

Contestability in Connections

Utility Regulator Workshop- 27th March 2020



Dial in Details

- Please see below conference call details for the Contestability Working Group on Friday 27/03/2020 @ 2pm;
- Std International Dial-In Number: +44 (0) 3306 068580
- Conference code: 2850447739

Purpose of Workshop

Background of Contestability in NI

Discuss NI ICP specific issues

Learn from experiences in GB/RoI

Gather informed opinion from stakeholders

Next steps

Agenda

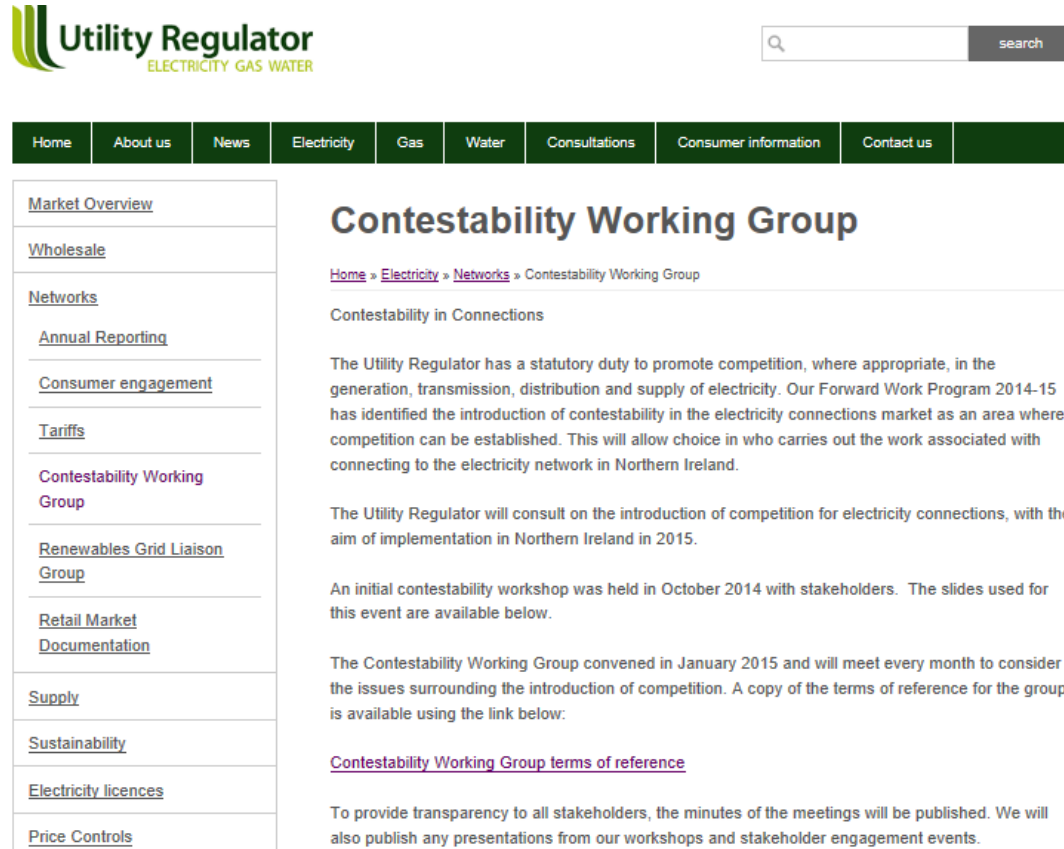
- Introductions
- Presentation from UR
- Review of Contestability Working Group ToR
- Presentation from ICP's
- Presentation from NIE Networks
- Update from SONI
- Open discussion on the issues
- Next steps
- Date of Next Meeting
- AOB

Background

- In 2014 – UR launched a review of contestability of new connections to electricity networks
- September 2014 – UR issued Call for Evidence
- December 2014 - UR Consultation on Contestability
- May 2015 - UR Next Steps Paper- Contestability in Connections
- July 2015 – UR Decision paper - contestability in electricity connections
- March 2016 - Contestability guidelines and guidelines consultation report
- May 2016 - ICP Workshop Invitation
- June 2016 - SONI issued a consultation on the charging methodology for electricity transmission connections
- June 2016 -UR issued Update note on Contestability in Connection
- ICP portal launched and charging methodologies updated
- Staged market opening, went live for <5MW in April 2018

Terms of Reference

- Details on our website:
- https://www.uregni.gov.uk/sites/uregni.gov.uk/files/media-files/Terms_of_Reference_for_contestability_working_group.pdf



The screenshot shows the Utility Regulator website with the following structure:

- Header:** Utility Regulator logo and a search bar.
- Navigation Menu:** Home, About us, News, Electricity, Gas, Water, Consultations, Consumer information, Contact us.
- Left Sidebar (Market Overview):**
 - Wholesale
 - Networks
 - Annual Reporting
 - Consumer engagement
 - Tariffs
 - Contestability Working Group**
 - Renewables Grid Liaison Group
 - Retail Market Documentation
 - Supply
 - Sustainability
 - Electricity licences
 - Price Controls
- Main Content Area:**

Contestability Working Group

[Home](#) » [Electricity](#) » [Networks](#) » Contestability Working Group

Contestability in Connections

The Utility Regulator has a statutory duty to promote competition, where appropriate, in the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity. Our Forward Work Program 2014-15 has identified the introduction of contestability in the electricity connections market as an area where competition can be established. This will allow choice in who carries out the work associated with connecting to the electricity network in Northern Ireland.

The Utility Regulator will consult on the introduction of competition for electricity connections, with the aim of implementation in Northern Ireland in 2015.

An initial contestability workshop was held in October 2014 with stakeholders. The slides used for this event are available below.

The Contestability Working Group convened in January 2015 and will meet every month to consider the issues surrounding the introduction of competition. A copy of the terms of reference for the group is available using the link below:

[Contestability Working Group terms of reference](#)

To provide transparency to all stakeholders, the minutes of the meetings will be published. We will also publish any presentations from our workshops and stakeholder engagement events.

Contestable v non contestable

- The <5MW connection market has been live since April 2018.
- There are currently a number of non contestable activities in NI.
- Now that the market has been established we should review which further non contestable activities can become contestable.
 - Identify activities that can become contestable.
 - Establish timetable for this process
- Where possible learn from experiences in GB/RoI.
- Significant changes should be publicly consulted upon.
- Charging Statements will be updated to reflect decisions.

Examples of Non contestable activities

1. Definition of point of connection
2. Design of point of connection
3. Upstream reinforcement
4. Making final connection to existing system
5. System protection metering and communication
6. Handover and acceptance of contestable assets
7. Design approval
8. Commissioning
9. Functional Specifications
10. Determination of Ownership boundaries
11. Inspection and Monitoring
12. Working within live Substations

Presentations

- Presentation from ICP's
- Presentation from NIE Networks
- Update from SONI
- Open discussion on the issues
- Next steps
- AOB