IDNO and DNO Data Sharing consultation

Summary of responses

What we did

During February and March 2020 we undertook three activities to lay out our plans for further engagement with IDNOs.

1 **_Monday 3rd February 2020_**

Published a consultation outlining our plans for data sharing and posing 7 questions.

2 **_Monday 3rd February 2020_**

Provided IDNOs with data extracts containing information we held relating to them, and requested verification.

3 **_Tuesday 3rd March 2020_**

Held a series of online surgery sessions to further explain our plans and provide IDNOs with opportunity to ask questions.

The aim was to gain feedback on our plans, in particular from IDNOs, to assess the feasibility.
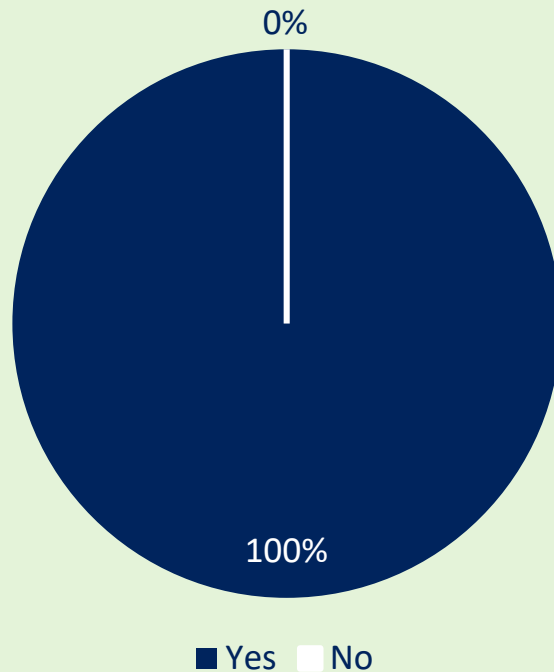
7 questions asked/their responses

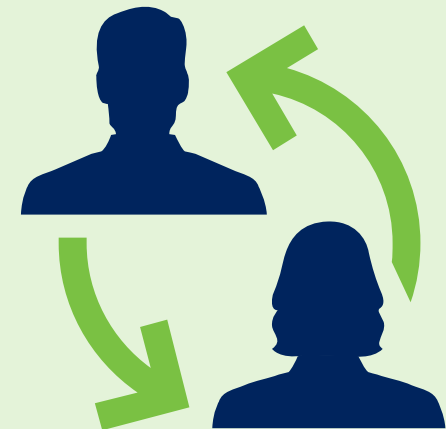## Within the consultation we asked 7 questions relating to our plans:

1 Do you agree that there is an emerging need for further engagement and data sharing between IDNOs and DNOs?

2 Have you used any of the new datasets and tools we've introduced? Have you found them useful?

3 Is there any other data you think we could provide which would be useful to yourselves?

4 Does the format in which we have and are planning to request this information work for you?

5 We'd like to ask IDNOs to validate the data represented in Figure 5.1 twice a year. Do you think it is necessary to provide data validation twice yearly, or do you believe once a year would be sufficient?

6 Is the proposed schedule of these information requests convenient in relation to your internal processes? Would there be another time of year which may be more beneficial and provide a more up to date view of your network?

7 Is there anything we can do to assist in you providing us with the information we've requested?

'Do you agree that there is an emerging need for further engagement and data sharing between IDNOs and DNOs?'

0%

100%

■ Yes □ No

Each response we received to the consultation was positive, with **100%** of people agreeing and showing an understanding that further engagement and data sharing between IDNOs and DNOs is necessary.

Consultation responses - question 2

'Have you used any of the new datasets and tools we've introduced? Have you found them useful?'

- The main dataset that IDNOs reported they had used was our Distribution Future Electricity Scenarios (DFES).
- The DFES details our view of the North West's electricity requirements, and can be found on our website [here](#).
- Responders reported that the document is a useful insight into views of future load growth and uptake in low carbon technologies, and how these could ultimately impact their own networks.

'Is there any other data you think we could provide which would be useful to yourselves?'

Participants asked for further information in the following areas:

- Real time data on HV circuits – This information is published in Table 7 of our Long Term Development Statement, which can be found here.
- Information regarding network constraints – take a look at our Flexible Service requirements, and sign up to our distribution list to receive our quarterly newsletter and be notified whenever we have a new requirement.
- Power quality issues upstream of the point of connection – we will work with IDNOs to understand what is required and look into what information we can provide.
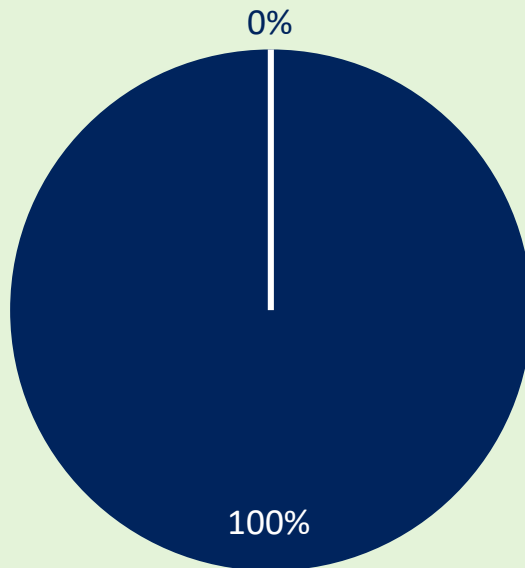
'Does the format in which we have and are planning to request this information work for you?'

Participants agreed that the format in which we are planning to request the information is acceptable, however a recurring theme was for a standard approach from all DNOs and a consistent format in which this information can be provided to multiple parties.

Consultation responses - question 5

‘We'd like to ask IDNOs to validate the data represented in Figure 5.1 twice a year. Do you think it is necessary to provide data validation twice yearly, or do you believe once a year would be sufficient?'

0%

100%

100% of participants agreed it would be sufficient to undertake a data validation exercise once a year.

■ Once a year is sufficient   □ Twice a year would be better

'Is the proposed schedule of these information requests convenient in relation to your internal processes? Would there be another time of year which may be more beneficial and provide a more up to date view of your network?'

Participants all agreed that June would be a convenient time of year for the data exchange exercise, in order to avoid busier times of year when financial and regulatory reporting is undertaken.

JUNE

'Is there anything we can do to assist in you providing us with the information we've requested?'

All participants stated they did not require anything from us and were quite comfortable in their ability to provide us with the information requested.

In addition, calls to create industry governance surrounding these data exchanges were suggested, to ensure processes are adhered to.
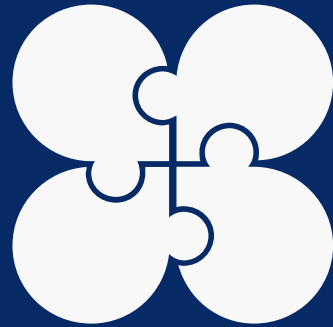
Data verification

We provided all IDNOs operating in our area with the data we currently hold surrounding their networks, and asked them to verify:

- Site Name
- Site Address
- Site Postcode
- Existing Connection Agreement Number
- Maximum Import Capacity

- Maximum Export Capacity
- Number of customer connected
- Number of customers with solar panels
- Number of customers with electric vehicles
- Number of customers with heat pumps

We received datasets back from 40% of IDNOs, and are working with others to verify the remaining 60%.

Data verification

The data exchange exercise was overall very beneficial.

We've been able to fill in some of the gaps in our data.

As well as confirm that the majority of the information we currently hold is correct.

Going forward

The level of engagement throughout the consultation and data exchange exercise was **really encouraging**, and we feel positive that IDNOs will continue to engage with us and participate in data exchange exercises in the future, making this a worthwhile task for us to undertake.

As the data exchange exercise proved our data to be mostly accurate, and feedback surrounding frequency suggests that once a year is fine – we currently plan to request data verification on an annual basis, beginning in **June 2020**.

We will review this process in Summer 2020, and evaluate and publish how successful it has been. We'd welcome further views on whether the data exchange should be formalised by a change proposal to amend **DCUSA** (The Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement).