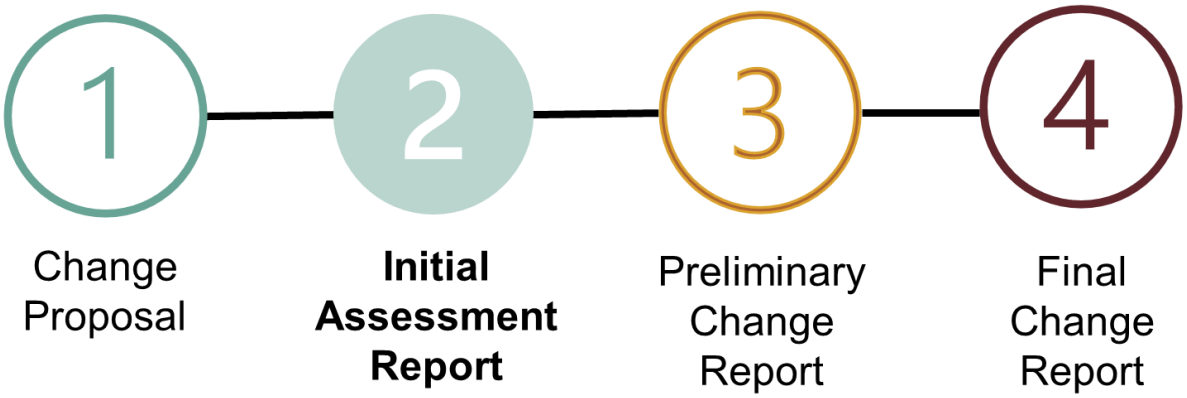
RETAIL ENERGY CODE

This document is classified as **WHITE**.
Information is for public, unrestricted dissemination and publication.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT



PURPOSE:	This is a written report from the Code Manager setting out their initial assessment of the Change Proposal and planned next steps for progressing the proposal.
NOTES:	The Initial Assessment Report is accompanied by a Change Proposal Plan, which describes the Code Manager's plan for progressing this Change Proposal. The solution will not be finalised until the publication of the Preliminary Change Report.
NEXT STEPS:	The Change Proposal Plan will set out the next steps for progressing this Change Proposal. The Code Manager will either propose additional activities to develop and/or assess the solution, or immediately prepare and publish the Preliminary Change Report.

RETAIL ENERGY CODE

01	Initial Assessment Report
02	Preliminary Change Report
03	Final Change Report

INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

R0054 – EES ACCESS FOR VIRTUAL LEAD PARTIES

DOCUMENT VERSION	1.0
DATE ISSUED	08/07/2022
DOCUMENT APPROVAL STATUS	APPROVED BY CHANGE PANEL
RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	TECHNICAL EXPERT PANEL

CHANGE OVERVIEW

This Change Proposal seeks to allow Virtual Lead Parties (VLP) access to the Electricity Enquiry Service (EES) to allow them to efficiently register their customers for balancing services under the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC).

	High Impact: N/A
	Medium Impact: N/A
	Low Impact: Electricity Enquiry Service Provider, Virtual Lead Parties

RETAIL ENERGY CODE

CONTENTS

1.	SUMMARY	4
2.	PROBLEM STATEMENT	4
3.	USER STORIES	4
4.	IMPACTS	5
5.	CHANGE PATH AND RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	6
6.	PRIORITY STATUS AND URGENCY	6
7.	SUMMARY OF CHANGE PROPOSAL PLAN	7
8.	GLOSSARY	8

LEAD ANALYST
George Barnes
EMAIL

TECHNICAL LEAD
Ryan Dale
EMAIL

RETAIL ENERGY CODE

1 SUMMARY

Virtual Lead Parties (VLPs) are a Market Participant defined under the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC). VLPs independently aggregate Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA) registered units to be entered into the balancing mechanism. VLPs are required by the BSC to provide their customer's MPAN as part of their application to provide balancing services.

As an independent aggregator with no link to an Energy Supplier, a VLP does not fit into any of the Market Roles currently defined as users of the Electricity Enquiry Service (EES) within the electricity Data Access Matrix (DAM).

This Change Proposal seeks to update the DAM to include VLPs as a new EES User Category, which will allow them access to the Data Items required to fulfil their Market Role. The change will also require the EES to be updated to reflect the new access for VLPs. There are currently only a small number of VLPs, however, this change will provide the mechanism for all VLPs to request access without the need for further change proposals to be raised.

2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

VLPs are required to provide their customer's MPAN as part of the registration process, as per the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC). VLPs do not currently have access to the EES to enable an MPAN search and they have no reliable means to acquire the MPAN, other than asking their customer to provide it. This could potentially lead to delays in the registration process and may result in an increased risk of inaccurate data, detrimentally impacting the service VLPs are able to provide to their customers.

3 USER STORIES

REF.	USER STORIES
CONSUMER USER STORIES	
C1	As an Energy Consumer, I want my VLP to have access to the data needed to correctly register me in a timely manner, so there aren't delays in the delivery of my service.
MARKET PARTICIPANT USER STORIES	
M1	As a VLP, I want to have access to all the data I need to register my customers so I can deliver the service they have requested, without delay.
M2	As a VLP, I want to be able to use the EES to find the MPAN of a customer using their address information, to enable me to reliably gather this data to without delay or further engagement with my customer.

4 IMPACTS

REC DOCUMENTS / PRODUCTS
Data Access Matrix (DAM)
Schedule 1: Interpretation and Definitions

REC SERVICE PROVIDERS
Electricity Enquiry Service (EES) Service Provider

CONSUMERS
Energy Consumers

Virtual Lead Parties (VLPs) are not a REC Party but are a prospective REC Service User. We do not anticipate that the addition of VLPs to the DAM, for use of EES, will have an impact on other REC Parties or REC Service Users.

Energy Consumers have been captured as impacted groups; however, we expect this to be an indirect impact through the services provided by a VLP.

This Change Proposal has a fully formed solution, which is set out below:

Schedule 1: Interpretation and Definitions – In order to reference VLPs within the DAM we will add the definition of a VLP to this Schedule.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Virtual Lead Party	VLP	has meaning given to it under the BSC.

Data Access Matrix – This change seeks to introduce a new EES User Category into the DAM for VLPs, which will show the Data Items a VLP will be allowed to access.

This change proposes that VLPs will have access to address and MPAN core data items only.

The proposed amendments to the DAM can be found here, this considers the current version and the amended version proposed as part of R0022 – Amendment to REC Data Access Matrix.

This proposed solution does not include any update to the Data Access Schedule as the VLP market role is captured within the existing legal text, paragraph 4.3:

> 4.3. The EES User Categories, which shall be maintained in the Data Access Matrix, are as follows: (a) a separate category for each Market Role

VLPs are recognised as a new Market Participant under the BSC, and that they have a requirement to use the requested Data Items to fulfil their Market Role. VLPs will need to become an EES User through completion of an Access Agreement with RECCo, in accordance with the Qualification and Maintenance Schedule. Assurance of access will be carried out in accordance with Performance Assurance process as defined under the REC.

5 CHANGE PATH AND RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE

CHANGE PATH	SELF-GOVERNANCE
RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	TECHNICAL EXPERT PANEL

The Responsible Committee for this change is the Technical Expert Panel as this change will impact the Data Access Matrix, which is under the responsibility of the Technical Expert Panel. The only other document changes required will be the inclusion of the definition of Virtual Lead Party to the Interpretations and Definitions Schedule.

We have classified this change as a Self-Governance Change as we do not believe that this change will have material or discriminatory impacts on any REC Parties, competition or Consumers.

6 PRIORITY STATUS AND URGENCY

PRIORITY STATUS	MEDIUM
URGENCY	STANDARD

PRIORITISATION MATRIX

Significance	Score	Weighting
Legal/Regulatory Compliance	0	30
Strategic Direction	1	20
Cost Benefits / Value	0	10
Consumer Impacts	1	30
Operational Efficiency	0	10

Urgency

3	N/A	13	23	33
2	02	12	22	32
1	01	11	21	31
0	00	10	20	N/A

Significance

Weighted Significance Score	1
Urgency	1
Overall Priority Score	**11**

Effort	1 - Moderate

Priority Score	Priority Status
23 - 33	Critical
13 - 22	High
11 - 21	Medium
00 - 10	Low

PRIORITY STATUS
Medium

This change is considered 'Medium' priority based on a significance score of 1 and an urgency score of 1.

Strategic Direction – A score of 1 as VLPs are a contributing element to the Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan 2021 for transitioning to a net zero energy system.

Consumer Impacts – A score of 1 due to the potential Consumer detriment that may be seen if VLPs do not have a reliable method to obtain a Consumer's MPAN. EES is the primary source of truth for registration data, and without access to the data VLPs will need to rely on other sources for the MPAN. This increases the risk of the data being entered incorrectly or causing delays to the Consumer receiving their service.

Urgency – an urgency score of 1 as this change will be best progressed in line with the timetable of R0022, but does not need to be progressed within the next three months.

7 SUMMARY OF CHANGE PROPOSAL PLAN

We consider the solution for this Change Proposal to be simple; to introduce a new User Category to the DAM and inclusion of a new definition for a Virtual lead Party.

As this change has a fully formed solution already developed, the plan does not include any analysis or solution development activities. However, a Service Provider Impact Assessment is required to assess the impacts to the EES.

R0022 is making significant changes to the DAM, which would also be reflected in EES. The Code Manager recognises that the most efficient and cost-effective approach for implementation of this Change Proposal would be either, alongside or after the implementation of R0022. This will be explored as part of the Service Provider Impact Assessment, with a proposed implementation approach set out as part of the Preliminary Change Report.

	FROM	TO
SERVICE PROVIDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT	22/07/2022	22/08/2022
DEADLINE FOR ALTERNATIVE CHANGE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION	02/09/2022	02/09/2022
PRELIMINARY CHANGE REPORT ISSUED	02/09/2022	02/09/2022
CONSULTATION	02/09/2022	16/09/2022
FINAL CHANGE REPORT ISSUED	14/10/2022	26/10/2022
RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE DECISION	26/10/2022	26/10/2022
APPEAL WINDOW CLOSURE	27/10/2022	27/10/2022

8 GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC)	Means the Balancing and Settlement Code, as defined in the Electricity Supply Licences.
Data Access Matrix (DAM)	Means the matrix describing which EES Data each EES User Category can access, which forms part of the Data Specification and is updated in accordance with the Data Access Schedule.
Data Item	means the most granular level of data defining a specific attribute in respect of a Data Type, the permissible values for which are defined and controlled in the Data Item Catalogue.
EES User Category	means each category of user of the EES, as described in Paragraph 4 of the Data Access Schedule. “EES User Categories” shall be construed accordingly.
Electricity Enquiry Service (EES)	Electricity Enquiry Service EES means the service described as such in the EES Service Definition.
Electricity Enquiry Service Provider	means the provider of the Electricity Enquiry Service.
Electricity Enquiry Service User	means a Party or Non-Party REC Service User which is entitled to use the EES under the Data Access Schedule.
Energy Supplier	Means a person which is either or both an Electricity Supplier and/of a Gas Supplier.
Market Participant	Means a participant in either or both of the gas and electricity markets of Great Britain each of which is identified by a Market Participant Role.
Non-Party REC Service User	means, for a REC Service, an entity which is not a Party under this Code, but which has become a REC Service User for that REC Service.
Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA)	has meaning given to it under the BSC.
Virtual Lead Party (BSC)	has meaning given to it under the BSC.