

Fibre Input Methodologies: Process Update

20 May 2020

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the process and timing of the development of input methodologies (**IMs**) for the new regulatory regime for fibre. More specifically, it sets out:
 - 1.1 the high-level scope and timing of our further consultation; and
 - 1.2 the new date for the publication of our final IMs decision reasons paper and final IMs determination (**Final IMs Decisions**).
2. This paper also provides an update on the timing for the development of price-quality regulation (**PQR**) and information disclosure regulation (**IDR**).

Background

3. We published our fibre IMs draft decision reasons paper (**Draft Decision**) on 19 November 2019. The Draft Decision did not cover decisions relating to the Regulatory Processes and Rules IMs.
4. The Draft Decision set out a revised process for the completion of the IMs, relevantly including:
 - 4.1 Publishing the Draft Determination on 11 December 2019 (excluding the Regulatory Processes and Rules IMs);
 - 4.2 Publishing the Regulatory Processes and Rules IMs draft decision (**RPR Draft Decision**) with an updated Draft Determination (**RPR Draft Determination**) in March 2020;
 - 4.3 Undertaking a technical consultation on a further updated Draft Determination in May 2020, if required;
 - 4.4 Publishing the Final IMs Decisions in July 2020.

5. In line with the process steps described in paragraph 4 above, we:
 - 5.1 published the Draft Determination on 11 December 2019 (excluding the Regulatory Processes and Rules IMs); and
 - 5.2 published the RPR Draft Decision and the RPR Draft Determination on 2 April 2020.
6. We also published a paper alongside the Draft Determination that explained that we would consult on the impact of the differences between the exposure draft of the section 226 regulations and their final form on our IMs decisions.
7. On 2 April 2020, we published a letter to stakeholders explaining that we were reviewing the process and timeframes for any further consultation and the publication of our Final IMs Decisions, including taking account of the COVID-19 context.

Update on the process steps and timeline for further consultation and Final IMs Decisions

8. Following our review, we have decided to hold a further consultation round during July and August 2020 and to extend the date for the publication of our Final IMs Decisions to the end of September/beginning of October 2020.
9. We will be consulting on the impact of the section 226 regulations, technical consultation on the text of an updated Draft Determination and targeted consultation on specific issues.
10. The consultation will take account of submissions and cross-submissions received on the RPR Draft Decision and RPR Draft Determination, bringing the development of all of the IMs back onto the same process track.¹
11. The updated Draft Determination will include revisions arising from any changed decisions, revisions that would give effect to our decisions more clearly or correctly, and stylistic and editorial refinements. This will give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the determination drafting as a whole package.

¹ Submissions and cross-submissions on the RPR Draft Decision and RPR Draft Determination are due on 29 May 2020 and 19 June 2020 respectively and we will therefore be able to take account of them when deciding on the scope and content of the consultation.

Updated timeline for finalising the Fibre IMs

12. A summary of the remaining process steps and their expected timing for developing the fibre IMs is set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Timeline for development of fibre IMs

Process step	Expected timing
Publication of further consultation paper and updated Draft Determination	mid-July 2020
Submissions	mid-August 2020
Cross-submissions	end of August 2020
Publication of Final IMs Decisions	end of September/beginning of October 2020

Update on the timing for the development of PQR and IDR

13. We are required to implement both PQR and IDR by 1 January 2022.
14. In light of the new date for the publication of our Final IMs Decisions we have provided an update on the timing for the development of PQR and IDR to help interested parties prepare for those processes.
15. We plan to develop our approach to PQR and IDR in tandem. The timelines for our processes for PQR and IDR are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Timeline for development of PQR and IDR

Process step	Expected timing for PQR	Expected timing for IDR
Proposed approach and process paper for PQR and IDR	Q3 2020	Q3 2020
Publication of draft decision	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
Publication of final decision	Q3/4 2021	Q4 2021