

# ELEXON

28 March 2023

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**RE: Request to treat BSC Modification [P452 'Replacement of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme for non-domestic customer with the Energy Bill Discount Scheme'](#) as an Urgent Modification Proposal'**

Dear Nadir Hafeez,

The BSC Panel, at an Urgent Meeting on 28 March 2023, unanimously agreed to recommend to Ofgem that P452 should be treated as an Urgent Modification Proposal. The Proposal Form (attached) details the Modification Proposal, including the case for urgency. We detail the proposed urgent procedure and timetable below. We also summarise the key requests and rationale in this letter.

## **Modification Background**

P452 was raised by National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) on 24 March 2023. The Proposer requested that the Modification Proposal be treated as urgent.

As a result of high energy prices, the Government introduced the Energy Bill Relief (EBR) Scheme for non-domestic customers to run between 1 October 2022 and 31 March 2023. [Modification P449 'Non-domestic Energy Bill Relief Scheme'](#) was accordingly implemented on 11 November 2023 to enable Elexon to act as the EBR Scheme electricity payment provider.

Since the economic challenges continue, the Government announced a replacement scheme to run for a further 12 months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the Energy Bill Discount (EBD) Scheme. The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)

is to keep Elexon as the electricity payment provider.

### Justification for Urgency

The Proposer's case for urgency is set out in the Modification Proposal Form, and is summarised below.

DESNZ intends for the EBD Scheme to cover non-domestic bills from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, which would require the first payments for the scheme to be made in mid-May. The EBR Scheme will continue for a short period to allow for reconciliation claims to take place, but all new claims will be made under the EBD Scheme and a new set of regulations.

P452 will have a significant commercial impact upon Parties and consumers and is related to the current economic and industry challenges. Failure of consumers to pay bills could result in Supplier failure and significantly disrupt the market.

### Proposed Urgent Progression Timetable and Procedure

The Panel recommends the below urgent timetable for P452 and kindly requests a decision on urgency no later than 30 March 2023. The Panel notes that the Urgent Modification consultation cannot be published until a decision on urgent status is received, and so any decision later than 31 March may shorten the industry consultation period. The Panel also notes that Ofgem may wish to determine a timetable that differs from the proposal below, if it sees fit.

Proposed Urgent Progression Timetable and Procedure	
Event	Date
Modification presented to Panel	28 April 2023
Modification submitted to Authority for decision on urgency	28 April 2023
Urgent Modification Consultation (5WD)	30 March 2023 – 05 April 2023
Draft Urgent Modification Report presented to Panel	13 April 2023
Final Modification Report submitted to Authority	18 April 2023
Proposed Implementation Date	+1 WD after Authority Decision, and we kindly request a decision by 27 April 2023

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about this letter, and I thank you in advance for your timely response.

Signed for and on behalf of the BSC Panel,



Elliott Harper  
Head of Governance Services & BSC Panel Secretary

List of enclosures  
Attachment 1: P452 Proposal Form  
Attachment 2: P452 BSC Panel Slides