

## P398 WORKGROUP MEETING ONE

The first Workgroup meeting took place at ELEXON's office on Thursday 16 January 2020. The Workgroup agreed the principals by which the BSC will facilitate open Data. ELEXON will now prepare draft documents and papers, as well as business requirements ahead of the second Workgroup meeting mid-February 2020.

### Breakout brainstorming

#### What is data?

The workgroup offered the following suggestions for what data is:

Relationships between sets of numbers	Structured information	Enables the derivation of information	Is 'owned' by someone
Information collected for decision making	It is meaningless without context	Can be transformed or shared	Drives analysis
Is a 'thing' and not a concept/idea	Can be combined with other information/ data	Combination of unrelated information	Information passed between systems or companies that can be extracted
Needs to be grouped and combined to give knowledge	Anything that can be used as evidence	Measure of something and has 'dimensions'	An input to an insight service
Can be manipulated	Anything that can be classified as information	Gives property and character about a 'thing', even other data	Everything that is recorded
Enables interoperability of systems	Can be used to function visible information e.g. base data/Meta data	Should be a single source of truth	

#### Examples of data

The items within systems	Minutes and lists of attendees	Personal information	Can be analogue or digital
Digital data is '1s' and '0s'	Financial information	Numbers or text	Pieces of information
Documents containing information			

#### Thoughts about data handling

Need to understand hierarchies	Meta data is key	Understand how data sets are produced	Allow for data sets to be independently verified
State data quality	Need to understand the context of the data	Consideration for liability around inaccuracies	Shouldn't release data that identifies individuals or specific sites
Publish protocols for how data is derived	Allow data to be interpreted	Balancing Mechanism data should be explicitly public and open	Consideration should be given to commercial sensitivities

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Data made available should be able to be re-used	There should be only one source of truth. Data sets that disagree are not useful	Need to provide education on the data	Data doesn't need to be 100% accurate to be released
Compilers need to understand the need for the data	Backing data behind data sets should be known	Right of access should be considered [National Park right to roam analogy]	It should be possible to recreate data sets

### Principles of presumed open data

Having considered what is data, the workgroup were then asked to consider what the principles should be for 'presumed open data':

Anyone can request data	There should be tiers of 'open data'	Need to differentiate between 'energy-system' data and 'free-market' data	Meta-data should be subject to the same principles
There should be a rationale for denial	There should be limited scope for denial	Can be enriched later for the benefit of the 'community'	Provides transparency of the originator and/or collator
Has sufficient quality to be useful	Needs to be in an understandable format	Needs to be user friendly	Should be able to run queries on meta data
Self-serve as much as possible	Context must be clear	Should not conflict with legislative obligations	Should be fully auditable and source traceable

### Questions raised about Open Data

During the breakout sessions, there were also some questions raised:

Does there need to be a central controller for data across the industry?	Would the entity receiving the data have any form of liability?	Should Open Data be free at point of access?	Should enriched data be presumed open?
Should ELEXON be mindful of how data available elsewhere could impact BSC data	Should people make requests or should everything be available	Does the context of the request need to be known before data is provided	Can a decision on whether to release be made once or will multiple requests for different reasons change the decision

### Ofgem presentation on modernising data

Ofgem gave a presentation on their work on data alongside BEIS and Innovate UK – see slides for details.

[ELEXON](#) is the first organisation to become an active contributor to the Modernising Energy Data website. ELEXON will update the website with any activity they do in relation to data. However, it was suggested that similar websites should be created for other pan-industry initiatives e.g. provisions for Electric Vehicles.

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## General principles for open data

The following was discussed in addition to the best practice put forward in the slides.

Data released should be a Single source of truth, particularly where there are duplication of data sets across Codes etc. there are lots of overlaps between ELEXON and NGESO. For example – asset Registration – there are multiple names across multiple systems for what is, physically, the same thing. REMIT is another example of duplication of the same data by any other means. Identifying overlaps is as important as filling in the gaps too.

**Action:** We will endeavour to avoid duplication so far as practicable

However, it was discussed that what P398 is attempting is ground breaking and is an embryonic process. While every effort will be made to avoid errors, it is reasonable to expect that industry has a degree of accountability too. That is, where industry identifies a duplication, ELEXON would expect it to be raised so that corrections can be made.

An example of how to resolve this matter would be something analogous to genus naming in Biology [e.g. *Electrophorus electricus* – electric eel]

**Action:** We should consider how data is labelled – there could be a means of cross-referencing data to the part of the Code that requires its creation. And, when dealing with datasets, be able to trace the source of data and the 'family tree' of creating the data-set.

**Action:** ELEXON to look at ACER guidance on REMIT about treatment of data.

**Action:** There should, ideally be a central body for co-ordinating data across the industry. P398 cannot create such an entity however, this should be fed back to Ofgem formally in the P398 Final Modification.

The Workgroup needs to be mindful that as much as ELEXON (in its role as BSCCo) wants to make the data available, we don't want to become the monopoly for data. Our principle purpose is to 'do' the BSC and not be a data factory. However, the Workgroup needs to ensure there is good governance in place regarding the release of data and as such we are able to provide a quality service to our customers without impacting our primary purpose. Simplified, there needs to be a balance between effort and reward.

## FOI comparisons

The Workgroup were in favour of some sort of Cost-Benefit-Analysis (CBA) whereby releases are rejected on this basis. However, it was acknowledge that this can be subjective and as such, there needs to be some sort of right of review following the Panel/sub-committee decision.

The CBA should also be mindful of the impact on BSC Agents

**Action:** ELEXON to consider how to codify CBA and right of appeal

**Action:** ELEXON to engage BSC Agents around the impact of P398

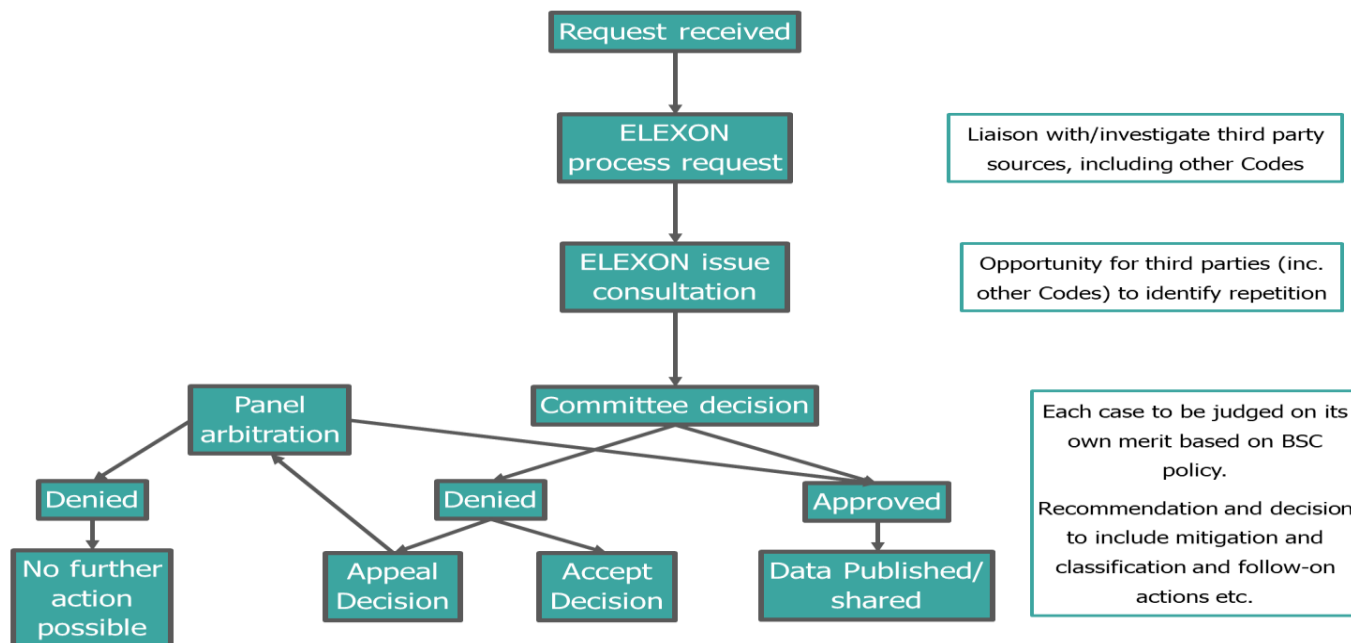
## Treatment of data

The challenge around releasing data will be the balance between the treatment of data vs utility of the data. i.e. how useful data will be after its been 'tidied-up'. The focus should be on the end product – what is required and how we can help rather than just releasing or denying because that is what the 'rules' say should be the outcome.

**Action:** By making the decision making process publicly available requesters and ELEXON should be able to work better together to find a mutually agreeable outcome

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The following diagram was drawn and agreed upon during discussion:



## Decision makers

It was agreed that decisions should be by a sub-committee as this would allow the Panel to be the arbitration body should a decision be appealed. It was agreed that the responsible sub-committee should be the newly formed [Balancing Mechanism Reporting Service \(BMRS\) Change Board](#) (BCB) as they will already be responsible for what data is published on the BMRS and as such, will have sufficient familiarity to make decisions.

Following discussion it was agreed that BCB decision should be by majority rather than unanimous. It was felt that this was best practice as there would likely be numerous cases of one member disagreeing and as such, data may not be released, which is contrary to the purpose of P398.

If the BCB does not think data should be released, they should advise what actions need to be taken to make the data releasable.

## How to publish

We discussed if the BCB would have sufficient knowledge to make a decision on publishing and questioned whether the membership would need specific skills or rotating to reflect the nature of the request. It was agreed upon however, that the situation would be no different in reality to the role of any other committee in that while every effort is made to make the membership as diverse as possible in terms of experience etc. it can't account for all eventualities. Additionally, with time, the BCB and ELEXON will build up expertise when making decisions and recommendations respectively. There will be a consultation process in order for industry to make representation to the BCB and in addition, there will be an appeals process in case it is felt the BCB were wrong.

## Consultation

We discussed the amount of information that industry receives and is requested to respond to. It was acknowledged that most of the time people will only respond if they have concerns i.e. silence could be construed as consent as people don't have the time to say 'yes, I agree, carry-on'.

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**Action:** With this in mind, the consultation process would be by negative response i.e. the question(s) would be along the line of 'is there any reason not to publish, please let us know if you don't want this data released (with a reason). If we don't hear from you, we'll assume you're happy with the proposal'.

It was agreed that the consultation should ask that, if they are opposed to releasing the data, whether there are any mitigations that could be taken so that they would be happy for the data to be released.

We also discussed the form/template of the consultation. With the intent to keep the impact on industry as little as possible, we discussed whether there was a need for a full formal consultation that takes time to read, consume and respond. As an alternative, a simple e-mail could be used and the consultation feedback would be responding to that e-mail

**Action:** ELEXON to draft consultation template

## Risk appetite

The workgroup discussed that, in terms of reducing the risk associated with releasing data – who's risk appetite should be the guider – the subject's, the requester's or BSCCo's?

**Action:** When assessing risk, need to consider need to open up the market and innovation etc. against the competition implications for looking at identified patterns.

## Appeals process

We discussed that appealing to Panel would elongate the process and, to avoid an endless succession of appeals and delays, there should be a limit to the number of appeals.

**Action:** Number of appeals to be limited to one appeal. This is a holding position and will be confirmed later

We discussed that at the moment there is no legislation or such to 'force' the Panel/ELEXON to release data. As such, if the Panel/BCB decision is not disagreed with, there is no higher entity to turn to. Considering this, we discussed whether the Panel/BCB could send decisions and/or appeals to the Authority [Ofgem] in a similar manner to how some Modifications are sent to the Authority. It was pointed out that the Authority may not have an appetite to accept this role without a legal basis to arbitrate.

**Action:** Ofgem member of P398 to investigate the Authority's appetite for such a role, noting they would have to extend this to all industry Codes

## Publishing the request

We discussed whether the request and/or the requester should be in the public domain. It was represented that the requester may be against this as they may not want their peers/rivals to know what data requests they are making as it could be indicative of changes in business models.

It was agreed that a request form should be developed and within that, the requester will be able to state their desired level of anonymity. The form should also ask the reason for requesting the data but this could either be left blank or not releasable. The reason for this is that the information will be useful to ELEXON in preparing the release but, businesses may not want their rivals to know why data is being requested etc.

**Action:** ELEXON to develop draft request form and process to triage the request form

The periodicity of publishing data sets was discussed and it was agreed that this should be on a case by case basis and will form part of BCB's decision.

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It was discussed that all datasets should be classified and published as a matter of course. This is okay for more common datasets however, given the vast swathes of raw data and exceptionally large number of ways that data can be combined to produce some many permutation of data sets, this is not a practicable task.

**Action:** The BCB will have the ability to direct the BSCCo this way if it feels prudent to do so and similarly, the BCB will have the ability to raise data requests/direct BSCCo to release certain data sets.

The de-facto location for publishing data will be the ELEXON website but, depending on uptake, a stand-alone website may need to be developed to host the published data sets. A comment was made as to whether ELEXON would have the capacity/ability to do this given that most of the Portal data is populated by BSC Agents and not ELEXON. ELEXON assure the workgroup this wouldn't be a problem. It was suggested that the Government Data Service (GDS) may be a source of best-practise for the organisation of a data-specific website.

### Cost of meeting a request

There was some Concern over who will pay the cost for making data open, particularly when the request originates from a non-BSC Party. Prima facia, it would be simple enough to apply a charge for datasets in these circumstances.

However, it is not as simple as this. If the data set is published/shared, then there will, potentially, be multiple beneficiaries therefore, how is cost attributed?

Ultimately, it was agreed that each case should be determined on its own merits and ELEXON's Paper to the BCB should include the cost and impact to enable them to make a decision.

### Refusing requests

As previously discussed, refusal may be as a result of the CBA. In this situation however, suggestions should be made to enable release following actions appropriate to the case.

It was touched on several times but, when assessing whether data should be released, ELEXON (recommendation) and the BCB (decision) should be aware of the sensitivity of data, meta-data and what it could be used for when added to other data from a third party.

It was discussed that where data requests are refused due to the output of a CBA i.e. it's too expensive/difficult for that isolated request, ELEXON and BCB should consider whether similar requests will be made in the future. They should also consider what the data could be used for when combined with other data and/or similar sets are released periodically i.e. if the CBA says 'no' this time, could there be benefits at some point in the future.

### Security concerns

There may be occasions that, for whatever reason a refusal to release data would be an implicit acknowledgement of having the data in a situation where-by it is not appropriate to acknowledge that the data even exists. An example of this could be security sensitive data however, none of the workgroup could think of examples of this in relation to the BSC. In the unlikely event of this happening, Ofgem and/or the National Cyber Security Centre (via Ofgem or direct) should be consulted for advice. It was also agreed that this principal could apply to Meta data too.

### ELEXON vs. BSCCo

It was agreed that any data held by ELEXON in relation to its responsibilities as BSCCo would be subject to P398. However, anything held by ELEXON in relation to ELEXON as a company (i.e. not BSC related) would not be within

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the remit of P398. It was agreed that ELEXON would be able to make these arbitration when they review the application form and, if in doubt, refer to the BCB for affirmation.

## Performance Assurance data

It was agreed that any information relating to Performance Assurance (i.e. covered by Section V and Section Z of the BSC) would be subject to triage and classification. It was assumed that most of the data would be classified as closed however, if mitigation can be applied, there is no reason why some of this data shouldn't be released.

## Record Keeping

Ofgem will, in due course, want records routinely on number of data requests etc.

Action: ELEXON to draft process whereby records of open data requests and publications are recorded and report to Ofgem in due course.

## Third Party data

Ownership and the point of transfer of ownership was discussed, particularly in relation to third party data. For example, if someone sends us the data, and it's in our estate, does that necessarily mean we own it? Similarly do we have rights/liabilities over the data?

**Action:** Double check reference of third party data and when we take ownership of it.

## Any other Business

**Action:** Come up with some examples of what mitigation looks like e.g. what does 'noise' actually look like?

**Action:** Discuss with Cyber security/IT security experts methods for sharing of data

**Action:** Ofgem are looking at doing some work at looking at mitigating factors – further information to follow.

## Central data catalogue

It was discussed and agreed that a Central data catalogue i.e. who hold what data across the industry would be extremely helpful. However, the creation of such a catalogue would either need to be voluntary or a consequence of legislative change.