

By email



Making a positive difference
for energy consumers

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Dear Justin,

As you are aware, Ofgem is prioritising work in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. We are focussed on ensuring that the energy industry can effectively respond to the coronavirus crisis, and our priority is to protect consumers, especially vulnerable people, and to maintain Britain's supply of electricity and gas. We will also deliver our statutory obligations and progress time-critical work, being mindful of stakeholder capacity to engage.

This means we are delaying or postponing stakeholder engagement on those activities that we consider less time-critical to short term consumer protection and security of supply. This is to enable stakeholders and Ofgem to prioritise the response to the crisis, and focus time and resource on supporting customers and the market during this difficult period. We recently published a [statement on our coronavirus response](#) which can be found on our website. We appreciate that ELEXON and the BSC Panel are also reprioritising the progression timescales for BSC changes, in order to ease the burden on market participants of engaging in less time-critical work during this crisis.

We therefore welcome the discussions you've held with us over the last few weeks on adjusting the work plans for the two ELEXON-chaired Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement working groups, whose outputs are milestones in our Significant Code Review on Electricity Settlement Reform. These working groups are the Code Change and Development Group (CCDG) and Architecture Working Group (AWG). We note that working group members have also provided views on the feasibility of continuing their work at this time.

Following our discussions, please take this letter as confirmation that we support your intention to continue work with the CCDG and AWG at the current time, and subject to review as circumstances change. Continuation of this work needs to take account of the impact of the current situation on participants and will only continue to be appropriate as long as:

- There remains a sufficient cross-section of representation among the working group members, who have sufficient resources to progress this work
- The details and timescales of any working group activities to be undertaken are regularly reviewed and agreed with the group members, to ensure that they remain achievable during the operational challenges caused by COVID-19

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets

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- The working groups don't undertake any formal consultations at this time, with the short-term effect of this being that the CCDG's planned June 2020 consultation will be postponed until a future date which is to be agreed with Ofgem
- The working groups don't progress any activities that could be seen to materially pre-judge the results of any CCDG/AWG consultations not yet undertaken.

We recognise that this is likely to impact the overall delivery timescales for the CCDG's and AWG's work, and that we will need to consider this further at such time as we agree that the CCDG's consultation can be formally issued.

We thank you for your continued co-operation and involvement, and for all the work your team has done so far on the settlement reform SCR. I hope you and your team are keeping well under the current circumstances, and please get in touch if you would like to discuss anything further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Clark', written in a cursive style.

Rachel Clark
Director, Retail Systems Transformation