

# Open Networks Project Coordinated Regional Data Gathering 2020 Report

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WS4 P5

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

### Authorities

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1.1	18/12/20	C Madden	New template

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 About ENA

Energy Networks Association (ENA) represents the owners and operators of licenses for the transmission and/or distribution of energy in the UK and Ireland. Our members control and maintain the critical national infrastructure that delivers these vital services into customers' homes and businesses.

ENA's overriding goals are to promote UK and Ireland energy networks ensuring our networks are the safest, most reliable, most efficient and sustainable in the world. We influence decision-makers on issues that are important to our members. These include:

- Regulation and the wider representation in UK, Ireland and the rest of Europe
- Cost-efficient engineering services and related businesses for the benefit of members
- Safety, health and environment across the gas and electricity industries
- The development and deployment of smart technology
- Innovation strategy, reporting and collaboration in GB

As the voice of the energy networks sector, ENA acts as a strategic focus and channel of communication for the industry. We promote interests and good standing of the industry and provide a forum of discussion among company members.

### 1.2 Our members and associates

Membership of Energy Networks Association is open to all owners and operators of energy networks in the UK.

- ▶ Companies which operate smaller networks or are licence holders in the islands around the UK and Ireland can be associates of ENA too. This gives them access to the expertise and knowledge available through ENA.
- ▶ Companies and organisations with an interest in the UK transmission and distribution market are now able to directly benefit from the work of ENA through associate status.

### 1.2.1 ENA members



### 1.2.2 ENA associates

- [Chubu](#)
- [EEA](#)
- [Guernsey Electricity Ltd](#)
- [Heathrow Airport](#)
- [Jersey Electricity](#)
- [Manx Electricity Authority](#)
- [Network Rail](#)
- [TEPCO](#)

## 2 Work Stream 4 and Product 5 Overview

ENA Open Networks Work Stream 4 (“WS4”) is now in its third year of delivery in 2021. WS4 was created in response to stakeholder feedback in early 2019 to build on the work across the electricity Transmission and Distribution sectors to consider the whole energy system. Working closely with the Gas Networks as well as other industry reps including Energy UK, ADE and ESC, WS4 has made significant progress in building the foundations for whole system and for tackling whole system challenges.

This year, we have made the decision to facilitate WS4 as a joint workstream between Open Networks and ENA’s Gas Goes Green project that is looking at the future of gas and leading the transition. The focus of WS4 will continue to be on delivering tangible whole system change in the shorter term and this dual governance will help us better align the improvements that we deliver with the longer term vision for gas.

## 2.1 Introduction

Product 5 was recommended in the Workstream 4 (WS4) Final 2019 Report<sup>1</sup>, which identified the opportunity to take a consistent and co-ordinated approach to gathering regional data, particularly Local Authorities but also potentially other parties. Currently all of the networks gather this data independently so consistency would deliver efficiencies for the parties being requested data and consistency for industry. This was identified as a recommendation from the Investment Planning opportunity analysis work done in 2019 by Workstream 4.

This report outlines the work undertaken during 2020 and outlines the proposed work for 2021 that the Product group aims to complete.

## 2.2 P5 2020 Deliverables

The work to date for Product 5 is published in the final report published in May 2020<sup>2</sup>, and are summarised below:

- The requirements of each of the gas and electricity networks were collected and a general agreement in principle that a coordinated approach to gathering regional information would be of a benefit to stakeholders.
- A general data scope of the types of regional data that are collected by networks on a periodic basis from local stakeholders was summarised, such that a data scope
- A range of options to coordinate regional data gathering were considered with the implications and can be categorised into two different approaches:
  - **Network led** – an approach where networks agree to share data that is collected with other networks (gas and electricity) that share geographic areas as part of their network boundary. Note that there are different approaches for how this interaction can take place.
  - **Local Authority led** – an approach that encourages alignment in how and where regional data is published rather than aligning processes to gather data in the existing format.
- It is noted that the two approaches are not mutually exclusive, as a local authority led approach would take longer to implement than a networks led approach but would lead to more standardisation in how data is collated and used by networks as part of networks forecasting analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> Energy Networks Association: Open Networks project [Workstream 4 Whole Energy System Final 2019 Report](#)

<sup>2</sup> Energy Networks Association: Open Networks project [Workstream 4 Product 5 Coordinated Regional Data Gathering Report](#)

### 3 Coordinated Regional Data Gathering forward plan

#### 3.1 2021 Deliverables

To progress the two separate approaches to coordinating regional data gathering, it is proposed to split the 2021 deliverables into two streams.

Ref	Product Element	Activities	Duration	Timeline	Deliverables	Stakeholder Engagement	Approval
3A	<b>Local Authority led data alignment</b>	Continue to liaise with Ofgem/BEIS to support progress on Local Authority led data alignment approach to regional data gathering	8 months	Nov 20 – Jun 21	Local Authority led data alignment summary paper (Jan 21)	Advisory Group  Bespoke Local Authority Consultation	ON Steering Group  Gas Goes Green Steering Group
		Undertake further phases utilising Local Authority consultation where necessary					
3B	<b>Network led data alignment</b>	Seek support from network companies to share regional data on bilateral basis, as per 2020 proposal.	1 month	Jan 21	Network led data alignment proposal document (Dec 20)	Advisory Group	ON Steering Group  Gas Goes Green Steering Group
		Develop detailed processes, template etc. and populate with data.	5 months	Feb 21 – Jun 21	Repository of regional data.  Network led regional data gathering summary report (Sept 21)		
		Monitor progress and summarise findings in report, recommending future implementation across industry.	3 months	Jul 21 – Sept 21			

## 3.2 Network led data alignment

Phase 3B in the 2021 Project Initiation Document outlines a set of activities to progress a network led data alignment process. This aims to demonstrate a collaborative whole system approach to regional data gathering between networks, whereby duplication of data collection activities by networks is minimised. A summary of the proposal is shown in Section 3.

## 3.3 Local Authority led data alignment

Phase 3A in the 2021 Project Initiation Document outlines a set of activities to progress a local authority led data alignment process. The local authority led data alignment approach will liaise with Ofgem, BEIS and other parties to work towards a more standardised method for regional bodies to publish/share data with electricity and gas network companies. An outline summary of the proposal is shown in Section 4.

# 4 Network led data alignment proposal

## 4.1 Fundamental Principles

A network led data alignment approach aims to, where plausible, share regional data collected with other network companies. This data can be used as an input to strategic investment planning activities, and is a good opportunity to demonstrate whole system collaboration in this planning activity. The proposal detailed below aims to achieve this goal in the most efficient manner.

In previous work undertaken in 2020 it some delivery challenges were highlighted that need to be addressed before all networks could agree to adopt this approach:

- Timescales for data collection – by relying on data which has been collected by another network company, this may not be the most up to date information published by regional stakeholders.
- Stakeholder engagement - by relying on data which has been collected by another network company, this removes a valuable opportunity to engage with local stakeholders.
- Data checking – whilst a data scope was broadly agreed, the level of detail required by different networks may not be consistent. It may be required to further engage with local stakeholders to further query any data collected.

## 4.2 Summary of approach

Establishment of a repository to record regional data is central to this approach. A repository can be used by networks to:

- a) Check if another network company has collected and shared data which would be suitable for the purposes of their strategic study; and
- b) Upload data collected to the repository to allow other users to use where applicable.

It is expected that networks would follow a similar process as shown below in Figure 1 and adopt this into the existing processes used to collect and use regional data.

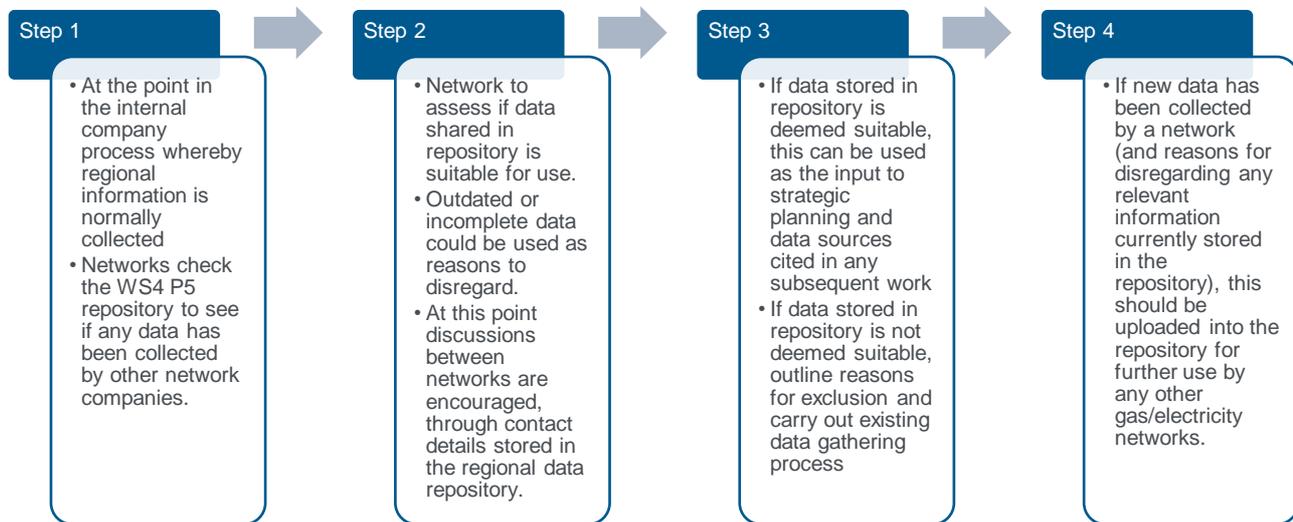


Figure 1: Proposed process for networks to follow when using a network led data alignment approach

The requirements for the design of the regional data repository should cover:

- **Flexibility** – as data collected does not follow a consistent format, a repository should be
- **Ease of use** – data should be organised in such a way that it is easy to identify, upload and access data.
- **Security** – repository should contain summary of data which is already publicly available; however limited user groups should be used to ensure that data integrity is maintained.

There are still some outstanding questions regarding the regional data repository that will be discussed by the Product 5 team.

- Who is responsible for ownership and maintenance of the regional data repository? This could be managed by internal or external resource, but this question may require additional resource.
- How should networks record when the regional data repository has been checked for suitable data, and if so if any data has been used or discounted?
- If there is not unanimous support from all network companies, can a regional data repository still deliver net benefit to customers with a subset of network companies represented?

### 4.3 Requirements from networks

As part of a network led data alignment approach, this should ideally have the support of all electricity and gas network companies to fully demonstrate whole energy system collaboration. As a result, the questions outlined below will be asked of the Product group to determine the full scope.

1. Is network willing to share regional data collected through engagement with local stakeholders with other network companies through use of a regional data repository?
2. Is network willing to use data collected by another network company as an input to the strategic planning activities, if the data collected is deemed to be complete and up to date?
3. Is network willing to follow a similar process to Figure 1, thereby adding an additional step into existing internal processes?

## 5 Local Authority led Data Alignment

### 5.1 Fundamental Principles

A local authority led data alignment approach aims to drive standardisation of regional data using an approach that encourages alignment in how and where regional data is published rather than aligning processes to gather data in the existing format.

Initial discussions between the product team and Ofgem were productive, and further discussions between Ofgem and relevant stakeholders show general support for a local authority led approach to data alignment. The proposal detailed below sets out a list of deliverables to progress with in 2021.

### 5.2 Summary of approach

Consultation with a wide group of stakeholders is required to develop a local authority led data alignment approach. In 2021, the product aims to ascertain if an agreement can be reached between regional stakeholders and network companies of how data used in strategic investment processes can be presented and used by networks.

It is proposed that a series of 'champion' local authorities are approached for bilateral discussions between regional bodies and network representatives, which focus on what regional data local authorities currently are able to provide networks and how network companies use regional data as an input to strategic planning activities. The purpose of these discussions is to establish if any further alignment can be made between utilities and local authorities to streamline the data sharing process.

These discussions could be conducted in collaboration with any consultation on Local Authority Optioneering proposed in 2021 as part of the Investment Planning Workstream 4 product, as a similar range of stakeholders will be consulted. In order to identify champion local stakeholders, UK100 will be consulted in conjunction with the existing knowledge and relationships held by product representatives to identify local authorities who are willing to participate.

The findings of these discussions will be used to present a proposal to Ofgem and the wider industry, stating how networks envisage the data provision process between local stakeholders and network to take place in future.

### 5.3 Requirements from networks

As part of wider Product representation in 2021, it is recommended that product representatives include a range of functions in order to promote discussion. This could include Product representatives involved strategic planning activities and stakeholder engagement.



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