

# IGG Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	13:30 Conference Call
<b>Chair:</b>	Niki Michael, CRU		
<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	
	Lindsay Sharpe, Alice Mooney, Catherine Keane	RMDS	
	Meabh Gallagher, Niki Michael, Barry Hussey	CRU	
	John Bracken, Carl Murphy, Siobhan Melvin, Alan Keegan, Emer Corcoran	ESBN	
	Jim Long	MRSO	
	Sarah Fuller	Gemserv	
	Daniel Michalowski	Glow Power	
	Jennie Dockrell, Andrew McKinnon	Flogas	
	Eoin McGurk, Mark Speers	BGE	
	Aaron Currie	SSE	
	Antoin O'Lachtnain	Pineryg	
	Ian Grant	Panda Power	
	Caroline Connaughton	Prepaypower	
	Eoin Brennan	Naturgy	
	Jessica Gregory, Patricia Ventura	Community Power	
	Aine Dorran, Susan Whyte, Mark Phelan	Electric Ireland	
Jessica Gregory, Patricia Ventura, Aidan Byrne	Iberdrola		
Lesley Robinson	Bright		
<b>Apologies:</b>			
<b>Version Number</b>	1.0		
<b>Status</b>			

<b>Agenda:</b>	
1.	General
2.	Actions from Previous IGGs/Conference Calls
3.	New IGG Actions
4.	CRU Update
5.	De-harmonisation Update
6.	Retail Market Design Update
7.	MRSO Update
8.	ESBN Update
9.	Gemserv Update
10.	Notice Board Planned Maintenance, Reminders from IGG, etc.
11.	AOB

### 1 – General

N Michael enquired if everyone was happy to sign off on v1.0 of the Conference Call minutes on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

**Minutes Approved.**

### 2. Actions – Previous Conference Call & IGG

L Sharpe provided the Action Item Update.

1 IGG action was closed since the last IGG Meeting (not including this current IGG meeting).

1 IGG action has been carried forward.

### Action Items

<b>1147</b>	<b>Supplier Categorisation for new entrants – RMDS to look into the categorisation for new Suppliers entering the Retail Market</b>		
<b>Update for IGG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L Sharpe reported that she doesn't have much update on this action at the moment. With holidays and B O'Donovan starting in the CRU it hasn't been possible to progress this, however we have a date in the diaries for next week to discuss the action.</li> </ul>		
<b>Discussion at IGG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action to remain open.</li> </ul>		
<b>Forum Logged: IGG</b>	<b>Assigned to:</b> RMDS	<b>Status:</b> Action remains <b>Open</b>	<b>Due Date:</b> 29.09.2021

### 3. Actions – New IGG Actions

No new actions were logged at the IGG.

### 4. CRU Update

N Michael and B Hussey gave the CRU Update.

N Michael gave an update on the following:

- Smart PAYG – the decision is now expected in September.
- Supplier Handbook Decision – is also due in September.

CRU is currently working on getting these two items out as soon as possible.

S Whyte asked what has happened with the timings on the Smart PAYG Decision Paper. CRU has been working on this for a long time. The delay is having an impact on Electric Ireland's ability to progress high level design with the project. She is hoping that it will be published early in September as it has caused issues.

N Michael replied that CRU understands that there has been a delay. CRU received some really detailed consultation responses. There is currently ongoing discussion with the Commission and CRU is trying to work out a decision as soon as possible.

S Whyte asked when exactly the timeline will be, mid or late September? This will have an impact on market process design unless there is no impact in the decision. CRU wants a way of identifying PAYG customers so there could be an impact here in draft MCRs and the market process design.

M Gallagher replied that CRU is very aware that the delay on this decision is having an impact on industry. There have been some really detailed proposals in the consultation responses so there have been a number of discussions with the Commission on the Smart PAYG paper. CRU had hoped to have it out earlier than now but unfortunately it will be mid-September at the earliest. CRU will look to provide a more specific timeline or detailed date when it has it.

J Gregory reported that from bi-laterals held with ESBN, the decision and the plan for Phase 2 is intended to be signed off in September as well. Just in line with what S Whyte has said, the importance of this decision in potentially having to revisit the MCRs and the design workshops which Suppliers have all been attending. We need to be very clear that actually deciding on the plan for Phase 2, based on any delays and having this decision by the middle or end of September, is going to need to be reconsidered in terms of the Smart Phase 2 design workshops, we are going to have to go back and look and see the impacts.

M Gallagher added that she appreciates what J Gregory is saying. CRU is aware that when the decision is published, there will be a piece to work to look at the current design which has been worked through as part of the workshops. She will relay the feedback to CRU that it may pose difficulties in terms of agreeing a plan if the decision is not available.

J Gregory added that the most important piece that she sees is that the plan is to be completed by the end of September, and that any requirement to have the plan bottomed out by the end of September is unrealistic. We need to factor that into everyone's planning and views of what's going on with Smart Phase 2. Does that mean a further extension? The longer that we don't have a decision in this space, and the impacts on design, the longer this is going to take.

A O'Lachtnain reported that we need an impact assessment really to see what impact this delay will have.

M Gallagher said that in the first instance CRU will publish the decision. At that point we will have a look at any of the knock-on impacts. At this stage, it will be mid-September that we will be publishing the decision. Any discussion around the plan and any impact assessment on that, would that be better placed as part of the ILG.

A O'Lachtnain said that impact assessment it is not an ILG role but a PMO role. It will be up to whoever is in charge of the project to liaise with the Smart PMO and alert them to the impacts they can plan for. These are big impacts down the stream for allocating resources in this sector next year. The impacts are very large.

S Whyte stated that if the decision due in mid-September is different to anything in the paper that ESBN has been working off in the design, and if there are additional elements that will need to be considered as part of the design, that is going to need more time in the market design process. However, if there aren't

and it's sticking to what was generally in the decision paper in 2015, perhaps there isn't an impact. We need to see the paper to understand this, so that's why it's important to get it as soon as possible.

N Michael added that CRU understands the concerns with the delay and that this is having an impact on the project in general. CRU will bring that back. If Suppliers have any other concerns, CRU can have bi-laterals if needed. CRU will try to get the decision paper out as soon as possible.

### **Interim framework for Clean Export Guarantee**

B Hussey, Manager on the CRU Clean Energy Package & EU Network Codes Team presented slides on the Interim Framework for Clean Export Guarantee.

B Hussey reported that he is responsible for progressing most of the work on the implementation of the Clean Export Guarantee which is the requirement to pay customers for exported electricity to the grid, which is a requirement of the Clean Energy Package directive.

He presented a slide on the Interim framework for Clean Export Guarantee (CEG).

### **Refer to slide for details.**

B Hussey reported that there has been work on Interim arrangements for settlement until end of Phase 3 of NSMP. Those interim Market Solutions cover both Retail & Wholesale markets, and they are going to need to cover both situations where there is metered export data and also where there is not metered export data available. This is something that was covered in the initial DR, which was drafted by ESBN, and was circulated to Suppliers and commented on.

CRU now knows, based on interaction with the Department and correspondence that it has received from the Minister, that deemed volumes will be part of the interim solution. There will be some issues CRU will need to iron out around personal data and GDPR, albeit the nature of the solution will influence how acute those issues are, and whether the information is particularly granular or not. CRU may be able to avoid some of the complexities which have occurred in the Smart world more generally over the last couple of years, at least on an interim basis. CRU also needs to consider issues around eligibility. Who will be eligible for payment? What requirements might it put in place there? This issue is somewhat complicated by the phased nature of the Smart Metering rollout plan. CRU needs to make sure that those customers who are exporting into the grid, that meet other eligibility requirements but are not eligible for a Smart Meter just yet, that it considers them eligible but will need to figure out exactly what those requirements might be.

Probably the most interesting piece for MPs, would be CRU's initial view on pricing. With regard to the potential for CRU to set a minimum price, a minimum tariff as is the case in the GB arrangements. At the moment the view is that there is no need for CRU to establish a minimum tariff. CRU thinks that there is sufficient competitive pressure in the market to ensure that consumers will receive payment for their export. However, the legislation will allow CRU to establish a minimum tariff based on a review of the outcome of the first twelve months and CRU may set a minimum tariff at any point after that. CRU is focused on an interim solution. There will need to be compromises made, need to be simplifications made which will not be a perfect solution.

However, we need to focus our attention on the enduring solution. The enduring solution is where we will have a full Smart solution and where retail Suppliers will be able to come up with really innovative arrangements for remuneration for payment of export aggregation etc. There is a resource commitment question here and how much time and effort do we put into the interim solution when we need to establish

the enduring solution. CRU's intention will be focused on trying to make the interim solution as workable and as simple as possible while still meeting the requirements of the legislation, while ensuring that we can all focus on the enduring solution being put in place.

Responsibilities allocated to the CRU (provisionally)

B Hussey outlined the responsibilities which are allocated to the CRU provisionally.

**Refer to slide for details.**

CRU has been engaging with the Department for two years on issues around microgeneration, albeit CRU refers to the term Renewable Self-Consumer as this is the term in the legislation. In late July, CRU received a letter from Minister Eamon Ryan setting out the Departments intention in terms of the Clean Export Guarantee and how this is going to be given effect through an SI which the Department is currently finalising. CRU has extracted some pieces from the letter to give MPs the main focus of attention, i.e.:

CRU to put in place an enabling framework to ensure that renewable Self-consumers receive remuneration for exported electricity. Also, to develop and implement an interim micro-generation settlement solution. To define an export tariff which is reflective of market prices if the market rates offered by Suppliers are lower than expected. This is part of the annual review process. CRU also needs to establish the eligibility criteria for the Clean Export Guarantee tariff and also a methodology to establish export volumes in the absence of metered export volumes.

Indicative Timeline for CRU Decision on Interim CEG

B Hussey outlined key dates of the indicative timeline for the CRU decision on the interim CEG.

**Refer to slide for full details.**

- **End July** CRU given responsibility for aspects of CEG
- **Sep 2021** CRU to publish a consultation paper
- **Sep 2021** ESBN to revise the MDR and CRU to reconvene the IRMMS WG
- **Sep – Dec** Progress MDR / MCR via IRMMS WG & IGG
- **Q4 2021** Transposing legislation enacted  
Followed by CRU Decision

B Hussey reported that CRU received the letter from the Department at the end of July. It is not a great time to be given this very significant body of work, albeit it is something that has been on the boil on other people's cookers for some time.

CRU is working on the consultation now and intends to be publish it by mid-September all going well. There will be elements in the consultation paper which will be very familiar to MPs in terms of discussions that have occurred at the various retail meetings. There will also be elements of the consultation paper where there is not a great deal of optionality available to any of us. There are elements of the MRSO/ESBN settlement solution where we won't have a lot of leeway. There are issues around data which might constrain the solution also. He encourages MPs to be as flexible and as pragmatic as possible, as this is what CRU is going to try to be, to try a make sure that it has a decision in November/December. However, all of CRU's ability to make a decision is contingent on the legislation being enacted. The legislation will be enacted as soon as possible according to the Department, then CRU will be able to make a decision. Once the legislation is enacted and the requirement to put a value on export kicks in, there is a complexity there that CRU is going to have to manage. In parallel, there will be work on the MDR/MCR via the IRMMS Working Group and the IGG. There will be issues where the

consultation will have to reflect certain assumptions that CRU is making to allow that work on the industry processes to progress. It is not ideal. CRU will do its best to try to progress the issues as quickly as it can. No doubt with input from MPs, CRU will come to a good solution at the end.

At the end of the presentation, attendees thanked B Hussey for the presentation and raised the following questions:

A Dorran asked two questions. When does CRU envisage the scheme opening for customers to either register or to start receiving payments? She understands that CRU will only set a minimum price if there was no competition, she presumes that CRU will have a role in setting the price and that Suppliers will be made whole in the background?

B Hussey replied that as to when the scheme will go live, CRU will set the eligibility criteria in a way that will allow it to not retrospectively apply a value to certainly recognise that if the legislation was signed into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021, if a Customer was eligible on 1<sup>st</sup> October then they will be exporting to the grid, and their Supplier will see a value of that export. As soon as a customer is eligible, their Supplier will see the value and CRU expects that the value will be passed through at a rate that is fair and transparent. It is obviously a matter for the market to figure out exactly what fair and transparent is, albeit CRU has a role in reviewing these, and whether it needs to set a minimum tariff or not. The wholesale value is a market rate. It is up to Suppliers to establish what they think is a fair tariff for Customers based on the wholesale market value.

A Dorran said that the scheme will open on a particular date. Customers will be eligible for payment on whatever date the legislation passes, is that the case?

B Hussey replied yes, and that payment time is obviously a critical question. We need to think carefully about implementing arrangements whereby Customers will be paid very regularly, and for a number of reasons, it might make things more difficult from a data point of view. Also, it curtails the amount of time that we all have to put systems in place. If the payment timelines are perhaps less regular, it gives us all a little bit more breathing space. He doesn't know exactly what the timelines will be, but CRU will certainly be looking to give as much time as possible, ensuring that ESBN and the retail Suppliers have their systems in place to allow any payments to occur.

J Gregory added that it is useful to have something concrete in this space. The first question is the data. One of the most important elements of the MCR was a view as to when we would be able to get the data which would ultimately dictate when settlement could theoretically happen, and recoup could be made. CRU is talking about discussion and progression on the MCR up until the end of December. Are we talking about data potentially being available from early 2022?

B Hussey replied that the data may not be available as soon as that. This is one of the particularly awkward issues that CRU has to grapple with. Once the legislation kicks in, there will be a requirement for people to be remunerated. That might require sort of an "interim interim solution" to cover the period of time when the legislation kicks in and when systems are actually up and running to give Suppliers the information they need. If we need to go down that route, at all times, Suppliers will see the commencement value of that export through their wholesale market settlement.

J Gregory asked how? This has been debated in all the responses and all the engagement, that settlement is not available through the traditional way. Is CRU proposing that this interim interim solution is going to involve some sort of subsidy from SEMO, or the Government? Where does that money come from to make Suppliers whole for that intervening period? Otherwise, Suppliers are subsidising the microgeneration CEG.

B Hussey replied that no, they are not. Any export volumes will be settled through M+13 settlement. There is no question of any subsidisation. The value is there. There is obviously a question around timelines for when payment occurs to the customer. This is something that CRU will give consideration to but there is no question that Suppliers will be left holding the baby.

J Gregory added that even when we looked at the previous MCR, the key point with settlement was, that there would be no retrospective settlement. Of course, we said M+13 would be the way it would work. Until such time as data can be transferred to Suppliers, there would be no settlement and therefore no compensation. If Suppliers are not getting data to be able to feed back in, how is that going to happen?

B Hussey replied this is a very complicated area. Wholesale market settlement is something that he knows very well, and he knows MPs know well too. There are different ways of moving volumes into settlement. The NI situation is a good example essentially where they have been doing off book settlement of microgeneration for a number of years. There are a lot of options there to ensure that no one is short.

J Gregory said that is good news. CRU has talked about the Department passing the buck to CRU in terms of the pricing threshold and the model. Can we assume then that the buck is being passed to Suppliers to determine the tariff and CRU will come in and decide if what Suppliers have done in the retail market is ok or not.

B Hussey replied that he would not say that CRU has passed the buck to Suppliers. Not setting a minimum tariff is completely coherent with the last twenty-two years of retail market deregulation in Ireland. What the legislation allows CRU to do is to review the tariffs that come out from the retail market and consider whether that is reflective of the actual value from a wholesale market point of view. CRU might take a number of interim steps before it ever set a tariff but that's all in the future. The proposal at the moment is to go fully competitive and the Department is content with that.

E Brennan raised a question about the competitiveness of the renewable consumer export for settlement and how it is done in NI as being one of the ways that could help smooth it out for the interim. Specifically, in terms of NI, there is good separation of import and export Supplier and good participation opportunities for aggregators and non-Supplier entities. These two points have been raised consistently by Naturgy over the past few months and is something that it would like to raise again. Whatever interim solution is put in place, should follow the same method in NI that it does cater for that separation and the other participation.

B Hussey replied that in relation to NI, he is aware that the UR Retail team is consulting on a review of the NI Supply Licence to facilitate new entry. Those changes are definitely a fundamental part of the enduring arrangements. CRU recently published a Consultation on Energy Communities and Active Customers. CRU sees aggregation and in particular aggregation of renewable consumer load as a really important part of the transition. The separation of data from an import and export situation, is unfortunately not a runner for the interim. But absolutely, it's a core feature of the enduring solution and is something that CRU sees an awful lot of value, from a system point of view and from a consumer point of view.

E Brennan added that the consultation on Energy Communities was quite helpful to see the serious thinking in that regard. The interim solution is meant to be an easy step into the enduring solution. Naturgy would like to see the same playing field in that regard where some parties aren't three years late into microgeneration game.

B Hussey replied that's why it's important that we do something on deemed value for those people who aren't necessarily eligible for a Smart meter immediately. That might be larger customer categories, where there would be a lot of value there.

E McGurk reported that Suppliers have been operating in a bit of blank space with regard to microgeneration. It's good to get some solid information. He has one question about the deemed part of this. There is going to obviously have to be some calculation for how those deemed amounts are derived. It would be helpful for Suppliers to know if that is going to be done by ESBN. Will ESBN be calculating the deemed volumes and sending them to Suppliers, and putting them in from a system point of view? Or will Suppliers be left to calculate how much deemed volumes they will have to pay?

B Hussey replied that this question is very much to be confirmed and thrashed out. CRU is still working on it. Deemed calculation is going to be imperfect. There is not a huge amount of information on which to build a deemed calculation. A deemed volume on that basis he imagines would be reasonably straightforward and he expects that while ESBN will implement it in its systems, from a settlement point of view, retail Suppliers will be able to do a calculation on a shadow basis as well without a great deal of complexity.

E McGurk added that it might be actually easier if Suppliers received it in the same way and the meter readings come through from ESBN.

S Whyte raised a request regarding public engagement on this matter. There was a public consultation paper from the Department and a lot of responses to that. Suppliers are getting a lot of questions from Customers as well. Regarding the message going back out, will the Department be issuing a decision paper on microgeneration? Will it now say that CRU is going to issue a consultation on this? Has there been any thought been given to public engagement on this and managing expectations?

B Hussey replied that this is an issue that is getting a lot of public attention. Considering the amount of money involved and volumes it's getting a lot of potential airtime. CRU has had a lot of queries from Customers as well. In terms of the Department's plans, he can't obviously speak for the Department, but what he can say is that he doesn't expect the Department to say anything else on this matter for some time. The Minister may say something when CRU publishes its paper, but he is not sure of that. In terms of the comms, what CRU is saying to anyone that is contacting it, is that CRU has been notified it has received the responsibility for a number of actions as part of the Clean Energy Package which includes responsibility for implementing a framework for payment for export. Also, that CRU is consulting on this issue in September and is hoping to make a decision before the end of the year. But all of that is contingent on a decision on the finalisation of the legislation. The expectation up to now was that it was July that was the deadline in the directive. CRU will draw people's attention to the paper when it goes out. Ultimately if someone gets in touch with a Supplier, they can point them in the direction of CRU.

S Whyte added that for managing expectations from customers, for registering them for microgeneration, if it's dependant on the legislation being transposed as opposed to a decision by CRU.

B Hussey replied that when talking about the eligibility criteria, one thing that CRU will be saying to anyone who gets in touch, is to make sure that they have registered with ESBN via the NC6 form. There are a number of renewable self-consumers that are not fully registered with ESBN. If a customer has for some reason not notified ESBN, they will not be eligible for payment. That's one thing that CRU will be telling them. Anyone who has their NC6 form in order should also contact ESBN and notify them that they have microgeneration, to see if there is a potential for an acceleration of installation of a Smart Meter. Having a Smart Meter in place will make it a lot easier for the customer because they will be getting paid actual amounts. It will also be easier for Suppliers as well. The less Customers we have with deemed calculation the better it is for all.

J Gregory stated that CEP is out of scope completely from the Department and from this piece of work. So, can we assume that CEP is parked in the short to medium term?

B Hussey replied that CEP doesn't appear in the legislation. CRU is implementing the legislation which requires it to implement an enabling framework for Clean Export Guarantee for renewable self-consumers. He can't say whether it is parked or not, but CRU is only focused on the implementation of the CEG.

J Gregory reported that with regard to the MEC values, there has been engagement with ESBN and CRU on it. There has been a request for industry to have a download of the MECs so that Suppliers can have a view on that. Is it possible for industry to have this data, even as a snapshot or a starting point?

M Gallagher replied that CRU has had recent engagement with ESBN on this request. CRU is looking at a way of getting that particular information out to Suppliers sooner rather than later, so that is something concrete that Suppliers could have to look at as the next steps. CRU is engaging with ESBN as to how it can do that and will hopefully be able to do it soon.

E McGurk asked if B Hussey can say any more about what the eligibility criteria might be. Customers will need to sign up to ESBN via the NC6 form. Is there anything else?

B Hussey replied that this is to be confirmed. CRU is not expecting something that should require any additional form filling by the Customer if for example they have a Smart Meter installed and they are up to date with their NC6 form. The legislation is very straightforward. If you are exporting electricity to the grid, you should be remunerated for it. Unlike the Clean Export Premium, where you might need a lot more eligibility criteria to be established, in terms of the Clean Export Guarantee, he imagines that the eligibility criteria will be pretty straightforward.

J Gregory raised a question in relation to aggregators, who are new operational entities/participants in the Irish retail market. Does CRU plan on evaluating and consulting on new licence conditions for that entity? Suppliers don't want to be subserved by aggregators who, without regulation, are able to do what Suppliers are forced to do under regulation.

B Hussey replied that in April CRU published a consultation on enabling frameworks for Energy Communities and Active Customers. CRU received a range of very helpful responses from MPs. CRU notes the call for a level playing field that came back very strong from retail Suppliers and other MPs. CRU has now finalised a Conclusions Paper on those topics and expects to publish it in the next two weeks. All of those issues around the role of aggregators and the appropriate regulatory framework to apply will all be picked up in the next steps arising out of that conclusion paper. Suppliers' concerns were taken on board. The issue is not settled but there will be plenty of opportunities to influence it in the future.

### 5. De-harmonisation Update

N Michael reported that the system separation project is progressing. IPT started earlier in August and will be completed by October.

*(An update on system separation was given by NIE Networks at the ReMCoWG which preceded this forum).*

### 6. Retail Market Design Update

L Sharpe gave the Retail Market Design Update.

**Refer to slides for full details.**

**DR1214 – Interim Metering Responsibilities for Battery Storage**

L Sharpe reported that this DR was classified as ROI Specific at the ReMCoWG which preceded this forum. RMDS issued this DR to MPs a couple of weeks ago. The DR is for an interim metering responsibility for battery storage and was raised by MRSO. It is looking at how battery storage is treated in the market. EirGrid has agreed, as an interim measure, to act as the Meter Data Provider for Battery Storage Units. EirGrid will poll the DSO connected battery storage sites and provide the import and export data to SEMO in a single data stream under a Generator Unit ID, as required by SEMO.

J Long added that there is a lot of detail in the DR. Battery storage units at the moment are very small and there are only a couple in the system. MRSO doesn't envisage many being connected over the next two or three years, maybe a maximum of ten or twelve units. It is a change to the model around generation sites and how we process these in the system. The enduring solution will mean that there will only be one unit set up. Normally we have a supply unit to take care of the import data and a generator unit to take care of the export data. The enduring solution means that there will only be one unit, a generator unit, that has import or export values in there. At the moment, in the retail market, the system is not set up to allow us to do that. Hence the reason why MRSO has engaged EirGrid in an interim plan to allow them access to ESBN's battery Units. EirGrid will provide the data to SEMO for settlement purposes. Separately, MRSO will continue to issue MM341s for these units to allow billing of these sites for the energy used and also for DUoS billing to take place as well.

E McGurk asked if there is going to be any impact on system charges?

J Long replied that maybe on the wholesale side of things. Certainly, on the retail market, he is not aware of any system charges for this new type of generation. That could be a wholesale market question which he is not in a position to answer.

J Gregory asked if there is a view to making this a permanent solution longer term, or is that not on the cards?

J Long replied that ESBN is looking at an enduring solution, probably in 2024, with all other interested MPs, i.e., MDPs, MRSO, EirGrid and NIE Networks will be looking at a kind of cross MDP solution to this. EirGrid can already facilitate this, they are acting as MDP for the DSO units. In reality ESBN needs to engage with the market and probably the regulator and EirGrid to come up with a solution that will allow it to facilitate this request in 2024.

L Sharpe sought approval for the DR.

**DR1214 approved.**

### **V13.1 Minor Market Release**

L Sharpe reported that RMDS issued updates to the following Briefing Documents to the IGG on 16.06.2021. They are now available on the RMDS website.

- Comms Technically Feasible (CTF)
- Summary Validation, Estimation and Substitution Rules for HH Interval Metering
- MPRN Enquiry Web Service Guide

### **Governance Documents**

L Sharpe reported that RMDS is updating a number of Governance documents which currently cover the

Co-ordinated Retail Market in NI & ROI, to make them jurisdiction specific for ROI post System Separation on the 26th September 2021. They are:

- Governance Arrangements for the IGG.
- Retail Market Design Change Control Process.
- Retail Market Release Prioritisation Process.

RMDS issued v1.0 of these documents to MPs on 21st July 2021. Thanks to MPs for providing feedback. Based on the feedback, RMDS issued v2.0 to MPs on Monday 23rd August 2021 and is looking for feedback by Wednesday 8th September 2021. Afterwards, RMDS will hopefully bring them forward for approval.

#### V14.00.00

S Melvin gave an update on v14.00.00. Over the last couple of weeks, ESBN has been doing impact assessment on five prioritised MCRs. Following that work, ESBN believes it might be appropriate to revert some of the MCRs to provide more clarity on what the proposed end solution would look like. ESBN's intention is to submit the updated MCRs to RMDS by mid-September and to discuss and approve them at the IGG Conference Call on 29th September 2021.

ESBN's aim is to present package options at a workshop in mid-October with a view to confirming the scope of v14.00.00 and presenting a high-level delivery plan at the IGG in November. This time is dependent on the Smart MCRs being brought to the IGG and being approved. ESBN is aware that it may need to change this schedule depending on developments in Smart.

### 7. MRSO Update

J Long gave the MRSO update.

He presented the abbreviated version of the MRSO Presentation. This version outlines Debt Flagging, Objections and any other key items that have come to light during the month. It now includes the number of Automated Debt Flagging figures (IGG Action 1023). The full standardised slide pack is available under the [Reference Section](#) on the RMDS Website and provides the status of Change of Supplier related activity in the ROI Market.

**Refer to slides** for full details.

### 8. ESB Networks Update

S Melvin & E Corcoran gave the ESBN Update.

**Refer to slides** for full details.

[ESBN Covid-19 Activities](#)

S Melvin reported that ESBN is conducting activities as per the Covid-19 update issued in April.

#### NGNs Reminder

S Melvin reported that the primary numbers for ESBN are now the 1800 numbers. A reminder to remaining MPs to update the ESBN 1850 number range to the equivalent 1800 number. This includes the emergency number. All ESBN numbers are the same as current one except that the '1850' element has been replaced with '1800.' Thanks to Suppliers for updating them so far.

#### Upcoming RMDS Survey

S Melvin reported that Retail Market Services (RMS) aims to provide a high-quality service to MPs in accordance with DSO Licence Conditions which supports a high-quality service to end customers.

RMS has engaged a third-party service provider to conduct a survey on its behalf, the feedback of which will help RMS identify what works well and what may require improvement.

RMS will shortly be engaging with MPs to obtain appropriate points of contact within their organisations to participate in the survey. The survey will be based on all of RMS except for RMDS who conduct their own surveys and also the Smart Programme who are separate to the normal day to day operations and won't be covered by the survey either.

#### Day/Night Meters

S Melvin reported that the original Project (Q4 2020) identified 12,500 Meters/Time Switches stopped on a day or night register. The root cause showed the issue to be age related and the need to replace the equipment. Due to lockdowns and the pandemic, that work was largely paused from January 2021 to April 2021. As of today, there are less than 8,000 calls outstanding and all customers have been advised of the issue.

Following the resumption of meter reading on 12th April 2021, a review was undertaken for time clock accuracy on all Day Night Meters installed. A further 9,000 calls have been identified for scheduling. All of these customers will be advised by early September. In advance of this communication, Suppliers will be advised of their customers who are impacted.

The work program to be completed is now 17,000 metering calls (4% of total 380,000 D/N population or 0.7% of all Meters). ESBN continue to resolve these issues as appropriate (with Like for Like replacements) and will utilise the Smart Metering Program to replace the balance (plus all other Day Night Meters). This program will commence in January 2022 as per CRU Smart Phase 2 Scope Information Paper.

ESBN wishes to thank Suppliers for their understanding and patience on this matter.

E McGurk asked if the 9,000 further meters that have been identified, have the same issue, and are stuck in either Day or Night for a number of years?

S Melvin replied no. It is possible that they are out by a couple of hours. The work that was done in Q4 was data analytics where ESBN could clearly see from the data, that the reading was stuck on day or night. The additional 9,000 are as a result of the Meter Reader doing a visual check and checking the time on the clock against the actual time and they are out by the couple of hours.

E McGurk asked if this will have billing impacts for those 9,000 Customers. Will ESN be issuing a credit adjustment to these Customers?

S Melvin replied that it will possibly have billing impacts and ESN will issue consumption adjustments as appropriate. ESN will follow the same approach where the meters were stuck on Day or Night.

E McGurk added that it would be interesting to know the scale that those meters are out.

S Melvin stated that ESN won't know that information until the consumption adjustments are done, and the meters have been replaced and the information comes back into the Database Team. ESN doesn't have that information available yet.

#### DUoS Security Cover

S Melvin reported that the DUoS Agreement Section 7 Security Cover obliges suppliers to provide a minimum of two month's Use of System charges as security cover.

The security cover can be met by one of several means as set out in section 7.2 Means of Meeting the Security Requirements.

Following a recent review ESN may now accept, at its sole discretion, an On-Demand Bond or a similar collateral instrument such as an On-Demand Surety Bond. While these instruments are not prescribed in name under the DUoS Agreement, they are deemed to be encompassed within it under section 7.2.4 Other Guarantee.

The acceptance of any such instrument is still subject to approval by ESN.

A key determinant is the assurance of an 'On-Demand' status attaching whereby these collateral instruments can be called upon immediately with full payment being made to ESN Networks DAC without delay or conditions attaching.

#### ESN Website

S Melvin reported that the ESN Website was updated recently and improved to make it easier for Customers to find information. Some of the links might have moved so ESN wants to highlight that.

#### Consultation on Customer Signals

S Melvin reported that the Consultation on Customer Signals which ESN referred to at previous IGGs, is closing today for those Suppliers who haven't had a chance to respond to it. Thanks to those Suppliers who have already responded.

#### V13.00.00 Smart

E Corcoran gave an update on v13.00.00.

#### **Refer to slides for details.**

Hypercare has now completed for Smart v13.00.00.

Going forward the Smart mailbox is now being closed. All queries going forward should be directed to the relevant BAU Contacts for market message as outlined in the [Smart v13.00.00 Hypercare - External Transition – Market Participant BAU Contacts](#) presentation on the RMDS website.

Remote Reading Incident

E Corcoran reported that with regard to the P1 incident on the Remote Readings, this incident has now been resolved. ESNB is currently carrying out a root cause analysis and a lessons learnt exercise. ESNB will have an update on this matter at the next IGG.

Hypercare Issue 28

E Corcoran reported that the incident report for Hypercare Issue 28 has been completed. It's being reviewed and redacted at the moment. ESNB plans to share this with MPs in the next couple of weeks.

**9. Gemserv Update**

S Fuller gave the Gemserv update.

**Refer to slides** for details.

**New Entrants**

- 1 Export Only Supplier to Small Supplier Requalification – approved by CRU.
- 2 Large Suppliers Material Change – planning stage, have been put on hold until after system separation

**System Separation**

- IPT is ongoing between 16<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021. All is going well.
- Gemserv will issue the final report to CRU on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- Cutover is taking place on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**10. Notice Board: Planned Maintenance, Reminders from IGG etc.**

L Sharpe provided the outage update.

**Outages**

- There are no outages planned for August or September as of yet.
- Full outage details are available, as usual, on the [RMDS Website Outages Page](#).

**11. AOB**

One item was raised in AOB.

Microgeneration

J Gregory asked in relation to the Microgeneration Working Group, can CRU take an action to set up a

Working Group meeting so that Suppliers can have it in their diaries that aligns with the timelines that we have seen, to start focusing on that working group again.

M Gallagher replied that CRU's plan as outlined in the next steps, was to have another meeting of the Working Group around the same time as CRU's consultation is being published. Some of the information in there will help us move forward with some of the policy placeholders it had or areas of policy uncertainty. It may also contain some working assumptions that it can use in order to progress the DR. At this stage, CRU can't give a date for when the next meeting of the working group will happen other than signposting it for mid to end of September when the Consultation comes out. She notes that people will be eager to get a date in their diaries so that CRU can look to do it sooner rather than later once it has a bit more clarity.

J Gregory added that the ESNB MCR is key for us to start looking at this again. The sooner we all get together to understand how that may change the better.

**Next Conference call:**

- IGG Conference Call Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**Next IGG:**

- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 in Belfast (subject to change).

**Retail Market Design Service**

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