

## Introduction and methodology

The aim of this review is to increase participation in flexibility markets by delivering a simple and standard set of flexibility products. As part of this work group, we reviewed the functionality of the existing standard flexibility products in use by each DSO. Products deemed ‘at risk’ were brought forward to a panel of DSOs who reviewed the impact of their removal on FSPs as well as whether their functionality could be achieved by the other existing products.



Figure 1: This process map outlines the criteria for retiring flexibility products and the decision-making process of the Stackability Technical Working Group. *\*for PR and VA + OU (2&15 mins) the TWG agreed to review their retirement following feedback on participation from FSPs throughout 2025.*

## Review of standard of flexibility products

Product Name		DSOs using product	DSOs planning to use product	Justification
Peak Reduction (PR)		ENWL	SSEN	The requirement for PR is still being assessed as some DSOs have found it has attracted participation from assets such as EV (Electric Vehicle) charging stations. The group has agreed for one DSO to maintain this product to collect feedback and data on participation and analyze results throughout 2025. A decision will be made after this, regarding retirement of PR.
Scheduled Utilisation (SU)	Settlement Periods	UKPN, NPG, NGED, SSEN, SPEN	ENWL	To be retained. This service benefits FSPs that cannot respond in real-time or near real-time. This service is commonly used by DSOs to manage seasonal peak demand and to defer network reinforcement.
	Blocks	NGED, SSEN		To be retired. In practice this product offers no advantage over the Settlement Period alternative. This will result in one common SU service between DSOs.
Operational Utilisation (OU)	2 minutes	SSEN	SPEN	Real time utilisation using OU (2 mins) with no availability payment is being retained on the basis that it is required for post fault restoration of customers under abnormal network conditions.
	15 minutes	ENWL, NGED, SSEN	SPEN	Real time utilisation using OU (15 mins) with no availability payment is being retained on the basis that not all assets can respond in 2 mins and that it is required for post fault restoration of customers under abnormal network conditions.
	Week Ahead			To be retired. There has been limited procurement of this service across DSOs. Any capacity for this service is to be moved into VA+OU (week-ahead).
Scheduled Availability + Operational Utilisation (SA+OU)	2 minutes	SSEN		To be retired. Post-fault restoration of customers using SA + OU (2 mins) can be achieved through OU (2 mins).
	Day ahead	SPEN, SSEN, UKPN, NGED		Scheduled availability is well suited for day-ahead dispatch, so the service is being retained. Dispatching before gate closure also gives FSPs the opportunity to balance their position and avoids FSPs being in imbalance.
	2 minutes	ENWL		For FSPs providing real-time utilisation, the lack of an availability payment for OU (2 mins) can be a barrier to entry. Therefore, the decision to retire VA + OU (2 mins) will be made once the effects on market participation and liquidity have been reviewed.

Product Name		DSOs using product	DSOs planning to use product	Justification
Variable Availability + Operational Utilisation (VA+OU)	15 minutes	ENWL		Not all FSPs providing real-time utilisation can respond using VA + OU (2 mins), and a lack of availability payment for OU (15 mins) can be a barrier to entry. A decision to retire VA + OU (15 mins) will be made once the effects of market participation and liquidity have been considered.
	Day Ahead	SSEN	SPEN, ENWL	VA + OU (day ahead) allows DSOs to refine procured flexibility capacity closer to the event and is well suited to day-ahead dispatch. DSOs are currently planning to utilise VA + OU (day ahead) for certain generator technologies.
	Week Ahead	SSEN	SPEN	VA +OU allows DSOs to refine procured capacity closer to the event and is well suited to week-ahead dispatch. DSOs are currently planning to utilise VA + OU (week ahead) for certain generator technologies.

Table 1: Outlines DSO flexibility products with decision to retain or retire. For a more detailed view on the functionality of each flexibility product please refer to [on-flexibility-products-alignment-\(feb-2024\).pdf \(energynetworks.org\)](https://www.energynetworks.org/on-flexibility-products-alignment-(feb-2024).pdf) .

Retired Flex Products	DSO	Plan for retirement
PR	<b>UK Power Networks</b>	Procurement of PR has been retired from October 2024. Existing PR contracts will be maintained.

Retired Flex Products	DSO	Plan for retirement
SU (Blocks), OU (Week Ahead), SA + OU (2 mins)	<b>Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks</b>	Current focus has been on developing SAOU Day Ahead Product, which has been successfully implemented in September 24, therefore no new procurement of SA+OU (2 min) is required in the financial year. There was no planned procurement of SU(Block) in the 24/25 financial year, existing contracts will be maintained until expiry and all providers have a route to alternative markets.
SU (Blocks)	<b>National Grid Electricity Distribution</b>	Procurement of SU (Blocks) will be retired at the end of the 2024 procurement rounds. Existing SU (Blocks) contracts will be maintained until expiry.

Table 2: Outlines each DSOs plan for the retirement of agreed flexibility products.