ELEXON

Mini-consultation on the future of the SVA Data Catalogue, the User Requirements Specifications and BSC guidance documents

Date	**2 March 2023**	Classification	**Public**
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Summary	We are seeking views from interested parties on the future of certain BSC Document types. Specifically, the SVA Data Catalogue, the User Requirements Specifications, Guidance Notes and Simple Guides. In this exploratory consultation, we outline options for the future of each of these document types. We will use the results from this consultation to inform what changes to make to these document types. Please provide your responses using this form[1].

1. Background

1.1 All BSC documents under public BSC change control are listed on the BSC Baseline Statement[2]. It lists, for each document, the latest, live version, the effective date, the last changes implemented [for that document] and the committee(s) responsible for approving changes to each document.

1.2 BSC Guidance Notes and Simple Guides are not listed on the Baseline Statement, as these are amended through internal change control at Elexon. Appendix A shows the current BSC Document Architecture.

1.3 We believe the time is right to look at the architecture of the BSC Documents, as many were put in place over twenty years ago when the BSC arrangements went live. Many of these documents carried with them legacy approaches from the previous Pool arrangements.

1.4 Since then, the suite of BSC Documents has grown and has been amended piecemeal. We now have 174 documents on the Baseline Statement and 228 Simple Guides and Guidance Notes. The data suggests that many of these 402 documents are not used. In order to facilitate simplification, rationalisation and digitisation, the number and type of BSC Documents should be reviewed.

1.5 This mini-consultation focusses on three types of documents, where we believe quick wins can be achieved. For these documents in particular, many of them do not appear to be used and it is not clear what value they add. They are:

- **Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA) Data Catalogue**: is a record of all SVA interfaces and data items, specifying the form, format and method for sending and receiving these communications. It is required under BSC Section O, paragraph 1.3.1[3].

- **User Requirements Specifications (URS)**: are a collection of functional and non-functional requirements for each BSC Agent service - more detailed than the corresponding Service Description[4] document. They are not a required document under the Code.

- **Guidance Notes** and **Simple Guides**: are plain English summaries and guidance of the BSC and its associated procedures and practices. Elexon produce Guidance Notes as value add documents and Simple Guides are produced to provide a 'useful summary of the Code, to meet BSC Section C paragraph 3.10[5].

[1] https://forms.office.com/e/UjqU71irvL
[2] https://www.elexon.co.uk/bsc-and-codes/bsc-baseline-statement/
[3] https://bscdocs.elexon.co.uk/bsc/bsc-section-o-communications-under-the-code#section-o-1-1.3
[4] https://bscdocs.elexon.co.uk/service-descriptions
[5] https://bscdocs.elexon.co.uk/bsc/bsc-section-c-bscco-and-its-subsidiaries#section-c-3-3.10

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1.6 All off these documents are published on the Digital Code[6] where they are also available to download in PDF format.

2. URS options

2.1 URS documents date from the original development of the BSC central systems over 20 years ago. We continue to update them in response to change. However, they contain many historic references, such as to the 1998 Programme, the Pool, NETA, BETTA etc, and reflect IT project methodologies in use at the time. They could therefore benefit from a complete re-write, applying modern best practices, such as the use of on-line digital tools. This would require significant expertise and resource.

2.2 URS documents are centred on BSC Agent roles. Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) is introducing new BSC services. There is therefore an opportunity to consider how best to capture the functional and non-functional requirements for these new services within the BSC documentation and apply a new approach to the existing URS, adopting modern best practices.

2.3 Another issue is that URS documents, as currently in use, are retrofitted to the designed solution during the implementation phase rather than being a capture of user requirements produced in advance.

2.4 Moreover, we are not clear if and how URS documents are used by industry. They represent approximately 1% of Digital Code views (<8 views per Working Day (WD)), which will likely include some Elexon users. Please see Appendix B for the breakdown of the number of views for each document type and more detail on each document type in scope of this mini-consultation.

2.5 We therefore want to better understand what value these document have for BSC Parties and other interested parties as enduring artefacts.

2.6 We have identified the following options, which we seek your feedback on:

1. Discontinue URS documents – removing them from the BSC Baseline Statement – under this option Elexon would still maintain functional and non-functional requirements for its systems and services, but they would not be published as part of the BSC Documents. This would be more efficient, as Elexon does not use the URS documents for system development or testing.
2. Retain some URS documents and agree an approach to ensure the documents are maintained.
3. Agree a new form of URS document – such as using the output of another tool such as Jama[7] or iserver[8] to produce an URS equivalent.
4. Re-purpose URS documents such that they capture the requirements from users rather than be documents reflecting system design.

3. SVA Data Catalogue options

3.1 The SVA Data Catalogue accounts for approximately 0.05% views (<0.34 views per WD), which will likely include some Elexon users. Furthermore, it is out-of-date. It hasn't always been modified when dataflows have been added or removed following BSC changes. This has not had any impacts that we are aware of, probably because there are many duplicate records.

3.2 Historically, D-flows (which are the main way Suppliers and their Supplier Agents communicate with each other for industry processes) were captured in the Master Registration Agreement's (MRAs) Data Transfer Catalogue. Following Ofgem's Faster Switching Significant Code Review[9], the MRA was closed down and the D-flows are now captured in the Retail Energy Code's (RECs) Energy Market Data Specification[10] (EMDS)[11]. Further, some P-flows (dataflows sent by Elexon central systems) are contained in our Interface Definition Documents[12] too.

[6] https://bscdocs.elexon.co.uk/
[7] https://www.jamasoftware.com/
[8] https://www.orbussoftware.com/iServer
[9] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/energy-policy-and-regulation/policy-and-regulatory-programmes/switching-programme
[10] https://recportal.co.uk/recportal
[11] EMDS is the REC data catalogue. It is part of the REC's Energy Market Architecture Repository (EMAR), which also includes the REC digital code.
[12] https://bscdocs.elexon.co.uk/interface-definition-documents

3.3 We currently maintain the SVA Data Catalogue using a legacy internal application. This has been useful in ensuring the integrity of the data items, however it has made the process of redlining amendments overly complex.

3.4 We believe the SVA Data Catalogue should contain BSC-only P-flows, which are not contained elsewhere (option 1 below). This will adhere to the principle of a single source of truth sitting with the most relevant code body. Ofgem's intent for the new REC EMDS was that it should contain all energy retail data items. We also believe that we should move the catalogue to a modern enterprise architecture tool.

3.5 We have identified the following options, which we seek your feedback on:

1. Remove all duplicated data flows and reduce the SVA Data Catalogue to only containing BSC-only P-flows.
2. Explore relocating these P-flows, perhaps to EMDS, so that the Data Catalogue could be retired completely.

4. Simple Guides and Guidance Notes options

4.1 We would like to better understand the needs of our customers for these documents. The number of Guidance Notes continues to grow. Many of our Guidance Notes are more popular (based on hits on the website) than Simple Guides.

4.2 We can see that 53% of all Digital Code views were with Guidance Notes (~333 views per WD). Half of all hits of Guidance Notes are with seven documents, and two thirds of all hits are on just 20 documents (out of 198). These Guidance Notes remain some of our most accessed documents. Conversely, Simple Guides received 97% less interest than the Guidance Notes during this period, receiving approximately 2% of views (~12 views per WD).

4.3 We believe there is a strong case for significantly reducing the number of Guidance Notes, so that they are more focussed on areas that are useful for our customers. This will also reduce the maintenance overheads associated with keeping these documents up to date.

4.4 We assume that Simple Guides are useful for a small number of customers. However, we believe that in many cases, if you can understand the Simple Guides you can understand the BSC itself. There is therefore a case for either removing the Simple Guides, ensuring the Guidance Notes capture the core areas of interest and value for customers or for making the Simple Guide more accessible. For example, how detailed or simple should the Simple Guides be and consequently is the length of the summaries about right? Who should these guides be aimed at? If they are aimed at new entrants then they may still be too complex.

4.5 We have identified the following options, which we seek your feedback on:

1. Review and update the Simple Guides to make them more targeted at new entrants (shorter and simpler).
2. Merge Simple Guides and Guidance Notes, so we only have one type of guidance document.
3. Reduce the number of Guidance Notes to a core set that our customers want;
4. Replace the current obligation to provide a 'useful summary' with a more flexible obligation to put in place ways to make the Code accessible and understandable to new entrants and different types of Party. We envisage fulfilling this through enhanced features on the Digital Code, such as role based filtering.

5. How to respond to this mini-consultation

5.1 We invite you to provide your views using this response form: https://forms.office.com/e/UjqU71irvL

6. Next steps

6.1 This consultation is exploratory and will be used to inform next steps. A more detailed impact assessment will be carried out before any options are taken forward. For example, any option to amend the content of documents will require substantial resources that we would need to carefully evaluate where this resource is best utilised.

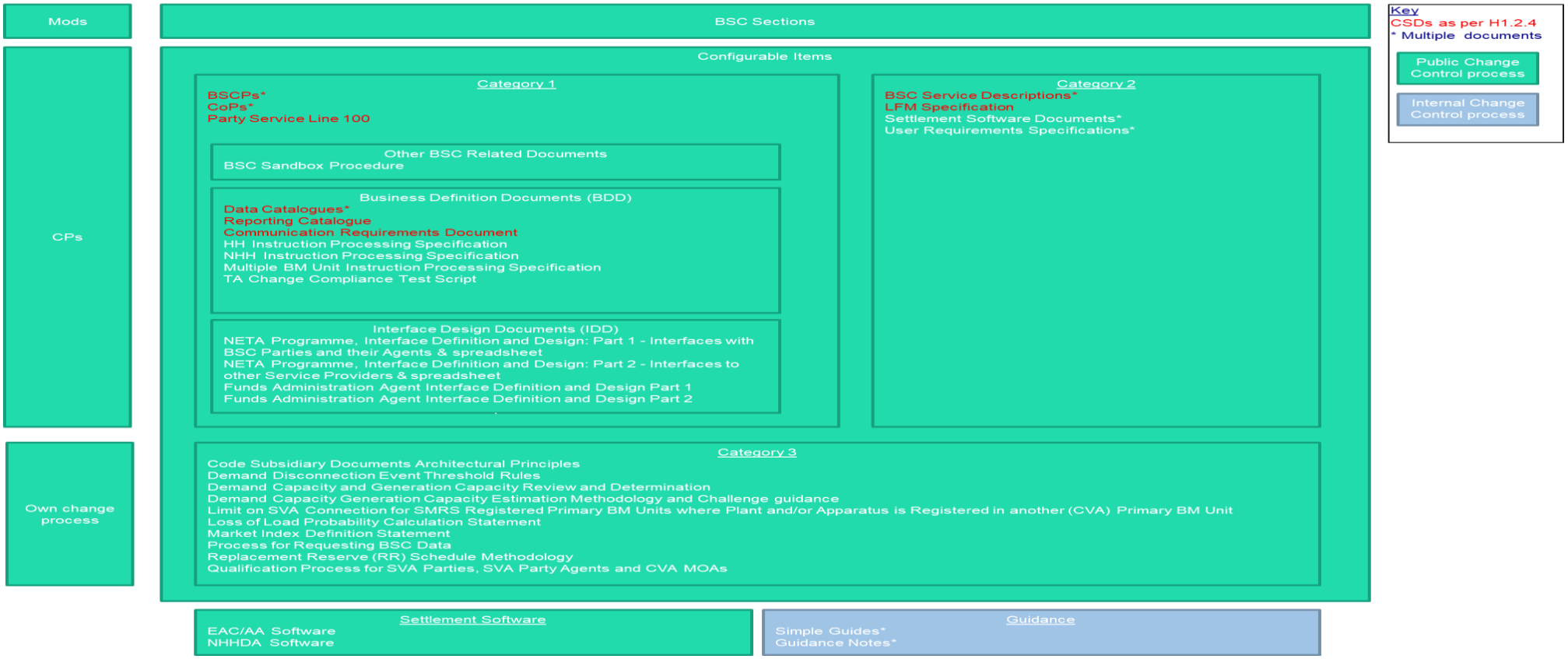
6.2 Subject to the responses to this consultation and the changes made to the three document types under consideration, we may look to make further, wholesale changes to the BSC Document architecture that could further support simplification, rationalisation and digitalisation.

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Current BSC Document Architecture

Appendix B: Document hits

Appendix A: Current BSC Document Architecture



- Category 1: a BSC Configurable Item that imposes obligations on BSC Parties and/or Party Agents, as such BSC Panel believe redline drafting of the proposed changes to the BSC Configurable Item must be included with the Change Proposal.
- Category 2: a BSC Configurable Item that does not impose obligations on BSC Parties and/or Party Agents, as such the BSC Panel do not believe redline drafting of the proposed changes to the BSC Configurable Item must be included with the Change Proposal.
- Category 3: a BSC Configurable Item that is not amended by Modifications or Change Proposals. The document defines its own change process.

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Appendix B: Document Hits

All data in this Appendix covers period 3 Oct 2022 to 20 Feb 2023. At the end of September 2022, we retired the PDF webpages and PDF downloads from the BSC Website, making the BSC Digital Code the only source for the BSC and its subsidiary documents.

Excluding Christmas week, this equates to 95 working days.

Category	Total Document Views	Aprox Average Views per working day	%
bsc	**7776**	82	13.1%
bsc procedures	**11776**	124	19.8%
business definition documents	**548**	6	0.9%
category 3 documents	**1465**	15	2.5%
codes of practice	**2923**	31	4.9%
guidance notes	**31623**	333	53.1%
interface definition documents	**701**	7	1.2%
service descriptions	**846**	9	1.4%
simple guides	**1093**	12	1.8%
user requirements specifications	**750**	8	1.3%
Total	**59501**	**626**	**100%**

SVA Data Catalogue Usage (part of business definition documents)

Category	Total Document Views	Aprox Average Views per working day
sva data catalogue volume 1	15	0.16
sva data catalogue volume 2	17	0.18
Total	**32**	**0.34**

URS Usage

URS	Total Document Views	Aprox Average Views per working day	%
estimation of annual consumption system	180	1.9	24%
balancing mechanism reporting agent	100	1.1	13%
supplier volume allocation agency	87	0.9	12%
saa settlement administration agent	82	0.9	11%
load flow model specification for the calculation of nodal transmission loss factors	63	0.7	8%
energy contract volume aggregation agent	54	0.6	7%
funds administration agent	53	0.6	7%
central data collection agent cdca user requirements specification	43	0.5	6%
central registration agent cra	42	0.4	6%
non half hourly data aggregation	32	0.3	4%
parms user requirements specification	14	0.1	2%
Total	**750**	**7.9**	**100%**

Guidance Note Usage – top 20

Guidance Note	Document Views	Cumulative Views	Cumulative %
bmrs api and data push user guide	4256	4256	15.9
the electricity trading arrangements a beginners guide	3791	8047	30.1
imbalance pricing guidance	1996	10043	37.5
load profiles and their use in electricity settlement	1397	11440	42.7
operational information document oid	839	12279	45.9
bm units registration of balancing mechanism bm units	812	13091	48.9
embedded generation	653	13744	51.4
change of measurement class and change of profile class	633	14377	53.7
radio teleswitch standard settlement configuration mapping	436	14813	55.3
credit cover	428	15241	56.9

calculation of residual cashflow reallocation cashflow	408	15649	58.5
d0095 user guide volume 1	370	16019	59.9
volume notifications	310	16329	61.0
a new participants guide to cva qualification	301	16630	62.1
virtual lead party	268	16898	63.1
msid mpan guidance	254	17152	64.1
idno market entry guidance note	246	17398	65.0
transmission losses	237	17635	65.9
exception reporting in the half hourly market	235	17870	66.8
market domain data made easy	223	18093	67.6