

UNC Workgroup 0593 Minutes
Provision of access to Domestic Consumer data for Price
Comparison Websites and Third Party Intermediaries
Thursday 22 December 2016
at Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London NW1 3AW

Attendees

Bob Fletcher (Chair)	(BF)	Joint Office
Mike Berrisford (Secretary)	(MB)	Joint Office
Andrew Margan	(AM)	British Gas
Andy Clasper	(AC)	National Grid Distribution
Angela Love*	(AL)	ScottishPower
Carl Whitehouse*	(CWh)	first utility
Chris Warner	(CW)	National Grid Distribution
Colette Baldwin	(CB)	E.ON Energy
David Addison	(DA)	Xoserve
David Mitchell	(DM)	Scotia Gas Networks
Fraser Mathieson	(FM)	Scotia Gas Networks
John Cooper*	(JC)	Brookfield Utilities
Jon Dixon	(JD)	Ofgem
John Welch*	(JW)	npower
Kathryn Turner	(KT)	Good Energy
Kishan Nundloll*	(KN)	ES Pipelines
Lorna Lewin	(LL)	DONG Energy
Mark Jones*	(MJ)	SSE
Naomi Nathanael*	(NN)	Plus Shipping
Phil Lucas*	(PL)	National Grid NTS
Rachel Bird*	(RB)	Gemserve
Rachel Hinsley	(RH)	Xoserve
Richard Pomroy	(RP)	Wales & West Utilities
Shanna Key	(SK)	Northern Gas Networks
Steve Mulinganie*	(SM)	Gazprom

* via teleconference

Copies of all UNC meeting papers are available at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0593/221216>

The UNC Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel by 19 January 2017.

1.0 Introduction and Status Review

1.1. Approval of Minutes (24 November 2016)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2.0 Consideration of Amended Modification

Opening, SK explained that the latest round of amendments to the modification reflect previous Workgroup discussions rather than the recent Competition Market Authority (CMA) Order changes.

SK then pointed out that from day one, the modification has matched the CMA order requirements with no deviation.

AM advised that whilst he has no issues with what the modification is trying to achieve, he notes that the ICO believe that there might be some inadvertent Data Protection impacts as a consequence of the current proposed solution – it was agreed that this is more of a Workgroup Report development consideration.

3.0 Review of Legal Text

SK explained that the legal text numbering reflects UNC Modification 0574 'Creating the permission to release supply point data to the Theft Risk Assessment Service (TRAS)' legal text.

4.0 Development/Completion of Workgroup Report

In undertaking an onscreen review of the draft Workgroup Report (v1.3, dated 16 December 2016), BF undertook amendments inline with Workgroup discussions. The main points are captured, as follows:

Section 2 – Governance

There were no adverse comments to the suggestion that this is not a self-governance modification.

Section 5 – Solution

Discussions returned to the potential Data Protection (DP) question, with RP questioning whether there is actually an issue, as the Data Protection Act (DPA) is primary legislation, and in essence supplants the CMA order. It was also pointed out that the DPA only applies in the case of an individual being able to be identified via the available information. JD indicated that as long as the DP matter was highlighted within the Workgroup Report (and subsequent Reports), Ofgem would give the matter due consideration.

Some parties pointed out that at previous Workgroup meetings concerns were voiced around the information security aspects.

In looking to assess the 'Consumer Impacts' and specifically the Consumer Impact Assessment table, AL enquired as to what, if any costs / benefits information had been provided by the CMA, and wondered whether it should be included in this summary. Responding, BF explained that it related to possible erroneous transfer reductions. The table was amended inline with discussions.

When asked, DA confirmed that the prescribed modification solution would not be expected to impact upon the 'Central System Impacts'.

When one party suggested that the technical solution aspects would be better served being discussed under the Change Management forum (especially how option 3 could/should be accommodated), SK provided a brief explanation of the three options. In response to discussions, BF added an additional statement above the User Pays table to capture concerns.

Section 7 – Relevant Objectives

CB enquired whether or not there are any percentage figures available to show the number of parties that 'switch' suppliers via comparison web sites, rather than undertaking their own investigations, to which JD responded, indicating that whilst he does not have the exact figures to hand, he is aware that the number is quite high.

Section 9 – Legal Text

In reviewing the legal text, SK confirmed that the definition of “**Third Party Intermediary**” is a mirror reflection of the definition contained within the CMA order, regardless of whether it right or wrong. Some parties remained concerned that this potentially a wide remit.

Concluding discussions, the Workgroup consensus was that the report is now ready for submission to the January 2017 Panel for consideration.

5.0 Review of Actions Outstanding

None outstanding.

6.0 AOB

None.

7.0 Next Steps

The Workgroup Report recommending that the modification should be issued to consultation, would now be submitted to the January 2017 Panel for consideration.

8.0 Diary Planning

Further details of planned meetings are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/Diary

There are no further Workgroup meetings planned at this time.