

Metering Expert Panel Chair COI

Background

The Metering Expert Panel (MEP) has asked RECCo to consider whether there is any conflict of interest between the role of MEP Chair and operational lead for the Metering Operator Code of Practice (MOCOP) scheme auditor, both of which are currently delivered by Catherine Ward, Gemserv. Specifically, the MEP asked RECCo whether the role of MEP Chair would deliver any advantage over the other potential metering scheme auditor service providers.

RECCo Opinion

RECCo does not consider that there is a conflict of interest between the roles delivered for MEP Chair and Operational Lead for the MOCOP Scheme Auditors.

As set out in the Terms of Reference that cover the project's engagement with the MEP, the role of the MEP is to review the proposed drafting for the consolidated codes of practice. This is limited to the technical content of the code rather than the scope of the scheme audit function.

The MEP does not have the vires to make decisions, it's role is to provide guidance and expert knowledge on the drafting of the revised CoP. Furthermore, the review will not be introducing any new obligations into the codes of practice, but instead will merge and simplify the documents into one set of metering arrangements.

All of the supporting project documentation and CoP drafting is available on the REC Portal and can be accessed by any existing or potential scheme auditors, and all existing scheme auditors have been made aware of the project and the published documentation.

All matters pertaining to the procurement of a scheme auditor including the development of requirements will not be discussed during the MEP sessions. A sub-committee / user group of members, including other key stakeholders, will be formed to support the procurement activities in due course.

In addition to the above, RECCo will undertake the following additional actions to ensure that there is no distortion of competition:

- ensure that all bidders have access to the same level of information.
- fix adequate time limits for receipt of tenders and bidder clarification questions.
- ensure that there is distinct separation between tender evaluation (and those undertaking it) any organisation delivering the role of scheme auditor; and
- be transparent in its procurement documents about the MEP Chair's involvement and the actions RECCo has taken, to ensure that there is no distortion of competition.

Recommendation

As outlined above, RECCo does not consider that there is any conflict of interest in the operational discussions on the consolidation of the metering CoPs at the MEP. Should any commercially confidential matters arise we will ask the Chair to absent themselves from the discussion.