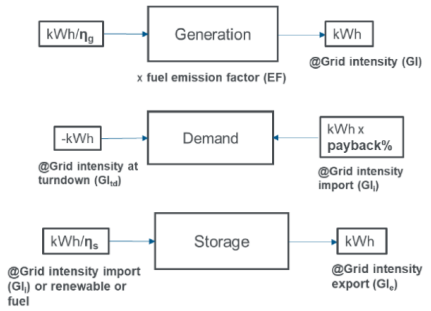
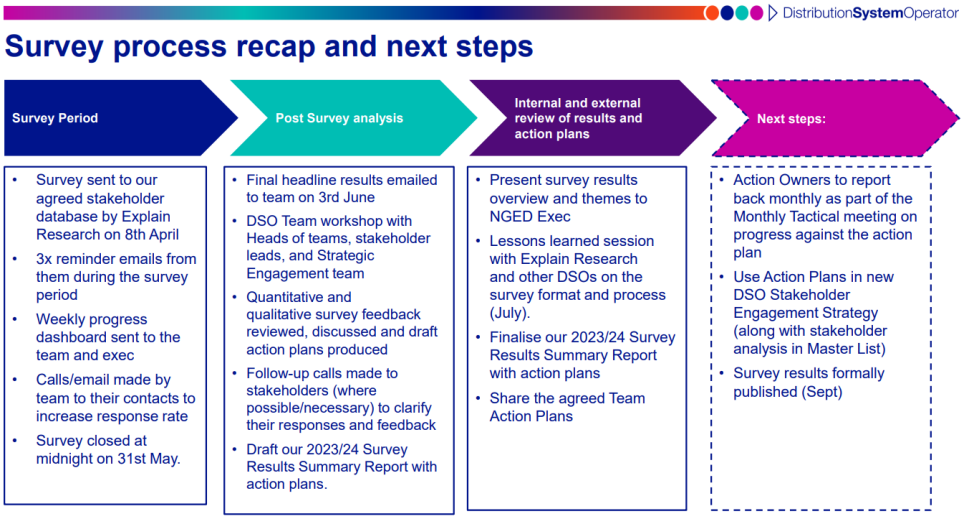
NGED DSO Panel Meeting
22 July 2024

ATTENDEES (In Person)	Regina Finn, Doug Cook, Janine Michael,
ATTENDEES (Online)	Nina Skorupska
NGED ATTENDEES	Benjamin Godfrey, Hayley Burden, Nicole Jefferies, Sarif Satti
APOLOGIES	Emily Seto
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	DC – working with DNO on smart meter data. JM – request for a quote for data services from CSE has been made. Deemed no conflict.

Summary Notes

Welcome and agenda	The Chair opened the meeting. The panel received an update following a meeting between DSO Panel Chairs, in which a collaborative approach would be taken. An update was also received regarding changes to the DSO leadership team to support its rapid growth and drive its net zero goals. As part of this, Cathy McClay would join as the new Managing Director of DSO.
Updates regarding requests for more information **LA Best View**	In response to a previous request, the Panel received an update on the DSO's approach to working with Local Authorities (LA's) to understand the maturity of each LA and the degree to which the DSO could and would support LA's in their regional planning. This included how the DSO would share information and in what format to enable LA's to carry out their functions most effectively. The Panel was also taken through a case study into South Wales' Local Area Energy Planning and how this could influence development in other regions.
Updates regarding requests for more information **Carbon Impact of Flex Services**	The Panel received information regarding the DSO approach to the Carbon Impact of flex services based on existing OFGEM and BEIS policies including an overview of the existing methodology and an outline of plans to reassess this against current data. The Panel questioned if carbon reduction can only be achieved by replacing gas-fired generators with renewables and suggested evaluating the existing approach taken, including procurement strategies.

	The Panel further recommended reviewing past decisions, improving methodology, and considering an innovation trial to improve the quality of evidence available to support the DSO approach. DistributionSystemOperator **On Carbon reporting methodology overview** The methodology focusses on direct and consequential impacts of actions assuming energy balance. It uses a fixed (not time varying) value for marginal grid intensity. This avoids the need for assumptions on timings of counteractions (when would storage sites import to allow export...) To achieve a reduction in carbon impact you would need: • To turn up a generator with a lower carbon intensity than marginal grid intensity • To turn down a generator with greater carbon intensity than marginal grid intensity • True demand reduction (not shifting. Flexibility from demand is assumed to be demand shifting unless shown to be otherwise) Storage sites cannot provide a net carbon improvement due to losses Demand shifting provides a zero impact on carbon intensity  National Grid
Data Workstreams	The Panel heard that the DSO had reviewed external data inputs, including open-source ones similar to local area energy planners, and created a template to improve data usability and made wider improvements to data management. It was highlighted that although smart meters were able to monitor and apply loses, dedicated substation monitoring would be required to enhance load monitoring. There remained a gap in data sharing with IDNOs. The Panel queried whether smart meters could replace dedicated monitoring technology, highlighting the importance of understanding consumer behaviour. The Panel therefore suggested more widespread use of aggregator smart data and additional data sources. It was summarised that DSO should be open to reviewing key development areas where data sharing allowed for it. Evolution was considered essential in a rapidly changing field, and collaborations with universities should be explored to make use of advancements in LV network estimations through AI and machine learning. DistributionSystemOperator **Opportunities from external datasets** We hold several key internal data sets. Network Assets (including health and ratings) | Network Loadings | Customers connected to network (including access rights) | Connections queue | Customer metering (partial coverage) We need additional data to develop and operate an efficient system. This focusses on: • Understanding the network need to plan effectively - *DFES* • Understanding the network need to operate effectively - *Operational Forecasting* • Removing barriers from flexibility markets - *Metering* **Questions: Are there other datasets we could access? How can we access them? What are the relative priorities?** National Grid
Stakeholder Survey and Engagement Strategy	The Panel received an overview of the Stakeholder Survey, which saw all DSOs evaluated by an independent body. NG DSO were awarded a score which fell within the deadband range (no incentive/no reward). The detailed results and methodology would be provided in September. An engagement strategy to improve this score based on feedback had been established. The Panel emphasised the importance of enhancing stakeholder management through key relationships, and suggested wider use of dynamic tools and pulse surveys to improve

	overall engagement. The DSO was urged to refine its survey methodologies to ensure meaningful feedback was obtained through targeted questions, which would be of greater benefit to stakeholders and internally. Overlaying outputs with other data sets, and incorporating lessons learned from best practice elsewhere, was further recommended to improve public access to relevant data. It was further proposed that existing survey methodologies were evaluated with feedback provided to OFGEM to enhance the process for stakeholders. 
Strategic Workforce Plan	The Panel received an overview of NGED's strategic workforce plan, a new approach within NGED but used across the National Grid group. The plan aims to attract and develop future talent, enhance leadership, and align with business priorities while managing change. The Panel queried the maturity of the strategic workforce planning process at NGED, and made suggestions on areas to be mindful of, and others to focus on. The importance of diversity, inclusion, and mental health was emphasised, and made recommendations for workforce development programmes.
Closing	The Chair made closing remarks, highlighting that the data workstream should be revisited within 12 months. The Panel requested further input into the development of an improved Conflicts of Interest process. **Next Meeting 14th Oct 2024**