

Tariff Interoperability: Technical Specification Government Response

Government response to the 2026
consultation on Tariff Interoperability
proposals to support consumer-led
flexibility

October 2026



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero



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Annexes:

- Annex A – Detailed Government Response (appended to this document)
- Annex B – TI API Technical Specification
- Annex C – Energy Market Data Specification
- Annex D – Standard Definition Document

Executive Summary

1. This document sets out Government's decision to modify the Retail Energy Code (REC) to incorporate the technical specification needed for Tariff Interoperability (TI) Phase 1a.
2. The Smart Secure Electricity Systems (SSES) programme is creating the framework for consumers to benefit from flexible electricity use. TI supports this by making tariff pricing data available in a consistent form for optimisation services and energy smart appliances. TI Phase 1a provides a public route to provide such data through standardised energy supplier APIs, without involving a consumer consent process. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) is developing the TI Arrangements in collaboration with the Retail Energy Code Company (RECCo).
3. In May 2026, alongside the decision to introduce Electricity Supply Standard Licence Condition (SLC) 11C and REC Schedule 35: Tariff Interoperability Arrangements and changes to REC Schedule 1, Government baselined the TI Phase 1a technical specification¹. This baseline gave TI Energy Suppliers² and TI Users³ a clear basis to build and test their TI Phase 1a solutions, while allowing any potential design issues arising from testing and further stakeholder engagement to be addressed before formal incorporation into the REC. Incorporation into the REC confirms the final technical requirements for implementation. TI Energy Suppliers must implement these requirements by the TI Phase 1a go-live on 18 February 2027.
4. On 27 August 2026, DESNZ in collaboration with RECCo, consulted on proposals to formally incorporate the TI Phase 1a technical specification into the REC. The proposals reflected stakeholder feedback and the issues and lessons identified through testing since the May 2026 baseline. The consultation closed on 17 September 2026 and we received responses from seven organisations.

Key Decisions and Outcomes

5. Having considered the consultation responses, Government has made limited updates to the TI Phase 1a technical specification and these are explained

¹ The Government Decision, with the associated changes to the Electricity Supply Standard Licence Conditions, REC and baselined technical specifications can be found here - [Tariff Interoperability Arrangements](#).

² Electricity Suppliers that are mandated by SLC11C to provide tariff data as well as any electricity or gas supplier that opts into the TI arrangements as set out in REC Schedule 35.

³ Any organisation or person that uses the TI API to access tariff information from a TI Energy Supplier.

below in Annex A. The three technical artefacts published with this response set out the detailed design for TI Phase 1a implementation.

6. Government has decided to introduce the new TI API Technical Specification, as well as the related amendments to the Energy Market Data Specification (EMDS) and the Standards Definition Document, into the REC. Within the REC Baseline⁴, the TI API Technical Specification will be a Category 3 REC Operational and Guidance document⁵, the existing EMDS (which incorporates the REC Data Item Catalogue and the REC Market Message Catalogue), as well as the existing Standards Definition Document, are Category 2 documents⁶ and will continue to be subject to the standard REC change management process.
7. Annex A summarises responses to each question asked in the August 2026 consultation and sets out Government's response, including any updates made to the REC artefacts listed above to address the feedback.
8. Government has decided to proceed with the incorporation of the TI Phase 1a technical package into the REC, as proposed in the August 2026 consultation, subject to the limited updates described under "Summary of updates following consultation" below. The package comprises:
 - TI API Technical Specification: introduces this new REC artefact, specifying the public TI Energy Supplier API, its endpoints, request and response structures, data validation and supporting technical requirements. TI Energy Suppliers implementing the TI API, and TI Users consuming public tariff pricing data, should use this specification to understand the detailed technical requirements on how to obtain and exchange information to facilitate TI Phase 1a.
 - EMDS: introduces new market messages and data items and amends existing data items. These updates to market messages and data items define how parties will exchange information in a standardised and consistent way to facilitate TI Phase 1a. TI Energy Suppliers and TI Users implementing or interpreting these messages and data items should use the EMDS.

⁴ The REC Baseline sets out the components of the live version of the REC and can be found on the REC Portal [here](#)

⁵ As set out in REC Schedule 5: Change Management (Section 29), and unless Government decides to use its powers, this means that RECCo, as the 'Responsible Provider' will raise changes, consult with impacted parties where required, and determine if an update should be made.

⁶ Other than where Government decides to use its powers, REC Category 2 updates must be progressed via the standard REC change process set out in REC Schedule 5 (Section 7 to 22).

- Standards Definition Document: introduces amendments to the existing document that defines the shared terminology and conventions used to interpret the EMDS so that there is a common understanding for how the information required for TI Phase 1a can be exchanged. TI Energy Suppliers and TI Users implementing or interpreting the TI technical standards should use this artefact.

Summary of updates following consultation

9. Following consultation, we have added requirements for conditional HTTP requests and gzip⁷ compression, and corrected inconsistencies between the TI API Technical Specification and the EMDS. These are updates to the package issued for consultation in August 2026. The amendments to the Standards Definition Document are unchanged from the version consulted on. Annex A explains the updates and their rationale.
10. Some consultation responses asked for clarification of the existing Phase 1a requirements rather than changes to the technical specifications. These include the scope of tariffs that must be published and the representation of meter-dependent time-of-use arrangements. Annex A explains these clarifications, and RECCo's supporting TI FAQs have been updated to provide further guidance.
11. On 29 September 2026, the REC Performance Assurance Board (PAB) granted a derogation from the TI Energy Supplier response retry requirements in paragraphs 2.9(c) and 2.16 of REC Schedule 35, which had been included in error.
12. This derogation reflects our improved understanding of the impacts of the RESTful API design used for TI Phase 1a. Under the TI Phase 1a design, TI Users are responsible for checking the outcome of their requests for public tariff pricing data rather than TI Energy Suppliers ensuring that TI Users have received responses (and resending messages that have not reached the TI User). For example, TI Users must check for applicable error responses when they send a request to a TI Energy Supplier, such as HTTP 400, 404 or 429, and determine whether to amend or retry their request. TI Users are expected to make reasonable attempts to apply retry sending requests for public tariff pricing data before contacting a TI Energy Supplier with a query.

⁷ GNU Zip or gzip is a file format and compression utility used to reduce file size without losing data, commonly identified by the .gz extension

13. The derogation has been communicated to TI Energy Suppliers and other stakeholders, including potential TI Users. It will remain in place until REC Schedule 35 is formally updated, which is expected in Q2 2027.

Next Steps

14. The TI Phase 1a technical artefacts are published in Annexes B, C and D alongside this response.
15. Government will publish a notice of the Secretary of State's decision to modify the REC under section 245 of the Energy Act 2023, setting out the changes and their effective date.
16. The remaining implementation milestones for TI Phase 1a are:

Timing	Milestone and action
06 November 2026	REC release incorporating the TI Phase 1a technical artefacts.
18 February 2027	Planned TI Phase 1a go-live (public tariff data route)

17. This Government Response and the decision notice of modification to the REC will give parties the final detailed TI Phase 1a design for implementation. TI Energy Suppliers must build against these documents, complete the mandatory testing required by REC Schedule 35 paragraph 1.4, and be ready for go-live on 18 February 2027. RECCo is working with TI Energy Suppliers on readiness. TI Users intending to use the public route should also build and test their integrations against this published package.
18. Questions about implementation or testing can be sent to:
TariffInteroperability@retailenergycode.co.uk.
19. The separate TI Phase 1b route, which provides customer account specific tariff data aligned with the Consumer Consent Solution⁸, will cover tariff data for a specific account holder and notifications of events that may affect the tariff and optimisation services, including changes to tariff, switching and changes of occupancy. Government aims to consult on the TI Phase 1b design in November

⁸ Consumer Consent Solution: Published information on the customer consent arrangements supporting access to customer-specific data can be found here [Consumer Consent Solution - The Retail Energy Code Company](#)

2026 and proposes a November 2027 go-live, subject to that consultation and a subsequent decision.

Annex A - Detailed Government Response

Overall Package Overview

20. The TI Phase 1a package comprises the TI API Technical Specification and the supporting EMDS and Standards Definition Document changes. Question A1 asked whether these documents, read together, would enable successful implementation of TI Phase 1a. It also invited respondents to identify the affected document and the correction needed.

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.

Summary of responses

21. Seven organisations responded to Question A1. Four raised implementation questions or requested clarification about the technical package; three did not identify an implementation blocker, although they offered suggestions about delivery or future use cases.
22. On tariff scope, a respondent asked whether a tariff that is no longer offered to new customers should remain accessible through a TI Energy Supplier's API while it is still used to determine charges for existing customers.
23. One respondent asked how TI Users would become aware of changes when TI Phase 1a does not include a push-notification service.
24. One respondent asked how static Economy 7 rate periods should be represented where switching times depend on a meter's Standard Settlement Configuration (SSC) and Time Pattern Regime (TPR), rather than a single tariff-level time window.
25. One respondent asked whether Feed-in Tariff (FIT) export payments are within the TI Phase 1a scope. Respondents also raised participation by non-Supplier services and devices in testing and the time available to build and test.
26. Several respondents asked that the API specification, including its payload examples, and EMDS definitions align and remain machine-readable for automated use.

27. Comments about tariff-list response sizes, conditional HTTP requests and API examples are summarised and addressed under Question B1 below. TI User participation in testing and implementation readiness are addressed in the response to Question A1 below.

Government response

28. In relation to tariffs closed to new customers, the public route makes pricing data available for tariffs within the mandatory TI Phase 1a scope where that data is used to determine charges for existing customers. A tariff closed to new customers remains within scope while it is used to charge existing customers. SLC11C refers to the requirement to make available Charges for the Supply of Electricity. This in turn is defined in SLC1 as 'means, as between the licensee and a Customer, charges made by the licensee in respect of the supply of electricity to that Customer's premises, including (but not limited to) any Unit Rate (or, where applicable, Unit Rates), a Standing Charge (or, where applicable, Standing Charges) and any charges made for the provision of an Electricity Meter'. This means that the requirement relates to the tariffs that the TI Energy Supplier is actively using to charge customers.
29. In relation to how TI Users become aware of updates, TI Phase 1a uses a public request-and-response API and does not send push notifications. TI Users decide when to request updated data. A conditional request allows a TI User to check whether the data has changed since its previous download. The TI User sends the version identifier or last-modified date associated with the data it already holds. If the data is unchanged, the TI Energy Supplier will return a short "not modified" response (HTTP 304) without sending the data again. Annex B explains this further.
30. In relation to meter-dependent time-of-use arrangements, including Economy 7, government has decided to retain the current TI API technical specification for TI Phase 1a and address these arrangements through [guidance](#). RECCo's guidance explains how TI Energy Suppliers should use the 'Tariff Comments' field to flag tariffs whose time-of-use periods depend on meter configuration. This alerts TI Users to check the applicable meter configuration and time pattern before relying on the time pattern returned through the TI API. The published [Meter Configuration Tables](#) provide supporting reference information. A fuller technical solution will be considered as part of the Phase 1b design, informed by Supplier evidence. Any changes will be subject to assessment and the applicable decision process.
31. In relation to FIT export payments, government's position remains that payments made under the FIT scheme, including FIT export payments, fall outside the scope of the mandatory TI requirements under SLC11C. Suppliers are therefore

not required to publish FIT payment rates through the TI API. This position relates specifically to payments under the FIT scheme. Other export arrangements such as Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) remain subject to the TI requirements where they meet the definition of 'Export Tariff' in SLC11C. RECCo's supporting guidance explains this distinction to support consistent application by TI Energy Suppliers and understanding by TI Users.

32. In relation to TI User participation in testing and implementation readiness, participation by TI Users is voluntary and actively encouraged. A test capability will allow TI Users to call a test supplier API endpoint and receive public tariff test data. RECCo has shared the [TI Test Approach and Plan and the Test Workbook](#) to support participation and explain the overall approach to testing.
33. TI Energy Suppliers required to participate must complete RECCo's mandated test scenarios and any additional scenarios they consider necessary. Each TI Energy Supplier must confirm its readiness for go-live through a Director-level attestation by 08 January 2027. The REC release and go-live dates are set out in the Executive Summary.
34. In relation to consistency and machine-readability across the technical package, we have aligned the relevant data item names, definitions and conditionality across the TI API Technical Specification and the EMDS, and corrected the payload examples. The API specification and its examples retain their machine-readable formats. The detailed corrections are described under Questions B1 and C1.

TI API Technical Specification

Overview

35. The TI API Technical Specification describes the request and response message structures for supplier endpoints, tariff identifiers and tariff details, including the supporting technical requirements. The May 2026 baseline was published to support build and testing. The August 2026 technical specification consultation focused on changes made since that baseline and on any defects that those changes introduced. The updated TI API Technical Specification, incorporating the changes described below, is shown in Annex B.

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.

Summary of responses

36. Five organisations responded to Question B1. Three raised implementation questions about the proposed API specification; two did not identify a specific defect or blocker. The questions concerned large tariff-list response sizes, conditional HTTP requests, worked examples and data field definitions.
37. One respondent said that the MM80003: Get Tariffs Response market message from a TI Energy Supplier could contain many thousands of tariff identifiers and proposed pagination, response size limits, mandatory filters or a bulk download.
38. One respondent noted that, although the 'HTTP 304 Not Modified' response code was documented, the specification did not define the conditional request headers that would allow a TI User to use it consistently.
39. One respondent questioned the inclusion of 'tariff_days' in the worked dynamic-rate example in the TI API Technical Specification, as this should not be included in the dynamic-rate schema.
40. One respondent questioned the repetition of fields within dynamic-rate payloads and proposed simplifying the rate-object structure.
41. One respondent asked which published Industry Standing Data list should be used to validate GSP Group IDs.

42. Several respondents sought clarification on the information returned for API errors and whether tariff status can be inferred from the list of tariff identifiers returned in the MM80003: Get Tariffs Response market message from the TI Energy Supplier.
43. Feedback on fixed values for DI80045: Tariff Type of Use is summarised and addressed under Question C1 below.

Government response

44. The decisions and explanations below should be read alongside the updated TI API Technical Specification in Annex B.
45. In relation to concerns about the potential size of MM80003: Get Tariffs Response messages, Government has decided not to introduce pagination, a mandatory maximum tariff count or a separate bulk-download endpoint for TI Phase 1a. Instead, we have introduced requirements for gzip compression to reduce the amount of data transferred while retaining the existing response structure. Annex B sets out these requirements.
46. In relation to requests for unchanged data, we have added conditional request requirements to the TI API Technical Specification for MM80003: Get Tariffs Response and MM80005: Get Tariff Details Response. Although HTTP 304 Not Modified was already documented, the updated specification now defines how TI Users make the conditional requests that enable this response.
47. The TI User sends the version identifier (ETag), or the last-modified date where supported by the specification, associated with the data it already holds. If that data remains current, the TI Energy Supplier returns HTTP 304 Not Modified without repeating the payload. If the data has changed, a successful response returns HTTP 200 with the current payload. The supplier must maintain or generate the relevant version or modification information for the data it serves, but does not need to retain a separate record of each TI User's previous requests. Annex B sets out the applicable headers and processing requirements.
48. In relation to the worked dynamic-rate example, we have removed DI80047: Tariff Days (tariff_days), as this field is not defined in the dynamic-rate schema. The specification also clarifies when DI80048: Tariff from kWh (min_kWh) and DI80049: Tariff to kWh (max_kWh) are omitted. These two kWh fields apply only to block tariffs.



49. In relation to repeated fields in dynamic-rate payloads, government has retained the TI Phase 1a rate-object structure. Restructuring those objects would require further industry agreement and, if pursued, a later REC change.
50. In relation to validation of GSP Group IDs, TI Energy Suppliers and TI Users should use the following location: [ELEXON Portal](#), using ISD entity 18.
51. In relation to information returned for API errors, Government has retained the agreed TI Phase 1a error-handling approach. The TI API Technical Specification sets out the applicable HTTP response codes; the agreed message design does not include a mandatory standard JSON error body. We are therefore not introducing a new common error-body format through this update.
52. In relation to whether tariff status can be inferred from MM80003: Get Tariffs Response, inclusion in the returned list indicates that tariff data is available through the public route. It does not, by itself, indicate that the tariff is open to new customers. As explained under Question A1, a tariff closed to new customers remains within scope while it is used to determine charges for existing customers.

Energy Market Data Specification

Overview

53. The Energy Market Data Specification (EMDS) contains the REC Data Item Catalogue and Market Message Catalogue, which define the data items and market messages for TI Phase 1a. This section summarises the consultation responses and government's decisions on those data items and messages. The updated EMDS, incorporating the changes set out below, is provided in Annex C.

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.

Summary of responses

54. Four organisations responded to Question C1. Two raised specific points for clarification about specific data items or market messages, while the other two did not identify a defect or blocker. Several comments were supportive of the updates from the May 2026 baseline.
55. One respondent proposed fixed enumerated values for data item DI80045: Tariff Type of Use so that devices could distinguish uses such as EV charging or heat pumps without interpreting inconsistent free text.
56. One respondent asked whether data item DI80003: TI Energy Supplier Active Flag should indicate whether a supplier provides electricity tariffs, gas tariffs, or both.
57. One respondent asked for clarification on whether a supplier could use multiple Supplier Endpoints for a specific Market Participant Identifier (MPID) to help target TI User requests at the relevant business environment.
58. One respondent asked how optional filters are added to MM80002: Get Tariffs Request market messages.
59. One respondent requested a clearer distinction between the effective period of the tariff (DI80016: Effective From Tariff and DI80017: Effective To Tariff) and the

periods for individual static (DI80036: Effective From Rates Static Tariff and DI80037: Effective To Rates Static Tariff) or dynamic rates (DI80012: Effective From Rates Dynamic Tariff and DI80013: Effective To Rates Dynamic Tariff).

Government response

60. In relation to the proposal for fixed values for DI80045: Tariff Type of Use, Government has decided to retain the free-text field for TI Phase 1a. RECCo's guidance will provide examples of meaningful descriptions for this data item. A mandatory enumeration would require wider industry review and agreement and may be considered through a subsequent REC change.
61. In relation to the scope of DI80003: TI Energy Supplier Active Flag, this flag indicates participation in TI and does not identify the fuels or optional tariff categories a supplier provides. More detailed values may be considered at a later stage.
62. In relation to the request for multiple Supplier Endpoints for one MPID, the TI Supplier Register records one Supplier Endpoint for each MPID. Several MPIDs may point to the same endpoint, but the TI Phase 1a design does not register multiple endpoints against one MPID.
63. In relation to optional filters in MM80002: Get Tariffs Request, TI Users apply the permitted filters through the Get Tariffs query parameters defined in the TI API Technical Specification. RECCo's supporting guidance explains how to use these parameters.
64. In relation to the distinction between tariff and rate effective dates, DI80016: Effective From Tariff and DI80017: Effective To Tariff describe the period for which that tariff identifier is used for customer charges. DI80036: Effective From Rates Static Tariff and DI80037: Effective To Rates Static Tariff, or DI80012: Effective From Rates Dynamic Tariff and DI80013: Effective To Rates Dynamic Tariff, identify when particular prices apply. The data item descriptions in the EMDS provide further information.
65. In the version of the EMDS issued for consultation we used temporary market message and data item reference codes. All temporary market message reference codes began 'MMXXX' and all temporary data item reference codes began 'DIYYY'. These have now been replaced by their enduring references. TI related new market messages begin with the convention 'MM800'. TI related new data items begin with the convention 'DI800'.
66. Following further detailed review of the proposed EMDS changes, we have identified the following minor corrections required. These ensure that we use the

new terms consistently within the EMDS. There are no impacts from these updates on the TI API Technical Specification or the Standards Definition Document:

- a. In the MMXXXX5a Get Tariffs Request market message (now MM80002), add additional text 'including the relevant supplierMpid in the route' for clarity. This does not change the design or implementation requirements.
- b. In the MMXXXX5 Get Tariffs Response market message (now MM80003), replace 'Fuel Type' with 'fuelType' in the data item table and the message structure. This is an existing data item (DI90027) in the EMDS and we are therefore aligning with the existing definition.
- c. In MMXXXX6: Get Tariff Details Request (now MM80004), remove the message structure and data item table. The request has no message body: the supplier MPID and tariff identifier needed to respond are provided in the request path.
- d. In the MMXXXX7 Get Tariff Details Response market message (now MM80005) replace 'Type of Use' with 'Tariff Type of Use' in the message structure. This aligns to the correct name for new data item DI80045.
- e. In MM80005: Get Tariff Details Response, add the missing word 'Tariff' to the following data item names in the data item table and message structure:
 - 'DI80012 - Effective From Rates Dynamic Tariff';
 - 'DI80013 - Effective To Rates Dynamic Tariff';
 - 'DI80036 - Effective From Rates Static Tariff'; and
 - 'DI80037 - Effective To Rates Static Tariff'.
 - This ensures alignment to the correct names for these new data items.

Standards Definition Document

Overview

67. The Standards Definition Document sets the common conventions for industry data and messaging. Its proposed changes accommodate the TI message type, relevant market roles and YAML naming used for the TI Phase 1a technical specification. The updated Standards Definition Document is shown in Annex D and no changes have been made from the version issued for consultation in August 2026.

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.

Summary of responses

68. Two organisations responded to Question D1. Neither identified a specific defect or blocker. Both supported the proposed direction; one asked that the terms for TI Energy Suppliers, TI Users and other parties remain consistent across the Standards Definition Document, EMDS and TI API Technical Specification.

Government response

69. In relation to support for the proposed Standards Definition Document changes and the request for consistent terminology, Government has decided to incorporate the amendments into the REC. The proposed changes use terminology and YAML conventions consistent with the TI API Technical Specification and the EMDS.