

# Southbound Prioritisation SECMP0028

Conclusion on a Proposal to allocate Service  
Requests to a Priority Band in Southbound  
Prioritisation (SECMP0028)

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# 1. Introduction and context

## 1.1. Purpose of this document

1. The purpose of this document is to conclude on the Data Communications Company's (DCC's) recent consultation allocate Service Requests to a Priority Band in Southbound Prioritisation in relation to Smart Energy Code Modification (SEC) SECMP0028 and the Traffic Management Mechanism Document. This conclusion will impact the implementation in November 2024 and subsequent usage of SECMP0028.

## 1.2. Background

2. SECMP0028, to be implemented on 7 November 2024 as part of the November 2024 SEC Release, introduces a mechanism for the prioritisation of traffic Southbound from the Data Service Provider (DSP), thus accelerating the passage of a business process that requires processing within seconds, such as Prepayment commands.
3. When a DCC User submits a new Service Reference Variant (SRV) to the DCC (Southbound traffic), the SRV will enter a 'motorway' which will act as a queue for requests. Whilst in this queue, all On Demand SRVs will be processed ahead of Scheduled SRVs, and specific prioritised SRVs will be assigned to a priority Level for processing in a particular order. SRVs in Priority Band 1 will be processed ahead of other On Demand SRVs.
4. Southbound messages will be prioritised for onward transmission to both SMETS2 and SMETS1 Communications Service Providers (CSPs) through the CSP Wide Area Network (WAN) and SMETS1 Service Provider (S1SP) Gateways respectively. This will also include the Communications Hubs and Networks 4G Service Provider.
5. The Traffic Management Mechanism Document, first introduced by SECMP0062, will show the configurable priority levels assigned to Southbound messages. These priority levels could then be altered by a consultation, approval from SEC Panel, and a simple re-configuration not requiring a system outage.

## 1.3. Consultation responses and next steps

6. This consultation<sup>1</sup> looks to implement as part of the SECMP0028 implementation in November 2024:
  - SRV2.2 'Top Up Device' in Priority Band 1
  - Mode of Operation Priority Levels such that all On Demand SRVs will be processed ahead of Scheduled SRVs
7. DCC will publish the updated Traffic Management Mechanism Document on 7 November 2024.

<sup>1</sup> [Consultation on a Proposal to Allocate Service Requests to a Priority Band in Southbound Prioritisation | Smart DCC](#)

## 2. Analysis of responses

8. DCC received eight written responses to this consultation: two Large Suppliers, one Small Supplier, three Network Operators and two Other SEC Parties.
9. DCC has analysed the feedback provided. This section sets out an overview of the response received to this consultation and DCC's response.

### 2.1. Question 1

10. DCC sought views the prioritisation of SRV2.2.

**Q1**

Should the setting of SRV2.2 in Priority Band 1 be approved, meaning this SRV will be prioritised ahead of other On Demand SRVs? Please provide a rationale for your views.

#### Respondent views

11. Six respondents agreed with the DCC's approach to prioritise SRV2.2 in Priority Band 1 only. One respondent noted that adding other SRVs to Priority Band 1 could delay a top-up by many seconds and could cause the top-up process to fail. Other respondents noted prioritising in this way would keep consumer's power on, and that other SRVs were not as critical to customers.
12. Two respondents agreed with the DCC's approach to prioritise SRV2.2 in Priority Band 1, but requested SRV7.4 'Read Supply Status' should also be included in Priority Band 1, or a guarantee that SRV7.4 will remain in Priority Band 2.
13. One respondent requested reviews of any delayed SRVs, particularly noting the importance of SRV7.4.

#### DCC response

14. We acknowledge the support for prioritise SRV2.2 in Priority Band 1.
15. We acknowledge the respondents' responses regarding SRV7.4.,t is DCC's intention that this will remain in Priority Band 2. DCC advises that if a party sends 10,000 Priority 1 SRV7.4s at once, then the SRV2.2s will be delayed. In addition, reporting of any delays to any SRVs at the Southbound edge of the DSP will be made available to Operations Group, and could be used to modify the Prioritisation approach via direction from Operations Group and consultation at relatively short notice.

## 3. Summary of drafting changes

16. After reviewing the responses received, DCC is not proposing any changes be made to the version of the Traffic Management Mechanism Document (TMMD) that was consulted upon. This version can be found in Attachment 1 to this document.

## 4. Next steps

17. DCC is of the view that it has had appropriate engagement and consultation with industry on the configuration that have been proposed in this consultation. As the response to the consultation and engagement in industry were supportive of the proposed changes, DCC will implement the changes on 7 November 2024, but will closely monitor and share reporting to advise of any potential changes.

## 5. Attachments

- Attachment 1: Traffic Management Mechanism Document v4.1.