

Department for Energy
Security & Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2AW
www.gov.uk/energysecurity

Dear REC Party, Tariff Interoperability Working Group member, Tariff Interoperability Implementation Working Group member or other interested party,

Targeted consultation on TI Phase 1a technical changes

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), in collaboration with the Retail Energy Code Company (RECCo), is seeking targeted views on the technical documentation¹ required to implement Phase 1a of the Tariff Interoperability (TI) project, part of the government's Smart Secure Electricity Systems (SSES) programme.

This consultation has two purposes. First, it seeks views on a small number of incremental changes made to the May 2026 TI technical baseline following industry engagement, technical review and pilot testing. Second, it provides a final opportunity to identify any material defect, inconsistency or implementation blocker in the wider TI Phase 1a technical package that could prevent successful implementation on 18 February 2027. It does not revisit the policy decision to implement Phase 1a or the separate design of Phase 1b.

How the documents have evolved

In November 2025, DESNZ consulted on proposals covering both the public tariff-data route and access to customer-specific tariff information. The May 2026 Government Response confirmed a phased approach: Phase 1a will require in-scope electricity Suppliers ('TI Energy Suppliers') to publish tariff pricing data through a standardised

¹ TI API Technical Specification, new Market Messages and Data Items held in the Energy Market Data Specification (EMDS) and changes to the REC Standards Definition Document.

Application Programming Interface (API), enabling Energy Smart Appliances and other TI Users to retrieve and use consistent price information. This should help consumers optimise when they use electricity and may reduce their energy costs, while supporting a more flexible electricity system; Phase 1b, which enables Registered TI User access to customer-specific tariff information, is in development and we expect to consult on this formally in Q4 2026².

The May 2026 Government Response³ therefore baselined a Phase 1a-only set of technical documents (the ‘May 2026 baseline’). It also introduced Electricity Supply Standard Licence Condition 11C and REC Schedule 35, which provide the obligations and business rules for Phase 1a.

Since May 2026, the Phase 1a technical documents have been refined through industry engagement (including review of the proposed changes to the May 2026 baseline at the August 2026 TI Implementation Working Group), detailed technical review and pilot testing. The current set of technical documents contains three principal technical updates:

- improved validation of static and dynamic tariff structures;
- revised treatment of regional identifiers for gas tariffs; and
- clearer treatment of optional block-tariff fields.

The set of documents also includes a small number of editorial, terminology and cross-document consistency changes. These are incremental refinements to the May 2026 baseline, rather than a redesign of the Phase 1a solution. Beyond these, the documents remain unchanged.

² The May 2026 Government Response committed to implementing TI Phase 1b, which provides access to customer-specific tariff information, in Nov 2027. This will require further changes to the REC.

³ The May 2026 Government Response, including Electricity Supply SLC11C, REC Schedule 35 and the May 2026 baseline, was published on the RECCo website and can be accessed through the following link [Tariff Interoperability Project](#).

What we are asking you to review

We are principally asking you to review the specific changes proposed to the May 2026 baseline. However, this is also your final opportunity to comment on the updated Phase 1a technical package as a whole prior to implementation. Comments should focus on defects, inconsistencies or implementation impacts affecting build, testing, readiness or interoperability. Where an issue is identified, respondents should identify the affected document or documents, the practical impact and the change required.

Following this consultation, the finalised documents will be formally incorporated into the REC and go-live preparation completes.

How to navigate the consultation pack

This consultation on the TI Phase 1a technical specifications provides a list of questions in **Annex A** and seeks views on:

- **The TI Application Programming Interface (API) Technical Specification (Annex B):** This is an API specification that will make the tariff interoperability data items and market messages available. It is a new REC artefact that will primarily be used by technical experts, such as developers and software architects, to build and maintain the TI API. Reviewers with this skill set should focus their review on this artefact.
- **Energy Market Data Specification (EMDS) changes (Annex C):** This annex describes the new and amended data items and the new market messages that will be added to the EMDS for tariff interoperability. The EMDS is an existing REC artefact. It provides a central cross-code register that governs the data items and market messages used in the energy market. Reviewers with a primary interest in data governance should start their review here.
- **REC Standards Definition Document changes (Annex D):** This annex sets out minor changes to the Standards Definition Document. This is an existing REC artefact which sets out the standard by which data items and market messages

are defined in the EMDS. Reviewers with a primary interest in data governance should review this annex as well as Annex C.

Next Steps

DESNZ is consulting in accordance with section 246 of the Energy Act 2023. Following consideration of responses, the Secretary of State will decide whether to introduce the proposed changes to the REC, with or without modification.

DESNZ and RECCo intend to publish a Government Response and final Phase 1a technical documents in late October 2026, ahead of their inclusion in the standard November 2026 REC release.

Parties should not pause build and test activity while this consultation is open. The May 2026 baseline remains the implementation foundation; participants should also assess the proposed consultation changes and, where practicable, factor them into current build and test plans. The Government Response will confirm the final changes and their implementation date.

How to respond

Respondents should review annexes and consider the consultation questions. Please complete the consultation response proforma and email it to:

tariffinteroperability@retailenergycode.co.uk by **23:59 on 17 September 2026**.

Confidentiality and data protection

Information you provide in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be disclosed in accordance with UK legislation (the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please indicate this on the proforma, but be aware that we cannot guarantee confidentiality in



all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.

As DESNZ is leading this consultation in collaboration with RECCo, all responses will be shared between the two organisations. We will process your personal data in accordance with all applicable data protection laws. See our [privacy policy](#).

The Government Response document, confirming the final agreed position, will be developed by DESNZ and RECCo. This will be published alongside the TI API Technical Specification and the changes to the EMDS and REC Standards Definition Document that will be implemented in the REC.

Quality assurance

This consultation has been carried out in accordance with the government's [consultation principles](#).

If you have any complaints about the way this consultation has been conducted, please email: bru@energysecurity.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Funmi Brady

Programme Director, Smart Secure Electricity Systems (SSES) Programme

(An official of the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero authorised to act on behalf of the Secretary of State).



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Annexes:

Annex A - Consultation Questions (*appended to this document*)

Annex B – TI API Technical Specification

Annex C – Energy Market Data Specification

Annex D - Standards Definition Document

ANNEX A: Consultation Questions

Below is a list of questions which we request responses to. These questions are associated to annexes within this consultation.

General	Question A1: Taken as a whole, does the proposed Phase 1a technical documentation contain any defect, inconsistency or blocker that could prevent successful implementation? If yes, please describe the issue, the change needed and identify the affected document or documents.
Annex B – TI API Technical Specification	Question B1: Do any of the proposed changes to the TI API Technical Specification, baselined in the May 2026 Government Response to the November 2025 consultation, introduce any defects, inconsistencies or blockers that could prevent the successful implementation of TI Phase 1a? If yes, please describe the issue and the change needed.
Annex C – Energy Market Data Specification	Question C1: Do any of the proposed changes to the TI data items or market messages, baselined in the May 2026 Government Response to the November 2025 consultation, introduce any defects, inconsistencies or blockers that could prevent the successful implementation of TI Phase 1a? If yes, please describe the issue and the change needed.
Annex D – Standards Definition Document	Question D1: Do any of the proposed changes to the REC Standards Definition Document, baselined in the May 2026 Government Response to the November 2025 consultation, introduce any defects, inconsistencies or blockers that could prevent the successful implementation of TI Phase 1a? If yes, please describe the issue and the change needed.