

# **GDN Collaborative Vulnerability & Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA)**

## **Project Eligibility Assessment (PEA)**

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### **Crunch – Digital Priority Services Register (PSR) Campaign**

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September 2023

**Gas Network Vulnerability & Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA) Governance Document - Project Eligibility Criteria**

<b>Section 1 - Eligibility criteria for company specific projects (other than condemned essential gas appliance repair and replacement)</b>	
In order to qualify as a VCMA project, a project must:	
<b>VCMA Eligibility Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria Satisfied (Yes/No)</b>
<b>a)</b> Have a positive, or forecasted positive Social Return on Investment (SROI), including for the gas consumers funding the VCMA project;	<b>YES</b>
<b>b)</b> Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> Provide support to consumers in vulnerable situations, and relate to energy safeguarding, or</li> <li><b>ii.</b> Provide awareness on the dangers of CO, or</li> <li><b>iii.</b> Reduce the risk of harm caused by CO;</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b>
<b>c)</b> Have defined outcomes and the associated actions to achieve these;	<b>YES</b>
<b>d)</b> Go beyond activities that are funded through other price control mechanism(s) or required through licence obligations; and	<b>YES</b>
<b>e)</b> Not be delivered through other external funding sources directly accessed by a GDN, including through other government (national, devolved, or local) funding.	<b>YES</b>
<b>Section 2 - Eligibility criteria for company specific essential gas appliance servicing, repair, and replacement projects</b>	
In order to qualify as a VCMA project, unsafe pipework and essential gas appliance servicing, repair or replacement must meet the following criteria:	
<b>a)</b> A GDN has to isolate and condemn unsafe pipework or an essential gas appliance following a supply interruption or as part of its emergency service role;	<b>N/A</b>
<b>b)</b> The household cannot afford to service, repair, or replace the unsafe pipework or essential gas appliance; and;	<b>N/A</b>
<b>c)</b> Sufficient funding is not available from other sources (including national, devolved, or local government funding) to fund the unsafe pipework or essential gas appliance servicing, repair, or replacement.	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Section 3 - Eligibility criteria for collaborative VCMA projects</b>	
In order to qualify as a collaborative VCMA project, a project must:	
<b>a)</b> Meet the above company specific and boiler repair and replace (if applicable) project eligibility criteria;	<b>N/A</b>
<b>b)</b> Have the potential to benefit consumers on the participating networks; and	<b>YES</b>
<b>c)</b> Involve two, or more, gas distribution companies.	<b>YES</b>

**Gas Network Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA) Governance Document - Project Registration Table 2**

<b>Information Required</b>	<b>Description</b>																									
<b>Project Title</b>	Digital Priority Services Register (PSR) Campaign																									
<b>Funding GDN(s)</b>	Wales and West Utilities (WWU), Southern Gas Networks (SGN) and Cadent																									
<b>Role of GDN(s) *For Collaborative VCMA Projects only</b>	The specific role(s) of GDN(s) participating in a collaborative VCMA Project Lead: WWU Supported by Cadent and SGN																									
<b>Date of PEA Submission</b>	TBC																									
<b>VCMA Project Contact Name, email, and Number</b>	Sophie Shorney <a href="mailto:Sophie.shorney@wwutilities.co.uk">Sophie.shorney@wwutilities.co.uk</a> 07583 076147																									
<b>Total Cost (£k)</b>	£223,880.60																									
<b>Total VCMA Funding Required (£k)</b>	<p>Crunch will manage each network as individual clients with set budgets as agreed. Split calculated based on geographical split of customers served within each network as per VCMA guidelines.</p> <p>Based on budgets supplied for each network and using the audiences and metrics from the previous campaign (WWUs PSR Facebook Campaign), below is the breakdown for each:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Network</b></th> <th><b>Budgets</b></th> <th><b>Estimated Impressions</b></th> <th><b>Estimated Reach</b></th> <th><b>Estimated Sign Ups</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>WWU</b></td> <td>£30,000.00</td> <td>2,361,111</td> <td>295,139</td> <td>9,807</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>SGN</b></td> <td>£68,507.46</td> <td>5,391,790</td> <td>673,974</td> <td>22,396</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Cadent</b></td> <td>£125,374.14</td> <td>9,867,409</td> <td>1,233,426</td> <td>40,987</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>£223,880.60</b></td> <td><b>17,620,310</b></td> <td><b>2,202,539</b></td> <td><b>73,190</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All media spend will have a 15% management fee which covers the management, set up, reporting and optimisation of campaigns. Each GDN will have a dedicated team who will drive results and maximise the impact of the campaign across a 12-month period.</p> <p>Campaign reporting has been agreed and will be provided monthly. There will be a setup fee of £150 (one off cost) and an additional £45 p/w report fee to provide live access to reports with agreed success metrics. Additional data feeds can be added to reports but may incur additional costs.</p>	<b>Network</b>	<b>Budgets</b>	<b>Estimated Impressions</b>	<b>Estimated Reach</b>	<b>Estimated Sign Ups</b>	<b>WWU</b>	£30,000.00	2,361,111	295,139	9,807	<b>SGN</b>	£68,507.46	5,391,790	673,974	22,396	<b>Cadent</b>	£125,374.14	9,867,409	1,233,426	40,987	<b>Total</b>	<b>£223,880.60</b>	<b>17,620,310</b>	<b>2,202,539</b>	<b>73,190</b>
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<b>Problem(s)</b>	Light, power and heating are essential services for our society. Different customers have different needs or interests, and some consumers are significantly less able than others to protect or represent their own interests in the energy market.																									

	<p>To assist these consumers, each gas and electricity supplier, DNO, water supplier and water distributor owns and maintains a Priority Services Register (PSR). This entitles the consumers who are eligible to be on the register to a range of free information and support services, to make sure they are completely looked after. WWUs consumer vulnerability engagement programme demonstrated the lack of knowledge around the PSR and the various types of vulnerabilities that exist. Based on 10 engagement events in total, including 3,362 stakeholders, there was strong support for sharing data and information between utilities and third parties to avoid multiple sign-ups to different registers.</p> <p>Respondents to our vulnerability interviews were surprised that utilities and suppliers were not already working together to raise awareness of the PSR and increase sign-ups.</p> <p>This project aims to improve awareness of the PSR and in turn increase PSR sign ups. The project will also ensure data is shared with suppliers and other utilities as we work with Regulators towards our aim of a single PSR register for utilities in the UK reaching the most vulnerable and ensuring they are aware of the PSR and any associated free support services that comes with being registered with their energy companies.</p>
<p><b>Scope and Objectives</b></p>	<p>WWU have completed a 12-month project with Crunch focussing on PSR referrals via a Facebook Campaign. The project was a continuation of work carried out in GD1 and set up to support our increased commitments for GD2 in terms of raising awareness of the PSR and referring people to their registered energy suppliers PSRs.</p> <p>After the success of WWUs Facebook Campaign and the successful number of PSR sign ups, we recognised that this could become a collaborative campaign across the GDNs which Crunch are able to support.</p> <p>Building on WWUs Facebook Campaign, this project will become a Digital PSR Campaign which will incorporate other digital platforms such as Instagram and You Tube as well as Facebook and other possible platforms such as Tik Tok to ensure we are reaching and targeting various demographics and vulnerable groups who are eligible to be signed up to the PSR.</p> <p>The campaign will advertise the benefits of the PSR and encourage those eligible to sign up. The campaign utilises a targeted approach based on audiences. It considers demographics, specific searches, and audience engagement, particularly focussing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents with young children</li> <li>• 'At Risk' users such as over 60s</li> <li>• Those that are Chronically Sick*</li> </ul> <p>*Categories can be reviewed and changed in line with GDNs targeted preferences in line with PSR needs codes.</p> <p>The project outcomes and delivery will be reviewed quarterly with the approach and adapted as required. Reports will be provided as an overall campaign but will also be split down to individual GDN areas so granular data will be available to each contributing GDN as well as collaborative data.</p>

	<p>The GDNs will use consistent messaging to promote the PSR but will have slightly different approaches in terms of capturing customer details and sending them on to the relevant registered energy companies.</p> <p>WWU will continue their approach of capturing core data from the campaigns, which will be fed into an internal team and then sent over to the registered gas and electricity suppliers, DNOs and Water Utilities.</p> <p>SGN will signpost to the PSR UK landing page where customers will be able to sign up directly with the DNO's and on to their energy supplier via the data share agreements in place. SGN will receive MI of the successful PSR signups quarterly.</p> <p>Cadent will signpost to the PSR UK landing page where customers will be able to sign up directly with the DNO's and on to their energy supplier via the data share agreements in place. Cadent will receive MI of the successful PSR signups quarterly.</p> <p>These will be compared at a mid-point review and fed into lessons learnt for the remainder of the project and possible extension.</p>
<p><b>Why the Project is Being Funded Through the VCMA</b></p>	<p>This project operates across the GDN networks and aligns to our collective GDN strategic ambition to support vulnerable customers most in need.</p> <p>It will help raise awareness of the PSR, encourage consumers to sign up and promote access to the free support services and benefits for each energy company in the event of a gas outage or electricity outage for example via collaborative working.</p> <p>As a group of GDNs, we do not own, maintain, or operate our own PSR. We do, however recognise the importance of the PSR and its benefits to those who would be eligible to register and have therefore put in place processes and systems to capture this information and share them with the registered gas and electricity suppliers, DNO's and water companies. This ensures customers in vulnerable situations and those who are most in need receive the necessary support.</p> <p>Our license and base allowances do not cover the promotion of the PSR, so in order for us to go above and beyond our business-as-usual activities and provide this additional support, the project will be funded through the VCMA.</p> <p>Our license and base allowances do not cover the promotion of the PSR, so in order for us to go above and beyond our business-as-usual activities and provide this additional support, this activity is being funded through the VCMA.</p> <p>The project will work collaboratively with expert agencies to maximise positive impacts and deliver defined outcomes for vulnerable individuals.</p> <p>In order to qualify as a VCMA Project, a project must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) have a positive, or a forecasted positive, Social Return on Investment (SROI) including for the gas consumers funding the VCMA project</li> <li>b) either: i. provide support to consumers in Vulnerable Situations and relate to energy safeguarding, or ii. Provide awareness of the dangers of CO, or iii. Reduce the risk of harm caused by CO;</li> <li>c) have defined outcomes and the associated actions to achieve these;</li> <li>d) go above and beyond activities that are funded through other price control mechanism(s) or required through licence obligations; and</li> </ol>

	<p>e) not be delivered through other external funding sources directly accessed by a GDN, including through other government (national, devolved, or local funding)</p> <p>This project is being funded through VCMA as per the above guidelines</p>
<p><b>Evidence of Stakeholder/Customer Support</b></p>	<p>Through our business planning for RIIO GD2, priority customer research and stakeholders told us that raising awareness of the PSR was a priority for WWU alongside tackling fuel poverty and raising awareness of and the dangers of CO amongst hard-to-reach groups and those who are most in need.</p> <p><b>WWU’s Consumer Vulnerability Engagement Programme:</b></p> <p>During the shaping of WWU’s business plan we committed to raising awareness of the PSR and 12,000 PSR referrals each year over the 5-year period. Through our Consumer Vulnerability Engagement Programme, the lack of knowledge around the PSR was highlighted alongside the various types of vulnerability that exist. Based on 10 engagement events in total, including 3,362 stakeholders, there was strong support for sharing data and information between utilities and third parties to avoid multiple sign-ups to different registers.</p> <p><b>WWUs Customer Engagement Group (CEG):</b></p> <p>Our Customer Engagement Group is very engaged on this topic and keen to challenge and support us in ensuring our strategy to target underrepresented groups and communities is embedded and monitored.</p> <p><b>Crunch and WWU’s Facebook PSR Campaign</b></p> <p>Over the last 12 months, the partnership between Crunch and WWU has used a targeted approach to audiences who use Facebook to raise awareness of the PSR and encourage eligible users to sign up.</p> <p>During this period, 9397 PSR referrals have been sent through to their registered gas and electricity suppliers, DNO’s and water utilities providing a one-stop shop for customers.</p> <p><b>SGN Customer Engagement Group and Vulnerable Steering Group Engagement</b></p> <p>During the shaping of the SGN business plan we committed to supporting over 250,000 vulnerable customers to use gas safely, affordably, and efficiently. To ensure that we adapt to market conditions we continue to engage our SGN Vulnerable Steering Group (VSG), have guided us to look for communities most vulnerable where the impact is greatest, to work with existing organisations that already support those in crisis and where we are able to broaden the reach or increase the capacity of those established organisations. This partnership is supported by the VSG as it supports the most vulnerable in the community with support to join the PSR and help with maintaining a safe and warm home. In addition, the VSG are keen on building sustainable partnerships that can maintain the required support in the long term.</p> <p><b>GDN Vulnerability Working Group</b></p>

	<p>This initiative is aligned to our ambition and collaborative strategy to support people most in need to access support services designed for customers in vulnerable circumstances and help those most at risk of harm by living in a cold home.</p> <p><b>GD2 VCMA Steering Group</b></p> <p>This initiative was supported by all members of the strategic steering group as a key partnership that looks to deliver our ambitions to support.</p>
<p><b>Outcomes, Associated Actions and Success Criteria</b></p>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <p>The below outcomes have been generated based on the success of WWU’s initial campaign and how it was implemented. There were key learning points from the initial campaign which will be reflected in the collaborative campaign and closely monitored and amended throughout to ensure the successful delivery of the below proposed outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We saw great engagement using lead generation ads contain videos, which avoided any questions directly asking about specific age on the lead gen form</li> <li>• Each audience group we are specifically targeting using their own campaign, so we can include specific demographics and interest targeting such as money saving, money saving comparison sites</li> <li>• We are then retargeting any users who have not fully completed the form or engaged with the ad</li> <li>• Crunch will monitor and continuously build look-a-like audiences based on the data to find similar users likely to take action</li> </ul> <p><b>WWU:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated Impressions - 2,361,111</li> <li>• Estimated Reach - 295,139</li> <li>• Estimated Sign Ups - 9,807</li> </ul> <p><b>SGN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated Impressions - 5,391,790</li> <li>• Estimated Reach - 673,974</li> <li>• Estimated Sign Ups - 22,396</li> </ul> <p><b>Cadent:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated Impressions - 9,867,409</li> <li>• Estimated Reach - 1,233,426</li> <li>• Estimated Sign Ups - 40,987</li> </ul> <p><b>Total:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated Impressions - 17,620,310</li> <li>• Estimated Reach - 2,202,539</li> <li>• Estimated Sign Ups - 73,190</li> </ul> <p><b>Associated Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the PSR and encourage consumers to sign up</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote collaborative messaging for the PSR and free support services</li> <li>• Streamline process for consumers accessing PSR and adding details</li> </ul> <p>As a group of GDN's, we will fund this project at a cost of £223,880.60 for one year.</p> <p>We have committed to working together to raise awareness of the PSR and working towards the aim of one PSR with minimum effort from the customer.</p> <p>Being registered on the PSR will also help households receive additional support services from their energy providers, such as assistance in paying their bills, which in turn will reduce the likelihood of mental distress. In addition, households will also realise health benefits associated with residing in warmer and more comfortable homes.</p> <p>The individuals who sign up to the PSR will also be prioritised during a utility interruption by network companies and get communications in formats of their choice ensuring they are not disadvantaged and receive an inclusive service from companies.</p>				
<b>Project Partners and Third Parties Involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wales and West Utilities – Lead GDN</li> <li>• Cadent and SGN – Supporting GDNs</li> <li>• Crunch Digital Media</li> </ul>				
<b>Potential for New Learning</b>	<p>Sharing data with all DNO's, Gas Suppliers and Water companies gives us scope to share best practice on the practical applications of the data</p> <p>We have already shared our experience of using targeted social media adverts with other Stakeholders including the other GDNs and have identified the opportunity and need for collaboration in this area.</p> <p>We have some learning that we could benefit from including other companies who already use demographic data to target programmes.</p> <p>In addition to the above and for the purposes of the project, the GDNs will be using slightly different approaches which will be reviewed at the stage gate point (6 months) and compared to see which referral route has been the most successful and the lessons learnt at that point will be fed into improving the project and feed into a potential extension throughout the remainder of GD2 and possibly beyond.</p>				
<b>Scale of VCMA Project and SROI Calculations</b>	<p>This project will provide at least 73,000 customer referrals to the PSR across Wales, England, and Scotland.</p> <p>Using our SROI model for this project, we estimate that based on 73,000 referrals being made, there will be a net benefit of £79.04 per £1 spent.</p>				
<b>VCMA Project Start and End Date</b>	<p>The project will run from November 2023 for 12 months.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="456 1877 1447 2089"> <tr> <td data-bbox="456 1877 683 1910">September 23</td> <td data-bbox="683 1877 1447 1910">Final decision from GDNs</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="456 1910 683 2089">Sept/Oct 23</td> <td data-bbox="683 1910 1447 2089">Crunch and Comms teams' discussion to set up assets and creatives etc for projects. Once media plans are approved Crunch will require access to GDNs platforms and GA/GA4 and GTM to allow them to set up each campaign and install tracking to feed into monthly reports and provide the metrics and conversions per</td> </tr> </table>	September 23	Final decision from GDNs	Sept/Oct 23	Crunch and Comms teams' discussion to set up assets and creatives etc for projects. Once media plans are approved Crunch will require access to GDNs platforms and GA/GA4 and GTM to allow them to set up each campaign and install tracking to feed into monthly reports and provide the metrics and conversions per
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		platform. GDNs will also need to complete an asset matrix to set up ads using the content provided.
	Sept/Oct 23	Set up of contracts, finance, and procurement documentation
	November 23	Project Launch
	April 24	Mid-Point Review
	Monthly	High Level project reports/findings
	Quarterly	Project Report and Review meetings
	Nov/Dec 24	Final Reports and Review
<b>Geographical Area</b>	Covers area of Wales, England, and Scotland in line with WWU's, Cadent's and SGN's geographical coverage for consumers	
<b>Remaining Amount in the Allowance at Time of Registration</b>	Remaining funding left in the Licensee's/ Licensees' funding pot.  TBC	

**Gas Network Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA) Governance Document - PEA Control Table**

<p>In order to ensure that a VCMA project is registered in accordance with the Ofgem VCMA governance document (incl. project eligibility assessment), the below table should be completed as part of the project registration process.</p>		
<p>Stage 1: GDN Collaboration Group PEA Review  <b>Meeting date review completed:</b>  <b>Review completed by:</b></p>		
GDN:	Name:	Job Title:
Cadent	Phil Burrows	Head of Customer Vulnerability Social Programme Delivery
SGN	Linda Spence	Vulnerability Manager – Scotland
WWU	Sophie Shorney	VCMA Manager
<p>Stage 2: GD2CVG Panel Review  <b>Meeting date sign off agreed:</b>  <b>Review completed by:</b></p>		
GDN:	Name:	Job Title:
Cadent	Phil Burrows	Head of Customer Vulnerability Social Programme Delivery
SGN	Maureen McIntosh	Head of Customer Experience
WWU	Nigel Winnan	Customer and Social Obligations Strategy Manager
<p>Step 3: Participating GDN individual signatory sign-off</p>		

GDN	Name:	Job Title:	Signature:	Date:
Cadent:	Phil Burrows	Head of Customer Vulnerability Social Programme Delivery		
SGN:	Rob Gray	Director of Stakeholder Relations & Communications		
WWU:	Nigel Winnan	Customer and Social Obligations Strategy Manager		

Step 4: Upload PEA Document to the Website & Notification Email Sent to Ofgem (vcma@ofgem.gov.uk)

Date that PEA Document Uploaded to the Website:

Date that Notification Email Sent to Ofgem: