UNC 0689:

Removing the requirement to support Invoice queries before the due date with information from the .AML file

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Why change?

- Currently, the only proscribed mechanism for challenging an invoice issued under UNC TPD Section S is that any challenge must be based on the supplied backing data provided by Xoserve contained in the accompanying .AML file.

- Current issues with the .AML file, nearly 2 years after Project Nexus go-live, means that shippers cannot always use this data to challenge known errors or validate invoices.

Options

- If the .AML file was robust this issue would not exist.
- There is currently no clear date at which the .AML file will be corrected.
- Allowing shippers to challenge invoices with their own data and not be charged whilst doing so is the only remaining viable option.

Solution

- The text under UNC TPD S4.2 is changed so that states that in order to query an invoice prior to its due date, the following pieces of information need to be specified:

  - Type, date and number of the invoice,

  - The Invoice Item to which the Invoice Query relates,

  - An explanation of the basis on which the Invoice Query arises, and the amount of the Invoice Amount which is subject to the Invoice Query - this can be backing data sourced by the User if sufficiently adequate data from the .AML file data is not available.

- Furthermore, should, following resolution of the invoice query, it become apparent that the Shipper User is liable for an interest payment but has provided supporting data from sources other than the .AML file then that interest is not payable.

Recommended Steps

- The Proposer recommends that this modification should be:
  - Not subject to self-governance because Shippers are unable to challenge invoices they receive, even if they know that they are incorrect from their own information, without incurring significant interest costs, potentially running into tens or even hundreds of thousands of pounds for each invoice.
  - Workgroup assessment to develop the modification for 6 months