

Summary of Key Messages from DESC on 24th February 2021

Outcomes

2.0 Updates on Ad-hoc Work Plan Items

- Following a review of the 'Model Smoothing' methodology, DESC approved its continued use for at least another 2 demand modelling cycles. Model Smoothing is an approach which effectively averages the results from [3] years of demand models in order to reduce the year on year volatility in the gas demand profile output produced for each Gas Year. The results presented to DESC are available [here](#).

4.0 Modelling Approach 2021 Update

- DESC approved the Modelling Approach document which sets out how this year's Demand Modelling will be performed. There was general agreement that it would be inappropriate to use the data collected for the latest 12 month period of April 2020 to March 2021, particularly for I&C End User Categories, because of the impacts of the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions will have had on demand levels/reactions.

All results will be reviewed at the DESC Technical Work Group meetings in April and May and in the event the data is not used the profiles for Gas Year 2021/22 would be based on last year's approved smoothed Demand Models (which were not impacted by COVID-19). Material presented to DESC is available [here](#).

- **Note:** Daily gas consumption data for the analysis period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 is still required from eligible parties, in line with the UNC Section H 1.6 obligations (UNC MOD654S), in order to support this year's demand modelling activities. All eligible parties will be contacted by the Demand Estimation Team shortly to confirm the data requirements.

5.0 NDM Algorithm Review Update

- DESC were provided with an update on the UNC Work Group 0754R which is investigating how advanced analytics could help improve the accuracy of the NDM Demand Modelling outcomes i.e. allocation/UIG. The first meeting of the Work Group is set for 23rd March – details [here](#)