

**42<sup>nd</sup>. Technical Panel Meeting  
Minute for Approval**

**Present**

Brian Saunders (BS) – CMA (TP Chair)  
Belinda Oldfield (BO) – Scottish Water  
Kevin Ensell (KE) – Anglian Water  
Neil Cohen (NC) – CMA (TP Secretary)  
David Walters (DW) – Commission  
Mike Brindle (MB) - United Utilities  
Emma Norris (EN) – Thames Water  
Andrew Sharp (AS) – Business Stream  
Paul Allen (PA) – Aimeria  
Jeremy Hobbis (JH) – Severn Trent (Telephone)  
Stuart Yardley (SY) – Clear Business Water  
Tom May (TM) – Veolia  
Peter Strain (PS) – Castle  
Scott MacLeod (SMcL) – Cobalt  
Iain Clark (IC) – Commercial Water Solutions

**Apologies**

None.

**1. Minute**

The minute of 19 June 2014 was approved.

**2. Actions and Administrative Update**

NC provided an update on the action log, noting that all previous actions had been completed.

NC noted that MCCP152 had been withdrawn at the last TP.

NC noted that MCCP150 had been implemented since the last meeting.

NC noted that MCCP154 – CC had been introduced since the last meeting and would be implemented with the September Release.

NC noted that BU102 had been issued since the last TP. NC also noted that no new Guidance Notes had been issued since the last TP.

As per AP337, the date of the 47<sup>th</sup>. TP had been changed to 2014-06-25.

### 3. Change Proposals in Progress

#### **MCCP148 – Changes to the MDS**

BO presented this paper and explained that, following previous discussions at the Technical Panel, a further update of the proposal had been provided and comments requested from Parties. One Party had given such feedback.

PA re-iterated his view that the effects of additional data being published could create issues and that, given current concerns with data quality, further problems may arise. BS asked whether the concern was that such data publication might be merely not helpful, or whether there was a risk of some being unhelpful. BO also asked whether any of the requested data items were actually sensitive. AS noted that, generally speaking, additional data was helpful for markets and JH also noted that this proposal was largely about the mechanism for data being available, since much of it was already on the LVI.

NC also noted that the CMA had identified 5 data items (all associated with Meter Networks; Meter Network Association, Main SPID, Sub SPID, Main Meter ID and Sub Meter ID) in the proposal which, in fact, were already included on the MDS and so should be excluded from the MCCP. This was agreed by the TP.

The Technical Panel approved MCCP148 by a majority of 11 to 1, with Aimeria voting against approval and other voting Members voting in favour.

#### **AP342: CMA to forward a Final Report for MCCP148 to the Commission.**

DW also drew attention to Market Code's confidentiality obligation (Section 10.5), regarding the release of customer and eligible premises data by Trading Parties to others.

### 4. New Change Proposals

#### **MCCP141 – Estimated T Reads**

MB presented this proposal, noting that it had been brought forward as a result of discussions at the Party Issue Working Group. MB explained that the proposal sought to allow for an estimated transfer read; an S Read, to be provided where a T Read could not be obtained and that such S Read would need to be agreed with the Outgoing LP. The benefit of this would be that customers would see consistent billing from both Outgoing LP and Incoming LP.

JH asked how the estimate would be arrived at, noting that a site requiring this treatment is likely to have been problematic in terms of previous meter reads. Therefore, if a C Read was ultimately obtained, there could be substantial

misalignment with the allocation of volumes of Outgoing LP and Incoming LP. SY noted that the proposal was not able to solve all difficulties when T Reads cannot be obtained, but improves on the current position by regularising current practice and establishing a reasonable reference point for transfer reads. MB also noted that perhaps some 5% to 10% of transfers might fall into this category and a small percentage of these would then all into this more onerous category. RAs could be used to cover this smaller number of circumstances. DW explained that the WICS held a principle that estimates should not be used, so far as was practical and, although this instance did seem to be a reasonable exception, recourse to negotiation or agreement between Outgoing and Incoming LPs was not acceptable. DW suggested that the Incoming LP should be obliged to adopt the approach described in CSDs for estimated advances, to arrive at an S Read. NC noted that, if this were to be policed by the CMA CS, considerable complexity might arise and it would be tantamount to the CMA creating the S Read, which the Working Group had felt was inappropriate. DW suggested that current validation for meter reads would be sufficient. MB asked if this approach would be easy to adopt for LPs, in terms of identifying the basis and the data for establishing an estimate. NC confirmed how the CSDs establish estimates and agreed to provide support to MB in any redrafting and consideration of these issues.

BO raised an issue with the technical solution adopted in the proposal and asked whether adding the required additional data items associated with an S Read to the existing transaction would be preferable to creating a new transaction for the S Read. BO suggested that this would minimise the impact on Parties. NC acknowledged that this change would have little effect on CMA costs.

The TP supported both the obligation to use the CSD approach for establishing the S Read and the use of existing transactions. MB agreed to bring a revised MCCP to the October TP. NC also considered that, if agreement were forthcoming at the October TP, the implementation in March 2015 continued to be practical.

**AP343: UU to submit a revised MCCP141 to the October TP, with CMA support for drafting revisions.**

DW also noted that the WICS position regarding the possibility of temporarily waiving Performance Measures for T Reads, in the light of the Scottish procurement was still in place.

### **MCCP153 – Late Partial Registration Report Information**

AS presented this proposal and explained that the Later Partial Reg Report was provided to an LP, if they had not met timescales for accepting or rejecting a New SPID. This proposal sought to add the New Connection Type to the report, providing the LP with some extra information that would help expedite the LP in getting necessary data and providing information back to the CMA.

NC confirmed that the cost to deliver this proposal would be low.

The Technical Panel unanimously approved MCCP153.

**AP344: CMA to forward a Final Report for MCCP153 to the Commission.**

**MCCP155 – Cancelling Transfers for Pending TDISCs**

NC presented this change, which the CMA had drafted in line with an action placed at the last MPF meeting, in response to Issue 343.

BO expressed a concern that the issue was not resolved by this proposal, since, although the obligation on the Outgoing LP would be explicit, any transfers that were not cancelled would still lead to the TDISC notification being rejected by the CMA CS. BS asked how frequently this problem might arise, noting that it seems likely that it would be a random error, rather than a systematic problem and would therefore be rare. If this was the case, then this proposal seemed to be a proportionate solution, compared to a more complex change involving system developments. BO agreed to provide some statistics and to consider a possible systematic change proposal, if appropriate.

The Technical Panel unanimously approved MCCP155.

**AP345: CMA to forward a Final Report for MCCP155 to the Commission.**

**MCCP158 – POLR/Gap Site Automation of the Opt Out Process**

NC introduced this MCCP, which seeks to allow LPs to opt out of each process via the LVI, with suitable automated e-mails to prompt and confirm, accordingly and with suitable validation to ensure compliance with Market Code obligations. SY noted that the benefits claimed by the proposal seemed rather high (and also that the number should denote £'000's and not £'s). NC suggested that the cost would be minimal, since the CMA modelling identified the de-minimis amount and that the order of magnitude of the benefit still implied net benefit to Parties.

The Technical Panel unanimously approved MCCP158.

**AP346: CMA to forward a Final Report for MCCP158 to the Commission.**

**MCCP159 - Changes to CSD0101 Gaps Raised by SW**

PA presented this MCCP and explained that it sought to provide LPs with the power to reject unverified Gap Sites. This in turn would then facilitate SW providing further data to support verification and progression of Gap Sites. PA also noted that, currently, some of the additional data required for validation by an LP was taking some 2 weeks for SW to provide, for example, copies of the SW letter to customers, site visit details, SAA Refs and address data.

NC reported that the CMA CEO had determined that the MCCP should not be treated as urgent; such treatment having been requested by the proposer.

NC noted that the formal data provision identified in CSD0101 had been subject to a considerable review by the industry and had been extensively modified to facilitate registrations in general. Necessarily, SW must first establish the New SPID and then an LP needed to be identified, there was then some flexibility to allow service element data, connection dates, Initial meter reads and so on to be provided before a SPID became tradable. BS asked if, in practice, the due process was being followed and if so, was it appropriate. PA felt that it was, but changes were needed.

NC also noted that the Gap Site Process Working Group had considered one scenario that had been presented and had considered the possibility of LPs rejecting allocated Gap Sites. No consensus had emerged and a counter view had been presented, suggesting that SW should be the authoritative source as to the existence of a Gap Site, rather than LPs and that, if a disagreement or uncertainty existed, greater transparency was afforded by the potential Gap Site being in NAPS, rather than being rejected. The WG had also noted that SAA Refs would be available as part of the formal CSD process after March 2015, although PA suggested that this information was actually needed now, given the volume of Gap Sites emerging from Silver Tassie. JH noted that SAA Refs were in fact on Silver Tassie, currently.

BS asked whether this was perhaps more of a resourcing issue, in terms of SW being able to provide additional information to an LP in a timely fashion, rather than there being a problem with the formal processes and noted that the CMA Board were concerned to see the process working well. BO noted that there had been resourcing issues hitherto, but these were beginning to clear and also that SW were planning to meet with Aimeria to discuss current issues.

It was agreed that consideration of MCCP159 should be deferred, until after this meeting.

### **MCCP149 – September 2014 CSD Drafting**

NC presented this MCCP, which was the routine consolidation of Market Code and CSD drafting enabling the deployment of the next CMA CS Release, due in September 2014. NC also noted that a late observation had been provided to the CMA, whereby a minor deletion in CSD0201 should have been included, but had been missed.

The Technical Panel unanimously approved MCCP149, subject to the further deletion in CSD0201 being incorporated.

**AP347: CMA to forward a Final Report for MCCP149 to the Commission.**

**MCCP160 – Provision of Information on Registration Cancellations**

AS presented this proposal, explaining that it followed logically from the TP's previous rejection of MCCP137. The TP had determined that the additional information provided to the CMA when an Outgoing LP cancels a transfer should not be provided to any other Party, including the Incoming LP. This proposal therefore sought to remove the obligation on the Outgoing LP to provide such information in the first place.

SY had some concerns that there were exceptional circumstances when this information might be helpful. BS asked whether customers could provide such information to the Incoming LP on request. EN, IC and MB suggested that this might not always be the case and that this information could allow an Incoming LP to help the customer resolve issues that that may not have sufficient information on and so expedite a transfer. JH asked how frequently this difficulty occurred. SY suggested that some 100's or even 1000's of instances had arisen. DW noted that perhaps some 1,000 rejections had occurred for bad debt, to date.

BS suggested that a Party should seek to re-visit MCCP137 and come back to the TP, as appropriate. This was generally agreed and AS withdrew MCCP160.

**5. Forward Planning Report**

NC presented the report. NC noted that the CS Rebuild had been successfully deployed in early July and thanked participants for their support to this process. NC also noted that the September 2014 Release was on target for its planned deployment and that an LVI User Group had been planned to allow users to see the revised LVI screens that would become available at that release.

BO noted that the March 2015 Release included possible changes to the Scottish Government Exemption Scheme arrangements and BO identified that some changes were indeed likely.

**6. Any Other Business**

**6.1 New Trading Party**

NC noted that Castle Water were now a Trading Party and Peter Strain would be their Technical Panel member.

**Action Summary**

Action	Subject	Update
<b><i>From the minute of the 42<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting (28<sup>th</sup> August 2014)</i></b>		

<b>Action</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>AP342 CMA</b>	Forward a Final Report for MCCP148 to the Commission.	
<b>AP343 UU</b>	Submit a revised MCCP141 to the October TP, with CMA support for drafting revisions.	
<b>AP344 CMA</b>	Forward a Final Report for MCCP153 to the Commission.	
<b>AP345 CMA</b>	Forward a Final Report for MCCP155 to the Commission.	
<b>AP346 CMA</b>	Forward a Final Report for MCCP158 to the Commission.	
<b>AP347 CMA</b>	Forward a Final Report for MCCP149 to the Commission.	