

**UNC Workgroup 0812R Minutes  
Review of Alternative to “Must Read” Arrangements  
Thursday 27 October 2022  
via Microsoft Teams**

<b>Attendees</b>		
Eric Fowler (Chair)	(AR)	Joint Office
Helen Bennett (Secretary)	(HB)	Joint Office
Vera Li	(VL)	Joint Office
Andy Clasper	(AC)	Cadent
Ashley Adams	(AA)	National Grid
Anne Jackson	(AJ)	Gemserv
Ben Mulcahy	(BM)	Northern Gas Networks
Claire Louise Roberts	(CLR)	ScottishPower
Clare Manning	(CM)	E.ON
Daniel Wilkinson	(DW)	EDF Energy
David Mitchell	(DMi)	SGN
Ellie Rogers	(ER)	Xoserve
Emma Buckton	(EB)	Northern Gas Networks
Fiona Cottam	(FC)	Xoserve
Kate Lancaster	(KL)	Xoserve
Kathryn Adeseye	(KA)	Xoserve
Kundai Matiringe	(KM)	BU-UK
Lee Greenwood	(LG)	British Gas
Louise Hellyer	(LH)	TotalEnergies Gas & Power
Mark Jones	(MJ)	SSE
Nick King	(NK)	CNG Services
Paul Bedford	(PB)	Opus Energy
Richard Pomroy	(RP)	Wales & West Utilities
Steve Mulinganie	(SM)	SEFE Energy Limited
Tom Stuart	(TSt)	Wales & West Utilities
Tracey Saunders	(TS)	Northern Gas Networks

*The Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel by 20 April 2023.*

*Please note these minutes do not replicate/include detailed content provided within the presentation slides, therefore it is recommended that the published presentation material is reviewed in conjunction with these minutes. Copies of all papers are available at: [www.gasgovernance.co.uk/dist/271022](http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/dist/271022)*

## **1.0 Introduction and Status Review**

### **1.1. Approval of Minutes (22 September 2022)**

The minutes from the meeting held on 22 September 2022 were approved.

### **1.2. Approval of Late Papers**

There were no late papers.

### 1.3. Review of Outstanding Actions

**Action 0109:** Workgroup participants to review the proposed solution options to take this Review forward:

- 1) (Preferred solution) - Remove obligation on Transporters and let PAC manage any settlement risk which gives them the freedom to address the issue as they see fit;
- 2) Remove obligation on Transporters and put in place specific obligations on Shippers should they breach their meter reading obligation;
- 3) Replace the Transporter obligation in Code by arrangements for central provision of the service.

Feedback to be provided to Joint Office [enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk) and/or Richard Pomroy [Richard.pomroy@wwutilities.co.uk](mailto:Richard.pomroy@wwutilities.co.uk).

**Update:** Richard Pomroy (RP) confirmed Lee Greenwood (LG), British Gas, has provided feedback.

LG advised he does not think this Review is required for the following reasons:

1. This process does not exist in electricity, there is nothing to capture a read that is not being procured, this obligation sits with the Supplier and is measured via Error Fault Resolution plans which are in place if the Supplier does not meet their targets.
2. A Modification was raised recently which moved everything into monthly read meters
3. The rollout of Smart Meters will remove the risk of meters not getting read

AJ noted, as the PAFA, meter reading performance in the Gas industry is not exceptional and is very different to Electricity.

AJ confirmed this Review has not yet been discussed by PAC and noted that PAC do not currently have any responsibilities for any roles within UNC, their role is quality performance.

RP shared his view that there may need to be something done to improve meter reading performance, but that is separate to whether Transporters should provide this service.

Paul Bedford (PB) noted that Opus Energy is both a Supplier and a Shipper therefore would be impacted by any outcome from this Review.

RP clarified that Shippers have the obligation in Uniform Network Code but rely on Suppliers to provide the readings. This Review would remove the provision that if the Shipper does not provide a reading, then the Transporter does.

PB advised that, in the case of Opus Energy who utilises the Must Read Service, new commercial arrangements would be required if the service were to move to PAC.

When asked RP provided clarification of *Option 3 - Replace the Transporter obligation in Code by arrangements for central provision of the service* and advised this would be a centrally provided service rather than each DN providing their own, there would be a central body that provides the must read service.

When AJ mentioned that meter readings are required for settlement accuracy, RP clarified that Transporters revenue is now driven almost entirely by capacity, the meter readings for non-daily metered sites have a less direct reliance.

AJ added it is expected for Transporters to be interested in their billing as they are incentivised to be as accurate as possible.

It was suggested that, considering PAC did not have sufficient time to consider the questions, the actions should be deferred to the November 2022 Workgroup.

Discussion concluded.

**Action 0209:** Workgroup participants to consider if it is still appropriate for Transporters to provide the Must Read service:

- If yes, please provide your reasoning.

- If no, then who should provide it?

**Update:** Deferred to November 2022. **Carried Forward**

**Action 0309:** Workgroup Chair (RH/EF) to ask PAC for evidence on the effectiveness of must reads and the effectiveness on settlement accuracy: (Is there a benefit or value in the must read service)

- If must reads are successfully used, to what extent do they mitigate settlement risk?
- Are Transporters the appropriate party to provide the service?
- If they are not, who should provide the service

**Update:** Deferred to November 2022. **Carried Forward**

## 2.0 Amended Modification

The Request had not been amended.

## 3.0 Issues and Questions from Panel

### 3.1. Does the process utilised in the IGT UNC work as an alternative arrangement?

This will be considered at a future Workgroup meeting.

## 4.0 Development of Workgroup Report

This will commence at a future Workgroup meeting.

## 5.0 Next Steps

EF confirmed that the November Workgroup meeting will consider any additional views from the outstanding actions taken and then will consider what a Modification might look like.

## 6.0 Any Other Business

None.

## 7.0 Diary Planning

Further details of planned meetings are available at: [www.gasgovernance.co.uk/events-calendar/month](http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/events-calendar/month)

Workgroup meetings will take place as follows:

Time / Date	Paper Publication Deadline	Venue	Programme
Thursday 10:00 24 November 2022	5pm 15 November 2022	Microsoft Teams	Standard Agenda
Monday 10:00 12 December 2022	5pm 01 December 2022	Microsoft Teams	Standard Agenda

**Action Table (as at 27 October 2022)**

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
0109	22/09/22	2.0	<p>Workgroup participants to review the proposed solution options to take this Review forward:</p> <p>1) (Preferred solution) - Remove obligation on Transporters and let PAC manage any settlement risk which gives them the freedom to address the issue as they see fit;</p> <p>2) Remove obligation on Transporters and put in place specific obligations on Shippers should they breach their meter reading obligation;</p> <p>3) Replace the Transporter obligation in Code by arrangements for central provision of the service.</p> <p>Feedback to be provided to Joint Office</p> <p><a href="mailto:enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk">enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk</a> and/or Richard Pomroy <a href="mailto:Richard.pomroy@wwutilities.co.uk">Richard.pomroy@wwutilities.co.uk</a>.</p>	Workgroup participants	<b>Carried Forward</b>
0209	22/09/22	2.0	<p>Workgroup participants to consider if it is still appropriate for Transporters to provide the Must Read service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If yes, please provide your reasoning.</li> <li>• If no, then who should provide it?</li> </ul>	Workgroup participants	<b>Carried Forward</b>
0309	22/09/22	2.0	<p>Workgroup Chair (RH/EF) to ask PAC for evidence on the effectiveness of must reads and the effectiveness on settlement accuracy: (Is there a benefit or value in the must read service)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If must reads are successfully used, to what extent do they mitigate settlement risk?</li> <li>• Are Transporters the appropriate party to provide the service?</li> <li>• If they are not, who should provide the service?</li> </ul>	Workgroup Chair (RH/EF)	<b>Carried Forward</b>