

Alan Campbell  
SONI LTD  
Castlereagh House  
12 Manse Road  
Belfast  
BT6 9RT

07 September 2023

Our Ref: NET/E/DH/708

Dear Alan,

**Re: SONI Limited- Provision of information to gas network operators**

**Whereas;**

- (a) SONI Limited (“**SONI**”) (“**the Licensee**”) holds an electricity transmission licence (the “**Licence**”) granted to it on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007.
- (b) The Licensee is authorised to participate in the transmission of electricity for the purpose of giving a supply to any premises or enabling a supply to be so given.
- (c) Condition 36 of the Licence stipulates that the Licensee shall provide (in such manner and at such times as may reasonably be requested by the relevant operator or as may be directed by the Authority) to any other transmission system operator or distribution system operator (where such phrases have the meanings given to them in the Directive) with whose system the transmission system is connected, sufficient information to ensure the secure and efficient operation, co-ordinated development and interoperability of, the transmission system and such other system.
- (d) Condition 36 also states that it is subject to the provisions of Condition 11 of the Licence.
- (e) Condition 11 of the Licence contains restrictions as to the disclosure of protected information. Condition 11 (4) (a) states that disclosure of information which is authorised by Section 63 (3) or (4) of the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (the “**Energy Order**”) shall be exempt from the restrictions.
- (f) Section 63 (3) (a) of the Energy Order removes the restriction on the disclosure of information where the disclosure is made for the purposes of facilitating the performance of any functions of the Department, the Authority, the Council or the CMA under the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992, the Electricity (Single Wholesale Market)

(Northern Ireland) Order 2007, the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 or the Energy Order.

**The Authority now directs as follows:-**

1. Pursuant to its power under Condition 36 (1) of the Licence, subject as it is to Condition 11 of the licence, the Authority directs that the Licensee should provide the relevant protected information specified below to gas network operators (comprising both Transmission System Operators and Distribution Network Operators).
2. The information includes:
  - Long term forecasting assumptions and outcomes for gas-fired generation, for ten years and beyond
  - Short term forecast and actual dispatch patterns for gas-fired generation
  - Advance notice of new capacity qualification information into SEM which may require additional gas capacity.
  - Any other information considered relevant by gas TSOs/DNOs<sup>1</sup> (requested in association with article 63(3)(d) of the Energy Order) which is required in order to meet the principal objectives in respect of electricity and/or gas as outlined in the Energy Order.

The above direction will allow SONI to provide information that will assist with a number of functions of the UR being met. These functions include the granting, modifying and enforcement of licences across the gas and electricity sectors via the identification of system constraints and other issues thanks to a more comprehensive and coordinated Gas Capacity Statement. Gas TSOs have a licence obligation to prepare said statement annually, which assists with security of supply monitoring by the UR. The information provided will allow the Gas TSOs to better meet their licence obligation.

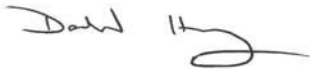
In allowing a more coordinated approach, the network development and planning of the gas and electricity networks will be enhanced. An example of this is Project 7 in the UR's Forward

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<sup>1</sup> In the eventuality of a dispute between SONI and gas network operators in respect of any information requested to be shared, UR will reserve the right to make a determination on the necessity of the sharing of any such information.

Work Programme for 2023/24<sup>2</sup>. The outcome of the project is outlined as ensuring that the ‘gas transmission system can cope with new gas-fired electricity generation and will enhance electricity security of supply and facilitate increases in gas demand’.

Yours sincerely



Donald Henry

**Director Networks and Energy Futures.**

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<sup>2</sup> [FWP 2023-24 Final.pdf \(uregni.gov.uk\)](#)