

Public

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National Energy System Operator

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Dear requester

### **Request for Information**

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 13 November 2024. Your request was forwarded to the Information Rights Team for consideration under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

### **Request**

You asked us for information relating to the Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) queue and TEC amnesties. Specifically, you requested "monthly data from 2010 to 2024, specifically regarding TEC cancellation fees, costs paid by developers to enter/progress in the queue, queue order, characteristics of projects in the queue and those that used the amnesty, withdrawals, and amnesty outcomes."

### **Our response**

We can confirm that we hold information which falls within the scope of your request. However, we estimate that the cost of meeting your request in full would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450 specified in the [Freedom of Information and Data Protection \(Appropriate Limit and Fees\) Regulations 2004](#). This equates to 18 hours of staff time spend in determining whether NESO holds

the requested information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Under Section 12 of the FOIA, NESO is therefore not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further under the FOIA.

## Advice and Assistance

We are providing some information below on the information held which should help your understanding of the time estimates we have made in order that you can consider how you could refine your request to bring it within the appropriate cost limit. We have also provided links to any publicly available information sources and information about other options.

- TEC cancellation fees

We hold this information but on a half yearly basis. The source of the cost data is the Transmission Owners and we then apply a methodology to the costs to calculate the cancellation charges for individual projects. The information for each project is commercially sensitive to the developer in the form that we hold it and would require us to extract hundreds of statements from our systems and then redact information that would identify the developer and project.

- Application fees

Information about current application fees is available here: [Application Fee Calculator FY2024-25.xlsx](#). It is likely that historic annual charging statements could be provided where these are held.

- Queue order

This information is not currently held in an accessible format that we could provide outside of NESO. Our Connections Team estimate that providing this information alone would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

- Characteristics of projects in the queue

We do have a TEC register which will provide connection dates and technology type. This is published on our website: [Reports and registers | National Energy System Operator](#). We have also recently launch a new product called Connections 360 which you may be of interest to you: [Connections 360 | National Energy System Operator](#).

- TEC amnesty information

We do hold a list of projects that opted for TEC Amnesty. It was agreed with and communicated to industry at the time that this data would not be published and that they would just be removed from our published register in the same way as if they opted to terminate their agreement for other reasons. Given that assurances were made by the National Grid Electricity System Operator

about confidentiality, prior to the formation of NESO on 1 October 2024 when we became subject to the FOIA, we would need to consider the reasonable expectations of developers and the confidentiality obligations owed to them.

We will consider any revised FOIA request that you submit as a new request. Please note that requests framed by the cost limit where a requester asks for searches until the cost limit is reached, are not valid requests under the FOIA.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) publishes various guidance on accessing information held by public authorities. You may find this guidance helpful: [How to access information from a public authority | ICO](#).

NESO acknowledges its crucial role within the energy sector and recognises the importance of the data it holds in shaping the future of energy systems and supporting the UK's ambition to achieve carbon net-zero by 2050. As a result, we actively embrace the need to share our data, fostering transparency, innovation, and collaboration. We do consider data sharing requests outside of the obligations under the FOIA: [Data Sharing Approach | National Energy System Operator](#). These requests would need to be evaluated and timescales for delivery would need to be agreed. In some cases data may be made available to individuals with additional safeguards in place. Although we have initially considered your request under the FOIA this alternative route may be more appropriate for your request. Please let us know if you would like us to forward your request to the relevant team for further consideration.

## Conclusion

You can ask us to review our response. If you want us to carry out a review, please let us know within 40 working days and quote the reference number at the top of this letter.

If you are still dissatisfied after our internal review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: [www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints). Alternatively, they can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the National Energy System Operator (NESO).

Regards,

The Information Rights Team

National Energy System Operator (NESO)