

THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUTHORITY FOR UTILITY REGULATION

DECISION UNDER ARTICLE 14(8)-(10) OF THE ELECTRICITY (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1992 (AS AMENDED)

MODIFICATIONS TO THE LICENCE HELD BY SONI LIMITED AUTHORISING IT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICITY

In accordance with Article 14(2) of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (as amended) (the **Order**) the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (the **Authority**) published, on 1 September 2025, a notice (the **Consultation Notice**) of its intention to modify the conditions of the electricity transmission licence (the **Licence**), held by SONI (the **Licensee**).

In accordance with Article 14(5) of the Order, the Authority has considered all of the representations duly made to it in response to the Consultation Notice. The Authority has decided to proceed with the making of the modifications of the conditions of the Licence in exercise of its powers under Article 14(1) of the Order.

In accordance with Article 14(8) of the Order, the Authority gives notice as follows:

- 1 The Licence shall be modified as follows –
 - (a) A new condition, Condition 44: REPG Scheme – Preparatory Activities in the Interim Period as set out in full in Part B of Schedule 1 to this notice, shall be included after existing Condition 43.
 - (b) Existing Condition 1 shall be modified in the manner set out in redline format in Part A of Schedule 1 to this notice.
- 2 The effects of the modifications are to:
 - (a) to require the Licensee, in the period prior to new regulations being made by the Department for the Economy (the Department) to introduce and implement a new renewable electricity price guarantee scheme, to
 - (i) engage, as and when requested, with the Department and/or the Authority, with regard to matters related to the Department's proposals for a new renewable electricity price guarantee scheme; and
 - (ii) carry out such preparatory work as is necessary and proportionate to enable the Licensee to undertake, following the making of the new regulations, the role which is being proposed for it by the Department in respect of the Department's proposed new scheme; and.
 - (b) expand the definition of Transmission System Operator Business such

that it covers the activities undertaken by the Licensee in accordance with the provisions of the proposed new condition

(c) This Licence Condition only applies in respect of the period prior to the regulations being made

- 3 In accordance with Articles 14(9)-(10) of the Order, the licence modifications made in accordance with this notice shall have effect on and from 1 January 2026.
- 4 The Authority has, pursuant to Article 14(8)(a) of the Order, published this notice on its website and sent a copy of this notice to the Licensee. In addition, pursuant to Article 14(8)(a) of the Order, the Authority has provided a copy of this notice to the Department for the Economy and the Consumer Council.
- 5 The modifications can be obtained in hard copy by sending a request to:

Debbie Hurson
Utility Regulator
Millennium House
Great Victoria St
Belfast
BT2 7AQ
Email: Debbie.hurson@uregni.gov.uk and
electricity_networks_responses@uregni.gov.uk

Dated this day 06 November 2025



John French

Chief Executive

For and on behalf of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation

SCHEDULE 1 – THE MODIFICATIONS

(A) Modification (shown in redline) to the existing definition of Transmission System Operator Business in Condition 1 of the Licence

“Transmission System Operator Business”	means the business of the Licensee (or any affiliate or related undertaking): (a) in the planning and operation of the transmission system; or (b) in the operation of the Capacity Market; or (c) in the procurement of System Support Services (whether or not pursuant to directions of the Department made under Article 37 or 38 of the Order); or (d) in the co-ordination and direction of the flow of electricity onto and over the transmission system; or (e) in the operation of the Balancing Market; or (f) in the undertaking of its obligations under the Licence in respect of Northern Ireland Interconnectors; or (g) in the undertaking of electricity trades with the operators of systems other than the transmission system as approved by the Authority, including any business in offering to enter into, and entering into, Connection Agreements and Use of System Agreements; or <u>(h) in undertaking any activities in accordance with Condition 44 of this Licence.</u> but shall not include: (a)(i) any business of the Licensee (or any affiliate or related undertaking) in undertaking Market Operation Activity or the NEMO Activity; or
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	(b)(i) _____ any business of the Licensee (or any affiliate or related undertaking) in undertaking the Transmission Owner Business; or (e)(k) _____ any business of the Licensee (or any affiliate or related undertaking) in undertaking the Distribution Business; or (d)(l) _____ any other business of the Licensee (or any affiliate or related undertaking) in the provision of services to or on behalf of one or more persons.
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(B) New Condition 44

Condition 44. REPG Scheme – Preparatory Activities in the Interim Period

Introduction

- 1 This Condition requires the Licensee to undertake necessary preparatory steps in anticipation of a role proposed to be conferred on the Licensee under forthcoming Northern Ireland legislation in respect of a REPG Scheme (the '**new role**').

Preparation for REPG Role

- 2 The Licensee shall, during the Interim Period, engage in the following activities to prepare for the new role:
- (a) engaging, upon request, with the Department and/or the Authority for the purposes of facilitating:
 - (i) the design of a REPG Scheme;
 - (ii) the scope and extent of the functions to be conferred on the Licensee in respect of a REPG Scheme; and
 - (iii) the making by the Department of any Regulations which confer functions on the Licensee in respect of a REPG Scheme; and
 - (b) carrying out such preparatory tasks and taking such preparatory steps, of the nature described in a written communication of 18th February 2025 from the Department to the Licensee, as are necessary and proportionate for the Licensee to take to ensure that the Licensee will have the capability to comply with the obligations imposed on it under the Regulations on and from the date on which the Regulations first take effect

Definitions

In this Condition:

REPG Scheme	means a renewable electricity price guarantee scheme for Northern Ireland.
Regulations	means any regulations which may be made by the Department in the first exercise of the functions conferred on it under or by virtue of the primary legislation which makes provision for the implementation of a REPG Scheme.

Interim Period	means the period starting on [] and ending on the date on which the Regulations first take effect.
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