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Dear Sir/Madam

This e-mail is a formal response to DECC's consultation on Smart Metering for Electricity and Gas. I am making this response on behalf of the UK Computing Research Committee (UKCRC).

We fully endorse the more detailed response made by the IET. As computing professionals we are well aware of the security and safety implications of the proposed system; unfortunately, such systems are often built using off-the-shelf components and protocols which have been designed with entirely different design criteria. For such an essential part of the critical national infrastructure, we feel that it is imperative that a thorough and independently reviewed hazard analysis be conducted before any policy decisions are taken and, especially, before any procurement contracts are placed.

The UKCRC, an Expert Panel of the British Computer Society, the Institution of Engineering and Technology and the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing, was formed in November 2000 as a policy committee for computing research in the UK. Its members are leading computing researchers from UK academia and industry. Our evidence reflects the experience of researchers who each have an established international reputation in computing.

Yours faithfully

Chris Hankin

The IET submission can be found in the 2009 archive
<http://www.theiet.org/publicaffairs/submissions/archive/archive.cfm>