

UNC User Representative Appointment Process – Responses Summary for UNCC

The Chief Executive of the Joint Office is the Designated Person appointed by Ofgem and as recognised in the UNC Modification Rules 2.1 Defined Terms and 3.4 Users' Representatives. To support this important responsibility the JO produce a guidelines document "UNC User Representative Appointment Process", which is published on the JO website (<http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/elections>).

Ahead of the process for appointments effective from 01 October 2017 for the coming gas year, we consulted on several process improvements. These can be summarised as:

1. Removing the need for physical signatures, providing that the individual's personal email account is the source of communication.
2. Enabling the carry-over of a SPoC to the subsequent year.
3. Providing for rapid turnaround of an election in the event that a committee vacancy arises mid-year.
4. Clarifying that the Chief Executive of the Joint Office will be responsible for determining any queries or disputes to the rules.

Two responses were received.

Change 1 (removing the need for signatures) was supported as being a sensible evolution.

Change 2 (SPoC carry-over) was commented on; that this would be undesirable if it led to apathy or poor data quality in the event that people moved jobs. The process requires positive confirmation from all SPoCs requesting such a carry-over and we hope this is a pragmatic approach that avoids the overhead of gaining formal company approval every year.

Change 3 (rapid turnaround of mid-year elections) was supported as being a sensible evolution.

Change 4 (determining queries or disputes) was commented; one respondent thought that UNCC should have this role however, mindful that the explicit responsibility lies with the JO Chief Executive and that this had been discussed in the past at Panel, this is to be retained as written.

One respondent additionally suggested that the document could be made more clear in that the process sought to make appointments that were effective for each gas year; we agree that this will be helpful since it is otherwise only explicit in the Elections Timescale in Section 5. This will be included in the coming version.