

# 294/16 COST OF ACCESS TO BSC DATA

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| <b>MEETING NAME</b> | BSC Panel |
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| <b>Date of meeting</b> | 12 September 2019 |
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| <b>Paper number</b> | 294/16 |
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| <b>Purpose of paper</b> | Decision |
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| <b>Classification</b> | Public |
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| <b>Summary</b> | This paper seeks to remove an anomaly in the charges made to non-Parties for certain data flows. The paper also proposes a route to start to address the recommendations of the Energy Data Taskforce on Open Data. |
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Modifications [P30](#), [P114](#) and [P315](#) defined a number of data flows that are available to non-Parties on request, subject to set licensing arrangements and fees. The fee for access to the complete set of data flows is currently £3,000 p.a.
- 1.2 Modification [P344](#) (Project TERRE) introduced the role of Virtual Lead Party (VLP). VLPs are aggregators of SVA registered units for the sole purpose of participating in the provision of balancing services. They can participate in both the Balancing Market and Replacement Reserve market (introduced by Project TERRE). VLPs are entitled to receive all the same data flows as any other BSC Party, including those covered by P30, P114 and P315. VLPs pay a Base VLP Monthly Charge of £125, or £1,500 p.a. This means that in principle any individual or organisation wishing to receive the data flows could register as a VLP and so receive the data for half the cost they would pay to access the data via the normal route. The Base VLP Charge of £125/month (half of the Base Monthly charge for BSC Parties) was agreed proposed by ELEXON and approved by the Panel. This was based on guidance from the P344 Modification Workgroup that as VLPs will not have the full range of access that BSC Parties have, they should not pay as much. It ties in with the principal that P344 arrangements should encourage participation as much as possible and not be seen as a hindrance.
- 1.3 Non-BSC Parties are required by Section V.3.2.7 to sign a licence for access to the data specified in Section V.3.2 as a result of modifications P30, P114 and P315. The licence is complex and places significant restrictions on the uses of the data.

## 2. Cost of Data Access

- 2.1 Section V.3.2.7 relates to access to these data flows by a non-Party, and states that “*the payment or periodic payment by such person to BSCCo of a sum (established and revised from time to time by BSCCo) representing the reasonable costs of providing such data to that person.*”
- 2.2 In order to resolve the anomaly note above, ELEXON propose to reduce the annual charge for ELEXON to send data to non-Parties from £3,000 to £1,500. A charge is retained to reflect costs incurred by ELEXON in providing this service.
- 2.3 The data flows covered by these arrangements are detailed in Appendix 1.

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### 3. BEIS/Ofgem Energy Data Taskforce

- 3.1 In 2018, BEIS and Ofgem established the Energy Data Taskforce (EDTF) to advise Government, Ofgem and industry on how to unlock value from data within the energy system. The increased value will benefit consumers by delivering greater competition, driving innovation in new products, services and business models, and ultimately producing a more efficient, cost-effective energy market.
- 3.2 The EDTF made five [recommendations](#). Recommendation 2 'Maximising the Value of Data' stated that "Government and Ofgem should direct the sector to adopt the principle that:
- 'Energy System Data should be Presumed Open, using their range of existing legislative and regulatory measures as appropriate, supported by requirements that data is 'Discoverable, Searchable, Understandable', with common 'Structures, Interfaces and Standards' and is 'Secure and Resilient'".*
- 3.3 The [Open Knowledge Foundation](#) (a global non-profit organisation focused on realising open data's value to society by helping civil society groups access and use data to take action on social problems) defines Open Data as data and content that can be freely used, modified, and shared by anyone for any purpose. Similarly the EDTF report states that "*Open Data should be Discoverable, Searchable, Understandable, adopt a sensible approach to Structures, Interfaces and Standards and ensure that it supports a Secure and Resilient Energy System.*"
- 3.4 In order to meet the criteria of Open Data, data must be both free from overly restrictive licence conditions and must be in a format that is easily understandable by the user. A number of the P114 data flows are in complex data formats developed to allow efficient data transfer over legacy IT systems, and do not necessarily lend themselves to simple interpretation by new users.

### 4. Proposed Solution

- 4.1 Under BSC Section V3.2.7, the approval of the Panel is required to change the form of the agreement between BSCCo and a person who is not a Party requesting the provision of data. The BSC does not specify that there may only be a single methodology for the provision of the data, nor does it state that all persons must be charged the same amount.
- 4.2 ELEXON propose that, subject to Panel approval, we develop an interim service providing a new version of the most popular data items currently available to non-parties under P30, P114 and P315 on the Portal in a new format. This data would be available to any person to download at no cost under the same Open Data licence as the BMRS data. This licence is provided in Appendix 2.
- 4.3 ELEXON intend to bring a further paper to the October Panel. We will request that the Panel raise a Modification to develop an enduring service that:
- a) makes extended datasets available to non-parties at no cost under the same Open Data licence as the BMRS data; and
  - b) addresses further Open Data issues raised by the EDTF report.
- 4.4 It is anticipated that most non-BSC Parties will migrate to the new, free, self-service system. However, it is possible that non-BSC Parties may have developed internal systems based on the receipt of these data flows, and so we do not want to preclude the option for non-BSC Parties to make use of the existing system. Many BSC Parties will also benefit from the new system, as it will offer self-service data on demand in easy to understand formats.
- 4.5 The reduction in the charge for provision of this service ensures that non-BSC Parties do not pay more than others do for use of the existing system, while the retention of a charge reflects the fact that ELEXON continue to incur costs from our service providers for the provision of the system.

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### 5. Recommendations

5.1 We invite you to:

- a) **NOTE** that ELEXON intend to reduce the charges for receipt of P30, P114 and P315 data flows under the existing data provision service from £3,000 to £1,500 p.a. ;
- b) **APPROVE** the creation of an interim service whereby any person can access the data currently available under P30, P114 and P315 via the ELEXON portal under the same Open Data Licence currently applied to data available on the BMRS;
- c) **NOTE** that ELEXON will not make a charge for any person to access this data via the temporary service; and
- d) **NOTE** that ELEXON intend to bring a paper to the October 2019 Panel addressing wider issues on Open Data arising from the EDTF report.

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## Appendix 1 – Data Provided under P30, P114 and P315

### Market Domain Data (MDD) – provided under 'P30' licence arrangements

MDD is the central repository of Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA) market information and is essential to the operation of the SVA arrangements. ELEXON provide the 'D0269' or 'D0270' data flows upon request, which include critical parameters such as Standard Settlement Configurations, Profile Classes, Grid Supply Point (GSP) Groups and market participant information.

### Profile Coefficient Data – provided under 'P30' licence arrangements

In the Non Half Hourly market, energy prices are based on predicted consumption using 'load profiles' that vary both geographically and between different types of customers (Profile Classes). Information on load profiles (Profile Coefficient data) is essential for Suppliers and buyers to accurately compare market price quotes and for demand forecasting.

### Reports provided under 'P114' licence arrangements

#### SAA-I014 (subflow 2)

This report contains everything that happened in the Settlement systems on a particular day, broken down into half hour Settlement Periods. This includes System Buy/Sell Prices, information on trading activity and charges for each Balancing Mechanism Unit (Party), Metered Volumes and Settlement cash flow information. It also has all the information needed to re-calculate the System Buy and Sell Prices.

#### CDCA-I029

This report provides the energy consumption by each regional Grid Supply Point (GSP) Group in Great Britain. By interpreting this report you can find out where the demand is and when.

#### CDCA-I030

This report includes the volume of energy that was metered at each Distribution System Connection Point for each Settlement Run per day. This can be used to determine the areas of demand and generation in the distribution networks and the line losses that can be expected as these are factored into Suppliers' tariffs. This is essentially the aggregated metering flows report (CDCA I029 above) broken down into specific connection points in the GSP Group.

#### CDCA-I042

This report from the Central Data Collection Agent tells you the Metered Volumes of energy for each BM Unit for each aggregation run per day. This describes exactly what each individual BM Unit has consumed or generated, and whether this is an estimated or actual value.

### Reports provided under 'P315' licence arrangements

#### P0276 'BSCCo GSP Group Consumption Totals Report'

A BSCCo version of the D0276 'GSP Group Consumption Totals Report', which is a report of Consumption Component Class totals for each GSP Group. It is produced daily for the SF, RF and DF Settlement Runs for all runs performed on or after the 30 June 2016, as well as for historical SF and RF runs for Settlement Dates from 1 July 2014.

#### P0277 'GSP Group Market Matrix Report'

This report is an aggregated (market-level) version of the D0082 'Supplier Purchase Matrix Report', which is a report for each Supplier per GSP Group containing the details of the Supplier Purchase Matrix rows used in the calculation of a Settlement Run. The P0277 is produced by summing the data in the D0082 across all Suppliers and Data Aggregators, for all Settlement Runs performed on or after the 30 June 2016 other than the II run.

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## Appendix 2 – ELEXON Open Data Licence

### Copyright: Licence to use BMRS Open Data

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**'ELEXON'** means ELEXON Limited (Company Registration Number 3782949) being the Balancing and Settlement Code Company;

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