

## Minutes of the Metering Committee Meeting 46

23 January 2025 | 09:30 – 12:45

Via MS Teams

Status of the Minutes: Approved

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Spencer Mattia	SM	Chair*	Christina Blackwell	CB	Customer Representative Member
Jordanna Lo	JL	Retailer Member Alternate	Mitchell Yeoman-Boldry	MYB	Wholesaler Member
Paul Heron	PH	Retailer Member	Michelle Thompson	MT	Wholesaler Member
Claire Stanness	CS	Retailer Member	Kevin McCalliskey	KM	Wholesaler Member
Sindiso Bango-Dube	SBD	Retailer Member	Jamie Johnson-Mitchell	JJM	Wholesaler Member Alternate

*\*Non-Voting Members of the Committee*

### OTHER ATTENDEES

Chris Dawson	CD	MOSL Presenter	Dene Marshallsay	DM	Artesia Presenter
Simon Bennett	SB	MOSL Presenter	Dave Gough	DG	Artesia Presenter
Steve Formoy	SF	MOSL Presenter	Mark Howell	MH	Water Plus Observer

Martin Hall	MH	MOSL Presenter	Thomas Taylor	TTa	Southern Water Observer
Liz D’Arcy	LDa	MOSL Presenter	Kye Smith	KS	United Utilities Observer
Abu Rashid	AR	MOSL Presenter	Ben Kershaw	BK	Wave Observer
Toks Talabi	TT	MOSL Secretariat	Lois Gill	LG	Everflow Observer (Item 6 only)
Simone Bhagat	SBh	DEFRA Representative	Adrian Smith	AS	MOSL Presenter

#### APOLOGIES

Rosie Rand	RR	Wholesaler Member	Angela Brown	AB	Wholesaler Member
Mark Doherty	MD	Retailer Member	Richard Barton	RB	Retailer Member

## 1. Welcome, Apologies and Compliance

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the Metering Committee (“Committee”) meeting and noted that apologies had been received from AB, MD, RR and RB. JJM was stepping in as alternate for RR.
- 1.2. The Chair drew attendees’ attention to the MOSL recording policy and reminded members that, in line with section 5.7 of the Market Arrangements Code (“MAC”), they were to act impartially and not in the interest or as a representative of any organisation or individual.
- 1.3. It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

## 2. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meetings

- 2.1. The minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2024 were circulated in advance of the meeting for comments. There was a suggestion to include a line on leak allowances by CB. The Committee:
  - **APPROVED** the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

2.2. The Committee reviewed the actions from previous meetings and **AGREED** that:

- The actions marked for closure A44\_07, AA44\_10, A45\_01, A45\_03 as notified in advance of the Meeting, could be closed.
- Future actions A44\_08 and A45\_02 will be closed once completed in February.

### 3. Granular Data Sharing Process Project Update

3.1. The Committee were provided with an update on the data sharing mechanism, including revised timelines, essential requirements, and cost-benefit analysis. Further, MH also discussed governance considerations and the need for additional input from trading parties.

3.2. The Committee noted the proposed revised timelines for the data sharing mechanism, with the draft outline business case ready for feedback by 12th of February. MH stated that the deadline for comments/feedback would be by 18/19th February, enabling enough time for the final document to be shared with the panel prior to the ad hoc Strategic Panel meeting at the end of February/March, during which panel members will be talked through the business case. MH advised that the suggested delay would allow for the completion of the initial CBA, the answering of proposed panel questions, the consideration and inclusion of RFI questions, and the preparation of an initial solution. It was highlighted that the inclusion of RFIs was intended to ensure that trading parties could contribute to the figures, with a deadline of 31st January. In addition, MH indicated that CD will be working on an interim solution until the primary solution is implemented, which would require a bit more time.

3.3. The Committee was presented with questions raised by the panel held in November for the committee to consider the following:

- **Panel requirements**- noted that the requirements needed to be strengthened within the business case.
- **CPW142**- MH advised the business case needs to outline the implications for data sharing. Noting that Ofwat has provided several favourable recommendations for [CPW142](#), which will be considered and reflected in the business case.
- **Economic case**- MH stated that the initial draft of the requirements for the data sharing mechanism will be included in the business case. The business case will also

take into account how data sharing will be governed, as well as data access and management.

- **Cost of benefit analysis-** Noted that the first draft is still in its early phases, with some ideas on how the solution might appear already being discussed. MH stated that the initial design discussions are now taking place with external suppliers and MOSL's IT team.
- **Commercial-** MH advised the Committee that a request for information should be returned by the time the draft business case is complete. Also, it was suggested that a summary of progress and outcomes will be shared. MH indicated that the strategic metering team need to identify any prospective code changes that may be required, which will be included in the business case.
- **Funding-** MH stated that a desired delivery route is being given additional attention since the initial strategic case in December.

3.4. **The Committee was also advised on the questions raised by the panel:** The panel explored the success of peer-to-peer solutions, including direct customer and third-party access to data. MH advised the Committee that the panel would like to gain more understanding of how this method compares to the central hub, including an assessment of its benefits. Further, the panel would like to understand the incremental cost of providing data to Ofwat or Defra, i.e. different types of third party, as well as what type of data Ofwat or Defra may require. The panel also proposed that the business case include the pricing model for anonymised access to academic institutions and other interested parties. Finally, the panel requested that the committee explore if the solution can be extended to households.

3.5. The Committee received an update on the RFI process noting that eight potential suppliers are involved in the process, with one-to-one meetings being held to discuss the request for information and gather input.

3.6. The Committee discussed the cost-benefit analysis, underlining its importance of this component to the business case. MH noted that a questionnaire was sent to the Metering Committee, but the time has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> January. It was noted that the primary focus at this stage is on the indicative costs and the assumptions around them. The Committee was informed that one-on-one talks had been held with three trading parties, namely Utilities, Business Stream and Northumbrian water who assisted in clarifying some of

their opinions on costs. In addition, the Committee was reminded of cost analysis requirements, such as comparing the cost of a do-nothing approach to an organic growth approach, which involves allowing trading parties to develop their own solutions between wholesalers and retailers, and the cost of developing and implementing a central data sharing mechanism.

- 3.7. DG and DV from Artesia provided the Committee with slides demonstrating progress made since the December Committee meeting. It was reported that the granular data sharing subgroup had met twice to discuss use cases, with the second session focussing on governance. With the recently announced rejection of CPW142, MT wanted to know whether retailers would be required to take meter readings monthly or biannually. MH and CD confirmed that retailers would be encouraged to take one read per month as default. CB noted that the flow diagram provided by DV for the service use case should specify what a business customer should do if they wanted direct access. DM acknowledged the suggestion and indicated that, while this alternative has been considered, where it fits may yet be determined by the use case's evolution. MH informed the Committee that the complexity of integrating direct access in the outline business case will be discussed with the panel due to added complexities; also, retailers have advised against going down this route.
- 3.8. MH informed the Committee of the following stages, stating that the final business case would be presented to the panel in May. Once accepted, the next step would be to issue a request for proposal to essentially kick off the procurement process; noting that this would take a few months, and the solution would also be built during this time frame, which would take roughly 9 months. The project is likely to conclude before the end of the financial year. MH stated that the draft business case would be sent to Committee members for feedback by mid-February.

**ACTION:** A46\_01

- 3.9. The chair thanked MH, DM and DG for the update.

## 4. National Metering Strategy Follow on work update

- 4.1. The Committee noted an update on the follow up work, and discussed the following key points:

- Six workstreams had been marked as complete including developing guidance for smart metering larger meters, ensuring meter asset is entered into CMOS regularly, recommendations on how trading parties can incentivise to produce and share meter reads and definitions on continuous flow.
- NMS 17- AR emphasised that the learnings from the energy sector had been included into the national Metering strategy. The Baringa report made a few recommendations, which are now being incorporated into the national Metering Strategy. MOSL will provide assistance when appropriate, and the Metering Committee will be updated on a regular basis when necessary.
- NMS5- AR advised that although Ofwat supports the objectives outlined in CPW142 to improve the accuracy and quality of settlement data, accepting the proposal at this time may not be in the best interests of customers. Also, Ofwat advised that CPW142 would not achieve the most optimal sequencing or smart metering work streams in the sector, but this means that there is a push for the data sharing mechanism and other work being done on agreed-upon data sharing protocols, so there is a lot of encouragement and advocacy for the smart metering data hub. AR urged members read the recommendations proposed in the Baringa report.
- Three workstreams are still ongoing: developing a process and format for reporting smart metering plans and delivery progress (Covered by LDa under item 6), central messaging for smart metering (Update given by LG under item 6), and reviewing leakage allowances for customers with smart meters with the RWG Policy Group. CB advised that a representative from CCW will be attending the RWG policy group meeting.
- Two workstreams: non-primary charges for data and determining the cost of reading traditional meters after smart metering implementation will be looked at in 2025.

4.2. The chair thanked AR for his presentation.

## 5. 2022 – 2025 Road Map

5.1. The Committee reviewed the existing road map, reflecting on the achievements of the past three years and outlining the focus areas for the next year, including the national metering strategy and data sharing mechanism.

- 5.2. SF suggested that the priorities for the year include delivering the national metering strategy, implementing the data sharing mechanism, and addressing MPF program requirements. SF emphasised the importance of the national metering strategy and its strong market reception, citing tremendous progress in its development and implementation. The Committee noted the ongoing work on the data sharing mechanism, noting its importance in increasing data accessibility and supporting market demands. The Committee observed the challenges and views from trading parties, underlining the importance of transparent communication and prioritising key issues.
- 5.3. JL emphasised the importance of clarifying documentation in difficult-to-reach places for business purposes, as inconsistent wholesaler obligations can hinder progress. JL praised the work carried out so far advising it clarified a lot of issues. AS commented on the national metering strategy, the journey, and the incredible success it achieved while not being code mandated. AS emphasised that the outcomes of the final determination are a testament to everyone's hard work and assistance in producing quality documents and guides. CB also praised the Metering Committee's guides, stating that CCW consistently promotes them to business clients where possible.
- 5.4. SM suggested incorporating lessons from the energy sector's smart metering rollout into the water industry's strategy. MH and CD confirmed that these lessons are being considered in the data sharing mechanism solution.
- 5.5. SF advised that Ofwat commissioned a [Baringa report](#) which outlined lessons learnt from the energy sector on smart metering. SF underlined that the report includes a number of recommendations, but the most important one to include in the 25/26 roadmap was the formation of an overall governance group to look at how smart metering is delivered across the entire industry. Noted that the first meeting has already taken place with representatives from MOSL, Defra, CCW, and EA. The Committee was informed that as the governance group forms, the Metering Committee will report to the governance group, and updates from the governance group would be reported to the Committee.
- 5.6. The Committee briefly discussed the update provided, noting that the road map will be presented at the February committee meeting for a deeper delve.
- 5.7. The chair thanked SF for this update.

## 6. Mapping the Smart AMI Meter Roll out (NMS follow-on work)/ SMART meter roll out/ MAPPING/ Centralising communication approach (RWG)

*(LG joined the meeting)*

- 6.1. LG provided an update on the RWG smart meter rollout communications group, highlighting progress in mapping the customer path and identifying key communications.
- 6.2. LG indicated that the group is producing a consultation paper and questions to get market feedback on the proposed communications strategy with a deadline for completion set for the following day. The Committee was informed of the upcoming webinar presented by MOSL on 29<sup>th</sup> January to engage with the market and gather feedback on the proposed communications strategy.
- 6.3. LG thanked the MOSL team for their assistance and emphasised the value of working with the Metering Committee to ensure alignment and oversight of the communications plan. LG advised the item will be brought back to the Metering Committee meeting for a further discussion.
- 6.4. No further comments were added. The chair thanked LG for her update.
- 6.5. The Committee discussed the proposed approach to the development of the smart meter roll out map, including NMS2 update on pilot. LDA gave a preview of the solution's outputs, stating that it is still a work in progress. This viewpoint has been identified as a gap by retailers, who require it to make strategic decisions and discuss potential alternative metering or logging with customers. LD highlighted the need of gaining a more granular view as implementation approaches. As part of the pilot, data from the present DD1 notification in the Bilat hub will be included in the solution.
- 6.6. The Committee looked over the pilot solution, which included using excel templates for data updates, automatic migration to the MOSL data warehouse, and the development of a public map and dashboard for trading parties to review their SPIDS. LDa presented the agreed-upon templates and metrics for the solution. It was noted that given that different wholesalers deploy smart meters in numerous ways, the templates offer start and end dates for postal geography levels (area, district, sector) and SPID level. In addition, wholesalers can contribute



updated data once a month. While it is not expected that they will do so every month, the option is available.

- 6.7. LDa presented the first view of the maps and the interactive features, as well as the initial views of the dashboard, including summary views, plans by year, and the current makeup of smart meters.
- 6.8. The Committee was informed of the next steps, including receiving feedback from proof-of-concept wholesalers and retailers, engaging other wholesalers, and releasing the dashboard and map by the end of March. LDa also stressed the importance of reaching out to other wholesalers and presenting the solution in various forums to obtain feedback and ensure successful implementation. MT pointed out the significance of communicating on the map and creating appropriate expectations. MT requested a dashboard demo so that the outputs may be shared with SMEs for further input. AS emphasised the relevance of the map's search functionality and enquired about the distinction between smart-ready and smart-live meters. LDa acknowledged this observation, highlighted its significance, and stated that they are not currently collecting the information. BK underlined the importance of customer engagement and the need for wholesalers to work with customers and retailers to ensure a smooth meter exchange and installation process. SBD and CB agreed with the comments and expressed their support for the communication piece proposed by the RWG group to ensure easy communication.
- 6.9. LDa affirmed that only retailers and wholesalers will have access to the dashboard. The map will only be accessible to customers.
- 6.10. No further comments were added and the chair thanked LDa for her presentation.

## 7. QSP11: New Connections

- 7.1. The Committee were requested to sign off the New Connections Market Data Request Form for publication. The Document was shared at MC45 for feedback and was initially developed to encourage New Connections teams to provide the best data available to allow their Wholesale Team to ensure a SPID becomes tradable in the market.
- 7.2. Following discussion, the Committee:
- 7.3. AGREED** to approve the form for publication, which included the suggestions made by CB.

7.4. The chair thanked PH for his presentation. QSP11 will now close.

## 8. QSP17: Internal Meters

8.1. The Committee received an update on a potential Code Change covering Estimated Vacant Reads and views were sought on taking the Code Change through the Code Change Process.

8.2. The possible misuse of estimated reads and the need for monitoring to make sure retailers are fulfilling their obligations were issues expressed by PH and CB. JL clarified that these issues would be addressed by the data assurance piece and skip process. The suggested code change's technical impact assessment, which included the anticipated cost and possible risks, was provided by AR. AR, emphasised the need for a full impact and risk assessment if the code change progresses. MT advised that the presentation will be shared with SME's for feedback.

8.3. SB outlined the next steps for the code change proposal, including obtaining feedback from the metering committee by 14<sup>th</sup> February, engaging with the MPF team to understand its potential impact.

8.4. The chair thanked JL for her presentation on the code change proposal.

## 9. QSP26: Review of outputs CPW120 PIR

9.1. SB introduced Quick Start Project 26 to review the CPW 120 post-implementation findings. The CCC have suggested the MC look at this. The project's purpose is to examine the usage of wholesaler estimated reads for final readings and to agree on a project strategy. SB encouraged the Committee to take note of the project and request a sponsor.

9.2. The chair thanked SB for the update and asked for potential sponsors to contact SB directly.

## 10. Tabled Updates

10.1. The Committee noted the Tabled Updates paper circulated in advance of the meeting detailing progress on the Committee's workstreams and metering-related projects. SB highlighted the following are now complete:

10.2. QSP19 Trade Effluent Meters and QSP11 New Connection will be closed following the publication of the TE letter and Data form.

10.3. QSP23 Toolbox Talks- The Committee was asked for any more potential topics. TBT 9 will be shared at MC47.

## 11. AOB incl. Reflections on the Meeting

11.1. CD provided an update on the CPW 128 post-implementation review, noting that the code change committee agreed that no additional work is required at this time. The Metering Committee could review it again in a few years.

11.2. SM introduced the strategic data program to solve issues with CMOS data quality. SM encouraged committee members to make their organisations aware of this optional programme.

11.3. There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.