

IGT UNC Modification Panel Meeting

**Draft Minutes**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Via teleconference**

Attendee	Initials	Organisation	Representing	Notes
Graeme Forbes	GF	Gemserv	Code Administrator	Chair
Charlotte Gilbert	CG	BUUK	Observer	
Natasha Perry	NP	BUUK	Observer	
Cher Harris	CH	Indigo Pipelines	Pipeline Operators	
Eilidh McNally	EM	Last Mile Gas	Pipeline Operators	
Ellie Osobina	EO	Ofgem	Authority	
Yash Audichya	YA	Ofgem	Authority	
Harry Firth	HF	Gemserv	Code Administrator	
Jenny Rawlinson	JR	BUUK	Pipeline Operators	
Lee Greenwood	LG	Centrica	Pipeline Users	
Talia Lattimore	TL	Gemserv	Code Administrator	
Ali Beard	AB	Gemserv	Code Administrator	
Rachel Black	RB	Gemserv	Code Administrator	Secretariat

**1. Welcomes and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed the Panel to the reconvened meeting. The Chair noted that following the ongoing quoracy issues the Panel faces, the Code Administrator (CA) had opened a meeting prior to this and held that open for one hour as per Code rules (Part L6.10).

There were apologies from Anne Jackson (Gemserv).

**2. Confirmation of Agenda**

The Chair confirmed the items for discussion as outlined in the final agenda. The Panel were invited to add any items for AOB. LG added Item 8 - Horizon Scanner. JR added Item 9 – Ofgem Cross Code Digitalisation Steering Group.

**3. Approval of the previous minutes (24-07)**

The CA invited comments on the July 2024 meeting minutes, reminding Panel that the August meeting had been cancelled and therefore the July meeting minutes needed approving. They noted that no comments had been received prior to the meeting. No comments were raised during the meeting and the minutes were approved as a true and accurate account of the meetings.

**4. Outstanding Actions**

The Panel were informed that there were no outstanding actions.

## **Modification Business**

### **5. ISOP Modification**

CF recognised that a late paper was expected, as BUUK and IGTs had intended to raise a Modification to align areas of the IGT UNC with required UNC changes being implemented on Tuesday 1 October 2024. These changes were to facilitate the delivery of the Independent System Operator and Planner activities. However, following the updates from the National Energy System Operator (NESO) Team at Ofgem in relation to amendments following consultation they believe it is no longer necessary to raise a Modification to align with these changes. CF explained that one of the reasons for this is because the Independent System Operator and Planner (ISOP) will now not be included as a Data Services Contract (DSC) Customer Class, and will access limited data that they require via the existing Third-Party services mechanism, which is currently in practice. This will mean they will have to go via the DSC Contract Management, where there are two IGT representatives. YA agreed with this and added that Ofgem have published documentation that elaborates further on these points and encourage parties to read the documentation. They noted that they have made a change to how ISOP will access the data as a result of consultation. They added that one of the reasons for the change in approach and using the Third-Party mechanism was cost related, noting that costs could be saved because of data access required by NESO in the short term is a small amount. Another reason highlighted was that they wished to make minimum changes to establish NESO. YA also noted the principle agreed in the Cross Code Working Group (CCWG) was that minimum change would mean proportionate data access, and they agreed that this approach would not constrain the operation of the ISOP. They stated that additional data could be accessed in the future through the ongoing Third-Party mechanism.

CG confirmed that they will still raise a Modification to introduce necessary housekeeping changes, for example updates to numbering and references, which will be needed following the changes to the UNC on 1<sup>st</sup> October. However, they will start work on these once the UNC changes are in Code.

LG noted the update, and thanked CF for their extensive work on the ISOP Modification.

TL advised they this discussion will be mentioned at the October IGT UNC Workgroup meeting, and if there is any feedback they will inform the Panel.

### **Useful Links**

[Ofgem Decision on establishing ISOP](#)

[Decision and Designation of the NESO](#)

## Updates from Workgroup

### **6. Workgroup Summary**

TL provided an update on IGT165. They reminded the Panel that IGT165 is paused while the UNC continue work on related [UNC Modification 0843 - Establishing the Independent Shrinkage Charge and the Independent Shrinkage Expert](#). TL added that the amended UNC Modification was presented at the September UNC Workgroup meeting, which TL attended. They advised that the updated legal text was not yet available but advised that changes are expected to IGT related provisions and definitions and encouraged IGTs to have a look once the revised drafting is available. It was stated in the Workgroup meeting the Proposer was expecting to make further amendments and that they are hopeful that IGT165 can be picked up again in November, though this is depending on how the UNC Modification progressed in October.

TL provided an update on IGT173, reminding Panel that the Modification has been approved for some time and is still targeted for implementation in November 2024. They advised that testing is due to begin next week, and IGT UNC have sent out information on behalf of E.ON to provide clarification around this. TL advised that three IGTs have are directly involved in the process and will be feeding back findings at the end of testing. They stated an update will be given at the October Working Group meeting. TL reminded Panel that the Proposer is going to asking Panel to provide a view on the outcome of testing and go/no go decision. They added that whilst this is outside the normal DSC Change Process, the Proposer is keen to ensure there is a decision Point for IGTs given this is an IGT only system change.

## Authority Updates

### **7. Authority Updates**

EO informed Panel on the following updates:

- Christmas publishing moratorium: As with previous years, we will have in place a publishing moratorium over the festive period. Our last publishing day will be Friday 13 December 2024 and we will begin to publish documents again as normal on Friday 3 January 2025.
- To inform our approach to development of the Strategic Direction Statement (SDS), we have recently completed a series of workshops with code panels and code administrators. We thank anyone who attended, your insights will shape development of the SDS going forward. The next opportunity to contribute to development of the SDS will be our winter SDS consultation.
- (Solo consultation decision publication) - We published our consultation decision on 22 August. It confirms our approach to implementation and also explains our upcoming next steps. If you have any questions about our decision, please contact us at [industrycodes@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:industrycodes@ofgem.gov.uk).
- (Joint consultation) - We anticipate that the government response to our joint consultation with DESNZ will be published in the autumn.

- Session 4 of the Modification Workgroup (MPW) took place on 5 September. It discussed what skill set a code manager would need to effectively fulfil its role in the modification process. How decisions would be made in the modification process was also discussed including the role of SAF and whether a SAF should vote. This session looked at how effectively code modifications 'flow through' to system bodies under the current framework, and how this could be improved, including through the use of Ofgem's new power to direct system bodies. Lastly, the MPW considered if cross-code working arrangements could be improved to facilitate a smoother transition and in the enduring governance framework.
- The final MPW session was held on 17 September. The discussion included the new direct code change power and how the code modification process might need to change to accommodate Ofgem using this process. It also looked at the significant code review process, including possible roles for the code manager. How transitioning to a code manager could impact the modification process and the roles Ofgem / code Panels / incoming code manager could take were also discussed. The session also considered whether or not an updated process should place a limit on the number of alternative modifications able to be raised and looked at detailed operational elements of SAF, eg quoracy. Lastly, it discussed the role of the Competition and Markets Authority appeal route on Ofgem code modifications decisions.

The Chair thanked EO for their update. They noted that many decisions impacting IGTs will be made, and new arrangements agreed. They advised that various Working Groups and Consultation Groups are being set up to improve the efficiency of the changes.

## **AOB**

### **8. Horizon Scanner**

LG asked if the IGT UNC uses Horizon Scanners. TL advised they do not but noted that other Codes have Horizon Scanning or have done so in the past. JR advised that the IGT UNC Workgroup have issues log. LG explained that Centrica are considering using Horizon Scanner, and they wanted to check if IGT UNC has one that could be used to feed into their discussions. TL advised that this can be something brought to the Workgroup for it to discuss and develop if this is something the Panel would be interested in using, noting that the Workgroup and Panel could review it periodically and publish. TL advised they would take an action to bring this to the Working Group.

**ACTION 24/09 – 01: TL bring Horizon Scanner to the attention of the Workgroup and to provide examples of other industry Code Horizon Scanners.**

### **9. Ofgem Cross Code Digitalisation Steering Group.**

JR provided an update on the Ofgem Cross Code Digitalisation Steering Group. They advised that Ofgem have invited representatives from various Panels to sit on this Steering Group, and JR

represents the IGT UNC Panel. They advised they have had two sessions and that these will continue monthly.

They advised that the aim of this group is to raise awareness of data digitalization, and note that there is a lot going on across the board with regards to this. The Group is also looking to ensure the industry is prepared for when Code Managers are in place and ensure the groundwork is prepared for them. They advised the group is considering a tool that was put in place by UK Power Networks, which relates to Digitalisation Strategy and Action Plans (DSAP), digitalisation strategy, and action plans. They stated that Ofgem have invited organisations to consider how the industry can adhere to data best practice, as Ofgem have guidance relating to this and some licences are mandated to adhere to that with regards to price control.

JR noted that the group is looking at how the industry is currently adhering to this guidance, and how it can prepare for digitalisation in the future with the guidance in mind. They stated they will continue to give updates on the Ofgem Cross Code Digitalisation Steering Group at this forum.

JR advised that there is no mandatory attendance but advised that Ofgem encourages the industry to be more involved with this going forward to improve knowledge sharing. They noted that representatives from Elexon and the Retail Energy Code Company (RECCO) attend these meetings, and encouraged attendance from Gemserv, from an IGT UNC perspective. They advised the goal of this group is to reach a point where there is an open forum of data for everyone to access. However, they highlighted that consumer data would be protected and not widely available to all. They noted that the IGT UNC will need to assess at some point the level of data it holds. JR asked to see if it is worth Gemserv attending in the role of IGT UNC Code Administrator.

TL noted the update and stated they would be interested in attending and that it would help ensure that required work could be delivered efficiently and that being part of these conversations will make it easier to deliver.

The Chair noted that with Licence Code Managers coming in, there is no intended separation between governance and data systems, which will encourage further participation. They advised the aim is to develop an integrated system to improve communication. The Chair referenced a [presentation about the "digital spine"](#) (published in September 2023) that may be a useful resource to demonstrate this.

The Chair proposed that TL take an action to consider how the IGT UNC Panel could be involved. JR noted this, and advised they will ensure an invite is sent to TL for the next meeting. They recognised that attendance at the meeting and involvement in the discussions will help and that they can discuss the guise in which we attend, which can be in a similar way to other codes. JR confirmed that they

would reach out to the Chair regarding Gemserv attendance. They believe this will be welcomed as they feel the more industry is aware the better.

**ACTION 24/09 - 02: TL to engage with JR regarding attendance at the Ofgem Cross Code Digitalisation Steering Group.**

**The next IGT UNC Panel meeting is scheduled for Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.**

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**Annex 1 – Actions Table**

Reference	Action	Owner	Status
24/09 – 01	TL bring Horizon Scanner to the attention of the Workgroup and to provide examples of other industry Code Horizon Scanners.	TL	Open
24/09 – 02	TL to engage with JR regarding attendance at the Ofgem Cross Code Digitalisation Steering Group.	TL	Open

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