

Ref: FOI/25/004

National Energy System Operator  
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7 May 2025

Dear requester

## Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 4<sup>th</sup> April and have considered under the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

## Request

You asked us:

- 1. Do you manage your own Cyber Security internally or is it managed by another government body?*
- 2. Do you currently use any Contractors or external consultants within the Cyber Security function? (How many if so)*
- 3. If not, have you had any cyber security contractors previously?*
- 4. Do you have an allocated budget for Cyber Security spending?*

## Our response

We confirm that we hold information in scope of your request. We have provided our responses to each of your questions in turn below.

1. *Do you manage your own Cyber Security internally or is it managed by another government body?*

As part of the separation from National Grid, NESO has been developing its own Physical and Cyber Security capability.

2. *Do you currently use any Contractors or external consultants within the Cyber Security function? (How many if so)*

We have implemented a hybrid resourcing model, based upon core permanent capability which is enhanced in both capacity and capability by 3<sup>rd</sup> party resource. The use of contractors varies depending on workload and skills required.

As of 4th April 2025 we had 5 contractors based in the security team. We may also hire contractors with cyber security expertise to work in project teams

3. *If not, have you had any cyber security contractors previously?*

*Not applicable*

4. *Do you have an allocated budget for Cyber Security spending?*

Yes

## **Advice and assistance**

The National Grid Electricity System Operator (NG ESO) was part of the National Grid PLC group of companies until 30 September 2024 and was not subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

On 1 October 2024 ('Day 1') we became the National Energy System Operator (NESO) under government ownership (the Independent System Operator and Planner as designated in the Energy Act 2023).

NESO has been subject to the FOIA since Day 1. Regulation 14 of the Energy Act 2023 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2024 (SI 2024/706) amended Part 6 of Schedule 1 (other public bodies and offices: general) of the FOIA, inserting the following: *"The Independent System Operator and Planner designated in accordance*

*with section 162 of the Energy Act 2023 in respect of information held by it as a result of the exercise of its functions under, or as a consequence of, that Act.”.*

For more information about NESO please see: [About NESO | National Energy System Operator](#).

## **Next steps**

If you are in any way dissatisfied with our handling of your request, 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)