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Onboarding for day 1 of the updated Flexibility Service (DFS)

Published: March 2026 v.3

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Version Control

Version	Date	Change
v.2	23 Feb 26	Added section - Changes to the API
v.3	13 March 26	Changed the service pause date for transition to new files and contractual terms from 7 April to 28 March

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Summary

On **30 January**, we submitted our evolved service design and contractual terms to Ofgem for approval following the Article 18 Consultation. If approved, expected by **30 March**, the updated service will introduce several changes. This guidance document outlines how both current and new Registered Providers can prepare so they are ready to participate.

Anticipated Timelines (subject to Ofgem approval)

Fri 30 Jan – Mon 30 March	Ofgem review and decision
Sat 28 March	Service paused for transition to new files and contractual terms
Now until Wed 8 April	Work with the DFS Team in advance to get your onboarding steps ready for the new service
Thurs 9 April	New SMP open for registrations
Tues 14 April	Go-live date for the updated DFS

The current DFS

Between now and **Saturday 28 March**, the current DFS service will continue to operate in its existing form. Registered Service Providers can continue participating, and the existing process for adding new Units or updating Unit Meter Point Schedules remains unchanged. The service will be paused from **Saturday 28 March**. This pause will facilitate system updates and new unit registration.

How to prepare before the changes to SMP are deployed

If you are currently a DFS Registered Service Provider

Ahead of **Thurs 9 April**, you can send the DFS Team your **new Unit IDs**, their **capacity** (note: the minimum eligibility will reduce to **0.1 MW**) and the **Zone** each Unit sits in. There are **12 Zones** in total, and you can download the GeoJson map using the link below. No action is required for your contracts, v.3 will rollover to v.4 on the effective date following Ofgem approval.

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If you are looking to become a new DFS Registered Provider

It typically takes around three weeks for a new DFS Registered Provider to complete all onboarding steps. The most time-consuming part is usually coordinating and supporting the parties involved in their IT process checks. If new providers want to be ready for go-live, we can help facilitate this stage in advance. Other elements, such as company registration, contractual documents, forms, and uploads can also be completed ahead of time. Alternatively, you may choose to become a DFS Registered Provider now under the current contractual terms, which will automatically roll over to any new approved terms for the evolved service once they become effective.

If you are interested in joining DFS please complete this [form](#) and the DFS Team will contact, you to start the registration process.

2 Zone geoJson map download

[DFS 12 Zone GeoJSON map](#)

Why send in new Units prior to the new SMP deployment

- If we receive your new Units **before Thurs 9 April**, NESO will upload them as soon as the SMP updates are deployed. You will receive same-day confirmation along with the new DFS non-BMU IDs. Once you have this confirmation, you can begin submitting your new **Unit Meter Point Schedules** for each Unit(s) and Zone(s).
- If you submit these schedules **before 9:00am on Fri 10 April**, we will complete the first Primacy process, ensuring your MPANs are eligible for bidding from **Tues 14 April**.

What is the Primacy process

Any new **Unit Meter Point Schedules** or modified **Unit Meter Point Schedules** that are submitted will enter a **Pre-Participation Waiting Period**.

If the schedules are received **before 9:00am on a Business Day**, they will be sent to the **DNOs**, who then have **24 hours** to issue a **Risk of Conflict Report**.

If your schedules are submitted before 9:00am, you will receive a **Primacy Exclusion Report** at around **2:00pm on the following Business Day**, listing any **MPANs** that the DNOs have excluded from the service.

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Changes to the API

Authentication Parameters: Users currently authenticate to the API using a username and password. Going forward, with the evolved DFS, this method will be replaced with authentication via a Client ID and Client Secret (issued by NESO). Providers will need to update their integrations accordingly.

In addition to the authentication change, several new **API updates** are planned:

- **New Fields Added:** Additional fields (e.g., *Event ID*, *Event Type*) will be introduced across existing APIs such as *UnitMeterpoint*, *Bids*, *WeeklySettlements*, and others.
- **API Removal:** The *Weekly Indicative Forecast* API will be retired.
- **New APIs Introduced:** Two new APIs will be added, including one for *Consolidated MPAN* and another for *Participant Exclusion*.

These changes are currently in development. We plan to have an updated API Schema document ready for **mid-March** and at the same time we will be able to start testing the updated API with current and new providers.

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Step by step guide to be ready for day one – Tues 14 April

Steps	Start Date	Service Providers	NESO Actions
1	Until Wed 8 April	<p>Current Registered Providers:</p> <p>Send NESO your new Unit(s) requests including, ID, Capacity & Zone to the DFS Team</p> <p>Looking to become a Registered Service Provider:</p> <p>Complete this form.</p>	
2	Thurs 9 April		NESO bulk upload all pre submitted new Units and send confirmation details. This avoids providers having to register them one by one on SMP from 9 April.
3	Thurs 9 April	Once we have confirmed step 2, providers can submit new Unit Meter Point Schedules (send before 9am on Fri 10 April to be eligible for day 1.)	
4	Fri 10 April		First Primacy checks processed.
5	Mon 13 April		Primacy Exclusion Report sent to providers (if applicable) at around 2pm
6	Tues 14 April	Eligible MPANs can participate in any DFS Service Requirements	

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Appendix A – Changes to the Unit Meter Point Schedules

We have made some changes to the existing fields or added new fields. The column headers highlighted are new, or changes have been made to them.

Unit Meter Point Schedule Template

Column Header	Details
Submission Date	
Registered DFS Participant	
Import MPAN	
Export MPAN	
MPAN Effective From	
MPAN Effective To	
MPANs Customer Consent Flag	
Consent Effective From	
Consent Effective To	
Sub-Meter Serial Number	
Timestamp Subscribed	
Postcode	
Zone	There will be 12 Zones
DFS Unit ID	
Opt-in	New Defined Terms: Opt-in changes to Manual Opt-in Opt-out changes to Auto Opt-in
HH Settled	Whether the meter is half hourly settled or not
Consumer Type	There will be 5 options: Domestic Industrial & Commercial Generation Asset being solar Generation Asset being wind other Generation Asset
Baseline Type	Domestic – P376 only Industrial & Commercial – P376 or Self-Nominated Generation Asset being solar – P376 or Self-Nominated Generation asset being wind – P376 or Self-Nominated other Generation Asset – P376 or Self-Nominated
Flexibility Type	Upwards Flexibility Downwards Flexibility Both

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DFS Initiation Measure	Manually Initiated / Directly Instructable
Action	Add / Remove

Appendix B – Changes to the Bid Submission File

We have made some changes to the existing fields or added new fields. The column headers highlighted are new, or changes have been made to them.

Bid Submission File Template

Column Header	Details
Event ID	
Event Type	Upwards Flexibility or Downwards Flexibility
Delivery Date	
Registered DFS Participant	
DFS Unit ID	
DFS Volume MW	
From	Delivery start time
To	Delivery End time
Utilisation price GBP per MWh	

Appendix C – Changes to the Weekly Settlement File

We have made some changes to the existing fields or added new fields. The column headers highlighted are new, or changes have been made to them.

Weekly Settlement File Template

Column Header	Details
Event ID	Each DFS event will have a unique ID
Event Type	Upwards Flexibility/Downwards Flexibility
Delivery Date	dd/mm/yyyy

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From	Must end in :00 or :30
To	Must end in :00 or :30
Registered DFS Participant	Must be the same as in all other files.
DFS Unit ID	
Import MPAN	
Export MPAN	
Sub Meter Serial Number	
Participating	
Baseline kWh	
Metered kWh	
Delivered kWh	
Accepted Utilisation Price GBP per MWh	
HH Settled	
Participating Meter Electricity Supplier	
Consumer Type	<p>Now 5 options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Industrial & Commercial Generation Asset being solar Generation asset being wind other Generation Asset
Elexon BMU ID	Only required if HH settled is true and Consumer Type is Domestic and DFS Provider is the electricity supplier.
Baseline Type	<p>Domestic – P376 only</p> <p>Industrial & Commercial – P376 or Self-Nominated</p>

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	<p>Generation Asset being solar – P376 or Self-Nominated</p> <p>Generation asset being wind – P376 or Self-Nominated</p> <p>other Generation Asset – P376 or Self-Nominated</p>
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Appendix D – Consolidated MPAN Forecast

Registered Providers wishing to use the Self-Nominated Baseline Methodology will be required to send in a Consolidated MPAN Forecast. This is a new file and does not form part of the current DFS.

Consolidated MPAN Forecast Template

Column Header	Details
From_Local	
To_Local	
Registered DFS Participant	
DFS Unit ID	
Import MPAN	
Export MPAN	
Baseline kWh	

Contact the DFS Team

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a call with the DFS Team, please [email](#) us.