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STC Panel Minutes 25 February 2026

STC Panel Minutes: Number 241

Date: 25 February 2026 Location: Microsoft Teams

Start: 10:00 End: 11:30

Participants

Teri Puddefoot	TP	NESO Panel Chair, Code Governance
Matthew Larreta	ML	NESO Panel Technical Secretary, Code Governance
Alice Siri	AS	Authority Representative
Claire Newton	CN	National Energy System Operator (NESO)
Ben Sayah	BS	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)
Dove Kvedyte-Corrigan	DKC	Authority Representative
Gareth Williams	GW	Scottish Power Transmission plc. (SPT)
Harriet Eckweiler	HE	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc. (SHET)
Lewis Morgan	LM	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) (Alternate)
Meghan Hughes	MH	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc. (SHET) (Alternate)
Mike Lee	ML	Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO)

Presenters

Dozie Nnabuife	DN	Project Lead (NESO)
Maria Lopez	ML	Codes Interface Lead (NESO)
Thomas Goss	TG	Technical Code Change Lead (NESO)

1. Introductions, Apologies for Absence

1.1 The Chair welcomed Panel members to the February STC Panel meeting.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

2.1 Approval of the December STC Panel minutes was deferred until the Chair had reviewed additional comments received late from the NESO Alternate. The Chair will recirculate the minutes and should there be no objections, they will be considered approved and published. The January minutes will be shared in readiness for approval at the March Panel meeting.

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3. Review of actions log

3.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no open actions to review.

4. Chair's Update

Horizon Scanning

- 4.1 The Chair noted that [PM0147](#) is delayed and will aim to be presented at the March panel. [PM0133](#) is still in progress and expected to be presented at the April Panel. The Final Sums modification expected at the March Panel. The System Access Reform modifications [PM0153](#) and [PM0154](#) will be discussed at this Panel.
- 4.2 CN suggested that the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) should be added to the horizon scan, which the Chair agreed to do.

5. Authority Decisions

- 5.1 The Chair confirmed that there had been no Authority decisions or implementation updates since the January 2025 STC Panel.
- 5.2 DKC and AS provided a timeline for the Strategic Direction Statement 2 (SDS-2) Consultation which is expected at the end of March 2026, with industry workshops likely in May 2026, and publication in early September 2026. All timelines are subject to change.
- 5.3 SDS-2 will retain the Act Now, Think and Plan, Listen and Wait categories, with improvements for more targeted direction in Act Now areas. There will be a similar number of policy areas as in SDS-1, with some new areas due to the REMA decision, while others will be removed, as they're no longer required. An accompanying spreadsheet will be published for quick reference, as with SDS1. 5
- 5.4 Code Managers will be obligated to deliver a Strategic Direction Statement in their plans once they're appointed. BSC and REC Code Managers will be appointed in Winter 2026 (Phase One), Electricity Commercial and Gas Network codes in Phase Two, and Electricity Technical codes and SEC in Phase Three. Before Code Managers are appointed, the SDS remaining preliminary and does not create formal obligations for codes, but existing

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Code Administrators are encouraged to progress SDS-related modifications.

- 5.5 Preliminary SDS will communicate expectations for administrators to consider strategic priorities within existing budgets and planning. Further detail on rules and responsibilities will be in the SDS-2 draft. Questions can be sent to the Ofgem Industry Codes Team.
- 5.6 CN raised the need for guidance for Panels on working with SDS, especially since Technical Codes Manager appointment is years away. DKC agreed, noting that the harmonisation consultation outcome (expected end of March/early April 2026) will provide more detail on transition period.

6. Draft STC/STCP modifications

- 6.1 There were no Draft STC/STCP modifications presented to the Panel.

7. New Modifications

PM0153: System Access Reform. Emergency Return to Service (ERTS): Profiling Review.

- 7.1 The Proposer ML presented PM0153. The proposal seeks to revise the criteria for recalling circuits with extended Emergency Return to Service (ERTS) by mandating use of the Winter Risk Policy Form to document system margins, enabling more secure progression of winter outages.
- 7.2 The Chair confirmed that a Critical Friend Check was completed, with points raised including implementation timing (10 Business Days after Panel decision), removal of urgency process text, and Legal Text amendments (footnotes removed, references checked). The Proposer made the necessary changes.
- 7.3 CN noted late review of Legal Text, with only minor typographical comments, and confirmed TOs had been involved in piloting and reviewing the process. GW confirmed TOs involvement in piloting, with DN reiterating that the process has been ongoing for some time but is now being formalised.

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- 7.4 LM raised concerns about the wording in section 11.1, specifically the lack of specificity and clarity on roles and responsibilities, suggesting the process details should sit outside the STCP. BS suggested a review to clarify where requirements should sit (Legal Text vs guidance document). HE asked if the concern was about inhibiting future changes and the process for changing the framework. LM confirmed that this was a concern, along with unclear responsibilities and repetitive requirements.
- 7.5 DN committed to working with LM to review the Legal Text and share updates with Panel members before the April STC Panel.
- 7.6 Panel member ML questioned whether the list in the STCP is absolute or indicative, and raised concerns about clarity regarding demand at risk and OFTOs on single circuit risk. DN and the Proposer agreed to clarify with the Planning Team for clarification.
- 7.7 GW asked for confirmation that TO-NESO agreements are documented and that the process is simply formalising ongoing practice, with no further working groups planned. DN confirmed it was.
- 7.8 The Panel unanimously agreed that changes in PM0153 are material. However, they also agreed that the Legal Text needs further revision and that this work must be done before formal approval of the modification can take place.
- 7.9 PM0153 documentation can be found [here](#).

PM0154: STCP16-1 System Access Reform. Investment Planning Process - Data on Constraint Costs.

- 7.10 The Proposer ML presented [PM0154](#). The proposal seeks to amend STCP 16-1 Paragraphs 4.2.7 and 4.2.8 to enhance investment planning for GB electricity transmission projects. The amendments are administrative and do not alter fundamental rights or obligations. The Proposer confirmed that PM0154 can be implemented independently of PM0153.
- 7.11 The Chair confirmed that a Critical Friend Check was completed, with points raised including implementation set for 10 Business Days post-approval, clarification added to the 'Issues' section, and extraneous references removed. The Proposer made the necessary changes.

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- 7.12 The Proposer stated the change is administrative, not altering fundamental rights or obligations, and qualifies as non-material. It formalises data collection and exchange without significant impact on consumers, competition, or security of supply. No objections or comments were raised by Panel members regarding the modification or Legal Text.
- 7.13 The Panel unanimously agreed that the modification is non-material and approved implementation in 10 Business Days post-approval.
- 7.14 PM0154 documentation can be found [here](#).

8. In flight Modification Updates

- 8.1 No in-flight modification updates were presented to the Panel.

9. Workgroup Reports

- 9.1 There were no Workgroup Reports presented to the Panel.

10. Draft Final Modification Reports

- 10.1 There were no Draft Modification Workgroup Reports presented to the Panel.

11. Code Administrator Updates

- 11.1 There was no Code Administrator update presented to the Panel.

12. Update on other Industry Codes

- 12.1 The Chair noted recent CUSC and Grid Code panel meetings.

13. Any Other Business

Update Planning References in published Electricity Transmission codes - Proposal for removing redundant references from the STC and Grid Code.

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- 13.1 TG provided an update on the forthcoming Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP), which will replace the Electricity Ten Year Statement (ETYS) and remove several legacy outputs. Consequential amendments will be required across the STC and STCPs, largely to replace ETYS references with CSNP and remove obsolete provisions. The final ETYS is expected to be issued in summer 2026, noting that the licence has already been updated.
- 13.2 A list of affected STC and STCP sections were shared with the Panel, with related changes also anticipated to the Grid Code and CUSC. The proposal and draft Legal Text are nearing completion, with a full presentation planned for the March STC Panel meeting.
- 13.3 CN confirmed TO teams have been involved in discussions and suggested identifying which teams have been consulted to streamline review. HE requested sharing documents early to ensure a thorough review. BS and CN suggested documenting which teams / stakeholders have been consulted for all modifications, to avoid duplication and improve transparency. The Chair agreed to consider this for future processes.

Ofgem consultation

- 13.4 DKC informed the Panel that Ofgem published a consultation on 23 February 2026 on proposed indicators of Ofgem’s performance and health of the energy sector. The consultation closes on 07 April 2026. The Ofgem consultation can be found [here](#).

Request for contributions for GC0181

- 13.5 GW asked for assistance from NGET and SSE Panel members to obtain a map of PMUs (Phasor Measurement Units) for GC0181. GW clarified that the information will be publicly disseminated at the GC0181 Workgroup. LM confirmed they will supply the NGET data.

STC Party registration

- 13.6 Panel member ML requested an update from the Code Governance Team on their ongoing STC Party registration query. The Chair confirmed that they would respond directly to ML.

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Dates of next Panel meeting

The next STC Panel meeting will be held on **25 March 2026**.

New Modification Proposals to be submitted by **10 March 2026**.

STC Panel Papers Day is **17 March 2026**.