

Rachel Reeves MP
Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

24 January 2019

Dear Rachel

Thank you for the opportunity to answer your Committee's questions on the smart meter rollout at the Select Committee Hearing on 9th January.

At the Hearing you requested further details about SMETS2 meter installations in the North region. As you will be aware, energy suppliers procure their own meters from a range of different manufacturers, to agreed specifications. At the start of the SMETS2 rollout and after industry testing, it was clear that not all meter manufacturers met the required radio frequency limits. The risk here is that in some instances electricity meters might interfere with the performance of the DCC communications hubs that are installed in close proximity.

We have addressed this in two ways: first, by working with meter manufacturers and energy suppliers to support them in making the changes and improvements to their meters in order to meet the DCC technical specification. Second, in the meantime, we have agreed that energy suppliers may, for a time-limited period only, install electricity meters that operate within a set tolerance above the enduring radio frequency limits that remain unchanged. This is only permitted where we are confident there is no subsequent impact on consumers' experience or on the functionality of the DCC communications system.

As a result of these steps, there are more meters available now that can be installed right across the country, and we expect to see the total meters installed in the North region continue to rise in the coming months in line with the current upward trend.

Yours sincerely



Richard McCarthy CBE
Chair, Smart DCC