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Incentive on Connections Engagement

ICE 2020/21 Plan

Q1—March 2021

Status Update



Serving the Midlands, South West and Wales

	Action Number	Initiative Stakeholder	Initiative Outcome	Measure	Target Date	Status Update Q1
	& Subject	Feedback			(Q2, Q3, Q4, Q1)	
	1 Heat Pump Strategy	Understand WPD's Heat Pump Strategy.	To support the up-take of Heat Pumps we will issue a Heat Pump Strategy. The document will explain the options for connection and detail the actions we are taking to support roll out.	Positive stakeholder feedback on Heat Pump strategy	Q2 June 2020	COMPLETED Heat pump strategy was completed in June 2020 - Please see our Heat Pump strategy https://www.westernpower.co.uk/heat-pump-strategy 1,147 web hits on Heat Pump Strategy 4,656 downloads on Heat Pump Strategy
dance	2 Statement of Works (SoW)	Statement of Works (SoW) - Provide guidance relating to how the SoW process will develop following codification	To update external guidance document, information on WPD's website and template letters following the outcome of CMP298, which is designed to formally codify the Appendix G process into CUSC and is expected to conclude at the end of 2020	Updated document issued to stakeholders. Positive feedback from stakeholders through a questionnaire in relation to the updated document.	Q4 Dec 2020 Extended to ICE 2021/22 Plan Q4 Dec 2021 Action 4	Action is ongoing as awaiting the outcome of working group CMP298, which is seeking to update the SoW process to facilitate aggregated assessment of relevant and collectively relevant embedded generation. This modification hasn't been given priority by the Connection & Use of System Code (CUSC) Panel. This ICE Action has rolled over into the ICE 2021/22 Plan Action 4.
Policy Guidance		Improve transparency with regard to how WPD facilitates its connections interactivity process	Identify and implement any improvements to existing guidance to improve consistency, transparency and fair application of interactivity principles. Have regard to concurrent work being undertaken by the ENA following Open Network consultation on the policy mechanisms and implement any changes as necessary.	Provide clear and concise information to our stakeholders via various means including the website.	Q4 Dec 2020	New Interactivity Guidance is now published. Please see the WPD website https://www.westernpower.co.uk/connections-landing/connection-offers-and-agreements/types-of-connection-offer. Updated internal guidance was also published in parallel. Since the Interactivity Guide has been published, we have had 8,302 web hits and 178 downloads
	Connections Queue	Improve transparency with regard to how WPD facilitates its connections queue management process.	Identify and implement any improvements to existing guidance to improve consistency, transparency and fair application of queue management principles. Have regard to concurrent work being undertaken by the ENA following Open Network consultation on the policy mechanisms and implement any changes as necessary.	Provide clear and concise information to stakeholders via various means including the website.	Q3 Sept 2020 Extended to ICE 2021/22 Plan Q2 June 2021 Action 3	The Queue Management Good Practice Guidance document has been issued. The ENA Queue Management implementation plan was issued Q1 March 2021. We have begun implementing processes and system changes where required in readiness for the implementation of Queue Management in ICE 2021/22 Plan Action 3 Q2 June 2021.

Status Update Q1

Target Date (Q2, Q3, Q4, Q1)

COMPLETED

	WPD ICE 2020/21 PLAN								
	Action Number & Subject	Initiative Stakeholder Feedback	Initiative Outcome						
Policy Guidance	5 LV, HV & EHV Post Acceptance Guidance	Expand the Post-acceptance Guidance Document delivered in 2019 to include pre-application considerations.	Further improve the information stakeholders by i) separating out guidance on guidance on EHV ii) providing more information application considerations fo connections.						
	6 Guidance for Smaller Developments	Develop guidance for small developers and house builders giving a practical guide on connections information.	Providing health and safety, information to a non-technic requirements to proceed. Review and improve the exis post-acceptance requirements investigate the feasibility of guides using social media and implementation strategy.						

tance vered in ication	Further improve the information available to stakeholders by i) separating out guidance on LV/HV connections from guidance on EHV ii) providing more information relating to preapplication considerations for LV, HV & EHV connections.	Positive feedback on documentation including the website hits.	Q4 Dec 2020	We have published revised guidance documents, with separate guidance for LV and HV compared to EHV. The guidance has been expanded to include -pre-application information, -the application process -post application information. . A copy of the guidance documents can be viewed at https://www.westernpower.co.uk/downloads-view-reciteme/247567 for LV and HV guidance https://www.westernpower.co.uk/downloads-view-reciteme/247561 for EHV and 132kV guidance. WPD Guides EHV and 132kV =Downloads 185 WPD Guides LV and HV = Downloads 243
small uilders e on iion.	Providing health and safety, technical and practical information to a non-technical customer on requirements to proceed. Review and improve the existing guidance on pre and post-acceptance requirements. Investigate the feasibility of providing more visual guides using social media and develop an implementation strategy.	Number of hits on improved guidance. Completion of social media strategy.	Q4 Dec 2020	Following stakeholder feedback from our CCSG and stakeholder workshops, we have revised some of our existing guidance for pre and post connections (see ICE Action 5). We have developed a social media strategy, and we decided visual guides in the form of animations is the best way to convey the message to stakeholders and that by breaking them down in to parts to help those with little or no understanding of the process. Our smaller developers visual guide is to go on our website with the ICE 2021/22 plan—Action 20. WPD Guides EHV and 132kV =Downloads 185 WPD Guides LV and HV = Downloads 243

Measure

Target Date

Status Update Q1

WPD ICE 2020/21 PLAN

Action Number

Initiative Stakeholder Initiative Outcome

	& Subject	Feedback		Measure	(Q2, Q3, Q4, Q1)	
Policy Guidance	7 Capacity, Allocation & Reservation Continuing 2019/20 Initiative: 1.4	Continue to develop processes and procedures for capacity allocation and reservation	Following the publication of our final decision document in March 2019 we will implement revised processes, agreements, terms and conditions relating to how network capacity is offered on new connection and infrastructure schemes, as well as the management of capacity in ongoing schemes following acceptance of a connection or infrastructure offer.	100% training completed. Positive feedback on external publication on website.	Q3 Sept 2020	We held a webinar with 47 attendees prior to implementation with our external stakeholders, a recording of which can be viewed on our website at https://www.westernpower.co.uk/allocation-and-reservation-of-capacity From publication, we have had 284 web hits, no negative feedback received. In addition we published a guidance document for our external stakeholders, plus an FAQ document which incorporates the questions raised following our webinar. These can also be viewed at the above website location.
Customer Support	8 Network Capacity Map for ANM	Continue to improve the network capacity map - Transmission ANM and curtailment levels for the different DG technologies	Continue to improve the Network Capacity Map to provide better information for Transmission ANM (TANM) and explore options for providing indicative curtailment information.	CCSG presentation & feedback/survey on the improvements completed	Q4 Dec 2020 Extended to ICE 2021/22 Plan Q3 Sept 2021 Action 17	Improved information relating to Appendix G and TANM is now published on our website at https://www.westernpower.co.uk/transmission-active-network-management-tanm-and-appendix-g We are undertaking further work to look at options for publishing levels of curtailment. The work so far shows that this is a very complex mechanism to do in a way that will give customers meaningful information, but certain methods are evolving. The action is extended into ICE 2021/22 Plan— Q3 Sept 2021 Action 17. 54,237 web hits since improved information on capacity Map for ANM.
์ ਹ	9 EHV Tower Connections	Improve consistency across all four of WPD's licence areas regarding EHV tower connection design.	Undertake a review of design philosophy in relation to connections to towers across the four licensed areas to establish best practice where there is an inconsistency of approach.	Undertake review of Connection Offers issued to compare against finalised design guidance.	Q4 Dec 2020 Extended to Q1 March 2021	COMPLETED We have received a design guide document from our external consultant and we are now reviewing this to see how we can implement it . Next Steps -Workshops with the 132kV WPD delivery teams -Develop a consistent costing structure -Planners to prepare connection offers on the basis of this new guidance.

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	10 Opening ANM Zones	Provide easier access for customers who use ANM zones.	Improve the way ANM zones are opened by using a more flexible and responsive method, rather than on a specific programme. This will include changed external and internal guidance.	Positive feedback from stakeholders on changes to ANM zones method and usefulness of guidance	Q3 Sept 2020	COMPLETED The new process was updated on the website by 30th Sept. https://www.westernpower.co.uk/active-network-management-anm 957 web hits on the new external guide
Support	11 DSO Information for Local/Rural Stakeholders	Raise awareness regarding how rural areas might be impacted as we move to a DSO	Further improve the information available on DSO webpages setting out local/rural DSO information and how this might help them understand our investment plans. Improve awareness of this information by writing to rural areas within WPDs regions, updating them on the information WPD make available as well as the WPD contacts for discussing both long term plans.	Completion of improvement on DSO web pages. Positive stakeholder feedback on improved webpages	Q1 March 2021	Information on how we are supporting rural stakeholders through the energy system transition has been included on our website and we are undertaking direct engagement with rural communities to help further support this activity. https://www.westernpower.co.uk/customers-and-community/dso-information-for-local-and-rural-stakeholders 55 Web Hits on the new web pages in one month.
Cusi	12 Distributed Generation KPI Pack Continuing 2019/20 Initiative 3.11		Develop a quarterly KPI pack incorporating measures on outage activity, timeliness and accuracy of notifications. Work with DGOO stakeholders to identify and develop KPIs aligned with their requirements.	Stakeholder feedback & web hits on DGOO webpage	Q3 Sept 2020	The Distribution Generation KPI pack is now available from 30th September 2020 on https://www.generation.westernpower.co.uk 122 web hits on Generator Portal 424 hits on DGOO Forum page https://yourpowerfuture.westernpower.co.uk/our-engagement-groups/connection-customer-engagement/distributed-owner-operator-forum
	13 Unmetered Infrastructure Notification Continuing 2019/20 Initiative: 3.14	support notification of planned	Develop a trial with a telecoms infrastructure provider to test the feasibility of accurately notifying a customer of planned outages of the unmetered connections to their critical broadband telecoms infrastructure.	Positive feedback on updates to changed planned work.	Q4 Dec 2020 Extended to Q1 March 2021	COMPLETED We have completed our trial internally, and we are ready to go-live. The major communications company is working with us to start the implementation of our external trial, but due to circumstances beyond their control they are unable to proceed at present but are hopeful to start in the Summer 2021.

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Communication	14 Connection Surgeries	Implement voluntary 5 day standard process for pre- quotation connections surgeries	Produce and consult with stakeholders on the questionnaire and get approval. Issue questionnaire and collate feedback. Review and investigate the connection surgeries process on how we provide and deliver our connections surgeries and make improvements if necessary following questionnaire feedback. Each surgery customer to be asked to complete approved satisfaction feedback/survey. Trial "virtual" surgeries for customers who find it difficult to attend our offices.	Produce questionnaire - end June 2020 Issue questionnaire - end July 2020 Trial virtual connection surgeries - end Aug 2020 Review connection surgeries - end Nov 2020	Q4 Dec 2020 Extended to Q1 March 2021	COMPLETED Connection Surgeries continue to be delivered virtually, which was one of the preferred outcomes for this ICE action. We completed 95% of customer contact for our connection surgeries within 3 working days. For more information on our connection surgeries please go to https://www.westernpower.co.uk/connections-landing/surgery-appointments 557 Connection Surgery appointment's in ICE year 2020/-21
	15 Internal Communication on Connection Policy	Develop consistency of response relating to connections service across all four of WPD's distribution areas.	Review and improve the existing process for disseminating connection policy Develop a central on-line Policy Dissemination hub for our Planners to allow easier navigation to WPD policies and processes.	Ensure delivery and all Planners are familiar with the new hub and how to use it. Positive stakeholder feedback	O3 Sept 2020	We have now implemented the use of WPD's 'SharePoint' system to enable internal policy information to be stored in a common area. The system works much like an intranet system to allow easy navigation, includes a search functionality and provides the opportunity to add 'News' items when policy is amended or replaced.
	16 Unmetered Connection Offers	Create simplified Connection Offers for unmetered connections.	Undertake a survey to ask for feedback on the unmetered connections offer process. We will document and publish the survey in order to identify any improvements which can be made and develop further actions for implementation in Q4 2020.	Publish survey results and further actions for implementation in December 2020.	Q2 June 2020	COMPLETED We have completed this initial action, but in our October, ICE Plan submission we included an enhanced action following on from the feedback received from the UMS survey. See new ICE 2020/21 Action 31. Our UMS survey in May 2020 can be viewed and associated summary document on our website via the following https://www.westernpower.co.uk/connections-landing/unmetered-connections

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Communication	17 ICP & IDNO Web based Application Service	Develop the on-line application process for ICP's and IDNOs.	To further develop our website based application service for connections for our ICP's and IDNOS, with the facility to track the schemes progress from initial application through to connection.	Increase in number of stakeholders using the on-line application process	Q1 March 2021	Further updates and improvements have been implemented into the website portal for Live Joint ICP applications. Additionally the existing CIRT (Crown Internet Routing and Tracking) online process has been completely updated allowing users to use the Website Portal to track new enquires from application to connection. This new "Enquiry Tracker" website went live in Q1 March 2021. For further information on how to register please email wpdcirt@westernpower.co.uk Enquiry Tracker Enquiries' since go live in March we had 49 enquiries in April—Enquiries up monthly by 53%
	18 Community Energy Strategy & Action Plan	Requirement to understand WPD's strategy for community energy engagement and commitment to actions	To publish a community energy strategy and action plan providing information on the definition of community energy. To communicate to the stakeholders using this and the WPD website.	Completion of strategy and action plan	Q2 June 2020	Our Net Zero Communities strategy sets out the work we have done in collaboration with community energy groups over the past seven years. A comprehensive action plan covering all four licence areas was created which included 26 actions. Please see our strategy at https://www.westernpower.co.uk/customers-and-community/community-energy/communities-strategy
	19 Community Energy and Innovation Jargon Buster	Help understanding of terms commonly used in community energy and innovation. To quantify the acronyms and dialogue used.	To simplify the jargon world of acronyms within innovation and community energy. To give a clear and concise understanding of both worlds, giving the outcome on a podcast and simple web page.	Completion of jargon buster for community energy Positive stakeholder feedback on podcast and web page	Q2 June 2020	Please visit our community energy website at https://www.westernpower.co.uk/customers-and-community/community-energy Animations - 4,163 views Podcasts - 3,793 hits Guides - 5,190 Downloads No negative feedback received

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munication	20 Promote Collaborative Partnership Protocol Process	Update customers on the legal collaborative partnership	To encourage customers to use the legal collaborative partnership protocol process initiated in 2019 we will produce a clear and concise guidance document that may be viewed via the WPD website. The guide will navigate the customer through the legal process, ensuring the guidance helps streamline the process for the customer.	To gain a positive uptake of the legal collaborative partnership process Positive stakeholder feedback	Q3 Sept 2020	We have now implemented the New Connections Legal process guide, it outlines a series of practical steps that our customers and their legal representatives should consider, if they wish to avoid delays in securing connections to our network. The key elements of the process/protocol are a shared commitment to act expeditiously with the aim of completing as many new connections within 50 days of legals being instructed. The number within 50 days completions in March 2021 was 33% higher than February. Average completion days were 28 days, representing an improvement of 30% month to month. https://www.westernpower.co.uk/legal-process
	21 The New Targeted Charging Review (TCR) Information on Prices	Targeted Charging Review (TCR) and Significant Code Review (SCR) regarding changes to the	Following the outcome of the TCR Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement (DCUSA) process expected to be in Q2 2020 we will engage and inform our stakeholders via a podcast of the TCR prices that will be set in December 2020. We will also discuss any movement in the Ofgem access and forward looking charges SCR.	Number of counts on TCR podcast	Q1 March 2021	We undertook to provide advice by means of creating a Podcast that consumers could access and gain clarity on how the recovery of DUoS charges will change. Our TCR podcast went live in February 2021, in the Podcast our Income Manager, Simon Yeo and Senior Analyst Dave Wornell described how changes to the structure of DUoS charges are being made now in readiness for implementation in April 2022. 220 podcast counts in March 2021 If you do have any questions please contact us on wpdpricing@westernpower.co.uk.
	Distributed Generation Owner Operator Portal Continuing 2019/20 initiative: 3.13		Enhance DGOO portal to be able to record and communicate reasons for changes to planned outages.	Stakeholder feedback on KPI pack published on website	Q3 Sept 2020	COMPLETED WPDs Outage Management System has been updated to include a new field called 'Reason for Change' and this field now appears on the DG portal when a Planned Outage is viewed. The DG portal can be accessed at https://www.generation.westernpower.co.uk

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#	23 Net Zero Surgeries	Stakeholders will be able to request bi-lateral meetings with a local multi-disciplinary team to help facilitate progress towards decarbonisation.	Net Zero Surgeries – Stakeholders will be able to request bi-lateral meetings with a local multi-disciplinary team to support delivery of small-scale energy projects. The availability of these will be publicised on our website, where a request can be made directly.	Following a request for a meeting they will be arranged within 3 days and carried out within 3 weeks. Meetings delivered within the timescales agreed	Q1 March 2021	COMPLETED Net Zero surgeries can still be requested by our customers on our website at https://www.westernpower.co.uk/connections-landing/surgery-appointments. All Net Zero surgeries contacted in 3 working days.
Stakeholder Engagement	24 Local Authorities Engagement	Pro-actively engage with all local authorities to share our Distribution Future Energy Scenario (DFES) data.	Pro-actively engage with all local authorities operating within WPD's licence areas to share our DFES data and discuss energy strategies. Engagement will be undertaken by WPD Distribution Managers and team members.	80% of LA's attend engagement meetings	Q1 March 2021	COMPLETED Through continued stakeholder engagement, 100% of all Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships have been successfully engaged –130 in total. The engagement will continue throughout 2021.
	25 Community Energy Surgeries	Hold Community Energy Surgeries so that stakeholders can request bi-lateral meetings.	Community Energy Surgeries – Stakeholders will be able to request bi-lateral meetings with a local multi-disciplinary team to support delivery of small-scale energy projects. The availability of these will be publicised in our Community Energy Strategy and on our website, where a request can be made directly.	Following a request for a meeting they will be arranged within 3 days and carried out within 3 weeks. Meetings delivered within the timescales agreed	Q1 March 2021	COMPLETED Community Energy Surgeries can still be requested by our customers on our website at https://www.westernpower.co.uk/connections-landing/surgery-appointments. All Community Energy surgeries contacted in 3 working days.

	Action Number & Subject	Initiative Stakeholder Feedback	Initiative Outcome	Measure	Target Date (Q2, Q3, Q4, Q1)	Status Update Q1
Stakeholder Engagement	26 Major Customer Engagement Event	Hold a second connections networking event, providing useful face-to-face engagement with a networking opportunity for WPD connection stakeholders.	Hold an event in Autumn 2020 to brief with a wide spectrum of stakeholders on WPD's connection strategies and actions we have taken or about to take in 2020 and the future.	85% positive feedback from major customer event.	Q4 Dec 2020	An event was held virtually via Zoom on 25th November 2020 on new connections. In total 53 stakeholders attended the workshop representing 45 organisations. There was a wide range of representation including house builders, ICPs, IDNOs, utilities, LCT community, LAs and LEPs. The workshop covered the topics; -connections strategy for RIIO-ED2 -supporting the transition to Net Zero (Heat Pumps & EVs) -digitalisation & data -strategic investment during ED2 The workshop, also provided the opportunity for the attendees to give feedback in the breakout sessions and further endorse via a digital survey throughout the event. The event was well received by the attendees with 91% thought the event was interesting or very interesting on the overall satisfaction of the event. The stakeholders said "it gave an opportunity to engage with other stakeholders and the WPD representatives on the individual topics".
Stak	27 Heat Pump Trial	Understand the impact of higher levels of Heat Pumps on the distribution system.	To understand the network impact of Heat Pumps, and to assess the practicalities of installation we are working with a partner to develop new houses with LCT heating systems. The learning from this project will inform a revision to our Heat Pump Strategy document in 2021.	Completion of Trial	Q1 March 2021 Extended to ICE 2021/22 Plan Q3 Sept 2021 - Action 5	Due to Covid-19 this project was delayed with no work being undertaken on site. The objective is still as planned, namely, we are partners on a project estate of circa 250 homes in which each house has a complete suite of LCT's such as generation, heat pumps, electric vehicles and energy storage. However, in October 2020 we installed some monitoring equipment on a feeder with 10 houses. These houses then had their heat pumps switched on so we can monitor the current drain on the feeder, this can then give us a view on the likely load following a long outage caused by a storm or black start event. We will update on the outcomes in our Q3 September 2021 status updates on Action 5.

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Stakeholder Engagement	28 Motorway Services EV Charging	Requirement to work with partners to develop quicker and more efficient connections to EV charge-points in motorway service areas.	Requirement to work with partners to develop quicker and more efficient connections to EV charge-points in motorway service areas.	Identify a suitable site and design a proposal to completion	Q4 Dec 2020	A hub charging solution has been developed, a contract has now been placed with a transformer manufacturer to build a tailored packaged substation. The new package solution developed and built by a leading manufacturer in switchgear and transformers, will be installed at a Motorway Service Area (MSA) within one of our licence areas. The functional specification is available on the innovation project pages of our website. https://www.westernpower.co.uk/downloads-view-reciteme/231508
Customer Support	29 Common Information Models	Understand any system improvements, to ensure the accuracy of the underlying network information.	We will share our network asset and connectivity information in an recognised standard format that will facilitate the wider use of our network data to inform customers' new connection and operation decisions This will enable customers improved access to our network asset and connectivity information that can be used to understand in greater detail our network to inform their network connection and utilisation decisions	CIM files (asset & network information) available for download of the132kV to 11kV network	Q1 March 2021	COMPLETED Completed Early December 2020 - CIM files has been produced that includes EHV and 11 kV data (EHV and HV) to provide more of our network assets and connectivity data in a standard format for all four licence areas. http://www.westernpower.co.uk/our-network/energy-data-hub/common-information-model.
Cust	30 Real-Time Power Flow Data Access	Improve Real-time data access for each of WPD licence areas.	To provide and enable customers to understand real- time power flow data on our network. Enabling generator and community energy groups to make informed decisions, from planning the connection of new load and generation on the network to operational decisions.	Demand, import and generation information available for our four licence areas; historic views of data and extract facility available	Q1 March 2021 Completed Dec 2020	COMPLETED This action is complete and this data is available here - https://www.westernpower.co.uk/live-data-feed-application-data-view 3,829 web hits, since data view introduced in Dec 2020

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Communication	Initiative 16	unmetered connection offer process that they felt required improvement. Respondents requested simplified unmetered connection offers and some found it difficult	Improve navigation to the Unmetered Connections web page. Review content of the Unmetered Connections web	To undertake a further survey, to quantify if the improvements have been made. Compare webpage hits between the old and new pages.	Q1 March 2021	A simplified Unmetered Connection Offer based on the SSQ offer has been developed and released. Navigation to and around the unmetered connections web pages has been improved. The contents of the unmetered webpages have undergone a full review. Guidance has been simplified and updated where necessary. Survey completed with no negative feedback received. Unmetered connections/connecting unmetered equipment page December 2019 - December 2020 – 764 hits (12 Month Period) December 2020 - April 2021 - 1,015 hits (5 Month Period) 78% monthly Increase in hits https://www.westernpower.co.uk/connections-landing/connecting-unmetered-equipment
Stakeholder Engagement	32 Digitalisation Programme Updates	Stakeholders fed back to say they would like to see improvements to data quality, including the heat map information.		Releasing new data sets via social media posts and news articles	Q2 June 2021 on ICE 2021/22 Plan - Action 10	New versions of the Network Capacity Map with increased detail and accuracy have been provided, along with an updated version of the DFES map. The real-time data map and viewer has been presented for the four licence areas and work is continuing to increase the granularity of data presented. Continuation of the action into ICE 2021/22 Plan—Action 10 To sign up for our WPD Website Newsletter, please go to https://www.westernpower.co.uk/innovation/contact-us-and-more/register-for-website-updates

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If you would like to share your thoughts and feedback throughout the year, please contact our Connections Policy Team at wpdconnpolicysupport@westernpower.co.uk

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