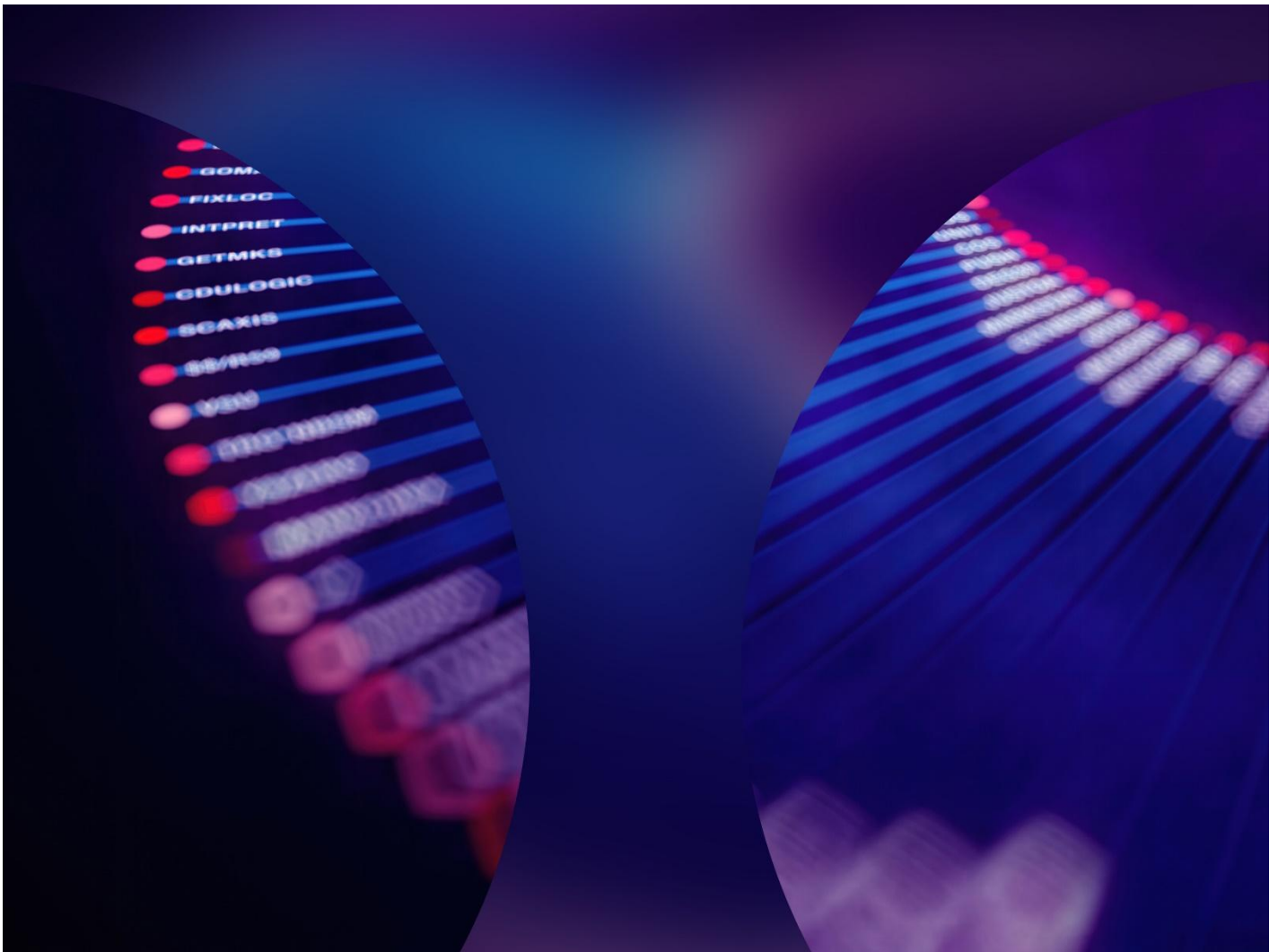


DIP CR 0020 'Decreasing the Retention Period for the DIP Archive' Initial Assessment

Public

Assessment

Document owner	Document number	Date	Document status
DIP Manager	1.0	7 May 2026	Public



ELEXON | DIP

Summary

About this document

You can find the definitions of the terms and acronyms used in this document in the [DIP Glossary](#)¹.

This document provides information on a DIP CR. It provides an assessment of the proposed change and its progression.

There are three parts to this document, which are:

- This document. It is the main document providing insight into the change, solution, and progression.
- **Attachment A** contains the DIP CR Proposal Form.
- **Attachment B** contains the red-line text for DCR0020

Timeline



Executive summary

The Data Integration Platform (DIP) currently provides message archiving, replay, and re-queue services to support users in scenarios such as data loss or system failure. Under existing DIP Rules, messages are retained for two years, and users must demonstrate equivalent data retention capability during onboarding.

However, a recent cost assessment conducted by the DIP Manager with the DIP Service Provider, Avanade, has identified that data storage costs—particularly those associated with message indexing (blob index tags in Microsoft Azure)—are increasing significantly. As more participants qualify under Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS), these costs are expected to continue rising and will ultimately be borne by DIP Payees from July 2027.

To ensure the DIP remains efficient and cost-effective, it is proposed to reduce the archive retention period from two years to 90 days. This change would materially reduce storage and indexing costs while maintaining sufficient capability to support core recovery functions such as message replay and re-queue.

This proposal aligns with the DIP Manager's obligation to deliver a cost-efficient service and to ensure that the DIP Rules remain proportionate and fit for purpose.

	Impacts	Explanation
DIP Users	Postive	This change will reduce the cost of retaining information.
DIP Manager	Postive	This change will reduce the cost of retaining information.
DIP Rules	Postive	This change will clarify how long information should be retained in the DIP Rules.
DIP objectives	Positive	This change supports Objective C as it will ensure there is a cost-effective service delivered to DIP Users.
Industry Codes	Netural	N/A

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This change will reduce the cost of retaining information.

Cost

Low

This change will affect the operating model for the DIP Manager as it will reduce the retention period of the DIP Archive.

Change Tier

One

Overview

Background

The DIP Rules set out the core services of the DIP¹, which includes Message² archiving, replay³, and/or re-queue⁴. This functionality supports DIP Users⁵ when a Message is lost or when there has been a system failure (alongside other scenarios). To enable this functionality, DIP Users must, during their DIP On-Boarding⁶ checks (functional and non-functional) provide evidence that their systems can store data received via the DIP for at least two years⁷, which aligns with the DIP archive's default retention period⁸.

To provide the DIP archive and message replay and re-queue functionality, the DIP Manager⁹ has been working with the DIP Service Provider¹⁰, Avanade, to understand the costs associated with retaining data. This exercise has been undertaken because, as more and more DIP Applicants¹¹ are turning into DIP Users as part of Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Qualification¹².

The assessment identified that storage costs were rising, largely driven by the use of message index tagging to categorise messages across channels. Blob index tags are currently used as the underlying technology for the archive index, but this is being redesigned to use Cosmos DB (both Microsoft Azure services).

As a result, alongside the reduction in the archive retention period, this change will also help lower the ongoing cost of maintaining the archive index.

Currently, the costs are estimated to be significant per month for index tagging. These costs would be funded by DIP Payees¹³ (after Milestone 16 (2 July 2027)).

What is the issue?

The cost of maintaining indexes for the DIP message archive is set to increase. This poses a challenge because the DIP Manager is responsible for providing DIP Users—and, by extension, DIP Payees—with an efficient and cost-effective service¹⁴. Additionally, the Manager must ensure that the established rules are fit for purpose¹⁵.

Solution

To support a more cost-effective service, it is proposed to reduce the DIP archive retention period from two years to 90 days

¹ DSD002, Annex 2, 2.2

² A flow containing an event or a message sent using the DIP

³ The replay API will return the messages directly from the API call.

⁴ The re-queue API will place the messages on the queue to be pulled by the corresponding [Webhook](#)

⁵ An organisation that has completed DIP On-boarding and fulfils one of the DIP Roles listed in DSD002 'DIP Connection and Operation.'

⁶ The process set out in DSD002 'DIP Connection and Operation.'

⁷ DSD002, Annex 1, 1.1.1, (h)

⁸ DSD002, Annex 2, 9.6.4 "The furthest a query can retrieve data is dependent upon the retention time set with each message channel (the default retention is 2 years)."

⁹ The company or organisation appointed by the Authority responsible for the operation of the DIP, including recovery of costs, changes to the DIP and its governance processes, and any other duty as laid out in the DIP Rules

¹⁰ The company appointed to manage and maintain the middleware that is the DIP

¹¹ An organisation applying to be a DIP User

¹² Shall have the same meaning as in the BSC Section C 12.2 and, for the purpose of the DIP Rules, shall apply mutatis mutandis to all potential DIP Users that are not BSC Parties but are required to be DIP Users by another Industry Code.

¹³ Shall have the meaning in DSD005 'Funding and Budget', i.e., DIP Costs shall be payable by DIP Payees. A DIP Payee is a DIP User that is required to pay a share of DIP Costs. DIP Payees are: Suppliers that have at least one Metering Point Administration Number (MPAN) registered in DIP MPAN Address Maintenance Service (DIP MAMS) and have completed DIP On-Boarding in accordance with DSD002 'DIP Connection and Operation'.

¹⁴ DSD001, 3.1.2.

¹⁵ DSD001, 3.1.3.

Proposers rationale

Reducing the retention period would significantly lower data storage and indexing costs. This change enables the DIP Manager to fulfil its responsibility to operate an efficient and cost-effective service for DIP Users, while maintaining the core functionality required for message recovery scenarios.

The 90 day retention aligns to the period required to support data replay in the IF-015/16 interface.

Proposers red-lining

Document	Section	Amendment
DSD002, Annex 2	9.6	<p>Wording has changed from 'default 2 years' to 'default 90 calendar days.'</p> <p>Change:</p> <p>9.6.4 The furthest a query can retrieve data is dependent upon the retention time set with each message channel (the default retention is 2-years 90 days).</p>

Note that the full text or amendments can be found within the legal text **Attachment(s) B**.

Impacts, benefits, and risks

Impacts

The most significant impact is on DIP Users' data recovery capabilities. With only 90 days of archived data available, users will no longer be able to rely on the DIP for replay or re-queue of older messages. This places greater responsibility on users to maintain their own long-term storage solutions if they require data beyond this window.

There may also be onboarding and compliance implications. Current DIP Rules require users to evidence two-year data retention capability; these requirements would need to be reviewed and potentially updated to align with the new retention policy.

Operational processes and expectations will need to adjust. Users, service desks, and support teams must be aware of the shorter recovery window, which could affect incident management, audit requests, and dispute resolution timelines.

Benefits

Reducing the retention period delivers immediate and tangible cost savings. The largest driver—index tagging in Microsoft Azure—scales with both data volume and retention duration, so shortening the storage window significantly lowers ongoing operational costs. This directly benefits DIP Payees, who would otherwise absorb these increasing costs from July 2027.

It also improves overall service efficiency. Managing a smaller data set reduces storage overhead, simplifies archive management, and may improve system performance for retrieval operations such as replay and re-queue within the retained window.

Finally, the change promotes proportionality. A 90-day retention period may better reflect actual operational needs if most recovery scenarios occur within a shorter timeframe, avoiding over-engineering the service.

Risks

A key risk is reduced resilience in long-tail failure scenarios. Issues that are identified late—beyond the 90-day window—may no longer be recoverable via the DIP, potentially leading to data gaps, reconciliation challenges, or increased manual intervention.

Affected party/area	Impact, benefit, or risk	Explanation
DIP Rules	Positive	This provides clarity on retention periods for the DIP Archive.
DIP System	Positive	This will ensure the DIP System is efficient when replaying and requeuing messages.
DIP User	Positive	This will ensure DIP Users understand the retention periods of the DIP Archive
DIP Manager	Positive	This provides clarity on retention periods for the DIP Archive.
DIP Service Provider	Positive	This provides clarity on retention periods for the DIP Archive.
Industry Codes	Neutral	Neutral
DIP Manager Cost	Positive	This provides clarity on retention periods for the DIP Archive and its cost.

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This provides clarity on retention periods for the DIP Archive and its cost.

DIP User Cost Positive

Applicable **DIP Objective (a)**

- Provide accurate and timely support for the sharing of applicable market data. Netural

Applicable **DIP Objective (b)**

- Further consumer interests through the appropriately governed sharing of data. Netural

Applicable **DIP Objective (c)**

- Facilitate competitive change and innovation through the efficient and economic delivery of reliable and adaptable services. Positive

This change will reduce the costs for the DIP and will support an efficient and economic delivery of reliable and adaptable services

DIP CR tier, progression, and implementation/recommendation

Change Tier

Tier	Criteria	Explanation
Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> an implementation cost greater than £500,000 for the DIP Manager and/or £250,000 for DIP Users; placing new obligations on DIP Users and/or the DIP Manager that will require a change to the DIP User's business operating model; an Implementation Date will be more than 24 months after the date on which the decision is made. 	This change will affect the DIP Manager's operating model and, thus, should be considered a tier one change.
Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other changes 	This is a material change and is not a Tier 2 change.

Progression timeline

Event	Date
Initial Assessment published	06/05/2026
Industry Consultation	06/05/2026 – 27/06/2026
Final Assessment published	28/05/2026
DIP CR presented for decision	29/05/2026 (ad-hoc DCAB ¹⁶)
Decision published	29/05/2026
Proposed Implementation Date	11/06/2026

Reason to consult

The DIP Manager is consulting on this change because it represents a material alteration to a core service that directly affects all DIP Users and, ultimately, DIP Payees.

Firstly, reducing the archive retention period from two years to 90 days changes the level of service currently relied upon by users for message recovery. Consultation ensures that stakeholders have the opportunity to assess how this reduction may impact their operational processes, including incident management, reconciliation, audit, and dispute resolution. Without input from users, there is a risk that the revised retention period may not adequately support real-world use cases.

Secondly, the change shifts responsibility for long-term data storage away from the DIP and onto individual users. While this reduces central costs, it may introduce additional costs or technical burdens for participants. Consulting allows the DIP Manager to understand whether these costs are proportionate, how they are distributed across the market, and whether any groups are disproportionately affected.

¹⁶ DSD004, 4.6.4

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Finally, consultation supports transparency and stakeholder confidence. As the DIP Manager is responsible for operating an efficient and equitable service, engaging with users demonstrates that decisions are being made collaboratively, with proper consideration of impacts across the market. This is particularly important given that costs will ultimately be borne by DIP Payees.

Question	Reason to ask
Has the DIP Manager appropriately understood the issue?	This ensures the DIP Manager has assessed an issue appropriately
Has the issue impacted your organisation?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If so, what has been the impact? 	It enables respondents to detail the impact, costs, and risks this issue may be causing them (if at all).
Do you agree with the proposed solution?	Respondents can detail whether the solution resolves the issue.
Do you agree that the red-lined delivers the solution that addresses the issue in this DIP CR?	Respondents can detail and/or provide reasons whether the solution addresses the issue in this DIP CR.
Will the solution in this DIP CR incur any costs to your organisation?	Respondents can outline the cost this DIP CR may cause them (if at all).
Do you agree with the implementation approach of this DIP CR?	Respondents can explain whether they support the implementation approach of this DIP CR.
Do you have any additional comments on this DIP CR?	Ensures respondents can add further comments or considerations that the DIP Manager may have missed within their assessment.

Implementation

DIP Manager initially recommends an Implementation Date for **CR0020** of:

- 11 June 2026** as part of the standard **June 2026 DIP Release**.