

Minutes

Unmetered Supplies Users Group

Meeting number **UMSUG129**

Venue **Teleconference**

Date of meeting **16 September 2020**

Classification **Public**

Attendees and apologies

Attendees

Oliver Meggitt	OL	Chairman
Roan Chavez	RC	Technical Secretary
Freya Gardner	FG	Elexon
Adam Jessop	AJ	Elexon
Kevin Spencer	KS	Elexon
Alan Marshall	AM	UMSUG Member
Tym Huckin	TH	UMSUG Member
Sue Kinsella	SK	UMSUG Member
Nicola Dew	ND	UMSUG Member
Ryan Parker	RP	UMSUG Member
Andrew Giblin	AG	UMSUG Member
Amanda Dainty	AD	UMSUG Member
Angeliki Kouluori	AK	UMSUG Member
Nigel Birchley	NB	UMSUG Member
Tom Chevalier	TC	UMSUG Member
Leanne Yates	LY	UMSUG Member
Mark Webber	MW	UMSUG Member
Angela Butlin	AB	UMSUG Member
Sara Green	SG	UMSUG Member
Andrew Eades	AE	UMSUG Member
Duncan Cockburn	DC	Openreach
Andrew McVicar	ANM	BT
Saskia Barker	SB	Ofgem
John Lawton	JL	Electralink

Apologies

Paul Angus	PA	UMSUG Member
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1. **The Removal of Reactive Power Data from the Operational Charge Code Spreadsheet – (UMSUG129/01)**
 - 1.1 This paper invited the Unmetered Supplies User Group (UMSUG) to agree whether kVA, kVAR and Power Factor data, and similar dimmed values, can be removed from the Unmetered Supplies (UMS) Operational Charge Code Spreadsheet, as the requirement to use this data in Equivalent Meter (EM) calculations no longer exists.
 - 1.2 An UMSUG Member asked whether Elexon would still expect Charge Code applications to include the data. Elexon responded that the data would still be required in applications but would be removed from the UMS Operational Charge Code Spreadsheet. Elexon added that the UMSUG have not rejected Charge Code applications due to this data.
 - 1.3 An UMSUG Member queried whether kVAR is related to VAR data. Elexon responded that they are the same and that k only stands for kilo. The UMSUG Member stated they load the VAR data but were unsure as to whether it is used. An UMSUG Member responded that it is unlikely it is used and a workaround would be to add a column to the spreadsheet and enter 0 for all VAR entries. Elexon asked if, alternatively, the system could discontinue loading VAR. The UMSUG Member responded they would need to check if either solutions are possible with their technical specialists.
 - 1.4 Elexon stated that the data will not be removed until October 2020.

ACTION 129/01: UMSUG Member to notify Elexon of any significant impacts that the removal of kVA, kVAR and Power Factor data from the Operational Charge Code Spreadsheet could introduce to their organisation.
 - 1.5 The UMSUG:
 - a) **AGREED** that kVA, kVAR and Power Factor data can be removed from the Operational Charge Code Spreadsheet on 21 October 2020 (next MDD go-live date).
2. **Conversion of Existing Metered Openreach Cabinets to Unmetered – (UMSUG129/02)**
 - 2.1 This paper invited the UMSUG to recommend to the SVG to reverse a previous ruling that states existing Openreach metered cabinets must remain metered.
 - 2.2 Elexon asked whether there is a requirement to replace Meters with Smart Meters. Openreach responded that they plan to keep the current meters until 'end of life', then replace with Meters that would meet necessary requirements at that time in the future. Elexon commented that the industry is moving towards Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) and that HHS would be more accurate.
 - 2.3 BT stated that the current advanced AS230 Meters are capable of HH reads but will reach 'end of life' within the next few years. The UMSUG Chair asked what the replacement Meters would be. BT responded that AS230 is a small Meter and that they are currently investigating potential replacement Meters. Elexon stated that MHHS is planned to be implemented by 2025.
 - 2.4 Elexon commented that Suppliers would need to be involved in the Change of Measurement Class (CoMC) process. Openreach responded they expect cooperation between Openreach, Suppliers and Distribution Network Operators (DNOs).
 - 2.5 The UMSUG Chair asked for the energy procurement timeline. Openreach responded they are tendering a three-year contract from 2022.
 - 2.6 An UMSUG Member asked whether DNOs would need to create a new UMS MPAN. Openreach responded they are willing to accommodate the most suitable approach for DNOs. Openreach added that DNOs could see an increase in the number of cabinets but reduction in the number of MPANs in volume reports.
 - 2.7 An UMSUG Member asked whether Openreach's proposal would pose an accuracy issue for MHHS. The UMSUG Member also commented that 56,000 'fibre to the cabinet' (FTTC) connections also seem to be a large volume for a contract. BT responded that each metered FTTC connection has very low demand, which is not attractive to Suppliers.
 - 2.8 Elexon stated creating a new UMS MPAN would be more reasonable. BT responded they have existing UMS MPANs in each UK region which they were intending to enlarge with the metered cabinets. As such, the DNOs can decide whether to create new MPANs or to add the cabinets to existing ones.

- 2.9 An UMSUG Member stated that fewer MPANs would result in less administrative work. The UMSUG Member added that their view remains that a metered supply is more accurate than unmetered, and that they believe the SVG would hold the same view. If the UMSUG recommends the reversal of the previous ruling to the SVG, other customers may also request for their metered to cabinets to be converted into unmetered. It would be unfair to allow the conversion for Openreach, but not to other customers. The UMSUG Member added that their company, and others, have policies that prevent the conversion of metered cabinets to unmetered. Openreach responded that their proposal is only for Openreach cabinets, and that this is a specific scenario.
- 2.10 An UMSUG Member stated that other customers who may request the conversion would be parties such as Virgin Media. Openreach responded that if Virgin Media were to demonstrate the similarities, they would be able to make the request now to DNOs with no policy restrictions. The UMSUG Chair asked for clarification on the difference between metered and unmetered cabinets. Openreach responded that the only significant difference is that for unmetered, a meter is not installed nor the telephone line that communicates with the cabinet.
- 2.11 An UMSUG Member stated there have previously been instances whereby customers had made the conversion, but on a smaller scale. The UMSUG Member added that there are no restrictions in the BSC or legislation that would prevent this. However, having an UMS would require cooperation with the Customer, Supplier and DNO. The UMSUG Member noted that the SVG's rationale for previously ruling to keep the cabinets metered was not clear.
- 2.12 Openreach stated that the scale of consumption of each cabinet was 400 Watts. An UMSUG Member responded stating this would be classed as UMS, and added that according to BEIS, if the cost of metering outweighs that of the consumption, then the DNO should be more pragmatic. The UMSUG Member added that the scope for inaccuracy would be lower for lower consumption volumes. Elexon stated that the SVG is more concerned with the accuracy and integrity of Settlement, and therefore they should be given the opportunity to make a determination.
- 2.13 The UMSUG Member also added DNOs and UMSOs may have a conflict of interest as they are forced to install Meters. An UMSUG Member responded this was not the case.
- 2.14 Elexon stated they will present a paper, supported by Openreach, to the SVG. Elexon will also communicate the UMSUG's views to the SVG.

ACTION 129/02: Elexon to liaise with Openreach regarding representation at an SVG meeting for their proposal to reverse a previous SVG ruling that states existing Openreach metered cabinets must remain metered.

- 2.15 An UMSUG Member stated that testing has been carried out to show that the cabinets have a continuous flat load. The test also saw that the load can be calculated accurately. Therefore, UMS are not necessarily less accurate than metered supplies. The UMSUG Member added that metered cabinets can be a blocker to competition, and that DNOs have an obligation to encourage competition.
- 2.16 Openreach stated that in 2014, BT presented a proposal to the UMSUG and SVG based on population. The UMSUG approved the recommendation but the SVG rejected it due to inaccuracy which led to Openreach changing subsequent Charge Codes. Openreach have also recently improved the creation of more accurate Charge Codes or ones that reflect the consumption more appropriately.
- 2.17 An UMSUG Member stated they were confident that the Charge Codes from 2014 were accurate, and asked if the same is true for the ones currently being used. An UMSUG Member responded this was the case. Openreach added that the component level based Charge Codes that were approved last month will replace the old ones.
- 2.18 BT and Openreach left the meeting for the UMSUG to cast votes.

ACTION 129/03: Elexon to notify the UMSUG of the SVG's decision on Openreach's proposal to reverse a previous SVG ruling that states existing Openreach metered cabinets must remain metered.

- 2.19 The UMSUG:
- a) **AGREED**, by a majority of 12 with 2 abstentions, for Elexon to recommend to the SVG that existing metered Openreach cabinets can be converted to unmetered.

3. National Terms of Connection Charges – (UMSUG129/03)

- 3.1 This document sought to gain the UMSUG's views prior to submitting a formal Change Proposal to DCUSA to amend the National Terms of Connection (NTC) for unmetered customers.
- 3.2 An UMSUG Member asked whether their understanding of 7.1A in the red-lined Schedule 2B of the DCUSA is correct that every customer will be expected to confirm there are no changes to the Detailed Inventory at least every 12 months. The UMSUG Member also asked whether it would be an auditable exercise. An UMSUG Member responded their understanding of 7.1A was correct and that the NTC agreement is not subject to the BSC Audit. The UMSUG Member added that it is for the DNO to decide on the process. The UMSUG Member also stated that 12 months is only a default value and that DNOs can change the timeframe. However, the longer the timeframe, the more likely it would be that their main points of contact from their unmetered customer will have changed.
- 3.3 An UMSUG Member supported having established timeframes for customers to submit Inventories, and asked how the submissions will be monitored. An UMSUG Member responded it is the DNO's responsibility to audit the process. The UMSUG Member added that the BSC requires UMSOs to ensure that inventories are updated in a timely manner but as this is a connection agreement between the customer and DNO, the DNO would be responsible for enforcing it. The UMSUG Member added that the BSCP520 contains guidance on the MUESLI audits which DNOs could use.
- 3.4 An UMSUG Member observed that the 12 month timeframe in 7.1A in the red-lined Schedule 2B of the DCUSA differs from that of the current agreement. The UMSUG Member also observed that 7.5 of the red-lined document also outlines the abilities, as it does currently, of the DNOs to enforce Inventory submissions and audit their customers. The UMSUG Member stated they would support a generic national terms of connection. An UMSUG Member stated that DNOs have both existing terms of connection and the ability to refuse new unmetered connections to customers who do not provide Inventory when required.
- 3.5 An UMSUG Member asked how the changes would be communicated to customers. Electralink responded that DCUSA is obliged to publish the changes, while DNOs are obliged to communicate changes to their customers. The changes are also published formally in the London Gazette.
- 3.6 An UMSUG Member stated that the national terms of connections apply to 30 million customers, where there is no bilateral agreement in place. In principle, changing the national terms would not necessarily change the bilateral agreements. The UMSUG Member added that subject to the UMSUG's feedback, a Change Proposal will be raised to DCUSA. Electralink stated there is no obligation for any Party to initially undertake a DUSCA issues form and that the DCUSA Workgroup could consider the proposed wording in the red-lined document.
- 3.7 An UMSUG Member asked whether customers, who made changes ten years ago, would still need to abide by the proposed changes. An UMSUG Member responded that this would depend on the new wording, and that the customer would be bound to the current version of the agreement.
- 3.8 The UMSUG:
- a) **ADVISED** on whether to support the proposed changes to the NTC;
 - b) **COMMENTED** on the proposed changes; and
 - c) **COMMENTED** on whether certain Distributors utilise their own Connection Agreement rather than rely on the NTC.

4. Actions

- 4.1 The UMSUG Chair confirmed the new actions raised in this meeting.

5. Matters Arising/AOB

- 5.1 Elexon asked the UMSUG for their views on their proposals on National Miscellaneous Charge Codes, which would only be used for new Miscellaneous Charge Codes.

ACTION 129/04: Elexon to present a paper on National Miscellaneous Charge Codes at the December 2020 UMSUG meeting.

- 5.2 An UMSUG Member observed that MDD was inserted with different parameters before the start date of the previous end date.

ACTION 129/05: UMSUG Member to email Elexon with information on their query on issues with the start- and end-date of MDD parameters.

- 5.3 The UMSUG Member also asked for clarification on whether the date issued for CMS-related Charge Codes can be used before its issue date under certain circumstances. The UMSUG Member added that their systems are designed with 'black and white' rules.

ACTION 129/06: UMSUG Member to email Elexon with information on their query regarding the dates for CMS-related Charge Codes.

- 5.4 Elexon stated that the UMS Subgroup is currently focusing on CMS test specification documents but mCMS will also be included if needed.
- 5.5 Elexon stated that they still intend to perform Risk 11 TAPAP Audits between December 2020 and March 2021. A further update will be provided at the next UMSUG meeting.

6. Next Meeting

- 6.1 The next UMSUG meeting will be held on 16 December 2020.