STANDARD METERING COMMUNICATION SERVICES RECOGNISED BY THE CENTRAL DATA COLLECTION AGENT (CDCA)

Services currently in place but are being phased out			
Identifier	**Description**	**Medium**	**Notes**
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network	Dedicated Connection	Standard BT Connection, only offered to 2025 however BT have confirmed that something will be available in its place – unknown what yet possibly SIP
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network	Dedicated Connection	Standard BT Connection only offered to 2025, nothing to replace it currently
CTN (PABX LINK)	Private Switched Telephone Network	Dedicated Connection	Private network equivalent to PSTN, currently being upgraded to have an underlying IP backbone which requires moving to the DDI connection method below
CSD	Circuit Switched Data	GSM Radio (Global System for Mobile Communication)	Equivalent to PSTN/ISDN dialling over mobile network
PAKNET	X.25 Packet Data Network	Radio	Legacy radio connection to metering provided by Vodafone, is being discontinued
2G (GPRS)	IP Connection over 2G mobile network	GSM Radio	Allows connectivity to sites over the internet or over VPN to a sim provider will be being replaced between 2020 and 2025
Services currently in place			
Identifier	**Description**	**Medium**	**Notes**
SATELLITE	IP Connection over Satellite Comms	Satellite Link	Uses satellite broadband links for very remote sites where a fixed connection is impossible and mobile coverage is not available
FIXED IP (INTERNET)	Fixed IP address on the internet	Local Internet Connection	Uses the sites own internet connection and one of their internet facing IP addresses to allow access to the site – will require the customer to allow access

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FIXED IP (INTERNET COHERENT)	Fixed IP address on the internet using a mid-stage platform to provide the address	Local Internet Connection & Coherent Platform	Uses the sites own internet connection, just requires access to the internet and then a fixed address is allocated by the provider Coherent, this does not require the customer to allow access to anything other than the internet
FIXED IP (VPN)	Fixed IP address in a private network linked over the internet	Private Network over Local Internet Connection	Creates a tunnel between two networks allowing access to the private addresses, uses the internet as a carrier but keeps sites off the internet directly
FIXED IP (LINK)	Fixed IP address in a private network linked directly	Dedicated Business to Business Connection	As above but with a dedicated link between the two businesses rather than using the internet as a carrier. Is very expensive
CTN (DDI LINK)	Private Switched Telephone Network	Dedicated Connection @ Site – uses ISDN @ DC	Upgraded version of CTN, requires ISDN or PSTN dialling to connect
Future Services not yet in place			
Identifier	**Description**	**Medium**	**Notes**
4G (LTE)	IP Connection over 4G mobile network	LTE Radio (Long Term Evolution)	Replacement for GPRS in this market, will use the same radio frequencies but 4G technology which is promised to offer better connectivity
5G (LTE+)	IP Connection over 5G mobile network	LTE Radio	Will likely not be used for metering as it is very high bandwidth and aimed at high speed services
SIP	Session Initiation Protocol	Virtual Service offered over existing internet connection (or a separate internet connection dedicated to it)	Seen as a replacement for voice services, companies are now looking at delivering modem style communication over the SIP platform as well – this is being tested within the metering world, don't know if anyone is using it for live services yet

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