



Making a positive difference
for energy consumers

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Dear Alex

Appointment of Users' Representatives to the UNC Panel and subcommittees

This letter sets out our notification to you, as Uniform Network Code (UNC) Panel Chairperson, that, with effect from today, the Joint Office of Gas Transporters (the Joint Office) will be the 'Designated Person' for the purposes of appointing Users' Representatives to the UNC Modification Panel and other relevant subcommittees.

Background

Gas Transporters are required by their licence¹ to have in place the UNC, including procedures for modifying the code, for establishing a Panel and a body to administer the UNC. The Joint Office is the UNC code administrator. The UNC Modification Panel is made up of a number of different parties, including Users' Representatives. The code provides for a 'Designated Person' to have the right to appoint up to five Users' Representatives on behalf of users.

The UNC defines the Designated Person as the individual appointed by the Gas Forum or "any other individual of whose identity the Panel Chairman may be notified by the Authority".² Currently, the Gas Forum acts as the Designated Person and manages a process to appoint Users' Representatives.

The Gas Forum ceased to operate from 1 January 2016, and is in the process of winding up. The current Users' Representatives wrote to us on 3 February 2016 to advise that there is therefore a need to appoint a new Designated Person. The letter set out their recommendation that the Joint Office, the code administrator for the UNC, is best placed to coordinate the Users' Representative appointment process going forward.

Our Decision

We agree that it is appropriate for the Joint Office to coordinate this process. We do not expect this to be an onerous task, and we note that the code administrator carrying out this role on behalf of users is consistent with the approach under other industry codes. We consider it is also consistent with concept of the code administrator acting as a 'critical

¹ Standard Special Condition A11:
<https://epr.ofgem.gov.uk//Content/Documents/Standard%20Special%20Condition%20-%20PART%20A%20Consolidated%20-%20Current%20Version.pdf>

² UNC Modification Rules: http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/sites/default/files/Modification%20Rules_25.pdf

friend' supporting users, and in keeping with the Principles of the Code Administration Code of Practice.³

In accordance with the UNC Modification Rules we are therefore notifying you that, with effect from today, the Joint Office is the Designated Person. We expect all users to work cooperatively with the Joint Office to ensure the timely and smooth transition of this process.

We note the reference in the UNC to the Gas Forum is now obsolete. We expect an appropriate housekeeping modification to be brought forward to address this in due course.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Nugent
Head of Industry Codes and Licensing

³ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/licences-codes-and-standards/codes/industry-codes-work/code-administration-code-practice-cacop>