

**79th Technical Panel Meeting
Approved Minute**

Present (via conference call)

David Sigsworth (DS)– CMA – (TP Chair)
Amanda Hancock (AH) – CMA (TP Secretary)
Jeremy Atkinson (JA) - CMA
David Innes (DI) – Water Commission
Ian Grundy (IG) – Pure Utilities
Tony March (TM) - Wave
Ewan Hardy (EH) – Lettermay
Robin Donald (RD) – Castle
Fraser Gourlay (FG) – Earls Gate Water
Alastair Ross (AR) – Commercial Water Solutions
Rosalind Carey (RC) – SWBS
Michele Burns (MB) – Water Plus Ltd
Richard Lavery (RL) – Scottish Water
Catriona Blair (CB) – Veolia
James Pringle (JP) – Waterscan
Stephen McIntosh (SMCl) – SWW (Part)
David Siddall (DSi) – Clear Business Water
Gillian Hill, (GH) – Clear Business Water (Part)

Apologies

Fiona Matheson (FM) - SWBS

1. Introductions and Minute

DS welcomed members to the TP, then handed over to AH to take participants through the meeting.

AH advised that no comments had been received on the minute, and there were no comments received in the meeting. The Minute from 20 August 2020 was approved by the meeting.

2. Actions and Administrative Update

AH advised that all actions were now complete.

AH noted that there were no proposals withdrawn or rejected since the last meeting. One change proposal, MCCP250, was implemented as part of the September 2020 release on 24th September. Finally, MCCP255 was agreed and will be implemented in the March 21 software release.

AH noted that two Commission Changes were implemented as part of the September 2020 release. MCCP241-CC saw the introduction of the assignment of SPIDs process and MCCP249-CC brought the POLR / GAP Opt Out Review on system. There have been no new Commission changes introduced since the last meeting.

One new bulletin, BU139, was published on the 22nd September for the September 2020 Release. No Guidance notes have been issued since the last meeting.

No changes were made to the TP dates.

3. Change Proposals in Progress

MCCP256 TTRAN SPIDS

AH advised that this proposal had been brought to the August TP and that participants had asked for some additional time to review. No comments had been received and AH put it out to the TP to confirm everyone was content to progress the CP. No LPs objected to the proposal and AH advised that this would now be sent to WICS for consultation.

AP509 CMA to prepare Final Report and forward MCCP256 to WICS for consultation.

4. New Change Proposals

MCCP257- Unwinding COVID-19 Derogations

AH advised that following the introduction of the Derogations to Market Documentation as a result of COVID-19 through MCCP248, the unwinding of these would be done in the same manner using the standard format of an MCCP despite the lack of Code changes.

Work has already commenced with the re-introduction of the Peer Review Reporting. A bulletin would be issued shortly with the full details of the unwinding. It should be noted that this does not include the timings for WCDS unwinding. This will be notified by WICS in due course.

AP510 CMA to prepare a bulletin for the Market and issue MCCP257.

5. Forward Planning Report

Stephen McIntosh joined the meeting at this point.

AH highlighted a series of additional services in relation to Meter Networks and DPIDs that had been requested by Scottish Water. Scottish Water understood that where an RA was requested to specifically aid a single participant, for example to deal with volume or to provide for deficiencies in the participants own systems or processes then the participant should cover the costs, as they are the sole beneficiary. However, where an RA is required as a mechanism to maintain market data which otherwise could not be updated via transaction and this data maintenance activity results from normal market activity, then arguably should

form part of the normal costs/release activity. The TP agreed that this was a reasonable request, and as such, costs will be recovered via the normal apportionment of charges.

AH advised that there are no changes to the Performance Charge Funds as no performance charges have been invoiced, and there has been no further expenditure since the last meeting.

No comments were received in the meeting.

6. Charges Scheme 2021-22 Information Note (SWW)

RL noted that this paper was in response to a request last year for early visibility of the charges for the forthcoming year. RL confirmed that the Draft Determination had been issued earlier in the month, with the final determination due mid-December.

RL confirmed the exact size of the increase would be advised in due course and noted that there are no proposed structural changes this year. Pricing would be provided to the Market once it had been approved by both the Scottish Water and WICS Board, but likely to be early February. AH advised that CMA ideally needed the data by the end of January to ensure timely submission of the data into the Central Systems in advance of the April 2021 P1.

RC asked about changes to the methodology for Drainage charges. RL advised that there is an ongoing review. There would be no changes in the forthcoming year but may come in at a future point.

RC asked about changes to retail margins, and whether there were likely to be any fundamental changes. DI advised that they are under review, but unlikely to change in the near future. DI further added that WICs were happy to discuss any aspects of charging that LPs felt necessary offline.

SMCl then discussed a questionnaire that had been issued by SWW in relation to smart metering. SWW was considering this as part of the SR21 discussions, and it was keen to gauge the views of Market Participants as well as gauge the level of interest from the Market.

RC advised that SWBS would be keen to understand more details about the proposals. SMCl advised that SW was in the early stages of scoping at this point, and that over the course of the next few months they would pull some further information together for discussion by the group.

TM asked if there was a high-level objective that SW was working to. SMCl advised that they were keen to understand whether it was a priority for the Market and how it would be phased in. TM advised that it may be beneficial to look at lessons learned from wholesalers in England to ensure that the Scottish market learns from them. FG advised that it would be good to learn from other Markets, for example in

energy smart meters are not transferable between providers, which can lead to restrictions on customer choice.

MB welcomed these discussions and confirmed that in their experience, any wholesalers that they use for meter reading services have a higher level of success. She further advised that there will be challenges, but the benefits are likely to outweigh these provided collaborative discussions continue.

DS asked whether market alignment had any bearing on SW's discussion. SMcl stated that it is part of the discussions and feels like it should be an important factor. AR asked whether SW would consider undertaking a small number of trials, possibly at temporary sites to gain some additional knowledge.

RC noted that SWBS looked forward to continuing these discussions further.

7. Commission Update

Market Review

DI advised that the timetable had not yet been finalised but would be issued in due course.

Covid-19 Update

DI advised that they are currently reviewing how the Market is coping during the current pandemic, and welcomes any feedback from Participants, especially in relation to whether the WCDS should be extended.

IG asked whether WICs were minded to extend the current scheme. DI advised that nothing had been discussed at this point, but again re-iterated that WICS would welcome Participant views on this. IG advised that there is currently an increasing backlog of charges building up and extending the scheme may exacerbate this.

AH asked whether there was a backstop date by which WICS would make any decision on whether or not the scheme would be extended, bearing in mind there may be system implications on any extension to the scheme. TM added that a timeline over the course of the next few weeks would be beneficial to help LPs manage the expectations of their customers.

RC asked whether the new rules on pre-payment had come into force. DI advised that this hadn't come in yet, but was part of the Market Review and WICS would advise Market Participants in due course.

8. Any Other Business

No AOB had been raised.

There being no further business, AH closed the meeting.

Action Summary

Action	Subject	Update
<i>From the minute of the 79th Meeting (22 October 2020)</i>		
AP510	CMA to prepare a bulletin for the Market and issue MCCP257.	