



**Modification 0702 –Introducing ‘Research Body’
as a new user type to the Data Permissions Matrix
and UNC TPD Section V5**

DWG – 17th December 2019

Research Body definition

Proposed definition:

A Research Body is a [Companies House registered] organisation who requires access to gas industry data for an agreed objective [and agreed period of time]

Considerations / Assumptions:

- The code definition of the Research Body should be high level
- Details on the 'agreed objectives' should be included within a supporting document i.e. Operating Guidelines document
- Contract Management Committee (CoMC) must assess a Research Body request against the agreed objective
- Agreed objectives should include (but not exclusively):
 - innovation
 - operational excellence
 - efficiency in the UK Energy Industry where the relevant party can demonstrate that their research will benefit consumers, business, government or society.

Proposed Appeal process

- During Modification development, we discussed whether an appeals process was necessary for the assessment of the Research Body request
- The request would go to DSC CoMC for a decision, if the Research Body was not happy with the outcome, they can appeal the decision
- Logically this would go to the UNCC however DWG members felt that since the DSC Contract Managers were likely to be also UNCC members, this would be an unnecessary step in a process and should instead be referred to the Authority
- CDSP took an action to liaise with Ofgem to understand if they felt it appropriate for the appeal to go to them
- Ofgem have suggested we work on the assumption that it will be them who receive the appeal (with advice from ICO if necessary)

Right to audit

- During Modification development, DWG members mentioned an audit requirement on a Research Body whose request was accepted and has been granted access to data
- To confirm, there will need to be a 'right to audit' agreement with the Research Body where they have gained access to the agreed data
- This audit right needs to be clearly set out with an agreed notice period
- It should be a right to audit but not a requirement to do so

Interest in the Research Body

- Last DWG meeting, we advised the group that we haven't to date received any requests or questions regarding the Research Body
- To confirm, we have since received some requests for data which could fall under the Research Body umbrella
- Based on this, do we think the timescales are still suitable?