

Smart Metering Implementation Programme – Regulation  
Department of Energy & Climate Change  
Orchard 3, Lower Ground Floor  
1 Victoria Street  
London, SW1H 0ET

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Consultation on changes to equipment installation requirements and the governance arrangements for technical specifications**

BSI (British Standards Institution) has read with interest the Consultation on changes to equipment installation requirements and the governance arrangements for technical specifications and has shared the consultation document with those of its technical committees which are responsible for standards covering smart metering and associated communications. These committees also represent UK interests in the development of European and international standards.

While BSI does not wish to comment on the specifics of this consultation, we would like to make some general points about the role of BSI. These comments echo those made in our submission of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 on the DECC Consultation on the process to finalise the Great Britain Companion Specification.

BSI is the UK's National Standards Body, a role set out in our Royal Charter and further developed in the Memorandum of Understanding between BSI and UK Government. As such, and through our committee structure, BSI is uniquely placed to bring together communities of experts from industry, Government, consumer and environmental organizations and other stakeholders to consider technical issues such as smart meters. The processes put in place and developed over many years mean that the National Standards Body provides a rigorous platform for the development of British Standards and similar documents.

These documents define good practice in technical fields and can be used to support Government policy and legislation, as is already the case for thousands of our standards. The breadth of expertise and degree of representation in our committees ensure the legitimacy of this platform for Government. BSI also provides the only route in the UK into European and international standardization.

BSI therefore encourages DECC to consider the use of standards when delivering policy in the area of smart meters.

**Background on BSI**

BSI is the UK's National Standards Body, incorporated by Royal Charter and responsible independently for preparing British Standards and related publications and for coordinating the input of UK experts to European and international standards committees. BSI has 113 years of experience in serving the interest of a wide range of stakeholders including government, business and society.

BSI also presents the UK view on standards in Europe (via the European Standards Organizations CEN and CENELEC) and internationally (via ISO and IEC). BSI has a globally recognized reputation for independence, integrity and innovation ensuring standards are useful, relevant and authoritative.

BSI, as the UK's NSB, is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the national standards-making system not only for the benefit of UK industry and society but also to ensure that standards developed

by UK experts meet international expectations of open consultation, stakeholder involvement and market relevance.

A BSI (as well as CEN/CENELEC, ISO/IEC) standard is a document defining best practice, established by consensus. Each standard is kept current through a process of maintenance and review whereby it is updated, revised or withdrawn as necessary.

Standards are designed to set out clear and unambiguous provisions and objectives. Although standards are voluntary and separate from legal and regulatory systems, they can be used to support or complement legislation.

Standards are developed when there is a defined market need through consultation with stakeholders and a rigorous development process. National committee members represent their communities in order to develop standards and related documents. They include representatives from a range of bodies, including government, business, consumers, academic institutions, social interests, regulators and trade unions.

I would be pleased to discuss the views expressed in this letter should you so wish.

Yours faithfully,