

## CP Consultation

### CP1592 'Upgrade of NHHDA and EAC/AA systems from Oracle 12c to version 19.21'

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#### About This Document

You can find the definitions of the terms and acronyms used in this document in the [BSC Glossary](#)<sup>1</sup>.

The purpose of this Change Proposal (CP) Consultation is to invite BSC Parties, Party Agents and other interested parties to provide their views on the impacts and the merits of CP1592. The BSC Panel will then consider the consultation responses before making a decision on whether or not to approve CP1592.

There are three parts to this document:

- This is the main document. It provides details of the solution, impacts, costs, and proposed implementation approach. It also summarises the SVG's initial views on the proposed changes.
- Attachment A contains the CP Proposal Form.
- Attachment B contains the specific questions on which we seek your views. Please use this form to provide your response to these questions, and to record any further views or comments you wish to be considered.



#### Committee

Supplier Volume  
Allocation Group (SVG)



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.elexon.co.uk/glossary/?show=all>



## Not sure where to start?

We suggest reading the following sections:

- Have 5 minutes?  
Read section 1
- Have 15 minutes?  
Read sections 1, 4, 5 and 6
- Have 30 minutes?  
Read all sections
- Have longer? Read all sections and the annexes and attachments

## Why change?

The current versions of NHHDA (Non Half Hourly Data Aggregation) and EAC/AA (Estimation of Annual Consumption/Annualised Advance) system applications that Elexon provides to Party Agents run on Oracle 12c, for which Oracle Corporation withdrew application support in 2022. It is good practice to operate on a supported version of software.

## Solution

Upgrade NHHDA and EAC/AA systems to the latest available version of Oracle 19.21. Where possible, leverage cost savings by aligning with Elexon's planned update to BSC central systems.

## Impacts and costs

This CP is expected to be a systems only change and the estimated central implementation costs for this CP will be approximately <£230k.

## Implementation

This CP is proposed for implementation between July - November 2024 as part of a Special BSC Release.

## 2. Why Change?

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### What is the issue?

The current versions of NHHDA and EAC/AA applications that Elexon provides to Party Agents run on Oracle 12c, for which Oracle Corporation withdrew application support in 2022. It is good practice to operate on a supported version of software as continuing with unsupported software increases the security risk to the system.

If a problem were encountered in any of the Party Agent applications as a result of an Oracle defect, and Oracle support had expired, it could only be resolved via an upgrade to a fully supported Oracle release, which could not be completed quickly.

If a workaround were possible, it is likely that it would require daily manual intervention, which could be time consuming and prone to human error, and so would only be an interim solution pending an Oracle upgrade.

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### Background

Elexon, via its service provider, provides Party Agents with Non Half Hourly Data Aggregation (NHHDA), Estimation of Annual Consumption/Annualised Advance (EAC/AA) and Erroneously Large EACAA Reporting Tool (ELERT) applications. These are known as the Party Agent applications.

Upgrading the Party Agent applications to Oracle 19 will also require Party Agents to upgrade their environments to ensure that third party components are compatible.

The previous upgrade for NHHDA and EAC/AA applications occurred in 2018 following [CP1482 - Upgrade of NHHDA and EAC/AA systems from Oracle 11g to version 12c - Elexon BSC](#)<sup>2</sup>, upgrading from Oracle 11g to Oracle 12c (CP1482). In September 2020, a Change Request (CR) was raised to assess a further Oracle upgrade, a decision was made at the time to remain on version 12 due to industry impact and the expected delivery of Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS).

Following discussions with the Party Agent Group (PAG) concerning the need to upgrade Oracle from 12c to 19c, a new change request (CR14109) was raised. Following discussions with CGI, it was found that upgrades to other systems were required before this CR could be implemented; these were implemented via other CRs.

CGI issued an Impact Assessment in May 2022 for the Oracle 12c to 19c upgrade, which was reviewed by Elexon. Further clarification was sought from CGI over summer 2022, and discussions were held internally to understand associated costs with this change, and it was not progressed. The change was not progressed due to the cost and expected decommissioning with MHHS.

An NHHDA escalated the need to upgrade the Oracle software. Elexon is raising the required Change Proposal and has refreshed the Change Request/IA with CGI.

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<sup>2</sup> [CP1482 - Upgrade of NHHDA and EAC/AA systems from Oracle 11g to version 12c - Elexon BSC](#)

### 3. Solution

#### Proposed solution

This CP proposes to upgrade EAC/AA and NHHDA to the latest available version of Oracle 19.21. Where possible, it leverages cost savings by aligning with Elexon's planned update to other BSC central systems.

The upgraded version of the NHHDA and EAC/AA systems will maintain compatibility with the latest fully supported Oracle Forms release for both server and client components.

Following this upgrade, this system will be decommissioned after the transition to Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) is complete.

#### Proposer's rationale

As the current version of Oracle is no longer supported, if problems were then encountered with the database products, they could not be resolved without recourse to an upgrade, which in turn could not be completed within a reasonable timeframe. Any proposed workaround may not resolve the issue and the only solution would be a full Oracle upgrade.

While there is a low probability of this risk occurring, it could have a significant impact on Settlement. Following discussions with the Party Agent Group (PAG), we feel it is important to begin the upgrade now to give Party Agents sufficient time to implement.

Upgrading the NHHDA and EAC/AA systems to run on Oracle 19.21 would ensure compatibility with the latest fully supported Oracle release. As a consequence, the upgrade would have a number of material benefits for both the developer and users of this software:

- 1) Maintain full vendor support service for both developer and users of the applications;
- 2) Minimise risk of being unable to take advantage of any defect fixes and other enhancements made available by the vendor;
- 3) Minimise reliance on reduced vendor support service for both developer and users; and
- 4) Minimise cost of vendor support for both developer and users.

#### CP Consultation Question

Do you agree with the CP1592 proposed solution?

*Please provide your rationale.*

We invite you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B

4. Impacts and Costs

BSC Party & Party Agent impacts and costs

Participant impacts

BSC Party & Party Agent Impacts	
BSC Party/Party Agent	Impact
NHHDA	Install, test and implement upgraded NHHDA software and update guidance/technical documentation
NHHDC	Install, test and implement upgraded EAC/AA and ELERT software and update guidance/technical documentation

Participant costs

Central impacts and costs

Elaxon, via its service provider, will install, test and implement upgraded NHHDA and EAC/AA software, along with any required third-party software components, and deliver the upgraded software to Party Agents on the proposed BSC Systems Release Date.

Central impacts

Central Impacts	
Document Impacts	System Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NHHDA System Management Guide</li><li>NHHDA Installation Guide</li><li>NHHDA Technical Specification</li><li>NHHDA Operations Guide</li><li>EAC/AA System Management Guide</li><li>EAC/AA Installation Guide</li><li>EAC/AA Technical Specification</li><li>EAC/AA Operations Guide</li><li>ELERT Installation Guide</li><li>ELERT Technical Specification</li><li>ELERT Operations Guide</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NHHDA</li><li>EAC/AA</li><li>Erroneously Large EACAA Reporting Tool (ELERT)</li></ul>

Impact on BSC Settlement Risks

Impact on BSC Settlement Risks
None

Impact on Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS)

Impact on MHHS
None

Central costs

The central implementation costs for CP1592 will be approximately <£230k.

CP Consultation Question
Will CP1592 impact your organisation? <i>If 'Yes', please provide a description of the impact(s) on your organisation and any activities which you will need to undertake between the approval of CP1592 and the CP1592 Implementation Date (including any necessary changes to your systems, documents and processes). Where applicable, please state which of the roles that you operate as will be impacted and any differences in the impacts between each role.</i>
Will your organisation incur any costs in implementing CP1592? <i>If 'Yes', please provide details of these costs, how they arise and whether they are one-off or on-going costs.</i>
We invite you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B.

5. Implementation Approach

Recommended Implementation Date

This CP is proposed for implementation between July and November 2024 as part of a Special BSC Release. The expected date of implementation is July/August 2024.

CP Consultation Question
Do you agree with the proposed implementation approach for CP1592? <i>Please provide your rationale.</i>
We invite you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B

## 6. Initial Committee Views

### SVG's initial views

At their meeting on 6 February 2024 [\(276/09\)<sup>3</sup>](#), the SVG was invited to note the progression of the CP and provide any comments or additional questions for inclusion in the CP Consultation. A clarification was sought on the decommissioning of the system prior to MHHS, a response was provided that the systems will continue to function until the MHHS transition is complete.

The committee made no further comments and did not provide any additional consultation questions.

The committee noted that, due to CP1592's expected costs exceeding the thresholds for SVG approval, the BSC Panel will be asked to make the final decision on whether to approve the Change Proposal.

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<sup>3</sup> [SVG276 - Elexon BSC](#)