

Phase

Initial Written Assessment

Definition Procedure

Assessment Procedure

Report Phase

Implementation

P444 'Compensation for Suppliers and Virtual Lead Parties for Virtual Lead Party actions in the Balancing Mechanism (BM)'

The P444 solution seeks to introduce compensation for Suppliers and Virtual Lead Parties (VLPs) for volumes adjusted by VLPs in the Balancing Mechanism.

This Assessment Procedure Consultation for P444 closes:

5pm on Tuesday 14 February 2023

The Workgroup may not be able to consider late responses.



The P444 Workgroup initially recommends **approval** of P444



The P444 Workgroup **does** believe P444 impacts the European Electricity Balancing Guideline (EBGL) Article 18 terms and conditions held within the BSC

This Modification is expected to impact:

- Suppliers; and
- VLPs.

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Contact

Insert name

Ivar Macsween

020 7380 4270

Ivar.Macsween@elexon.co.uk

BSC.change@elexon.co.uk



About This Document



Not sure where to start? We suggest reading the following sections:

- Have 5 mins? Read the summary section
- Have 15 mins? Read sections 1 and 7
- Have 30 mins? Read all except section 6
- Have longer? Read all sections and the annexes and attachments
- *You can find the definitions of the terms and acronyms used in this document in the [BSC Glossary](#)*

The purpose of this P444 Assessment Procedure Consultation is to invite BSC Parties and other interested stakeholders to provide their views on the merits of P444. The P444 Workgroup will then discuss the consultation responses, before making a recommendation to the BSC Panel at its meeting on 9 March 2023 on whether or not to approve P444.

There are three parts to this document:

- This is the main document. It provides details of the solution, impacts, costs, benefits/drawbacks and proposed implementation approach. It also summarises the Workgroup's key views on the areas set by the Panel in its Terms of Reference, and contains details of the Workgroup's membership and full Terms of Reference.
- Attachment A contains the draft redlined changes to the BSC for P444.
- Attachment B contains the specific questions on which the Workgroup seeks your views. Please use this form to provide your response to these questions, and to record any further views or comments you wish the Workgroup to consider.

P444
Assessment Procedure
Consultation

24 January 2023

Version 1.0

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Why Change?

Under BSC arrangements introduced by [P344 'Project TERRE implementation into GB market arrangements'](#) there is no mechanism for compensation of Parties who have been affected by Virtual Lead Party (VLP) activity in the Balancing Mechanism (BM).

As a result, Suppliers are commercially impacted and left with a cost from the Balancing Mechanism that they cannot recover.

Solution

The P444 solution seeks to introduce compensation for Suppliers and VLPs who are currently left with an undue cost to volumes adjusted by VLPs in the Balancing Mechanism that they cannot recover.

This Modification would amend BSC systems and processes to introduce a compensation mechanism for Suppliers and VLPs when a VLP takes a Bid or Offer in the BM, to ensure a level playing field and enable correct incentives for flexibility.

The Proposer believes that implementing Supplier compensation in the BM would address a defect within the BSC which Suppliers are bearing the cost of.

The P444 Proposer notes efficiencies to an aligned implementation with [P415 'Facilitating access to wholesale markets for flexibility dispatched by Virtual Lead Parties'](#) but does not believe there is a dependency between this Modification and P415.

Supplier compensation variants

The P415 Workgroup are exploring several variants of Supplier Compensation liability and pricing structures, to which the P444 Proposer and Workgroup ultimately intend to align.

- Under Supplier Compensation 1 VLPs are liable for compensation costs, with compensation paid at a price that represents the average Supplier sourcing costs.
- Under Supplier Compensation 2 all Suppliers are liable to pay for impacted Supplier compensation, with the Supplier Compensation Reference Price based on the daily Spot price.
- Under Supplier Compensation 3 all Suppliers are liable to pay for impacted Supplier compensation but compensation is paid at a price that represents the average Supplier sourcing costs.

Impacts & Costs

We expect P444 to impact:

- VLPs who may be required to pay compensation
- BSC Parties (Suppliers) who may be subject to mutualised compensation costs for VLP activity in the BM; and

What is a VLP?

A VLP is a distinct type of Party to the BSC that only participates in Settlement by offering balancing energy. BSC Modification P344 created the concept of VLPs to allow independent aggregators to access the BM. P344 introduced a mechanism to adjust each Supplier's position to remove the Account volumes dispatched by VLPs at sites registered to that Supplier.

- BSCCo who will need to administer compensation payments to/from Parties, potentially as a BSC Trading Charge.

At present, the proposal is to implement P444 alongside P415 to unlock efficiencies associated with implementing similar functionality for the BM and WM, should both Modifications be approved by Ofgem.

As such the following represents the expected total cost of delivering both P444 and P415 simultaneously, subject to their respective approvals.

Costs Estimates			
Organisation	Implementation (£k)	On-going (£k)	Impacts
Elxon	£2.2-3.2 Million	£10K per year	Systems, documents and processes
NGESO	None	0	Systems and processes
Industry	Medium to Low	0	Systems and processes
Total	£2.3-3.3 Million	0	

Implementation

P444 is targeting implementation for 7 November 2024 as part of the November 2024 BSC Release.

This aligns with the current plan for implementation of P415, which is desired by the Proposer and Workgroup, in order to unlock efficiencies associated with applying Supplier compensation to both the BM and WM in the same BSC Release.

Recommendation

The P415 Workgroup initially and by majority agree that P444 is stronger against Applicable BSC Objectives (b) and (c) and should be **approved**.

What is the issue?

[BSC Modification P344](#) created the concept of VLPs to allow independent aggregators to access the BM. P344 introduced a mechanism to adjust each Supplier's position to remove the Account volumes dispatched by VLPs at sites registered to that Supplier.

However, this does not result in a level playing field between Suppliers and VLPs. This is because when a VLP takes an action on behalf of a Supplier's customer, while the volume of the action is removed from the Supplier's imbalance position, the customer has still used less volume than the supplier has forecast. This means that volumes billed between customer and Supplier do not match the volumes against which the Supplier is settled for imbalance, even where the Supplier has correctly hedged the customer's volume.

For example, for a demand side customer where the Supplier hedges perfectly, if an Offer is taken by the VLP and the consumer consumes less energy, the customer's metered consumption is lower than expected, leaving the Supplier long. The P344 mechanism returns the Supplier to a balanced position, but without a price ascribed to that transfer. The result is that the Supplier has purchased energy and demand response, the latter which cannot be billed to the customer when the meter does not show consumption. That energy has been transferred from the Supplier to the VLP unpriced, who has sold it in the BM for a price.

Similarly, if a Bid is taken for a demand side customer and the customer consumes more energy, the customer's metered consumption is higher than expected, leaving the Supplier short. The P344 mechanism returns the Supplier to a balanced position, again without a price ascribed to that transfer. The result is that the Supplier bills the customer for consumption showing in the meter which the Supplier did not actually purchase. That energy, which was purchased by the VLP in the BM, has been transferred from the VLP to the Supplier unpriced.

The result is that the VLP gains value in Offers and loses value in Bids. The P444 Proposer believes that this is a market distortion, the Supplier loses value for offers and gains value for bids

Relationship with Supplier compensation under P415

P415 proposes to introduce a Supplier compensation mechanism to reimburse the Supplier for VLP-altered WM volumes to negate any commercial impact. The Proposer believes that both markets should follow the same route and that there are overall efficiencies to implementing Supplier compensation in the BM within a similar timescale as the WM.

While P444 aims to utilise functionality being developed for P415 in so far as that functionality could potentially be extended to the BM, the central argument for this Modification is standalone - there ought to be Supplier compensation for BM transactions, regardless of the eventual Authority decision to approve or reject P415.

Therefore there is no hard dependency between Ofgem approving P415 and approving P444. Rather, P444 could take advantage of the work already undertaken for that Modification and proposes an extension of its functionality to go live with P415 to unlock efficiencies.

The P444 Proposer believes (and Elexon agree) that it would be optimal to have both elements considered by Ofgem at the same time and that reflects the timetable proposed for this new Modification.

If both P444 and P415 are approved, there are additional benefits to aligning treatment of Demand Side Response in the WM and BM markets.

Background

Wider Access

[P344: 'Wider Access and Project TERRE'](#) enabled VLPs to participate in the Balancing Mechanism. P344 allows the separation of normal supply to the customer and the offering of normal flexibility from the customer.

Implemented in 2019, Wider Access is the term used for changes to the BSC and to the National Electricity Transmission System Operator (NETSO) processes to enable customers and independent aggregators – known in the BSC as Virtual Lead Parties (VLPs) - to participate in the Balancing Mechanism (BM).

BSC arrangements have always allowed customers to participate in the BM through their electricity supplier, but Wider Access allowed them to do so through an independent aggregator, or directly themselves (if they accede to the BSC), allowing Balancing-related activities to be separated out from the supply of electricity for other purposes; and ensuring that imbalance arising from either of those activities is allocated to the correct Party.

The Wider Access changes also removed BSC barriers to customers and independent aggregators participating directly in the Replacement Reserve (RR) market.

Wider Access changes to the BSC were implemented under Modification [P344 'Project TERRE implementation into GB market arrangements'](#) and provided a means for the registration and qualification of VLPs.

Virtual Lead Parties

A VLP is a distinct type of Party to the BSC that only participates in Settlement by offering balancing energy. An AMVLP is a VLP that uses Asset Metering (also known as behind the boundary Metering) instead of or as well as Boundary Metering as introduced by P375, implemented in June 2022.

The BSC does not currently provide a mechanism for VLPs and AMVLPs to trade in wholesale markets. In recognition of this, a BSC Party who qualifies only in the role of VLP or AMVLP (and not in any of the Trading Party roles that permit access to wholesale markets, such as Generator or Non-Physical Trader) is not subject to the same level of charges and obligations as existing Parties.

A BSC Party who qualifies both as a VLP or AMVLP and as a Trading Party will be subject to the same charges and obligations as other Trading Parties. A VLP is a distinct new type of Party to the BSC that only participates in Settlement by offering balancing energy unlike a trading party that does not take physical action in the market. An AMVLP is a VLP that



What are Secondary BM Units?

Secondary BM Units are registered by VLPs who use them to deliver balancing services, but are not responsible for Energy Imbalances (except where they arise from failure to deliver a balancing service). Each of the Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA) Metering Systems in a Secondary BM Unit must also be included in a Supplier BM Unit.

uses Asset Metering (also known as behind the boundary Metering) instead of or as well as Boundary Metering.

Supplier compensation under P344

As part of its discussions, the P344 Workgroup identified that it may be appropriate for a payment to accompany the correction of the imbalance position of the Supplier, noting that such payments are permitted under Article 17 of EU Directive 2019/944. However, the P344 Workgroup took the view that compensation for adjustments was a matter between the customer and the Supplier, and did not further explore how to deliver this as part of its BSC solution, given the challenging fixed TERRE deadline and what could be achieved, leaving this topic open for future discussion.

Discussions held as part of P415

One of the key principles developed under the P415 solution was that Supplier should not benefit nor suffer detriment because of the actions of an Independent Aggregator (VLPs) on site. This is why under the P415 Settlement solution the Suppliers Imbalance position is adjusted to account for any Independent Aggregator activity (this expands on the arrangements introduced in P344 solution that adjusts Suppliers for balancing activity).

However this still leaves the Supplier commercially impacted in the likely Demand Side Response (DSR) scenario (i.e. the Independent Aggregator reducing demand at a customer's site). In this scenario the Supplier will have bought energy on the wholesale market (that it expected the customer to use) but can't invoice the customer as they have not used it.

There was widespread support among the P415 workgroup for the view that Supplier compensation should be paid for all VLP activity (i.e. both balancing and wholesale market activity.)

However, Elexon legal advice confirmed that compensating BM volumes is not within scope of the P415 defect. Should Supplier BM compensation be included in the solution and is legally challenged then the challenge is likely to be successful. Therefore the P415 solution should only compensate Suppliers for WM Volumes.

As Supplier adjustments are calculated on a MSID basis the P415 solution needs to distinguish between BM and WM volumes at this level.

As noted previously Suppliers shall only be compensated for Wholesale Market volumes and so BSCCo will need to identify for each SBMU what volumes are to be allocated as balancing volumes and what volumes are to be allocated as wholesale market volumes under P415.

Related Modifications

P344, P375 and P376 'Metering behind the Boundary Point'

Elexon note that a lot of the settlement functionality needed to achieve a P444 solution had been implemented by [P344: 'Wider Access and Project TERRE'](#) which enables VLPs to participate in the Balancing Mechanism. P344 allows the separation of normal supply to the customer and the offering of normal flexibility from the customer.

Elxon also note that BSC modifications: [P375 'Settlement of Secondary BM Units using metering behind the site Boundary Point'](#) and [P376: 'Utilising a Baselining Methodology to set Physical Notifications'](#) introduce functionality that facilitates accuracy in determining settlement of actions the VLP has taken.

- P375 allows metering at the flexible asset; and
- P376 also provides baselining methodologies to separating out normal behaviour from flexibility.

Therefore it is likely the P444 solution will also build upon the functionality of P344, P375 and P376 to reduce cost and promote efficiency.

Desired outcomes

This Modification will introduce compensation for Bids and Offers taken in the BM. That is, it prices the volumes which are transferred between VLP and Supplier under P344.

P444 is intended to promote a level playing field for Suppliers and appropriate incentives for flexibility to act in the BM. In a period in which a customer's consumption is being varied by a VLP so as to meet a BM commitment, the customer's Supplier's position should be unaffected.

The compensation should be two way – both from and to Suppliers and VLPs.

An aligned implementation with P415, if possible, would be preferable to avoid confusion and difficulty that would occur should Supplier compensation be introduced in one market and not another.

Proposed solution

This Modification will introduce a compensation mechanism for Suppliers when a VLP takes a Bid or Offer in the BM, such that a Supplier shall receive no direct detriment (or benefit) from such a service.

The Proposer believes that this is necessary to address a defect introduced by P344 whereby Suppliers participating in the WM are at a disadvantage and that compensation is required to ensure a level playing field within the BM.

To address this defect, P444 proposes that the Supplier shall be compensated for Balancing Market volumes affected by VLP activity.

Supplier Compensation under P415

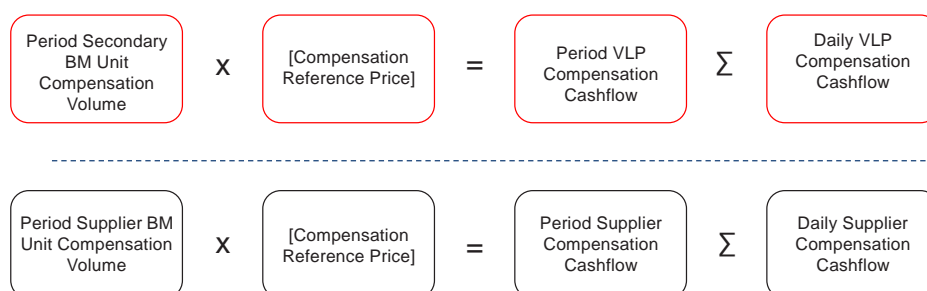
Under P444 Suppliers will be compensated for Deviation Volumes allocated to VLP Wholesale Market trades

BSC Modification P415 has developed this mechanism and the P444 Workgroup provisionally believe that this is suitable to apply to the BM in addition to the wholesale market.

New Trading Charges

The Daily VLP Compensation Cashflow (SCVp) and the Daily Supplier Compensation Cashflow (SCCp) will be a new Trading Charge. It will be included on Trading Charge Advice Notes that are sent to Supplier impacted by Independent Aggregator activity in the wholesale market.

New Trading Charges



Note that depending on the direct of the deviation VLP / Supplier shall be receive a debit or credit.

E.g. VLP reduces load by 10 MWh then VLP would pay compensation to Elexon who in turn would credit the impacted Suppliers.

And conversely if a VLP increases load by 10 MWh then Supplier would pay compensation to Elexon who in turn would credit the impacted VLP.

Supplier Compensation 1 - Proposed Solution under P415

Under P415's Supplier Compensation 1 (the Proposer's preferred solution, although alignment with P415 is ultimately desired) VLPs are liable to pay for Supplier compensation.

The price at which VLP's are liable to pay Suppliers compensation when Suppliers suffer detrimental impact from an activity VLP benefits from under Compensation 1 represents the likely costs the Supplier would have incurred to source that energy. This Supplier Compensation Reference Price is calculated using the Ofgem price cap under Compensation 1

The figure used will be the single rate metering arrangement with the inclusion of an allowance for:

1. shaping, forecast error and imbalance;
2. transaction costs; and
3. basis risk.

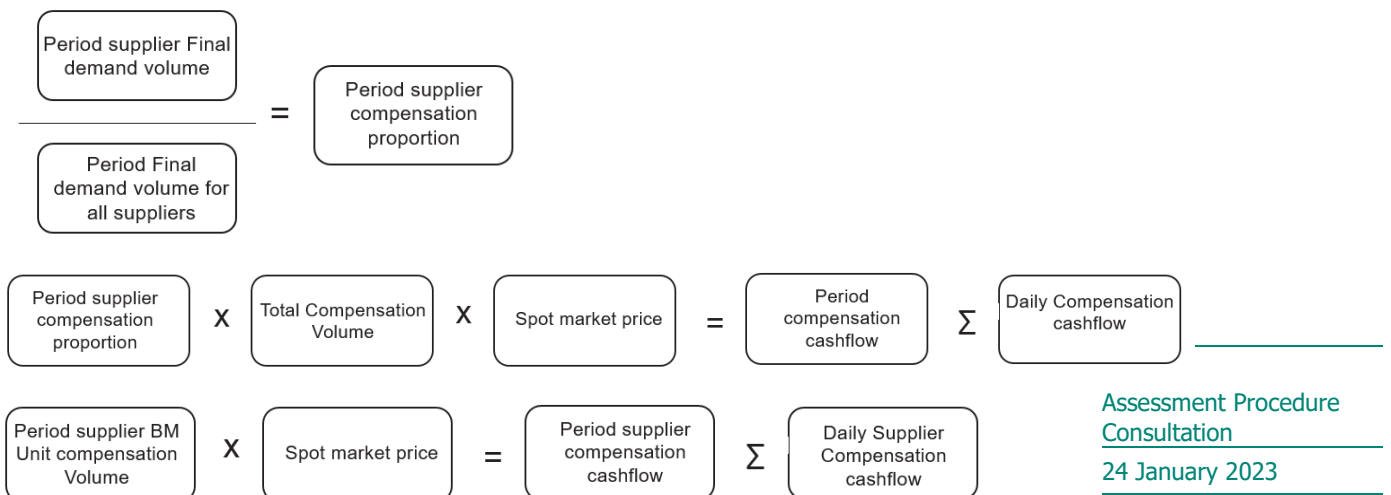
When Ofgem no longer produce a price cap, Elexon will develop the methodology to produce it, so in the event that this cannot be done before the final price cap period expires, the existing price cap will be maintained until such a time that it is no longer required

The BSC Panel shall agree the Supplier Compensation Price Methodology and which third part service provider should be used to obtain the relevant data for use in settlement.

Supplier Compensation 2 – Potential Alternative Solution under P415

Under Compensation 2 all Suppliers are liable to pay for impacted Supplier compensation.

If this compensation mechanism is built into the Solution then the additional cost incurred by the Suppliers shall be based on their market share (calculated using Final Demand as in the below diagram)



Under Compensation 2, the Supplier Compensation Reference Price will be based on the daily Spot price.

The P415 Assessment Consultation on the [P415 webpage](#) details the discussions surrounding Supplier compensation and the development of the variants. P415 is still being assessed by an industry change so the requirements remain subject to change.

Supplier Compensation 3 – Potential Alternative Solution under P415

The P415 group are using the opportunity afforded by the issuing of the Assessment Consultation to consult on a third option, Supplier Compensation 3.

Under Supplier Compensation 3 compensation costs are mutualised across all Suppliers but the compensation is paid at a price that represents the average Supplier sourcing costs.

Benefits

In the Proposer's view, the primary benefit of P444 is to rectify a defect introduced by P344 and promote a level playing field among market participants.

Benefits to aligning progression with P415

The implementation of P415 (if approved) would introduce misalignment between treatment of volumes delivered under the WM (post P415) and the BM markets.

In the absence of a solution to apply Supplier compensation in the BM (i.e without P444), Suppliers will be required to distinguish between two sets of volumes and apply different processes to compensation-eligible and compensation-exempt volumes based on which market, which is expected to be extremely challenging.

Without P444, P415 will have to implement system functionality to distinguish between WM and BM volumes for the purposes of compensation. Should Ofgem be supportive of both P444 and P415 and come to its view at the same time, there is an opportunity to avoid these additional system costs which would otherwise be paid by BSC Parties and reduce the overall cost for these two Modifications and come to its view at the same time, there is an opportunity to avoid these additional system costs which would otherwise be paid by BSC Parties and reduce the overall cost for these two Modifications.

While the Proposer and Workgroup believe in the benefits and efficiencies achieved by a parallel implementation with P415, in the case that P415 is withdrawn or rejected the Proposer believes that solving the P444 defect and introducing Supplier compensation into the BM remains a good idea on its own, and therefore that P444 can be treated as a standalone change if necessary but wants to verify this via the Assessment Consultation.

Assessment Consultation Question

Do you agree with the Workgroup that there would still be value in progressing P444 even if P415 is not approved?

[The Workgroup invites you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B](#)

Legal text

The Legal Text to deliver the intent of P444 can be found in Attachment A.

Assessment Consultation Question

Do you agree with the Workgroup that the draft legal text in Attachment A delivers the intention of P444?

The Workgroup invites you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B

Are there any (other) alternative solutions?

Supplier Compensation variants

As noted previously the P415 Workgroup have discussed two potential Supplier compensation mechanisms in detail:

- Supplier Compensation 1 - Proposed solution
 - VLPs (as the Balancing Responsible Party) are liable for compensation costs
 - Compensation paid at a price that represents the average Supplier sourcing costs
- Supplier Compensation 2 - potential Alternative solution
 - Compensation costs are mutualised across all Suppliers
 - Compensation paid at a price that represents the GB spot market price

Additionally, the group wish to use the opportunity afforded by the issuing of the Assessment Consultation to consult on a third option, Supplier Compensation 3

- Supplier Compensation 3 - potential Alternative solution
 - Compensation costs are mutualised across all Suppliers
 - Compensation paid at a price that represents the average Supplier sourcing costs

The P444 Proposer and Workgroup wish for the P444 solution to align with P415 whichever solution variant is progressed and approved by Ofgem. When the P415 come to a decision on whether to raise an Alternative Solution and, if so, which variant to adopt, the P444 solution will mirror these arrangements to enable an aligned approach. Even if P415 does not get approved, P444 would have the same proposed and alternative methodologies.

We welcome your views on compensation methodology as part of the [P415 Consultation](#).

4 Impacts & Costs

Estimated implementation costs of P444

- High: >£1 million
- Medium: £100-1000k
- Low: <£100k

At present, the Proposer and Workgroup wish to implement P444 alongside P415 to unlock efficiencies associated with implementing similar functionality for the BM and WM in the same release, should both Modifications be approved by Ofgem.

As such the following represents the expected total cost of delivering both P444 and P415 simultaneously.

Implementation cost estimates			
Organisation	Item	Implementation (£k)	Comment
Elxon	Systems	£2.2-3.2 Million	New systems and processes will be needed to allow for effective data and settlement flows regarding deviation volumes to account for VLP flexibility actions, to reflect imbalance settlement arrangements and to introduce the relevant compensation flows and procedures
	Documents	£2K	
	Other		
NGESO	Systems	Systems	None anticipated
	Other		
Industry	Systems & processes	TBC by industry consultation	
Total		£2.2-3.2 Million	

Estimated on-going costs of P444

On-going cost estimates		
Organisation	Costs (£k)	Comment
Elxon	£10K per year	Management of new trading charge, Supplier Compensation Reference Price and impact on Market Entry, Qualification, Registration.
NGESO	None anticipated	
Industry	Low	Extrapolated from limited response to CBA Call for Evidence

On-going cost estimates		
Organisation	Costs (£k)	Comment
Total	Low ongoing costs anticipated	

P444 impacts

Impact on BSC Parties and Party Agents		
Party/Party Agent	Impact	Estimated cost
Virtual Lead Party	Depending on eventual P444 solution, VLPs may need to pay compensation to Suppliers for actions taken in the BM. This could be payable directly by VLPs or mutualised among Suppliers. When a supplier benefits, the VLP will be paid compensation by the benefiting supplier, or that compensation will be paid to all mutualised suppliers	L
Supplier	Under P444, Suppliers would receive compensation to address the commercial detriment they incur on VLP-adjusted BM volumes and have to pay compensation when they benefit.	L

Impact on the NETSO
Impact
No impact expected

Impact on BSCCo		
Area of Elexon	Impact	Estimated cost
Performance Assurance	P444 will result in a new Trading Charge to account for adjusted BM volumes. The Performance Assurance Framework (PAF) is in place to provide assurance that Calculations and allocations of energy and the associated Trading Charges are performed within the BSC requirements. Risk 25 assesses the Balancing Services provided by Virtual Lead Parties allowing error to enter Settlement, such that the energy volumes required for Settlement are incorrect or missing	L

Impact on BSC Settlement Risks

Any risks to be tracked under Risk 25; the new risk assesses the Balancing Services provided by Virtual Lead Parties allowing error to enter Settlement, such that the energy volumes required for Settlement are incorrect or missing

Impact on BSC Systems and process

BSC System/Process	Impact
SAA	amendments to facilitate the calculation of application of compensation to Suppliers in the BM.
SVAA	Calculation of deviation volumes due to VLP activity in the BM

Impact on Code

Code Section	Impact
BSC Section N	Addition of the new cashflows
Section S-2 (Alternate)	Calculation of gross demand for each Supplier BM Unit Provision of gross demand to SAA Calculation of non-final gross demand for each supplier BM Unit Provision of non-final gross demand to SAA
Section T (Proposed)	Reference to a new methodology to obtain the supplier compensation reference price Allowing the Panel to own and update the methodology Calculation of compensation cashflows Addition of the new cashflows
Section T (Alternate)	Provision of the supplier compensation reference price from a data provider Receiving Gross and Non-Final demand data from SVAA Calculation of supplier final demand proportions and compensation cashflows Addition of the new cashflows

Impact on EBGL Article 18 terms and conditions

This Modification is not expected to impact Balancing under the BSC but does impact the BSC provisions that constitute EBGL Article 18 Terms and Conditions, as described in BSC Section F, Annex F-2. We believe these amendments do not materially amend the EBGL Article 18 Terms and Conditions for the reasons given below.

Impact on EBGL Article 18 Terms and Conditions

The drafting of the P444 Legal Text impacts several BSC provisions that constitute EBGL Article 18 Terms and Conditions listed in BSC Section F Annex F-2. This impact will be consulted on as part of the Report Phase Consultation, with a concurrent EBGL consultation on the P444 proposal to run for one calendar month.

Within the redlining there is one clause, within one document, that have an impact on the EBGL Article 18 Terms and Conditions within the BSC. Due to this, the redlining will be issued for a one-month EBGL industry consultation to meet the EBGL change process obligations.

BSC Section	Clauses Impacted
Section S	11

Impact of the Modification on the Relevant EBGL Objectives:	
Relevant Objective	Identified impact
(a) Fostering effective competition, non-discrimination and transparency in balancing markets;	Positive
(b) enhancing efficiency of balancing as well as efficiency of European and national balancing markets;	Neutral
(c) integrating balancing markets and promoting the possibilities for exchanges of balancing services while contributing to operational security;	Neutral
(d) contributing to the efficient long-term operation and development of the electricity transmission system and electricity sector in the Union while facilitating the efficient and consistent functioning of day-ahead, intraday and balancing markets;	Neutral
(e) ensuring that the procurement of balancing services is fair, objective, transparent and market-based, avoids undue barriers to entry for new entrants, fosters the liquidity of balancing markets while preventing undue distortions within the internal market in electricity;	Neutral
(f) facilitating the participation of demand response including aggregation facilities and energy storage while ensuring they compete with other balancing services at a level playing field and, where necessary, act independently when serving a single demand facility;	Positive
(g) facilitating the participation of renewable energy sources and support the achievement of the European Union target for the penetration of renewable generation.	Neutral

The Workgroup consider that P444 is consistent and with the overall objectives and positive against (a) and (f).

Impact on Code Subsidiary Documents	
CSD	Impact
New Category 3 BSC Document	A new subsidiary document containing the supplier compensation methodology

Impact on Core Industry Documents and other documents	
Document	Impact
Ancillary Services Agreements	None anticipated
Connection and Use of System Code	
Data Transfer Services Agreement	
Distribution Code	
Grid Code	
Retail Energy Code	
Supplemental Agreements	
System Operator-Transmission Owner Code	
Transmission Licence	
Use of Interconnector Agreement	

Impact on a Significant Code Review (SCR) or other significant industry change projects
There is no impact on any open SCR. Ofgem confirmed this view on 8 September 2022.

Impact of the Modification on the environment and consumer benefit areas:	
Consumer benefit area	Identified impact
1) Improved safety and reliability The Proposer believes that greater volumes in the BM will lead to greater reliability.	Positive
2) Lower bills than would otherwise be the case The Proposer believes that greater competitive pressure in the BM will lead to lower BM prices.	Positive
3) Reduced environmental damage Add rationale and comments here	Neutral
4) Improved quality of service Add rationale and comments here	Neutral
5) Benefits for society as a whole Add rationale and comments here	Neutral

ii) a move to hydrogen or lower greenhouse gases?
iii) the journey toward statutory net-zero targets?
iv) decarbonisation?
4) Will this change improve the quality of service for some or all end consumers. Improved service quality ultimately benefits the end consumer due to interactions in the value chains across the industry being more seamless, efficient and effective.
5) Are there any other identified changes to society, such as jobs or the economy.

Assessment Consultation Questions
Do you agree with the Workgroup's assessment that P444 does impact the European Electricity Balancing Guideline (EBGL) Article 18 terms and conditions held within the BSC?
Do you agree with the Workgroup's assessment of the impact on the BSC Settlement Risks?
Will P444 impact your organisation?
How much will it cost your organisation to implement P444?
What will the ongoing cost of P444 be to your organisation?
How long (from the point of approval) would you need to implement P444?
The Workgroup invites you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B

5 Implementation

Recommended Implementation Date

The Workgroup recommends an Implementation Date for P444 of:

- 7 November 2024 as part of the Standard November 2024 BSC Release

This aligns with the current plan for implementation of P415, which is desired by the Proposer and Workgroup, in order to unlock efficiencies associated with applying Supplier compensation to both the BM and WM in the same BSC Release.

Assessment Consultation Question

Do you agree with the Workgroup's recommended Implementation Date?

The Workgroup invites you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B

6 Workgroup's Discussions

The P444 Workgroup met on 7 October and 7 December 2022. These were run as joint meeting days with P415 to efficiently utilise industry expertise around the related topics between the 2 Modifications.

As P444 aims to utilise functionality being developed for P415 in so far as that functionality could potentially be extended to the BM, the Workgroup noted that many of the relevant discussions had been held under P415. For a greater understanding of the rationale that lead to the development Supplier compensation requirements (including their variants), please see the P415 Solution Summary and Assessment Consultation documents on the P415 webpage.

Alignment with P415

The P444 Proposer and Workgroup believe that P444 should adopt the Supplier compensation mechanism functionality being developed for WM activity under P415 and propose that it be applied to the BM under P444.

There are several variants of Supplier compensation being considered under P415 and while the Proposer prefers Supplier Compensation 1, they ultimately want overall alignment with P415, whichever variant is chosen or approved by Ofgem.

To facilitate this, the Proposer and Workgroup want an aligned, coordinated decision from Ofgem so that P444 is correctly aligned with whichever variant is preferred.

Understanding the impacts and additional consultation questions

In order to better understand the materiality of this issue, the Workgroup note that more input should be sought from Suppliers and VLPs to better understand the issue, impacts and benefits case to making this change via the Assessment Consultation.

In the 2nd Workgroup meeting, a member whether there was any additional information on the likely impact to Suppliers and in particular Supplier systems. Elexon noted that because Supplier systems are all different, it would be hard to take an accurate and confident view, but pointed out that compensation comes in the form of trading charges (imbalance charges), so those systems may need to be amended.

The Assessment Consultation provides Suppliers and VLPs with a chance to feed in the impacts they expect to help assess P444, which is captured via the question below. In particular the group encourage Suppliers to give feedback via the consultation on what they would need to do so that the impacts can be better understood.

Assessment Consultation Questions

Will P444 impact your organisation?

If 'Yes', please provide a description of the impact(s) and any activities which you will need to undertake between approval and implementation (including any necessary changes to your systems, documents and processes) and any on-going operational impacts.

How much will it cost your organisation to implement P444?

If any, please provide details of these costs, how they arise.

What will the ongoing cost of P444 be to your organisation?

If any, please provide details of these costs, how they arise

[The Workgroup invites you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B](#)

As part of the P444 Terms of Reference, the group were invited to consider whether any data on what volumes of energy have been used by VLPs to establish the impact on Suppliers and how this might change over the next 10 years?

The P444 group were not aware of any data that could help to answer this point, and wish to use the consultation to seek information from VLPs on what volumes of flexibility they have delivered (and how they might expect this to change), in order to better understand the impact on Suppliers.

Assessment Consultation Question

To establish the impact on Suppliers, if you are a VLP, what volumes of flexibility have you delivered and how this might change over the next 10 years?

[The Workgroup invites you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B](#)

Will P444 affect market participants' business models?

Noting that organisations active in the BM have invested in the status quo (i.e an environment with no compensation), one Workgroup member felt it would be valuable to consult on the question of whether P444 could change their investment plans or induce a change to their business models.

Assessment Consultation Question

Would the additional of Supplier compensation into the BM under P444 change your organisation's investment plans or otherwise induce a change to your business model?

[The Workgroup invites you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B](#)

Assessing P444 as a standalone change

While the Proposer and Workgroup note the benefits and efficiencies achieved by a parallel implementation with P415, in the case that P415 is withdrawn or rejected the Proposer believes that solving the P444 defect and introducing Supplier compensation into the BM remains a good idea on its own, and therefore that P444 can be treated as a standalone change if necessary but wants to verify this via the Assessment Consultation.

Assessment Consultation Question

Do you agree with the Workgroup that there would still be value in progressing P444 even if P415 is not approved?

The Workgroup invites you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B



What are the Applicable BSC Objectives?

(a) The efficient discharge by the Transmission Company of the obligations imposed upon it by the Transmission Licence

(b) The efficient, economic and co-ordinated operation of the National Electricity Transmission System

(c) Promoting effective competition in the generation and supply of electricity and (so far as consistent therewith) promoting such competition in the sale and purchase of electricity

(d) Promoting efficiency in the implementation of the balancing and settlement arrangements

(e) Compliance with the Electricity Regulation and any relevant legally binding decision of the European Commission and/or the Agency [for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators]

(f) Implementing and administering the arrangements for the operation of contracts for difference and arrangements that facilitate the operation of a capacity market pursuant to EMR legislation

(g) Compliance with the Transmission Losses Principle

Does P444 better facilitate the Applicable BSC Objectives?		
Obj	Proposer's Views	Other Workgroup Members' Views ¹
(a)	• Neutral	• Neutral
(b)	• Positive	• Positive (majority)
(c)	• Positive	• Positive (majority)
(d)	• Neutral	• Neutral
(e)	• Neutral	• Neutral
(f)	• Neutral	• Neutral
(g)	• Neutral	• Neutral

A majority of the Workgroup believe that P444 is positive against the overall arrangements and should therefore be approved.

One Workgroup member noted they remained unsure if P444 would better facilitate the BSC Objectives on the basis that, unlike P415, it was not introducing a service into a new market, and would need more time to assess and information back from the consultation questions but remaining neutral for now.

Objective (b) - The efficient, economic and co-ordinated operation of the National Electricity Transmission System

The Proposer believes that the operation of the electricity system will be supported as a result of more efficient BM arrangements and greater participation in the BM.

Elxon note that potential efficiencies may become clear over the course of assessment for P444 but believe that the primary benefit of P444 is in relation to objective (c).

A majority of the Workgroup initially agree with this assessment.

Objective (c) - Promoting efficiency in the implementation of the balancing and settlement arrangements

The Proposer believes that greater volumes of available capacity in the BM will lead to greater competitive pressure and promote a level playing field

A majority of the Workgroup initially agree with this assessment.

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¹ Shows the different views expressed by the other Workgroup members – not all members necessarily agree with all of these views.

Appendix 1: Workgroup Details

Workgroup's Terms of Reference

Specific areas set by the BSC Panel in the P444 Terms of Reference	Conclusion
Should P444 adopt the Supplier compensation mechanism functionality being developed for WM activity under P415?	Yes, it is appropriate
Is there any data on what volumes of energy have been used by VLPs to establish the impact on Suppliers and how this might change over the next 10 years?	The Workgroup seek additional information via the Assessment Consultation
How will P444 impact the BSC Settlement Risks?	No direct impact to Settlement risks, but emerging risks will be tracked
What changes are needed to BSC documents, systems and processes to support P444 and what are the related costs and lead times? When will any required changes to subsidiary documents be developed and consulted on?	Described above
Are there any Alternative Modifications?	Described above
Should P444 be progressed as a Self-Governance Modification?	Described above
Does P444 better facilitate the Applicable BSC Objectives than the current baseline?	Described above
Does P444 impact the EBGL provisions held within the BSC, and if so, what is the impact on the EBGL Objectives?	Described above

Assessment Procedure timetable

P444 Assessment Timetable	
Event	Date
Panel submits P444 to Assessment Procedure	1 September 2022
Workgroup Meeting 1	7 October 22
Workgroup Meeting 2	7 December 22
Assessment Procedure Consultation	January – February 2023
Workgroup Meeting 3	February 2023
Panel considers Workgroup's Assessment Report	March 2023