
Technical Panel Meeting, 21st April 2011

Approved Minute

Attendees

Jeremy Atkinson (JA) - CMA (Chair)
James Bream (JB) - Business Stream
Lynda McKay (LM) – Business Stream
Jessie McLeman (JMCL) - Scottish Water
Amanda Hancock (AH) – CMA (TP Secretary)
Kevin Ensell (KE) – Osprey
David Walters (DW) - Commission

Apologies

Brian Saunders (BS) - CMA
Richard Khaldi (RK) - Commission

1. Minute

The minute of the meeting of 17th February 2011 was approved.

2. Actions and Administrative Update

AH provided an update on the action log.

AP117 was closed. Participants advised that they had some numbers to provide the CMA with Type 2 SPIDs that require removal from the Market. JB commented that Business Stream would forward to the CMA following the meeting. JMCL added that Scottish Water also had some numbers to forward to the CMA.

AP119 was closed as the revised proposal was presented at this TP meeting in Section 3.

AP120 is contingent on feedback from AP117 and is therefore ongoing.

AH confirmed that no Change Proposals had been withdrawn at or since the last TP meeting.

AH confirmed that a number of Change Proposals had been implemented since the last TP meeting, all of which were implemented in the March 2011 Software Release.

AH confirmed that two new Commission Changes had been introduced since the last TP meeting, namely MCCP081 and OCCP032, both in relation to Metered Building Water.

AH confirmed that three new Bulletins had been issued since the last TP meeting. BU071 in relation to slight changes to the Central Systems homepage, and BU072 and BU073 were to provide information to participants on the March Software Release.

AH confirmed that there had been no new Guidance Notes issued since the last TP meeting.

AH confirmed that there were no new TP Dates for Participants to consider.

In relation to the Commission's proposals on Metered Building Water, JMCL raised an issue around where the flag should sit (at the SPID or Meter Level) in view of the fact that a metered Supply Point may be used for for building water, e.g, second phase of a development. The building water element may not have an RV if it is used to supply a second phase, as the rest of the SPID may have. At the request of JMCL AH confirmed that a meeting with the CMA and all Participants could be set up to talk through the user requirements on Metered Building Water

AP149 CMA to arrange a conference call to walk Participants through the User Requirements for Metered Building Water.

JMCL then further raised the issue for the need for a report to capture this flag. JA confirmed that this was a Scottish Water data item, and not one which should be captured in the Market Data Set, which was intended to be used by Licensed Providers.

3. Change Proposals in Progress

MCCP051 – Notification to Scottish Water of Changes in Vacancy Status

Following the last TP Meeting, Scottish Water took an action to update the proposal following discussions. The proposal has been updated and circulated to the TP members. AH asked for the TP's approval for this proposal. This was given unanimously.

JB asked in general the extent to which the Release Calendar is fixed, for example in the event that new change proposals are approved.

JA commented that the next release tends to be fixed, but beyond that re-scheduling is often possible. JA noted that in future it would be appropriate to have more information at the Technical Panel on the costs and benefit of changes, and that this in turn would promote more discussion on scheduling.

AP150 CMA to forward proposal to Commission for consultation and approval.

MCCP052 – De-Registration Transaction Flows

Following the last TP Meeting, Scottish Water took an action to update the proposal following discussions. The proposal has been updated and circulated to TP members. JMCL stated that the proposal had been updated in line with comments, and sought feedback from the meeting. AH commented that further work was required on the proposal as it still mentioned performance changes, which the Commission advised at the last meeting should be removed as it was out with the scope of this document. There was also mention of operational issues which should not be in the document, an example of this being the code types for de-registration.

AH commented further that there is a requirement to update CSD0104 further in relation to deregistering SPIDs.

JMCL agreed to update the document and relevant text, with CMA support if required. The MCCP can then be circulated off line for approval.

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- AP151** Scottish Water to update MCCP052 and forward to CMA.
AP152 CMA to circulate updated document to TP Members for approval off line.

MCCP079 – De-Registration of New and Partial SPIDs

Following the last TP Meeting, Scottish Water took an action to update the proposal following discussions. The proposal has been updated and circulated to TP members. JMcl stated that the proposal had been updated in line with comments, and sought feedback from the meeting. AH commented that as with MCCP052, additional work was still required, and indeed no process has been defined for deregistering new and partial SPIDs so this would need to be reviewed.

- AP153** CMA to facilitate a conference call with Participants to look at the potential process required.

MCCP080 – Charging at Vacant Supply Points

AH advised that following the last TP meeting, Scottish Water had taken an action to provide further detail in relation to the requirement specification for charging in vacant supply points.

JMcl introduced the paper stating that it built upon the MCCP and provided an additional level of detail and specification which would hopefully allow the CMA to progress the impact assessment with its Service Provider.

JB commented that the proposal looked complete for the purposes of impact assessment; however it seemed to cover charging elements and does not pick up any other user requirements. JMcl commented that the question of other user requirements was identified on page 12 of the proposal, but that it was left open for user feedback.

JB further commented that the “owner” field would be beneficial, and also suggested that this may be something Scottish Water could identify at the initial SPID set up stage. JMcl commented that for new connections this is something that would be feasible for Scottish Water to pick up, but that Scottish Water would need to consider the implications of this further. DW queried Business Stream’s comments to the Commission on the utilisation of the SAA register for this information. JB commented that he was uncertain as to whether this would be an appropriate source or not.

KE then asked the Commission how the proposed allocation aligns with the original business planning phase, and what assumptions had been made on the projected returns. DW commented that he was not aware that this level of detail had been done to date.

KE was keen to ensure that the Commission were mindful of implication that wholesale billing charges aligned with retail billing assumptions, and that this does not compromise the viability of LPs.

DW commented that the Commission would also be mindful of this, but pointed out that at this stage the proposal was a Scottish Water proposal, and was not currently endorsed by the Commission. JMcl commented that this was textually noted in the 2011_12 Wholesale Charges Scheme which has been approved by the Commission.

JA sought to clarify the TP's position on this proposal and confirmed that it was not within the TP's remit to comment or make a decision on the policy, but on the technical merits of the proposal. Given the Commission's statement that this was not yet formal policy, then the TP had the option to reject the proposal outright, or alternatively to approve further work in order to develop the proposal so that it would be in a state that could be approved or not, on technical grounds, at the next TP meeting in June. JA confirmed that June would be the backstop date for a complete proposal, if implementation were to occur for 1st April 2012.

DW recognised that in order to implement the proposal within the desired timescales, the MCCP would need to be accepted in June. Were the proposal to be rejected, and then subsequently put forward as a Commission Change, it was recognised that this may cause timing issues with implementation in April 2012.

KE added that this was a significant work stream, and that the group should consider the knock on impact that this work would have on other work in the pipeline. He then went on to say that in order to implement in April 2012, these discussions should have commenced 12 – 18 months ago.

AH then advised that there are some complexities in the proposal that could increase the time and cost in relation to the variance in charging between Temporary Disconnections and New Found Disconnections.

JB commented that the proposal was not in a form that Business Stream could currently support, and that it would like to see further work developed in advance of any decision on its approval.

KE supported this statement, and added that in order to support it, Osprey would like an additional statement from WICs that this proposal is consistent with Market Policy and that there was no detrimental impact on Participants.

JA added that CMA could provide some technical input into these discussions if the Commission felt it appropriate. DW welcomed this support.

AP154 Scottish Water to update MCCP080 and present at the next TP Meeting in June.

4. New Change Proposals

MCCP082 –Expansion of Central Systems Error Codes

AH introduced this proposal in relation to the enhancement of error codes within the Central Systems. Users had requested additional codes to provide additional clarity when errors occur, and the CMA was currently working up these requirements, which would be forwarded to TP members for approval.

The TP was asked to approve the continuation of work on drafting up user requirements. The TP unanimously approved this work.

MCCP083 –Flagging £0 RV Properties

JB presented this proposal and confirmed that this was following on from discussions at the February MPF, and is an area of concern for LPs. AH queried how this paper aligned with the work that was being undertaken at the Data Working Group. JB confirmed that this was currently being discussed at the Data Working Group along with a number of other activities, but stated that this issue was more advanced, hence the reason it was brought to the TP. JMCL questioned where cumulo fits in. JB advised that in Business Streams view this had been left out on purpose, and that it could be dealt with offline via an enquiry directly to Scottish Water.

JA then asked the TP to approve work to continue developing the proposal via the Data Working Group. This was unanimously approved.

OCCP033 –Creating paired SPIDs in the Market

JB presented this proposal and confirmed that as the Market matures, developments are required, and this was an area where Business Stream felt changes were required to benefit the Market, and indeed customers.

JB stated that Business Stream are finding many of their customers are receiving SPIDs that are not paired, and that rather than having to apply for a Water and Sewer connection separately, the pair should be set up automatically unless only a single supply is specifically requested.

DW asked what would happen to applications that did not arrive together, would one have to wait on the other, and would a change in process be required. JB stated that the proposed change would have no impact on this element of the process.

JMCL stated that Scottish Water would consider this proposal, and provide feedback for review by the TP offline.

AP155 Scottish Water to provide feedback on OCCP033 for circulation and approval by the TP offline.

5. Forward Plans

Issues List

AH presented the Issues list with supporting document for information. AH highlighted that a number of Issues were closed by the CMA as a result of the March 2011 Software Release.

Release Calendar

AH presented the Release Calendar with supporting documentation for information. AH noted that there was one additional issue to be included in the September 2011 release.

Workplan

AH presented the Workplan with supporting documentation for information.

6. Performance Statistics

Participant Performance

AH presented the Participant Performance statistics with supporting documentation for information.

CMA Business Indicators

AH presented the CMA statistics with supporting documentation for information. Participants asked if it was possible for CMA to capture incoming vs. outgoing messages with response timescales. AH advised that the CMA was already in discussion with the service provider on monitoring system response times. The CMA would continue with the action to review options and advise the TP what was feasible, however AH did note that some Participants bulk timestamp transactions, which would provide an inaccurate response time. An example would be where a batch of 1,000 meter reads were submitted and all were time stamped 17:08pm, the CMA would be unable to differentiate response timescales from read 1 to read 1,000.

AP156 CMA to consider enhancing CMA Business Indicators to include response timescales for outgoing response messages.

7. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

Action	Subject	Update
<i>From the minute of the meeting of 17th February 2011</i>		
AP143 CMA	CMA to investigation System and script options for removing New and Partial SPIDs from the Market.	Ongoing
<i>From the minute of the meeting of 21st April 2011</i>		
AP149 CMA	CMA to arrange a conference call to walk Participants through the User Requirements for Metered Building Water.	Complete
AP150 CMA	CMA to forward M CCP051 to Commission for consultation and approval.	Complete
AP151 SW	Scottish Water to update M CCP052 and forward to CMA.	
AP152 CMA	CMA to circulate updated document to TP Members for approval off line.	
AP153 CMA	CMA to facilitate a conference call with Participants to look at the potential process	

Action	Subject	Update
	required.	
AP154 SW	Scottish Water to update MCCP080 and present at the next TP Meeting in June.	
AP155 SW	Scottish Water to provide feedback on OCCP033 for circulation and approval by the TP offline.	
AP156 CMA	CMA to consider enhancing CMA Business Indicators to include response timescales for outgoing response messages.	