

**UNC Workgroup 0741S Minutes**  
**Updating specific gender references to neutral terms**  
**Monday 22 February 2021**  
**via Teleconference**

**Attendees**

Kate Elleman (Chair)	(KE)	Joint Office
Maitrayee Bhowmick-Jewkes (Secretary)	(MBJ)	Joint Office
Alex Travell	(AT)	BU-UK
Andy Clasper	(AC)	Cadent
Guv Dosanjh	(GD)	Cadent
Michael Lain	(MC)	EON
Steve Mulinganie	(SM)	Gazprom Energy
Tracey Saunders	(TS)	Northern Gas Networks

Copies of all papers are available at: [www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0741/220221](http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0741/220221)

The Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel by 18 March 2021.

**1.0 Outline of Modification**

Kate Elleman (KE) introduced the Modification and confirmed that although this Modification will make changes to the Uniform Network Code (UNC), it will not be a material change and therefore it should follow the Self-Governance route. The Workgroup agreed with this suggestion.

Michael Lain (ML) presented the Modification to the Workgroup, advising that this Modification was proposing to update any specific gender references such as 'he', 'him', 'his', 'her' to neutral terms such as 'their', 'them' and 'they' in the UNC. He added this will also ensure that the UNC is aligned to other Codes such as the Retail Energy Code (REC) which already uses gender neutral terms.

KE noted that it might be difficult to differentiate between a gender neutral term referring to a single party or a group. ML explained that the wording in the UNC would clarify what the term is referring to.

The Workgroup noted the draft Workgroup Report for their consideration and that the Modification had an Appendix document which outlined the specific instances in which the UNC would be amended to update it in line with this Modification.

The Workgroup also considered the Legal Text and guidance provided for this Modification and confirmed they were comfortable with the principle by which the Legal Text had been created and presented.

The Workgroup agreed that they would bilaterally or independently review the Appendix and Legal Text to note the specific instances where the UNC was being amended, before the next UNC Modification Panel meeting on 18 March 2021, when the Workgroup Report for this Modification will be presented to Panel.

The Workgroup Report was updated to reflect that the Workgroup agreed on principles by which the Legal Text has been created and presented that the Modification could proceed to Panel for a decision on being issued for consultation.

KE noted that the Modification was meant to be discussed at the next Distribution Workgroup meeting and recommended this was no longer necessary as the Workgroup had agreed to finalise the Workgroup Report to be presented to Panel.

ML and the Workgroup agreed with this recommendation.

## 2.0 Initial Discussion

### 2.1. Issues and Questions from Panel

None raised.

### 2.2. Initial Representations

None received.

### 2.3. Terms of Reference

The standard UNC Workgroup Terms of Reference will apply and is available at [www.gasgovernance.co.uk/mods](http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/mods)

## 3.0 Next Steps

The Workgroup agreed that:

- KE would finalise the Workgroup Report to present to the UNC Modification Panel on 18 March 2021.
- The Workgroup Report would recommend that the Modification be issued for consultation.

## 4.0 Any Other Business

None.

## 5.0 Diary Planning

Further details of planned meetings are available at: [www.gasgovernance.co.uk/events-calendar/month](http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/events-calendar/month)

No further Workgroup meetings are required.

**Action Table (as at 22 February 2021)**

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
			No Actions Taken.		