

SEM Monitoring Report: Q4 2015

SEM-16-014

March 2016



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#### 2. INTRODUCTION

The Single Electricity Market (SEM) is the term that is used to describe the electricity market for the island of Ireland.

This report provides an overview of the SEM and sets out recent trends in the market in relation to pricing, demand, scheduling and contract prices. It focuses in particular on the wholesale element of electricity prices, which makes up roughly 60% of customers' bills.

The report was prepared by the Market Monitoring Unit (MMU); the MMU resides within the Utility Regulator Northern Ireland, the main monitoring function of the Regulatory Authorities in joint collaboration with the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER). The unit's role is to investigate market power within the SEM and to monitor compliance of market participants with regards to the Bidding Code of Practice (BCoP) and other market rules. Another aspect of the roles and responsibilities of the MMU is to review market prices. This report covers this particular area of the SEM, along with some others; the key areas are:

- An overview of how the market works and key trends observed over the lifetime of the SEM
- Detailed market information on price (System Marginal Price) and quantity (Market Scheduled Quantity and Dispatch Quantity)
- Information on trends in directed contracts which are imposed by the Regulatory Authorities on the incumbent generators with market power in the SEM.

The information in this report is based on data that was provided by the Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO), except where otherwise indicated.

Any feedback or comments that stakeholders may have should be emailed to:

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#### 3. OVERVIEW

- 1. Wholesale costs: Overall, wholesale electricity costs during the fourth quarter of this year were lower than those in the third quarter of 2015. As will be seen, Capacity Payments took a greater share of total Energy Payments (EP) in Q4; squeezing energy payment share when comparing to Q3 2015.
- System Marginal Prices (SMP): SMP decreased for the fourth quarter in a row to €46/MWhr. The
  wholesale electricity price has decreased from (on average) €66.50/MWhr in Q4 2012
  representing a substantial reduction over that time period.
- 3. **SEM prices:** Gas price continued to fluctuate between (on average) 30-40p/therm with both SEM and BETTA following this trend.
- 4. **SEM demand and price levels:** Overall, the average demand for Q4 2015 was roughly what is expected for that time of year; the demand in Q4 2014 was roughly 0.5% lower, price has also fallen (around 20%) in that time.
- 5. **Interconnector Flows.** Flows across the interconnectors continue to fluctuate (on an average Quarterly basis) of 50% in the profitable direction. The profitable direction is defined as the 'correct' direction of flow when there is a difference in the SEM price compared to the BETTA price.
- 6. **Fuel mix:** While gas continues to be the dominant fuel in the SEM; wind levels are continuing to increase their share of the overall mix.
- 7. **Directed contracts:** On average, the prices of directed contract baseload, mid-merit and peak products for 2016 sold to date are between 15% & 21% lower, than those sold for 2015. The volume of directed contracts doubled from 2012 to 2013. This was mainly due to the horizontal integration of ESB's power generation. The volumes for 2015 were just 2% lower than 2014 and 13% above 2013
- 8. **Constraint Payments.** Constraint Payments for Q4 2015 were roughly €47m. This represents an increase of around €22m on Q3 2015. The figures for Q4 2014 were somewhat above trend; payments were €70m in total in that particular quarter.
- 9. **Make Whole Payments**. In Q4 2015 a total of €620, 000 was paid. This was €530, 000 less than the previous quarter. The peak occurred in Q3 2014 when €2,330,000 was paid.



### 4. SUMMARY

This section provides a high-level analysis of trends that are observed across the main elements of the SEM:

- 1. **Background to the SEM:** This section explains how the market works, and in particular the way in which generators bid to provide the required electricity.
- 2. **Electricity prices:** This section provides a high level breakdown of wholesale energy costs for the previous nine quarters.
- 3. **System Marginal Price (SMP) and Demand:** This section provides information on the SMP and Demand levels since 2010.
- 4. **Within day Energy Prices:** This section shows the average price and demand for each trading period in the previous nine quarters.
- 5. **SMP Shadow Price & Uplift:** SMP can be broken down into two components the Shadow Price and Uplift. This section looks at the impact of changes on SMP for Q4 2015.
- 6. **Fuel mix:** This section outlines the changes in the type and proportion of fuels that were used for generation over the previous nine quarters.

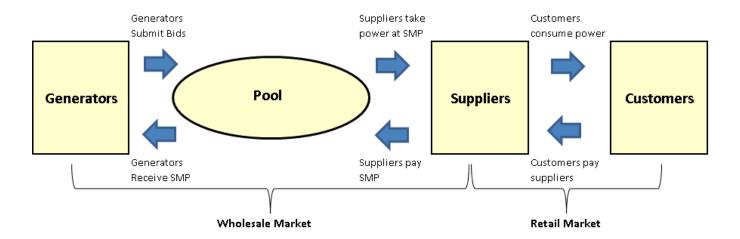


# How the Single Electricity Market works

This section provides a brief overview of how the SEM operates. The SEM is the electricity market for the island of Ireland. It was introduced in November 2007. The SEM is jointly regulated by the Utility Regulator and the Commission for Regulation (referred to in this report as the Regulatory Authorities).

The SEM is a pool market through which all suppliers and generators above a minimum threshold must trade electricity. A market overview is shown below.

Figure 1: Market Overview

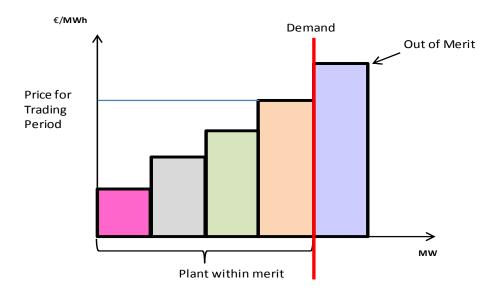


Generators submit bids to the market based on their short run marginal costs (as required by their licences and by the Bidding Code of Practice). These bids are mostly made up of fuel-related costs.

The SMP is determined for each half hour period, based on bids received from generators and customer demand. The SMP and schedule of generation is calculated by SEMO using optimisation software. Broadly speaking, bids that are submitted by the generators are stacked in order, starting with the least expensive, until demand is met. This process is illustrated in Figure 2:



Figure 2: Market Schedule



All generators that are scheduled (run in the market) are paid the same SMP for the energy they produce. Supply companies, which sell electricity to customers, pay the SMP for the electricity their customers consume.

Generators also receive Capacity Payments for any periods that they are available to generate. This contributes towards their fixed, long-term costs.

If there are constraints, a generator may be dispatched in a way that is different from the market schedule in order to balance supply and demand. These generators are said to be either 'constrained on' or 'constrained off'. Generators that are constrained off will pay back a payment and those that are constrained on will receive a payment. This ensures that generators are financially neutral for any differences between the market schedule and actual dispatch.

Settlement of the market is carried out by SEMO. This includes payment to generators and the invoicing of suppliers. The cost of operating SEMO is recovered from suppliers. This is a relatively small contributor to costs and is not covered in this report.



# **Electricity prices**

Electricity prices are made up of a number of different charges, broadly, they are:

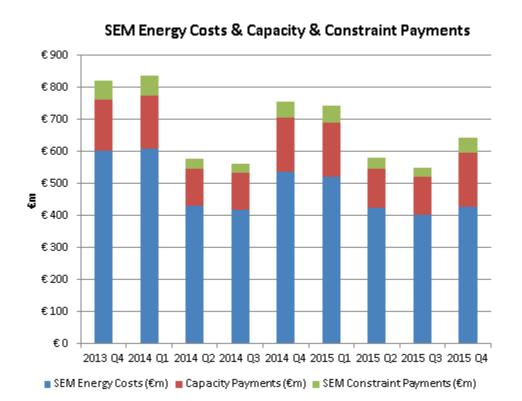
- Wholesale costs (around 60%)
- Network costs (around 30%)
- Supplier costs (around 10%)

This report focuses on the wholesale element of electricity prices.

The main elements of the SEM wholesale costs are:

- Energy costs Costs paid to generators for producing electricity
- Capacity costs Costs paid to generators based on their availability to generate electricity
- Imperfections costs Costs largely associated with network and system constraints.

The graph below gives a breakdown of these costs. The period covered is from Q3 2014 through Q4 2015.

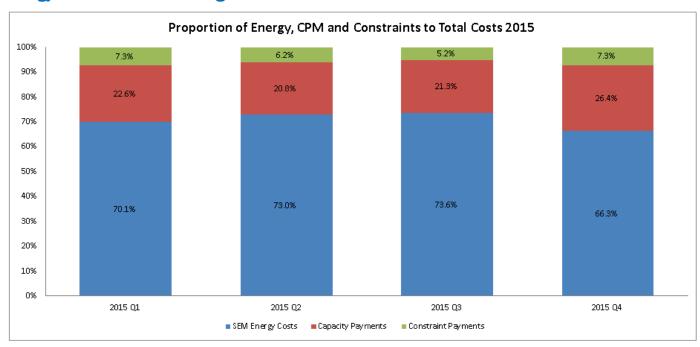




As the following chart shows, energy costs are the largest element of the overall wholesale cost. In the fourth quarter of 2015, 66.3% of total wholesale costs were attributable to energy costs

Key factors in the costs below include the level of demand, the volume of wind generation, coal prices, carbon prices, generation plant availability and interconnector flows from Great Britain.

# **Energy Costs as a Percentage of Total Wholesale Costs**



# **System Marginal Price and Demand trends**

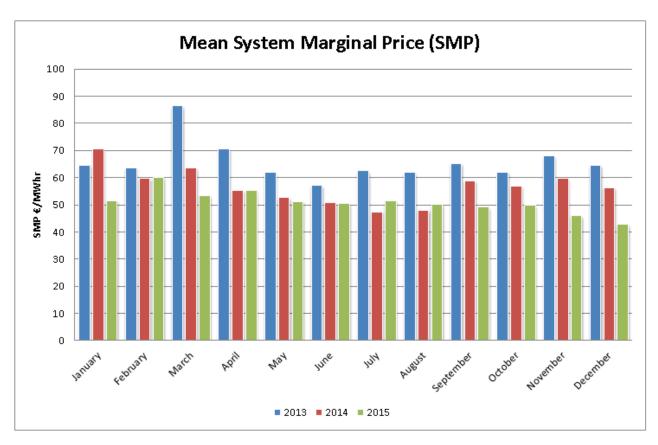
SMP decreased from an average of slightly over €50/MWh in the third quarter of 2015 to €46/ MWh in the fourth quarter of this year.

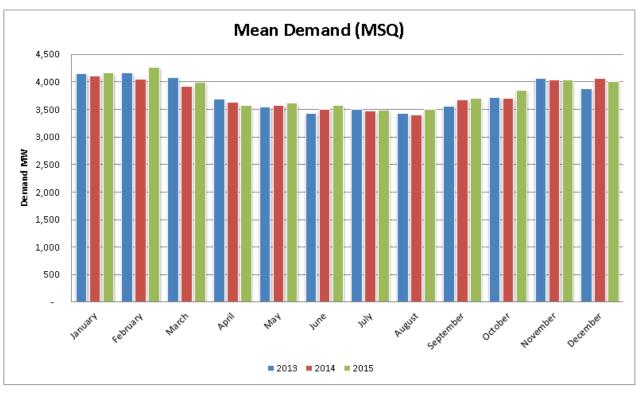
Levels of demand increased from an average of 3564 MW in Q3 2015 to 3954 MW in Q4 2015.

The following figures show the average monthly SMP and the demand recorded in the SEM since 2013.

Figure 4: System Marginal Price and Demand in the Single Electricity Market 2013 - 2015







**Analysis of the System Marginal Price** 

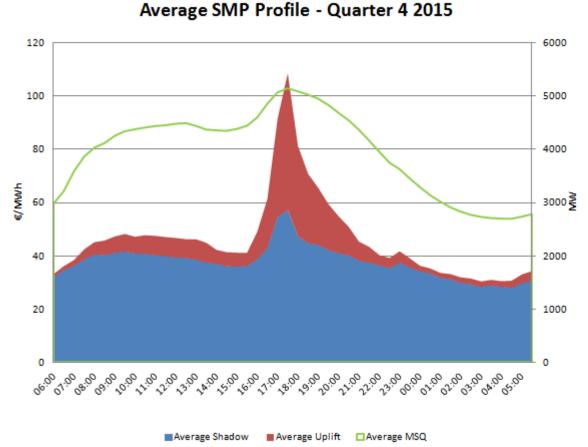


The SMP is made up of the following main components:

- The Shadow Price often reflects the marginal cost of the most expensive generator that is scheduled by SEMO. This makes up the majority of SMP.
- Uplift usually relates to a generator's Start-Up Costs and No Load costs (i.e. production costs that do not vary with the level of output). Uplift is incurred to ensure that all generators recover these costs over the Trading Day.

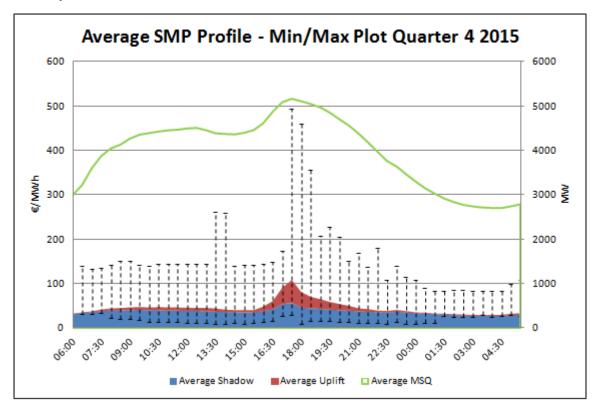
The figure below shows the average SMP profile, broken down by Shadow Price and Uplift for the previous quarter:

Figure 6: Average System Marginal Price profile during Q4 2015





#### Previous Quarter Data Vith/Vithout Max and Min

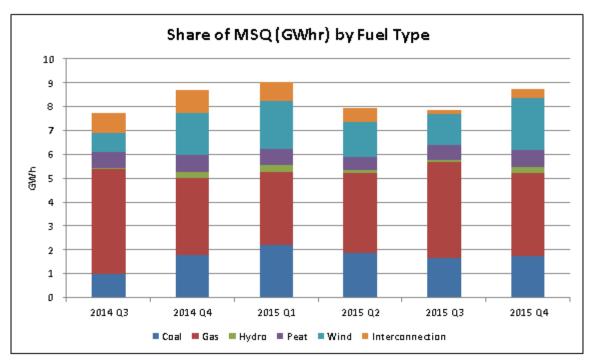


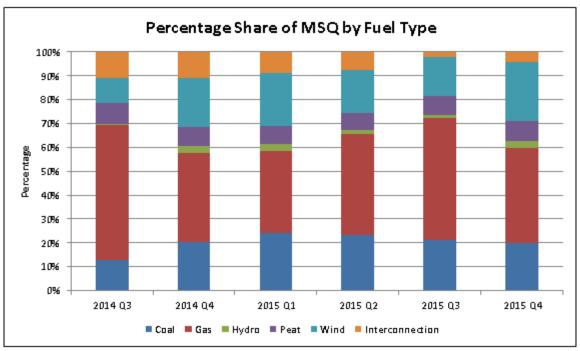
The above plots show average SMP for Q4 and the associated maximum and minimum values of (average) SMP recorded throughout the Quarter.



# Share of generation by fuel type (fuel mix)

Figure 7: Fuel Mix in the Single Electricity Market Q3 2014 - Q4 2015



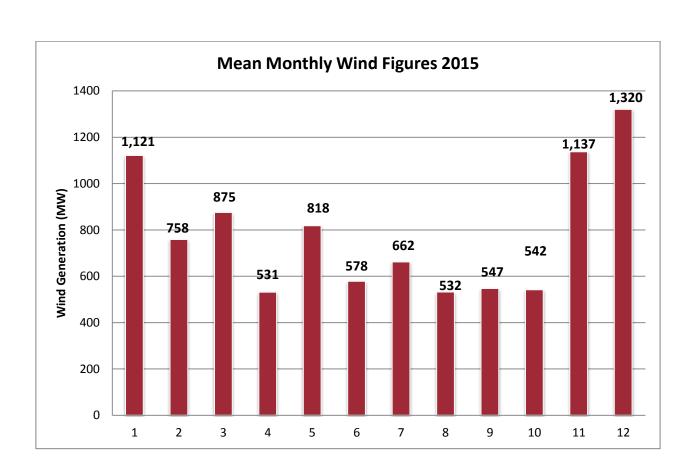




Gas is the most common fuel that is used for electricity production in the SEM. The figure above shows the average percentage of generation by each fuel type and the total demand by fuel type in each quarter since the third quarter of 2013.

#### A number of trends can be observed:

- In Q4 2014, gas represented 37% of the fuel mix. This has increased to 40% in Q4 2015.
- The share of generation provided by Interconnector Units also decreased over the same period, standing at 11% in Q4 2014 decreasing to 5% in Q4 2015
- Wind share increased on Q3 2015 from roughly 17% to 24% in Q4. This is the largest fuel share figure for Wind since records began. The second largest share figure was 23% in Q1 2015. As can be seen below, wind generation has been high during 2015; most notably in December with an average of 1320 MW.
- The peak wind recorded in 2015 was 2188.19 MW on 9 November 07:30.
- The second highest 2015 recorded wind figure was 2176.81 MW at 19 December 09:00.





#### 5. DETAILED MARKET INFORMATION

#### **Summary**

The following section provides more in-depth information on trends observed across the SEM:

- 1. **Dashboard**. This section builds on the previous chapter and explores quarterly trends that have been observed.
- 2. **Energy prices**. This section is presented in two main parts. The first covers the relationship between the SMP and prices in Great Britain (BETTA). The second covers the relationship between SMP and fuel/capacity prices.
- 3. **Market share**. This section looks at both the Market Schedule Quantity (MSQ<sup>3</sup>) and Dispatch Quantity (DQ<sup>4</sup>) by company.
- 4. **Constraints**. Levels of constraints in the SEM have increased considerably over the past nine months. This section analyses the cost to the consumer of constraint payments.
- 5. **Infra-marginal rent (IMR)**. IMR is the difference between the price paid for generation and the cost to produce that generation. Levels of IMR are analysed and trends explained in this section.
- 6. **Interconnector Flows:** This section analyses the percentage of interconnector flows in the expected profitable direction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> MSQ is the market scheduled quantity of output of all generators in each trading period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> DQ is the Dispatch Quantity defined as the level of active power dispatched by the relevant transmission system operator in each trading period.



Figure 8: Single Electricity Market dashboard

																	Change From last
Quarterly Averages	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Quarter
SMP €/MWh	62	62	62.20	66.50	71.58	63.10	62.97	64.86	64.74	52.95	51.39	57.58	55.00	52.53	50.26	46.00	1
% Change from previous Quarter	3%	1%	0%	7%	8%	-12%	0%	3%	0%	-18%	-3%	12%	-4%	-4%	-4%	-8%	~
% Change from Quarter, previous year	-3%	-1%	2%	11%	16%	1%	1%	-2%	-10%	-16%	-18%	-11%	-15%	-1%	-2%	-20%	
Margin MW	4684	4677	5105	5552	5245	5421	5337	5536	5479	5073	5031	5785	6278	5125	5456	5233	<u>∑</u>
% Change from previous Quarter	-3%	0%	9%	9%	-6%	3%	-2%	4%	-1%	-7%	-1%	15%	9%	-18%	6%	-4%	2
% Change from Quarter, previous year	1%	4%	12%	15%	12%	16%	5%	0%	4%	-6%	-6%	4%	15%	1%	8%	-10%	
Demand MW	4046	3613	3444	3959	4132	3547	3492	3884	4021	3567	3506	3934	4137	3586	3564	3954	•
% Change from previous Quarter	2%	-11%	-5%	15%	4%	-14%	-2%	11%	4%	-11%	-2%	12%	5%	-13%	-1%	11%	
% Change from Quarter, previous year	-6%	1%	-2%	0%	2%	-2%	1%	-2%	-3%	1%	0%	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	
Actual Availability MW	8730	8290	8549	9511	9377	8968	8829	9421	9500	8640	8537	9719	10415	8770	9020	9187	$\sim$
% Change from previous Quarter	-1%	-5%	3%	11%	-1%	-4%	-2%	7%	1%	-9%	-1%	14%	7%	-16%	3%	2%	<u>~</u>
% Change from Quarter, previous year	-2%	3%	6%	8%	7%	8%	3%	-1%	1%	-4%	-3%	3%	10%	2%	6%	-5%	
Shadow €/MWh	46	46	46.33	49.94	52.95	43.58	44.38	46.00	46.94	37.23	36.18	42.67	41.00	40.40	41.79	38.00	1
% Change from previous Quarter	2%	-1%	1%	8%	6%	-18%	2%	4%	2%	-21%	-3%	18%	-4%	-1%	3%	-11%	~
% Change from Quarter, previous year	-10%	-7%	3%	10%	14%	-5%	-4%	-8%	-11%	-15%	-18%	-7%	-13%	9%	16%	-11%	
∪plift €/MWh	15	17	15.88	16.48	18.61	19.53	18.97	18.85	17.68	15.72	15.21	14.67	13.95	12.13	8.46	8.00	7
% Change from previous Quarter	6%	8%	-4%	4%	13%	5%	-3%	-1%	-6%	-11%	-3%	-4%	-5%	-13%	-30%	0%	<u> </u>
% Change from Quarter, previous year	30%	20%	0%	14%	22%	18%	19%	14%	-5%	-20%	-20%	-22%	-21%	-23%	-44%	-45%	
Interconnector (Total)	208	322	219	245	355	449	443	513	552	439	346	443	366	233	82	152	
Moyle					205	190	111	197	244	128	65	294	253	202	39	26	•
EWIC					150	259	331	315	307	311	281	149	113	31	43	126	~
% Change from previous Quarter	-	55%	-32%	12%	45%	27%	-1%	16%	8%	-20%	-21%	28%	-17%	-36%	-65%	-16%	
% Change from Quarter, previous year	-	4%	91%	-	71%	39%	102%	109%	55%	20%	-15%	-53%	-34%	-47%	-76%	-66%	
Wind MW (produced)	577	379	368	468	555	502	330	666	783	410	371	801	919	644	583	998	•
% Change from previous Quarter	-19%	-34%	-3%	27%	19%	-10%	-34%	102%	18%	-48%	-9%	116%	15%	-30%	-9%	71%	
% Change from Quarter, previous year	54%	-13%	-3%	-35%	-4%	32%	-10%	42%	41%	-18%	12%	20%	17%	57%	57%	25%	

Note: The wind figures presented in this table do not cover production from wind farms which are not part of the SEM.



#### Commentary

- Mean SMP was €46/MWhr in Q4 2015. SMP decreased by €4/MWhr on Q3 2015; In Q4 2014, mean SMP was €58/MWhr. Going further back to Q4 2013; average SMP has fallen by €19/MWhr
- Levels of demand have remained generally stable over the past nine quarters, with the usual seasonal fluctuations being observed. Comparing Q4 2015 with the same quarter in 2014 shows a 0.5% increase.
- Margin levels have largely fluctuated over the last nine quarters; Q4 2015 is a 4% decrease on Q3 2015. This decrease was driven largely by an increase in demand irrespective of a slight increase in Availability.
- Actual Availability increased by 2% on Q3 2015. When compared to the same quarter in 2014; there has been a 5% decrease.
- The Shadow Price has decreased in the quarter, from €42/MWh in Q3 2015 to €38/MWh in Q4 2015.
- Average Uplift has slightly decreased over the past quarter from €8.5/MWh in Q3 2015 to €8/MWh in Q4 2015.



# **Energy price trends**

The SMP comprises two components – the Shadow Price and Uplift. The monthly SMP since January 2013, broken down by these two elements, is shown below in Figure 9. In Q4 2015, the proportion of Uplift (as a percentage of SMP) increased on the previous quarter (Q3 2015).

As can be seen, Shadow Price never seems to drop below 70% of Total SMP on an average basis.

Figure 9: Average monthly Uplift

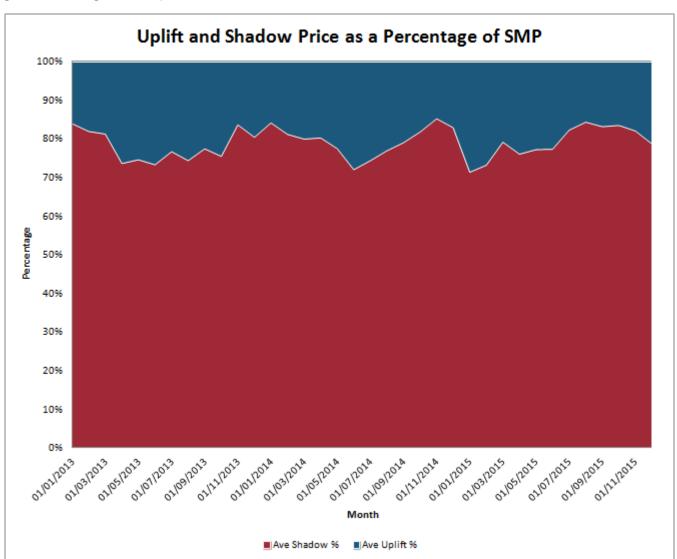
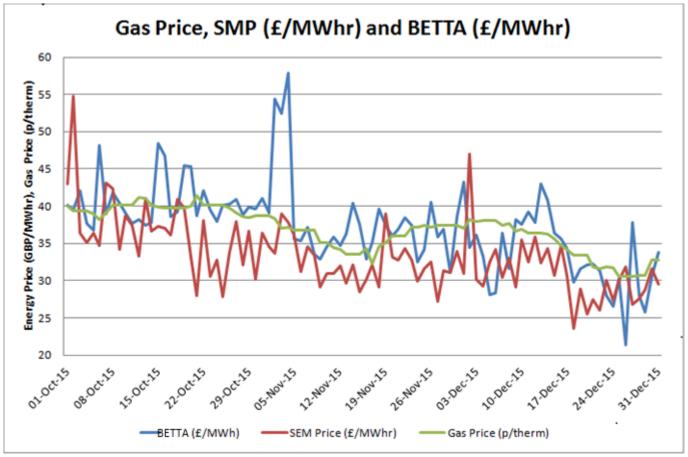




Figure 10: Price comparision between the Single Electricity Market and BETTA



The SEM prices shown in Fig.6 do not include Capacity Payments made to generators. The graph above shows the effect of including Capacity Prices (the additional 'CPM' in the lines above). The units of both the SEM price and the BETTA price are in GBP/MWhr for ease of comparison. The Gas Price units are pence/therm. Converting the SEM price into Sterling was achieved using the Single Electricity Market Operator's Daily Foreign Exchange figures available through the SEMO website.

The profile and trend of historic market prices in both markets is broadly similar, and there is a high degree of correlation between the two. This gives some confidence that SEM prices are not unreasonable.

In this quarter, prices between the markets appear to have converged more so that previous quarters, potentially driving lower Interconnector imports.

Gas has been dominant in the generation fuel mix since the SEM was established. As a result the profile of electricity prices has tended to follow that of the price of gas. While this continues to be the case today, in general the proportion of gas in the fuel mix has started to decrease.



SEM and BETTA Prices against various European Countries

90.00

80.00

70.00

60.00

30.00

20.00

Numarants against various European Countries

90.00

10.00

Numarants against various European Countries

90.00

20.00

10.00

Numarants against various European Countries

90.00

10.00

Numarants against various European Countries

90.00

10.00

10.00

10.00

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Figure 11: System Marginal and European Price comparision

Source: ENTSO-E Transparency Platform

In Figure 11 above the SEM price is shown for comparison against various European Prices. The BETTA price (blue line) is shown.



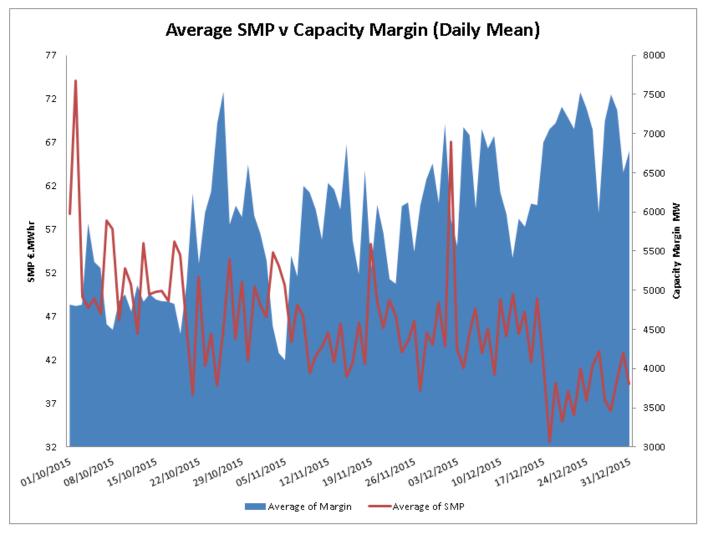


Figure 12: System Marginal Price and Capacity Margin comparision

Another particular impact on the SMP is the capacity margin. This is the amount by which the total available generation exceeds the level of demand in any period. It can be viewed as 'spare capacity'. The lower the capacity margin the more likely it is there will be a need for more expensive generators to be run in the market. This will have the effect of increasing SMP.

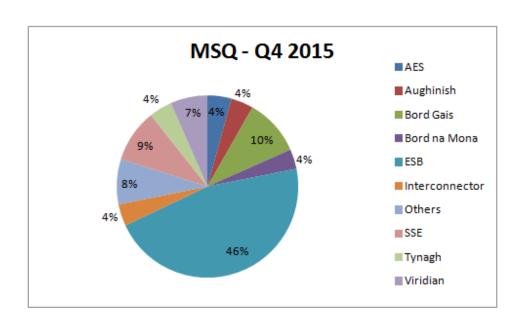
From an all-island perspective there appears to be a healthy capacity margin over the period. The figure above shows that on average there is close to 5,000MW of spare generation capacity in the market. Electricity prices and capacity margin in the SEM have displayed signs of an inverted relationship historically. Spikes in SMP have generally occurred at times of lower levels of excess capacity.



The SEM operates on an unconstrained basis and is settled by the SEMO on an ex post basis. This can lead to differences between the market schedule and the real time dispatch of generating units. This is due to the System Operator dispatching generating units in real time under additional constraints that are not included in the market engine.

The pie charts below compare the share of MSQ and DQ by generation owner between the previous eight quarters and the latest quarter.

Figure 13a: Market Schedule Quantity by generation owner Market Schedule Quantity



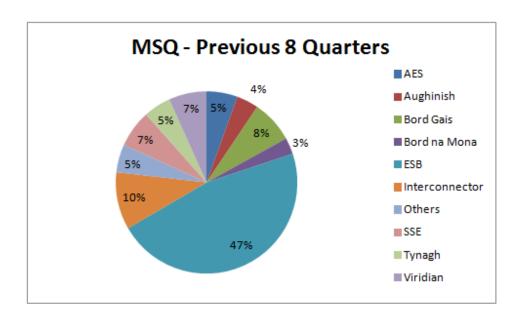
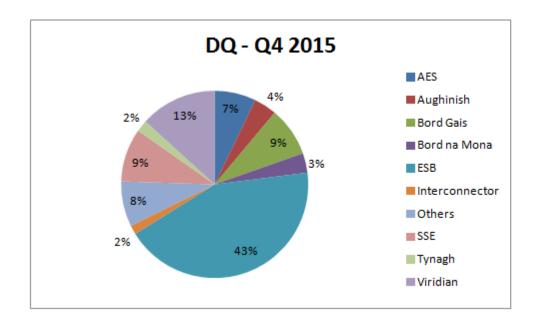
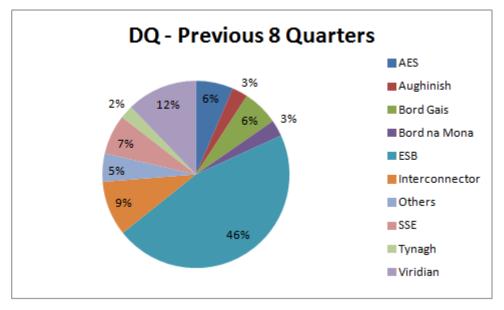




Figure 13b: Dispatch Quantity by generation owner Dispatch Quantity





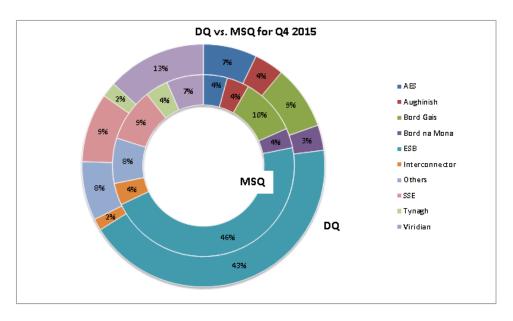
If there is a difference between the market schedule and the real-time dispatch the System Operators must dispatch generator units in real time under additional constraints not considered by the market engine. Transmission constraints and the need to provide reserve on the network are some of causes. Constraint payments keep generators financially neutral against these differences.

To balance supply and demand, constraining off will always result in generators being constrained on, and vice versa. Units constrained off will pay back a constraint payment and the corresponding units that are constrained on will receive a payment.



Figure 13c: Q4 2015 Dispatch Quantity versus Market

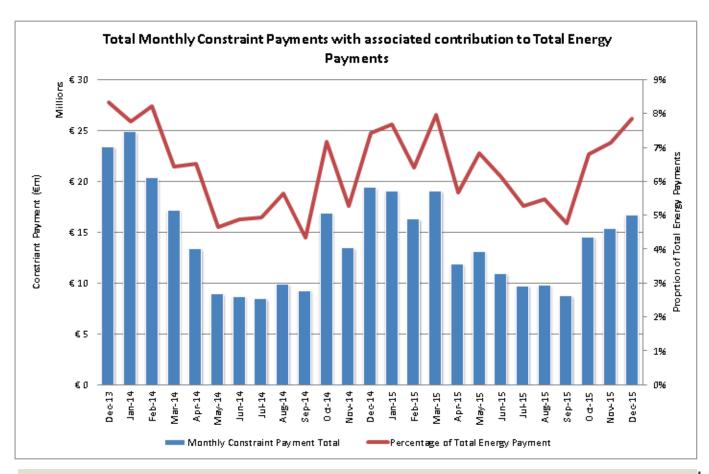
Owner	MSQ - Current Quarter	MSQ %	DQ - Current Quarter	DQ %
AES	741,759	4%	1,246,041	7%
Aughinish	695,113	4%	688,098	4%
Bord Gais	1,766,443	10%	1,484,427	9%
Bord na Mona	612,150	4%	587,753	3%
ESB	8,050,791	46%	7,523,138	43%
Interconnector	681,399	4%	271,190	2%
Others	1,407,020	8%	1,365,393	8%
SSE	1,648,885	9%	1,606,460	9%
Tynagh	715,344	4%	350,065	2%
Viridian	1,146,441	7%	2,309,273	13%
Total	17,465,344	100%	17,431,838	100%





#### **Constraint cost trends**

Figure 13: Monthly Constraint Payments and Contribution to Total Energy Payments 2013 - 2015



In Q4 2015, constraints costs relative to energy payments were on average 7.17%.



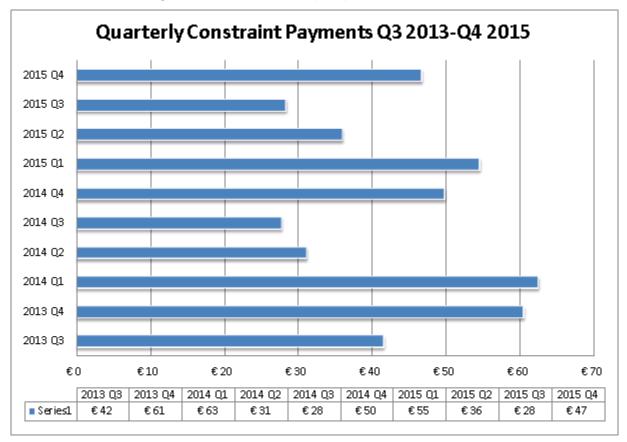


Figure 15: Total Quarterly Payments 2013 - 2015

In Q4 2015 total constraints costs increased by €17m on Q3 2015. Over the last nine quarters, the peak quarterly Constraint Payment figure was that of Q1 2014 which stood at €62m.

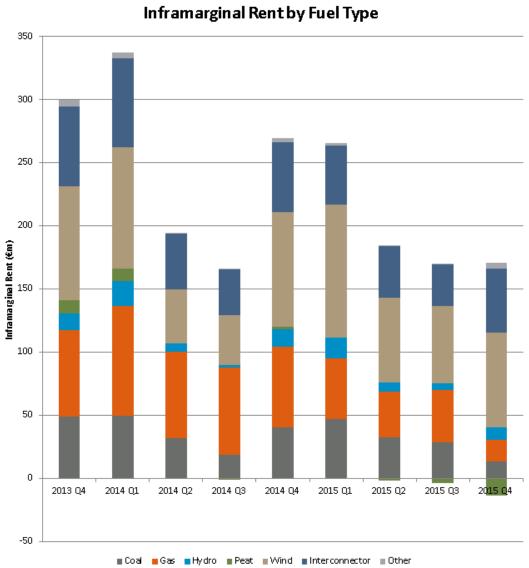


# Infra-marginal rent (IMR) trends

IMR is the difference between the price paid for generation and the cost to produce that generation. All scheduled generators whose bids are less than the SMP for the period will earn varying levels of IMR, depending on their bid price.

The following chart shows the levels of IMR received by fuel type.

Figure 16: Quarterly breakdown of Infra Marginal Rent by Fuel Type



A number of trends can be observed from this information (previous quarter in red).

Wind generation makes up a large share of IMR when compared with its percentage of the fuel mix. In the latest quarter (Q4 2015), wind accounted for €75m (€61m) of IMR which represents 46% (37%) of the total.

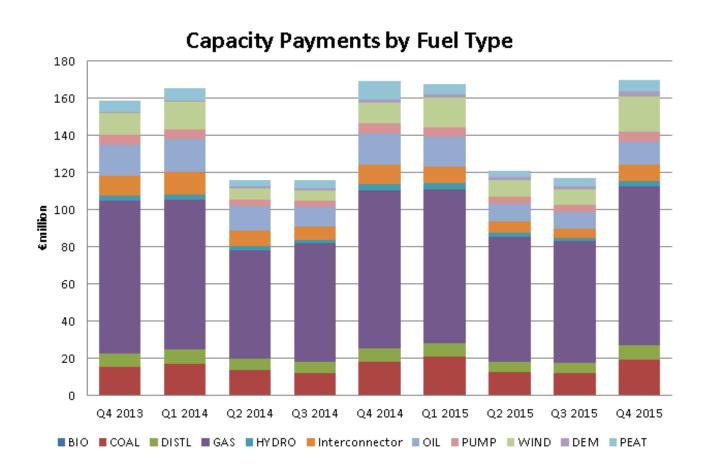


# Capacity revenues

All generators receive capacity payments when they are available. These are paid on a monthly basis from a predetermined Annual Capacity Payment Sum, which is €575m for the 2015 Trading Year.

The figure below shows the capacity payments by fuel type for each quarter since Q4 2013.

Figure 17: Quarterly breakdown of Capacity Payments by Fuel Type



The size of the capacity payments reflects both the availability and volume of installed MW capacity of each fuel type. As can be seen, gas generators are the largest recipient of capacity payments. This is because of their high levels of availability and the large volume of gas generation in the SEM.



#### Interconnector flows

The following figure illustrates the percentage of times in a month that the interconnector flows in the expected profitable direction (i.e. from Great Britain to the SEM if the SEM price is higher and vice versa).

Quarterly Percentages: IC Flows in Profitable direction 80% 70% Percentage in profitable direction 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 **2007** 68% **2008** 55% 51% 54% 53% ■2009 54% 49% 58% 48% 65% 45% **2010** 57% 58% 52% ■2011 57% 66% 55% **2012** 58% 46% 67% 71% **2013** 60% 65% 57% 60% **2014** 66% 65% 59% 47% **2015** 54% 47% 51% 53%

Figure 18: Quarterly Interconnector flows in the profitable direction



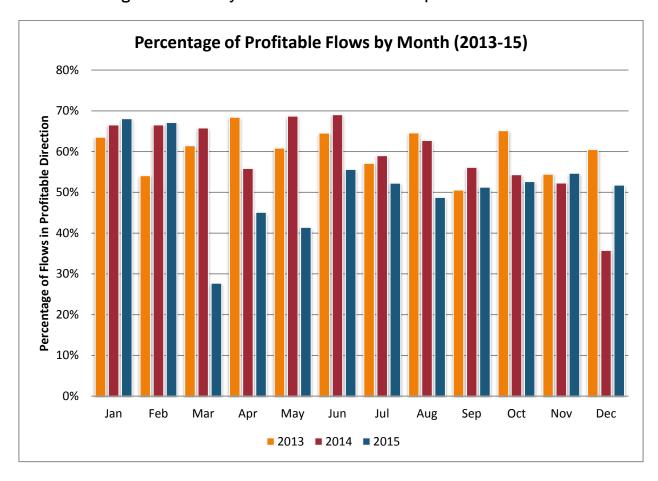


Figure 19: Monthly Interconnector flows in the profitable direction

The figure highlights that interconnector flows do not always flow in the expected profitable direction. There are a number of reasons behind this, including the fact that different structures currently exist in the two markets.

At present the market price in Great Britain is set using an ex ante price, whereas the SEM market is set using ex post prices.

The two sets of prices often differ, which exposes traders to varying degrees of risk. It is expected that these arrangements may change once the I-SEM has been implemented and there is further harmonisation of the markets.

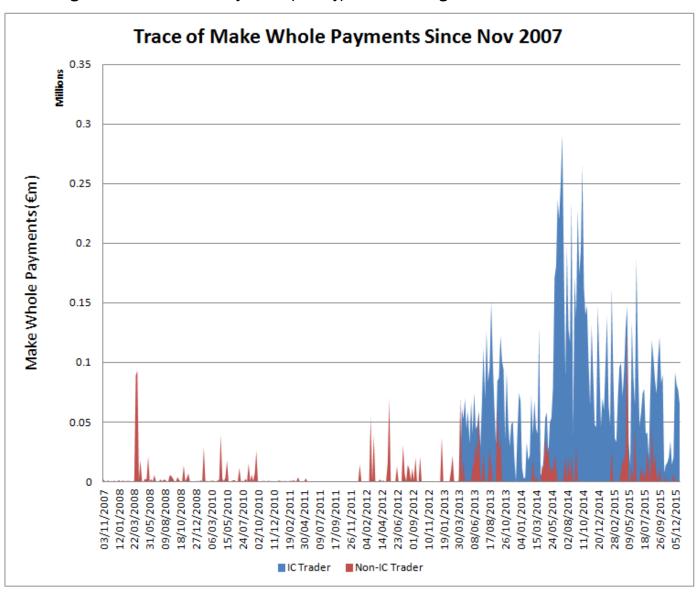
On average the flow of energy in the profitable direction in the fourth quarter of 2015 was 53%. This is a 2% increase on Q3 2015. The highest percentage of profitable flows was in Q3 2012 which was 71%.



# Make Whole Payments

Make Whole Payments (MWPs) provide a top-up payment for SEM participants when they don't recover all of their production costs within a trading week. The purpose of MWPs is to provide the balance between total energy payments to a generator and the production cost of that generator on a weekly basis. These arrangements are set out in detail in the Trading and Settlement Code.

Figure 20: Make Whole Payments (weekly) Settlement Figures Nov 2007 - Dec 2015





**Total Quarterly Make Whole Payments since SEM Go-live** Millions 2.33 2 Make Whole Payments (€m) 1.63 1.5 1.32 1.25 1.15 ■ Total 1 0.89 0.79 0.57 0.5 Q4 Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 2012 2013 2014 2007 2008 2010 2011 2015

Figure 21: Make Whole Payments Totals by Quarter



#### 6. DIRECTED CONTRACTS

In November 2012 the regulatory authorities published an information note<sup>6</sup> on contracting in the SEM from 2007 to 2013. The note provided details about the different contract products offered as well as the volume of contracts sold each year. The note also showed the trends in prices over the past number of years, both in terms of fuels and contracts. This included information on the price and volume of directed contracts sold.

In April 2012 the regulatory authorities published the decision<sup>7</sup> on the format of directed contracts for 2012/13 and beyond. The decision was to move away from holding directed contract subscriptions on an annual basis<sup>8</sup> and instead to have rolling quarterly subscriptions. With the move to quarterly subscriptions, it is appropriate that information on the price and volumes of directed contracts should be provided on a more regular basis than the annual contracting report.

The tables and figures below provide information on the price and volume of directed contracts subscriptions, using the same format as the contracting report. The information includes the latest subscription round, round 14 which was held in September 2015. Each subsequent quarterly price report will include the latest subscription results.

The contract volumes for 2016 show the volume of contracts sold to date and do not represent the full volume of contracts that are likely to be sold for the period. As a result of the DC subscriptions moving to a rolling quarterly schedule, the full volume for each quarterly product (i.e. Baseload Q1 2016) will be sold over a year. The table below shows the proportion of the expected total directed contracts volumes that have been sold for those years to date.

Expected Volumes of DCs Offered to Date												
Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015							
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%							
Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016							
100%	100%	100%	100%	75%	50%							

On average, the prices of directed contract baseload, mid-merit and peak products for 2016 sold to date are between 15% & 21% lower, than those sold for 2015. The volume of directed contracts doubled from 2012 to 2013. This was mainly due to the horizontal integration of ESB's power generation. The volumes for 2015 were just 2% lower than 2014 and 13% above 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Directed Contracts Implementation for 2012/'13 and Beyond – SEM/12/026

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Contracting in the SEM 2007-2013 – SEM/12/100

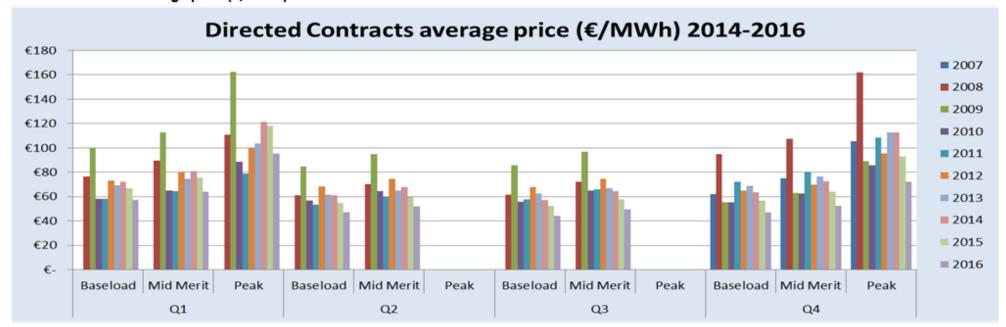
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Following the traditional tariff year from Q4 in year one to Q3 in year two.



# Directed contracts average price (€/MWh), 2007-2016

	DC Average Price (€/MWh), 2007-2016																					
Q1						Q2						(	Q3		Q4							
Year	Bas	eload	Mid	Merit	Peak	1	Baselo	oad	Mid Merit		Peak	Base	Baseload Mid Merit		Peak	Baseload		Mid	Merit	Peak		
2007																	€	62	€	75	€	106
2008	€	76	€	90	€	111	€	61	€	70		€	61	€	72		€	95	€	107	€	162
2009	€	100	€	113	€	163	€	85	€	95		€	86	€	97		€	55	€	63	€	89
2010	€	58	€	65	€	88	€	57	€	64		€	56	€	65		€	55	€	62	€	86
2011	€	58	€	65	€	79	€	54	€	60		€	58	€	66		€	72	€	80	€	108
2012	€	73	€	80	€	100	€	68	€	74		€	68	€	74		€	65	€	70	€	95
2013	€	69	€	75	€	104	€	62	€	65		€	63	€	67		€	69	€	76	€	113
2014	€	72	€	81	€	121	€	61	€	68		€	57	€	64		€	63	€	73	€	113
2015	€	67	€	76	€	118	€	55	€	60		€	52	€	58		€	57	€	64	€	93
2016	€	57	€	64	€	95	€	47	€	52		€	44	€	49		€	47	€	53	€	72

#### Directed contracts average price (€/MWh)

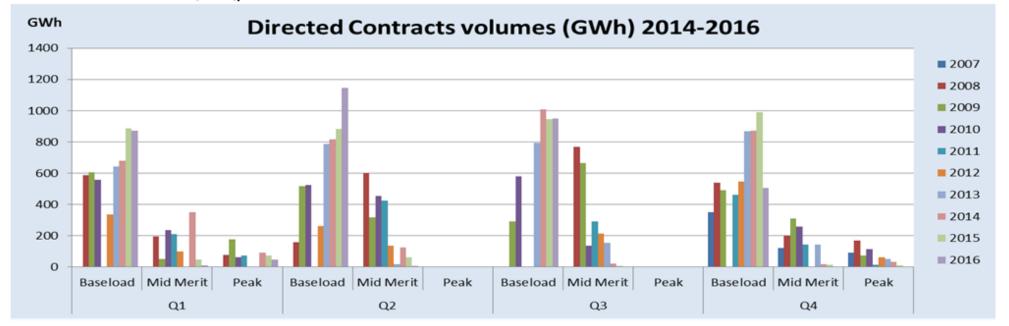




### Directed contracts volumes (GWh), 2007-2016

					DC	Volumes (0	GWh), 2007-	2016					
Vaan		Q1			Q2			Q3			Total		
Year	Base load	Mid Merit	Peak	Baseload	Mid Merit	Peak	Baseload	Mid Merit	Peak	Baseload	Mid Merit	Peak	TWh
2007										352	122	90	0.56
2008	587	194	76	157	604		-	769		539	199	169	3.29
2009	605	52	176	518	317		291	665		492	312	74	3.50
2010	557	235	62	524	453		581	135		-	259	113	2.92
2011	-	209	73	-	423		-	291		462	143	13	1.61
2012	336	100	-	260	134		-	212		546	-	61	1.65
2013	643	-	-	788	19		795	153		868	142	51	3.46
2014	680	350	90	815	126		1,009	21		870	19	33	4.01
2015	887	47	74	885	62		945	7		990	15	11	3.92
2016	871	10	47	1,147	7		949	3		506	-	-	3.54

# Directed contracts volumes (GWh)





### 7. ACRONYMS

AA Actual availability
DQ Dispatch quantity

BETTA British Electricity Trading and Transport Arrangements

ESB PG Electricity Supply Board Power Generation

**EWIC** East West Interconnector Company

GB Great Britain

IMR Infra marginal rent

I-SEM Integrated Single Electricity Market

MLH Material level of harm

MSQ Market scheduled quantity

NI Northern Ireland

Power NI Energy PPB PowerNI Energy Power Procurement Business

PQ Price quantity pair ROI (Republic of) Ireland

SEMO Single Electricity Market Operator

SMP System marginal price

**TSOs** Transmission system operators