management of those costs, and
 - (ii) the Licensee's future procurement of Relevant Service Capability.

11. The Authority has considered the Licensee's reports¹⁴ dated 31 July 2018 and further information submitted by the Licensee between 31 July 2018 and the close of the price control consultation on 28 December 2018. The Authority has consulted¹⁵ the Licensee and other relevant stakeholders on its proposed decisions and has duly considered all responses received. The Authority has considered the matters set out in Part B of Licence Condition 37.

12. Having regard to the provisions set out in Licence Condition 37, the Authority considers that £0.291 million of the Licensee's Centralised Revenue Service Internal Costs were not economically and efficiently incurred¹⁶ and are Unacceptable Costs.¹⁷

13. The Licensee did not submit any undertaking with respect to the Unacceptable Costs.

¹⁴ The Price Control Information Report submitted under Condition 32 and the annual report on cost performance required under Condition 37.3 of the Licence.

¹⁵ The DCC Price Control Consultation is available at: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/dcc-price-control-consultation-regulatory-year-201718>

¹⁶ Details of the Internal Costs that were not economically and efficiently allowed are set out in our Price Control Decision 2017/18 which accompanies this Notice.

¹⁷ Defined in Condition 37.8(a) of the Licence.

Direction as to Centralised Registration Service Internal Costs

14. The Authority hereby directs, pursuant to Licence Condition 37.8 (a) that £0.291 million of the Licensee's Centralised Registration Service Internal Costs are Unacceptable Costs and are to be excluded from any future calculation of the Licensee's Allowed Revenue under Licence Condition 36.

BM_t Baseline Margin Adjustment (BMA)

15. Licence Condition 36 Appendix 1 ("Appendix 1") sets out the values for the BM term for each Regulatory Year. Licence Condition 36 Appendix 2 ("Appendix 2"), Part A, provides that the Licensee may propose a Relevant Adjustment to any one or more of the BM values specified for any one or more of the Regulatory Years. By Notice dated 31 July 2018, the Licensee proposed a Relevant Adjustment to the BM values specified in Appendix 1 for each Regulatory Year of the Licence.

16. The Licence provides that the Authority will, at any time before the end of the Determination Period¹⁸, by direction given to the Licensee, determine any adjustment that is to be made to any BM value specified in Appendix 1 for the Regulatory Year to which that BM value relates. The Determination Period ends on 28 February 2019. The Authority must determine any adjustment that is to be made in accordance with Appendix 2 Part B.

17. In accordance with Appendix 2 Part B, the Authority has considered the proposal for a Relevant Adjustment to the BM values and the further information submitted by the Licensee and has consulted with the Licensee and with SEC parties. The Authority has had particular regard to the purposes that the BM term is intended to serve within the Price Control Conditions of the Licence and the basis on which the BM values were agreed during the Licence Application Process with respect to the Licensee's expected rate of return on its activities over time. The Authority has taken no account of the Licensee's general financial performance under the provisions, taken as a whole, of the Price Control Conditions.

18. The Licence gives the original values of the BM term in Licence Condition 36 Appendix 1 in the price base of 2013/14. The Relevant Adjustments to these terms are to be made in the same price base. Therefore the Relevant Adjustments specified by the Licensee in the 2017/18 price base are deflated by the price index adjuster (PIBM) for 2017/18.

19. The Authority had determined an adjustment to the BM values set out in Licence Condition 36 Appendix 1 by issuing the Notice of Price Control

¹⁸ Defined in Licence Condition 36 Appendix 2 Part E as being the period running from the close of the Application Window (ie 31 July 2015 for the Regulatory Year 2014/15) until the end of the first month of November after that closure, or such later date as may be directed by the Authority in a Counter-Notice served under Appendix 2 Paragraph A8. The Authority served such a Counter-Notice on 31 August 2018, which stated that the Determination Period would end on 28 February 2019.

Decisions, Determinations and Directions on 21 February 2018¹⁹. The adjustment of £6.769 million for the years 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 was to be made to the BM values and was set out in Annex A of the notice to be recovered in 2018/19.

20. In accordance with Appendix 1 paragraphs A2 and A6(c), the total amount deflated by the price index adjuster for 2016/17 is to be recovered by DCC across the years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 as outlined in Annex A of this direction. This is to ensure that BMA awarded for multiple years is not recovered by DCC in a single year.²⁰

Determination as to BM_t Baseline Margin Adjustment

21. Having regard to the provisions of Appendix 2, the Authority hereby amends the proposed Relevant Adjustment and determines the adjustment to the BM values set out in Licence Condition 36 Appendix 1. The adjustment that is to be made to the BM values is set out in Annex A of this direction.

Adjustment to the EGCS term of Principle Formula

22. Licence Condition 39 establishes the mechanism for determining the amount of the External Contract Gain Share (EGCS) term that applies for the purposes of the Principal Formula set out under Part C of Condition 36. By Notice dated 28 July 2018, the Licensee proposed a Relevant Adjustment to the value of the EGCS term for Regulatory Years 2019/20 to 2024/25.

23. The Licence provides that the Authority will, at any time before the end of the Determination Period, by direction given to the Licensee, determine any adjustment that is to be made to the EGCS term for the Regulatory Years referred to in the proposal. The Determination Period ends on 28 February 2019.

24. In accordance with Condition 39, the Authority has considered the proposal for a Relevant Adjustment to the EGCS values alongside the further information submitted by the Licensee.

Determination as to EGCS term of the Principle Formula

25. Having regard to the provisions of Condition 39, the Authority hereby determines that the value of the EGCS term for Regulatory Years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 are to be adjusted in accordance with the values in the table at Annex B to this Notice.

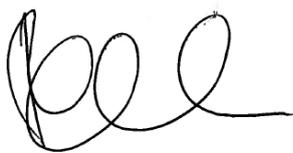
¹⁹ The Notice is available at:

https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2018/02/notice_of_price_control_decisions_determinations_and_directions_ry1617.pdf

²⁰ Details of the decision to distribute BMA awarded last year across multiple years is set out in our Price Control Decision 2017/18 which accompanies this Notice.

Further Direction

26. Where the Authority has determined costs as not economic and efficient in the Price Control decision 2017/18, the Licensee must make subsequent Relevant Adjustments to incurred and forecast costs in the Regulatory Instructions and Guidance (RIGS) submission for consideration of the 2018/19 Price Control.
27. Pursuant to its powers under Licence Condition 2 Part C, the Authority hereby directs the Licensee to provide to the Authority a calculation of its Allowed Revenue in accordance with the Principal Formula for Regulatory Year 2018/19 taking into account the determinations and direction above no later than 31 July 2019.
28. The reduction to incurred and forecast Internal Costs and Centralised Registration Service Internal Costs for Regulatory Year 2017/18 is set out in Annex C and D of this direction. Detailed cost breakdown will be provided to DCC in the form of a copy of the Regulatory Instructions and Guidance with amended values.
29. The Directions in this Notice have immediate effect and remain in effect until such time as the Authority may revoke or amend them in writing.
30. This Notice of Decisions, Determinations and Directions and the Data Communications Company (DCC): Price control decision 2017/18 dated 31 January 2019 together constitute Notice of the Authority's reasons for the above decisions pursuant to section 38A of the Gas Act 1986 and section 49A of the Electricity Act 1989.



Rob Salter-Church

Director, Retail Systems Transformation

Duly authorised on behalf of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

31 January 2019

ANNEX A :

Relevant BM Adjustment (£ million in 2013/14 prices) for each Regulatory Year determined in response to Notice submitted by Licensee dated 31 July 2018

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
-	-	-	-	-	-	2.012
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
2.237	2.223	-	-	-	-	n/a

We have categorised the BM adjustment by relevant driver to ensure that the correct proportions of the BM are allocated to either the OPR or the BEIS-led project incentive regimes.

Driver	BM adjustment (£ million)			
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
SMETS1	0.412	0.274	0.000	0.686
Release 2.0	0.258	0.219	0.000	0.477
OPR	1.342	1.744	2.223	5.309
Total	2.012	2.237	2.223	6.472

Relevant BM Adjustment (£ million in 2013/14 prices) for each Regulatory Year determined in response to Notice submitted by Licensee dated 31 July 2017

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
-	-	-	-	-	2.363	2.141
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
1.872	-	-	-	-	-	n/a

We have categorised the BM adjustment by relevant driver to ensure that the correct proportions of the BM are allocated to either the OPR or the BEIS-led project incentive regimes.

Driver	BM adjustment (£ million)			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
SMETS1	0.395	0.604	0.498	1.497
Release 2.0	0.184	0.147	0.144	0.474
OPR	1.784	1.391	1.230	4.404
Total	2.363	2.141	1.872	6.376

ANNEX B:

Relevant ECGS Adjustment (£ million) for each Regulatory Year

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
-	-	-	-	-	-	4.394
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
2.347	1.990	1.491	1.491	1.491	-	n/a

ANNEX C:

Internal Costs determined as not economic and efficient under the price control (£ million) and forecast costs not meeting the 'significantly more likely than not to occur' threshold for each Regulatory Year

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
-	-	-	-	1.016	0.128	0.077
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
24.325	24.437	24.450	24.450	24.450	10.166	n/a

ANNEX D:

CRS Costs determined as not economic and efficient under the price control (£ million) and forecast costs not meeting the 'significantly more likely than not to occur' threshold for each Regulatory Year

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
-	-	-	-	0.291	-	-
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
-	-	-	-	-	-	n/a