BSC Modification Proposal Form	At what stage is this document in the process?
Mod Title: Increasing access to BSC data	01 Modification 02 Workgroup Report 03 Draft Modification Report 04 Final Modification Report

Purpose of Modification:

This Modification seeks to embed the principles of Open Data in the BSC, as advocated by the BEIS/Ofgem Energy Data Taskforce. In particular, it seeks to improve ease of access to data already in the public domain, and to establish a governance procedure by which future requests for data access can be assessed without the need for a Modification.



ELEXON recommends that this Modification should:

- Be raised by the Panel in accordance with Section F2.1.1(d)(i);
- Not be a Self-Governance Modification Proposal; and
- Be assessed by a Workgroup and submitted into the Assessment Procedure.

This Modification will be presented by the Proposer to the BSC Panel on 12 December 2019. The Panel will consider the Proposer's recommendation and determine how best to progress the Modification.



High Impact:

None



Medium Impact:

All BSC Parties – Some Party specific data that is already in the public domain will become easier to access by BSC Parties and non-BSC Parties. Introduction of specific governance arrangements for data access requests could affect what Party specific data is in the public domain.



Low Impact:

None

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Timetable

Please provide Proposer and Proposer Representative contacts and an indicative timetable. The BSC Change Analyst will update the contents and provide any additional Specific Code Contacts. The BSC Change Analyst can provide specific dates based on your Implementation Approach in Section 8.

The Proposer recommends the following timetable: *(amend as appropriate)*

Initial consideration by Workgroup	13 – 17 January 2020
Assessment Procedure Consultation	2 March 2020 – 20 March 2020
Workgroup Report presented to Panel	14 May 2020
Report Phase Consultation	18 May 2020 – 1 June 2020
Draft Modification Report presented to Panel	11 June 2020
Final Modification Report submitted to Authority	17 June 2020

Any questions?

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1 Summary

What is the issue?

BSC Systems, BSCCo and BSC Agents hold huge amounts of data, some of which is already published or available on request however, a lot more data can't be published, contrary to recent government recommendations.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Ofgem established the Energy Data Taskforce (EDTF) to make recommendations on how data can help unlock opportunities in a modern decarbonised and decentralised energy system at best value for consumers. In June 2019 the EDTF recommended that all data should be presumed open.

What is the proposed solution?

Modify the BSC so all data is presumed to be 'open' once the BSC Panel confirms the presumption for each specific data item. Assessment criteria should be developed so there is a consistent and transparent methodology for treating data requests and determining whether the data should be available to all.

2 Governance

Justification for proposed progression

This modification should be sent to the Authority for approval as it will have a material impact on:

- Consumers by allowing them access to data that may determine their choice of service provider;
- Code Governance by giving the Panel new powers;
- Competition as releasing data may have unforeseen consequences on competition; and
- Management of the market – it is the EDTF's belief that having more access to data will affect how the market operates

It is not known if sustainable development, safety or security of supply, the management of market or network emergencies will be affected by releasing previously unseen data to the market. Organisations may be able to carry out 'deep tunnelling' of new data to identify trends/predictions that could affect each future developments/proposals in each of these areas. This, in turn could affect how the Total System is operated and differentiations between classes of Parties.

This Modification should not be Urgent or Fast-Track as there are not expected to be any consequences of not implementing in the normal way.

Requested Next Steps

This Modification should be:

- Assessed by a Workgroup and submitted into the Assessment Procedure

Assessment by a Workgroup will allow industry experts to advice on how the Solution may need to be developed to meet the industry's needs now and in the future.

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3 Why Change?

What is the issue?

The EDTF made five recommendations:

1. Digitalisation of the Energy system
2. Maximising the value of data
3. Visibility of data
4. Co-ordination of Asset registration
5. Visibility of Infrastructure and Assets

Recommendation two states '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'.'

All commonly used definitions of open data include the criteria that the data should be both free from overly restrictive licence conditions and must be in a format that is easily understandable by the user.

The BSC does not fully adhere to the EDTF's recommendations and principles. Ofgem has powers to enforce alignment with the EDTF recommendations but this Modification will negate their need to do so.

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4 Code Specific Matters

Technical Skillsets

Understanding of the work of the Energy Data Taskforce, and the wider adoption of the recommendations of the report.

Understanding of types of data held by BSCCo under the BSC, and the potential benefits that could arise from increasing the openness of this data

Reference Documents

A strategy for a Modern Digitalised Energy System, Energy Data Taskforce report

Ofgem Open Letter: Delivering Energy Data Taskforce recommendations

Ofgem: Using energy system data to benefit consumers: our response to the Energy Data Taskforce recommendations

5 Solution

Work to date

The BSC Panel has already started the process of implementing the EDTF's recommendations when it approved the recommendations in paper 294/16 'Cost of Access to Data' in September 2019. This will

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allow the BSCCo to establish a new route to data by allowing access to key data items under an Open Data licence, similar to that used for the Balancing Mechanism Reporting Service (BMRS).

Three previous Modifications have made BSC data more available in specific circumstances:

- P30 'Availability Of Market Information To BSC Parties And Non-BSC Parties';
- P114 'Entitlement of Licence Exemptable Generators (LEGs) and other Non-trading Parties to BSC Membership Without Evidence of Trading'; and
- P315 'Suppliers' Meter Volume and MPAN counts'

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. Paper 294/16 proposed setting up a temporary solution to make the most popular P114 data flows available in an easy to understand format.

This Modification seeks to establish the requirements for the enduring solution to the provision of data to all potential users in a way consistent with the principles of Open Data (free from overly restrictive licence conditions and must be in a format that is easily understandable by the user).

While being free at point of use is not a necessary condition of Open Data, it is a principle that the EDTF espoused, and so the interim solution will be a low cost development, enabling the most popular P114 data flows to be available to all at no cost.

Commitment to Open Data

The BSC should be modified to demonstrate commitment to Open Data principles. The current default position is that all BSC data is Confidential Information. The default position should be that all data is presumed Open in accordance with the EDTF recommendations but, would continue to be treated as Confidential Information until the Panel confirms the specific data is confirmed as Open.

Handling of data requests

The EDTF's report suggests that data requests should be triaged to determine the openness of the dataset to consider whether the data set could cause issues:

- **Consumer Privacy** – relates to a person who can be identified from the information in question, either directly or indirectly in combination with other information; and
- **Negative Consumer Impact** - Likely to drive actions that will negatively impact consumers;
- **Security** – creates incremental, or exacerbates existing, security issues which cannot be mitigated via sensible security protocols such as physical site security, robust cyber security or buffer databases; or
- **Commercial** – relates to the private administration of a business or, data not collected as part of an obligation by a regulated monopoly and would not have been originated or captured without the activity of the organisation.

Mitigation methods should be considered to determine if issues could be resolved. The data requested is then classified:

- **Open** – Available for all to use, modify and distribute with no restrictions;
- **Public** – Publicly available but with some restrictions on usage;
- **Shared** – Available to a limited group of participants possibly with some restrictions on usage; or

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- **Closed** – Only available within a single organisation

The BSC should be modified to reflect this triage process.

The Panel (or suitable committee under delegation of the Panel – the BMRS Review board is initially recommended) should determine the classification of datasets to determine how they should be classified. This assessment could be initiated either by the Panel, or in response to a data request. Data should not be moved into the public domain until the Panel had confirmed it's status and suitable mitigation has/will be put in place to reflect that status.

The Panel should be able to review data classifications and amend classifications. This should occur as required and/or at the Panel's discretion.

The Panel should have a transparent set of criteria by which to assess data access requests.

6 Impacts & Other Considerations

Impacts

This modification may impact many BSC roles and Parties. While the proposed changes to governance of data access requests will provide a more efficient response to data access requests, some stakeholders may not necessarily wish for some of their data to be released, regardless of how redacted it is.

Does this modification impact a Significant Code Review (SCR) or other significant industry change projects, if so, how?

We do not believe this proposal will impact any of the open SCRs and request that this Modification be exempt from the SCR process.

It does support the work of the Energy Data Taskforce, which could be considered to be a significant industry change project.

Consumer Impacts

The EDTF's report states that data is fundamental to the future of the UK economy and, in the power sector, is the key to unlocking system and consumer benefits and managing the fast-approaching challenges of flexibility, resilience and costs in the most efficient way. Effective storage, sharing and management of data will allow the markets to develop; putting consumers at the heart of change, while allowing networks to support the proliferation of new business models and technologies.

Environmental Impacts

The EDTF's report states that data is recognised as being crucial to building a smart System that supports decarbonisation targets. This Modification will add to the collective efforts to mitigate carbonisation

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Enduring IT Solution

BSCCo should develop an IT solution to allow users to access ‘open’ data easily without unnecessary processes.

The solution should facilitate the use of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) or similar and data should be available in machine-readable format(s). The solution should be flexible enough to allow data to be added or removed as and when circumstances change e.g. a previously ‘closed’ document becomes ‘public’.

The IT system will ideally interact with the BMRS and the ELEXON Portal to avoid unnecessary duplication of data. For example, ‘open’ data is made available via the IT solution, while 'public’ or ‘shared’ data may be delivered via the Portal.

Consideration should be given to the target reliability of the IT solution, and to any charges that may be made for access to the system, either in the short term to recover the development and implementation costs, or in the longer term to cover ongoing operational costs. It is anticipated that there will be an interaction between these two issues – a lower reliability (‘reasonable endeavours’) solution may potentially be made available for free, while users requiring a higher level of reliability, with the additional operational costs associated with high reliability and 24/7 support might reasonably be expected to pay for the costs of such a service.

Cost recovery is likely to depend on the scale of the development costs of the enduring IT solution. If these are small then it is likely that the costs would be socialised via Funding Shares. Higher costs could be recovered via charges for use of the IT solution in the initial years. If charges are introduced, it is suggested that the Workgroup consider a scale of charges rather than a single flat rate, in order to encourage the development of innovation by smaller players. For example individuals and educational establishments could be allowed to use the IT solution for free, and VAT exempt companies could be charged at a lower rate than the full charge.

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7 Relevant Objectives

Impact of the Modification on the Relevant Objectives:

Relevant Objective	Identified impact
a) The efficient discharge by the Transmission Company of the obligations imposed upon it by the Transmission Licence	Neutral
(b) The efficient, economic and co-ordinated operation of the National Electricity Transmission System	**Positive**
(c) Promoting effective competition in the generation and supply of electricity and (so far as consistent therewith) promoting such competition in the sale and purchase of electricity	**Positive**
(d) Promoting efficiency in the implementation of the balancing and settlement arrangements	**Positive**
(e) Compliance with the Electricity Regulation and any relevant legally binding decision of the European Commission and/or the Agency [for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators]	Neutral
(f) Implementing and administrating the arrangements for the operation of contracts for difference and arrangements that facilitate the operation of a capacity market pursuant to EMR legislation	Neutral
(g) Compliance with the Transmission Losses Principle	Neutral

Objective (a) is neutral but, the EDTF has recommended placing open data obligations in the Transmission Licence.

The EDTF report states that open data will lead to innovative and more efficient markets, hence leading to a more efficient and economic operation of the National Electricity Transmission System, therefore having a positive benefit on Objective (b).

The reports states that ‘making data available to new market players, innovators and academics will stimulate new business models, new system management tools and new insights which can drive positive transformation’. This will, in turn, increase competition and have a positive impact on Objective (c).

The taskforce envisages anybody being able to request data from any organisation, with the organisation being expected to start from a supposition of the data being open. The organisation would be able to decline the request, or to apply mitigation such as data aggregation, but would be required to justify their decision in an annual report to the Regulator. Provision in the BSC of a clear process for dealing with such requests, together with a transparent set of criteria by which the request is assessed will provide an efficient way of dealing with such requests, and so will have a positive impact on Objective (d).

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8 Implementation Approach

Proactive adoption of the EDTF's recommendations, and demonstration of the BSC's commitment to open data, will avoid the need for Ofgem to place implementation actions on the BSC. As such, any changes should be as implemented as soon as is practicably possible and we expect this to be determined during the Assessment Phase.

9 Legal Text

Text Commentary

As the detailed solution is likely to be developed by the Workgroup, full legal text has not been provided. However, it is anticipated that a paragraph would be added to section H 4.1 to state that all data provided to ELEXON under the Code is assumed to be 'open' but, data must be treated as Confidential until such time as this assumption is confirmed for each data item by the Panel.

The Triage process would need to be added where appropriate, as would the relevant definitions such as 'open' and 'public'. We would also expect that any relevant cross-references to/from other parts of the BSC are added/updated as required, including the Terms of Reference where the Panel elects to delegate responsibility.

10 Recommendations

Proposer's Recommendation to the BSC Panel

The BSC Panel is invited to:

- Agree that this proposal should **not** be progressed as a Self-Governance Modification Proposal; and
- Agree that this proposal be sent into the Assessment Procedure for assessment by a Workgroup.

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