

Public

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NESO Operational Transparency Forum

14 May 2025

Introduction | Sli.do code #OTF

Slido code #OTF

To ask questions live & give us post event feedback go to Sli.do event code #OTF

- **Ask your questions as early as possible** as our experts may need time to ensure a correct answer can be given live.
- **Please provide your name or organisation.** This is an operational forum for industry participants therefore questions from unidentified parties will not be answered live. If you have reasons to remain anonymous to the wider forum, please use the advance question or email options below.
- **The OTF is not the place to challenge the actions of individual parties** (other than the NESO), and we will not comment on these challenges. This type of concern can be reported to the Market Monitoring team at: marketreporting@nationalenergyso.com
- **Questions will be answered in the upvoted order whenever possible.** We will take questions from further down the list when: the answer is not ready; we need to take the question away or the topic is outside of the scope of the OTF.
- **Sli.do will remain open until 12:00**, even when the call closes earlier, to provide the maximum opportunity for you to ask questions. After that please use the advance questions or email options below.
- **All questions will be recorded and published.** Questions which are not answered on the day will be included, with answers, in the slide pack for the next OTF.
- **Ask questions in advance** (before 12:00 on Monday) at: <https://forms.office.com/r/k0AEfKnai3>
- **Ask questions anytime** whether for inclusion in the forum or individual response at: box.nc.customer@nationalenergyso.com

Stay up to date on our webpage: <https://www.neso.energy/what-we-do/systems-operations/operational-transparency-forum> (OTF Q&A is published with slide packs)

Note: to access previous OTF webinars from Slido click on the three lines to the left of forum title

Future deep dive / focus topics

Slido code #OTF

Today's Focus Topics/deep dives

Partial Solar Eclipse on 29 March 2025 – 14 May

Future

Frequency Risk and Control Report (FRCR) update – 21 May

April Balancing Costs – 21 May

Submission of offer prices in the BM: wind & solar – 28 May

Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESP) – 4 June

If you have questions/suggestions of areas to cover during above presentations or ideas for deep dives or focus topics you would like us to consider, please send them to us at:

box.nc.customer@nationalenergyso.com

Skip Rate Drop-In Session

Secure your place at our upcoming drop-in session.

Date: Thursday 12 June

Time: 15:00 – 16:00

Location: Teams

We won't be presenting any new information in this session, this is your opportunity to engage with us in a two-way discussion with your questions, thoughts and feedback.

Please prepare any questions you may have in advance and send them to:

box.SkipRates@nationalenergyso.com

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Balancing Programme Optimisation Stakeholder Focus Group

Slido code #OTF

Date: 2 June 2025

Time: 13:30 – 15:00

Location: Microsoft Teams

Join us for a Balancing Programme Optimisation Focus Group. In this online session we will explore in more detail the National Dispatch Optimiser (NDO), scheduled for delivery in Summer 2025 on the Open Balancing Platform (OBP). Using real optimisation runs generated for fast and target dispatch we will also explain how the existing optimisers in OBP are reaching decisions which inform dispatch processes.

If you are not signed up to our Balancing Programme Optimisation Stakeholder Focus Group and would like to attend this session, please register for the Focus Group [here](#) – a calendar invite will be sent to you following sign up.

If you have any questions, please contact the team at:
box.balancingprogramme@nationalenergyso.com

Balancing Programme Forecasting Stakeholder Focus Group

Slido code #OTF

Date: 19 May 2025 / 5 June 2025

Time: 14:00 – 16:00 / 11:30 – 13:30

Location: Microsoft Teams

Join our Forecasting Focus Group to help design the Forecasting Strategy for NESO, and shape future capabilities within this space between 2026–2031, to support the electricity system of the future. We will be hosting 2 sessions, with stakeholders encouraged to join both.

In the 1st session on **19 May 14:00 – 16:00**, we will outline the current state of NESO forecasting, provide a high-level vision for the future, and discuss the changes anticipated which impact forecasting.

In the 2nd session on **5 June 11:30 – 13:30**, we will explore the forecasting requirements needed to operate the system between 2026–2031, consider what data NESO should publish in the future, and discuss how NESO could improve its forecasting abilities. Both sessions will be interactive requiring audience participation.

If you are not signed up to our Balancing Programme Forecasting Stakeholder Focus Group and would like to attend this session, please register for the Focus Group [HERE](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the team at:

box.balancingprogramme@nationalenergyso.com

NESO Data Portal update

We are pleased to announce a significant update to the NESO Data Portal. On **2 June 2025**, Data Portal URLs that do not belong to the NESO domain will be disabled.

The [NESO Data Portal](#) offers colleagues and the public access to data. As part of our efforts towards the digitalisation of NESO, we are implementing updates to the NESO Data Portal to improve user experience.

Slido code #OTF

What is changing?

Effective 2 June 2025, URLs (website addresses) pertaining to the Data Portal that use the National Grid and ESO domains will not work.

In recent months, the Data Portal has been accessible via multiple URLs, including the new NESO domain URL and older URLs using the National Grid or ESO domains. Older URLs functioned due to redirections, but all redirections will end on 2nd June 2025. This change is intended to streamline processes and enhance user experience.

Which URLs to use?

To access the Data Portal User Interface, or to consume data published on the Data Portal, do the following:

- **Data Portal front end** – Access the NESO Data Portal using the URL – <https://www.neso.energy/data-portal/>. Alternatively, the Data Portal can also be accessed through the [NESO website](#) by searching for Data Portal in the search bar. Do not use <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/data-portal> and <http://www.data.nationalgrideso.com>. We recommend updating your saved bookmarks and links accordingly.
- **Data Portal's application programming interface (API)** – Data consumers who utilize APIs to consume and publish data in the Data Portal should use the NESO domain – <https://api.neso.energy/> in the URL. Update your scripts and code, with the provided URL for uninterrupted access to published data via APIs. Do not use <https://api.nationalgrideso.com/>. For further guidance on using APIs to obtain data from the Data Portal, consult this [user guide](#).

For Data Portal queries contact:

box.opendata@nationalenergyso.com

Future Event Summary

Slido code #OTF

Event	Date & Time	Link
Response Reform Webinar: Static Reform	15 th May (10:00–11:00)	Register here
TNUoS Webinar	15 th May (14:00–15:30)	Register here
Balancing Programme Forecasting Stakeholder Focus Group	2 nd June (13:30–15:00)	Register here
Balancing Programme Optimisation Stakeholder Focus Group	19 th May (14:00–16:00) / 5 th June (11:30–13:30)	
NESO Data Portal update	2 nd June 2025 – National Grid and ESO web addresses stop working	
Markets Forum (Glasgow)	9 th June (09:00–16:30)	Register here
Markets Forum (London)	11 th June (09:00–16:30)	Join waiting list
Balancing Programme Event	24 th June (09:00–17:30)	Register here

Public

Solar eclipse (29 Mar 2025)

Slido code #OTF

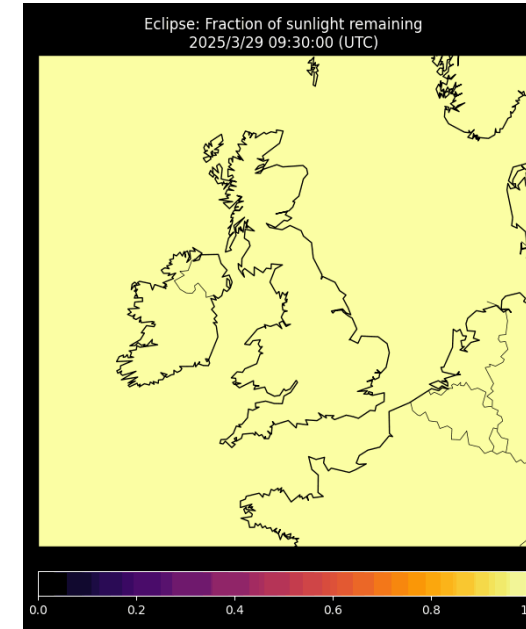
Forecasting

Weather

- Large uncertainty over cloud cover
 - Forecast to transit UK and thicken
 - Considerable revisions between successive weather forecasts
- Outturn skies were clearer than forecast
 - Solar generation higher than forecast

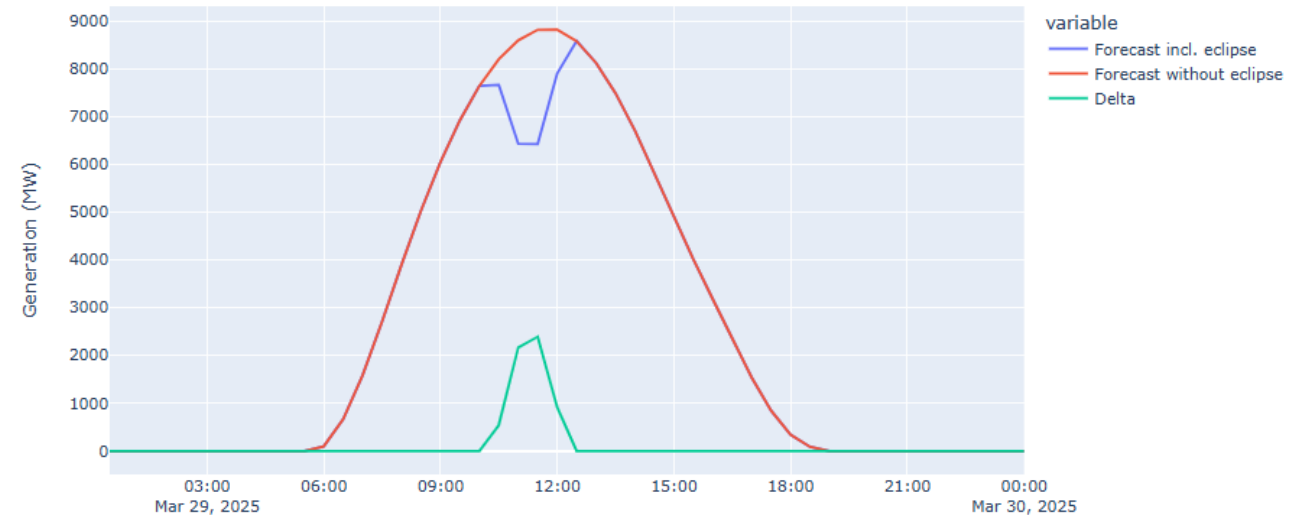
Eclipse

- Effect was modelled and applied to forecasts
 - Simple scaling based on % obscuration
- Accurate shape and size of effect



Slido code #OTF

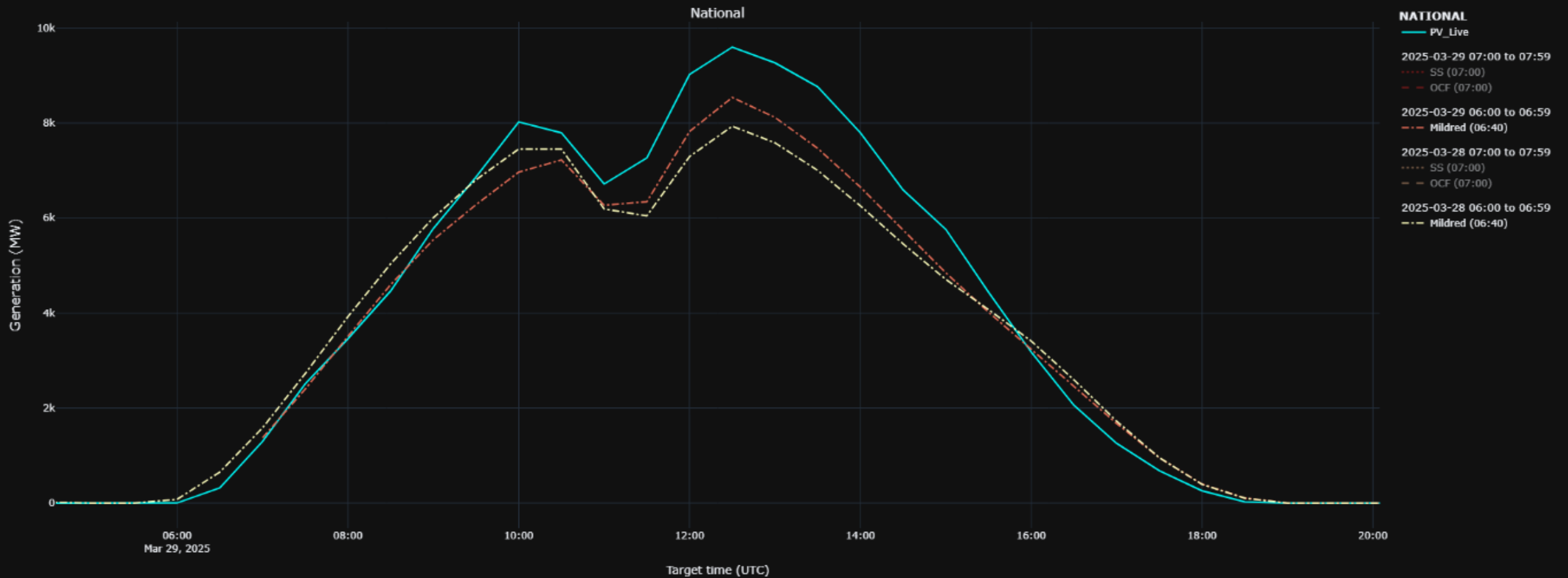
Embedded PV forecast - 29 March 2025 - Partial solar eclipse



Forecasting

Slido code #OTF

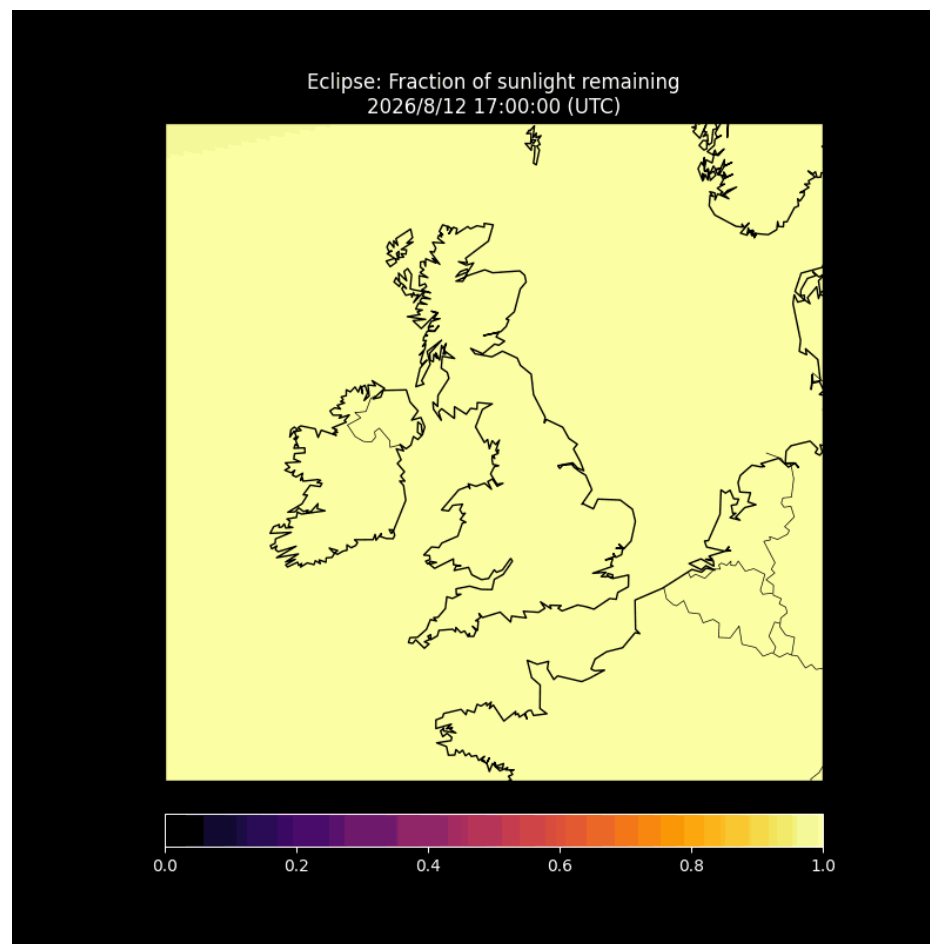
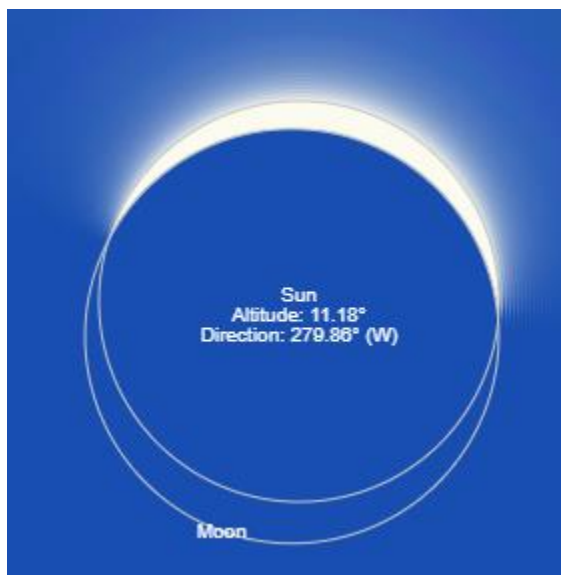
GB PV generation forecasts



Forecasting

Next solar eclipse

- 12 Aug 2026
- Late afternoon/evening
- ~90% peak obscuration

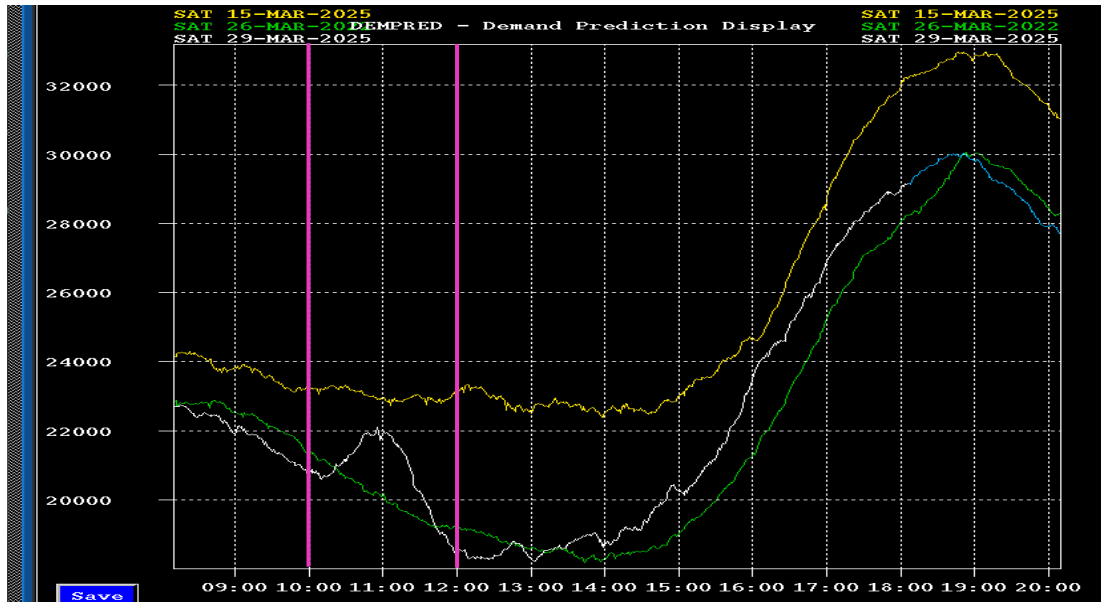


Slido code #OTF

Energy Market

Market

- For the entirety of the eclipse the market was long.
- The volume of energy over procured increased throughout the eclipse to a maximum of -1851 MWh during settlement period 25 (12pm).
- This corresponds to the largest imbalance volume in a single settlement period since 10/04/23.



Slido code #OTF

National Demand

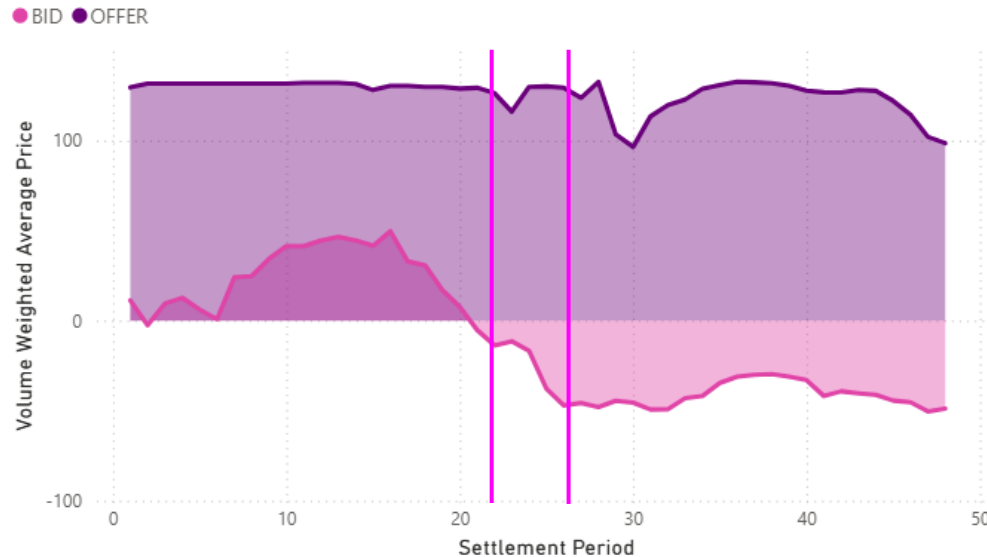
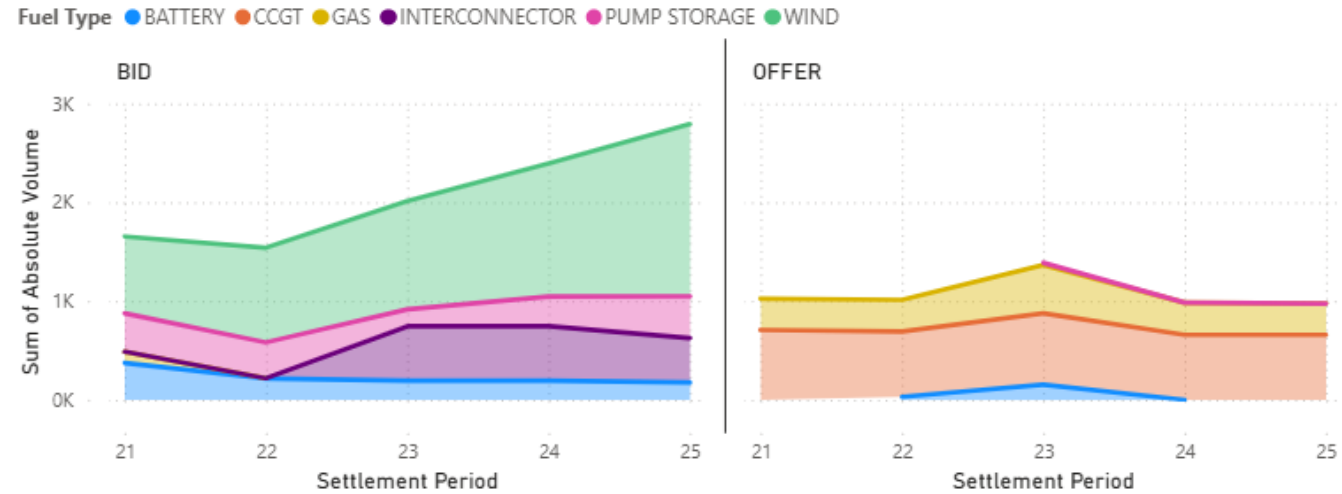
- At the beginning of the eclipse the National Demand had a small spike.
- Between 11am and 12pm the National Demand has a significant decline.
- This behaviour was not observed during other days with similar profiles (yellow & green).

Balancing Costs

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Balancing the System

- In total there were 626 actions made during the eclipse. 53% were energy related actions.
- The absolute volume of bids and offers during the eclipse was ~16,000 MWh (8.6% of day total) (9th highest for settlement periods 21-25 in March).
- In total ~£880,000 was spent to balance the system during the eclipse, ~£235,000 was spent on energy actions (~32% lower than the mean for settlement periods 21-25 in March).

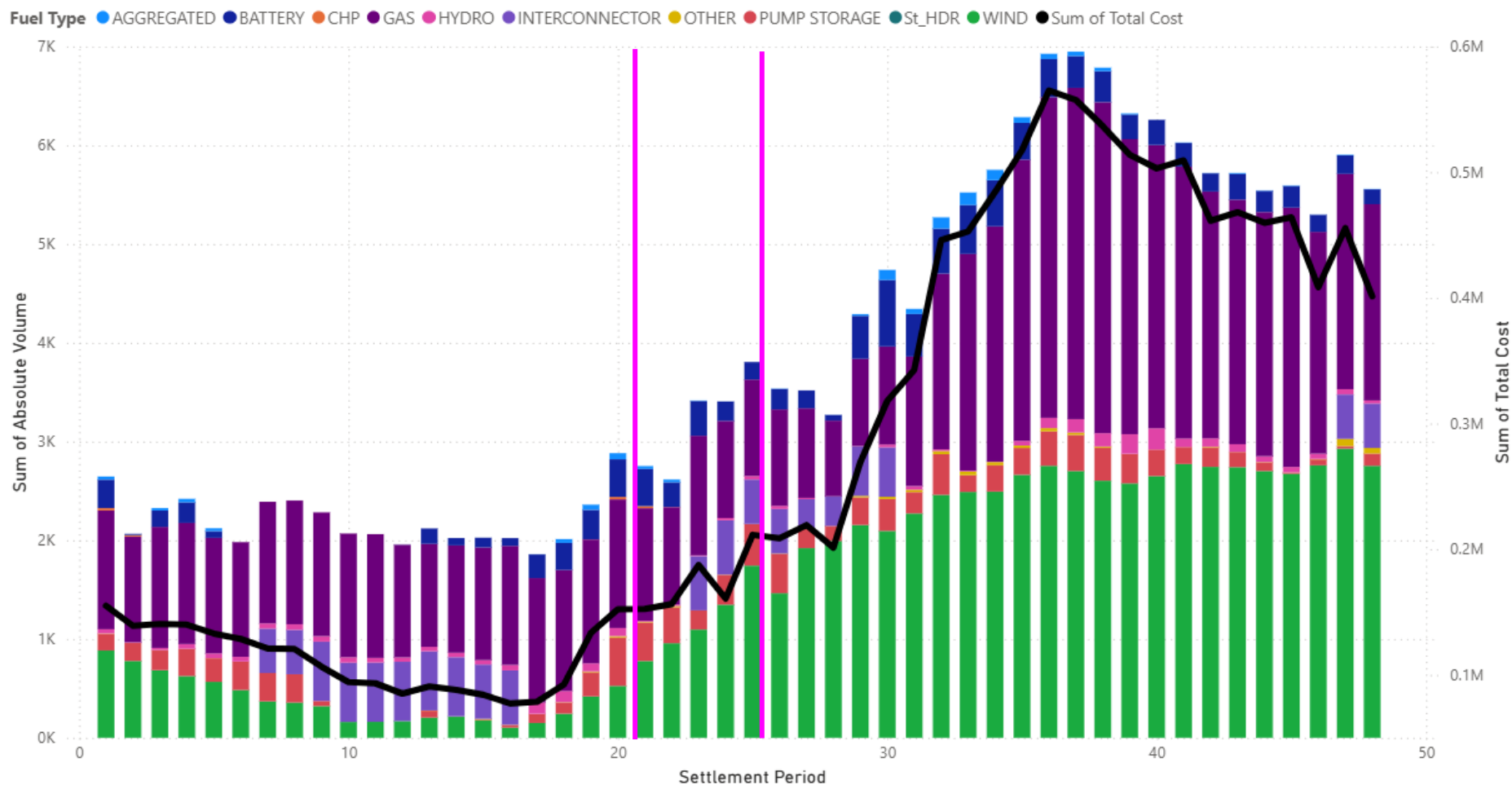


Volume Weighted Average (VWA) Prices

- During the eclipse, the VWA price for Offers had a small dip.
- During the same period, the VWA price for bids became negative (volume of wind bids increased).

Balancing Costs

Slido code #OTF

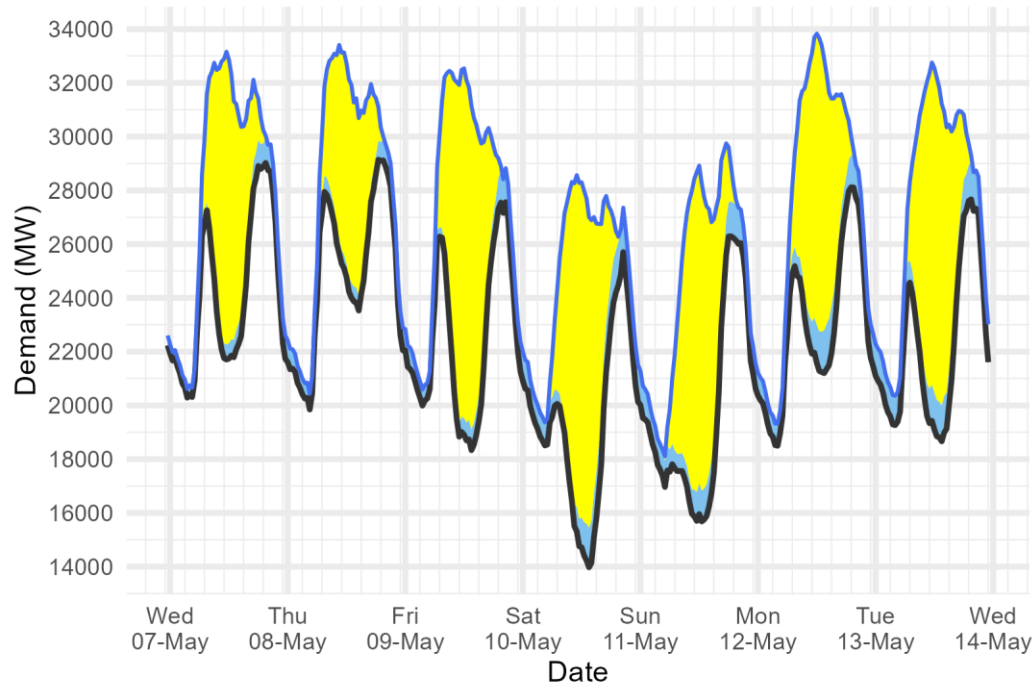




Demand | Last week demand out-turn

Slido code #OTF

NESO National Demand outturn 07-13 May 2025



Demand type

- National Demand (ND)
transmission connected
generation requirement within GB
- ND + est. of PV & wind
at Distribution network

Renewable type

- Distributed_PV
- Distributed_Wind

Distributed generation

Peak values by day

Date	OUTTURN	
	Daily Max Dist. PV (GW)	Daily Max Dist. Wind (GW)
07 May 2025	10.9	1.1
08 May 2025	7.5	0.9
09 May 2025	13.0	1.3
10 May 2025	12.5	1.9
11 May 2025	11.9	1.4
12 May 2025	10.9	1.8
13 May 2025	12.1	1.5

National Demand

Minimum Demands

Date	Forecasting Point	FORECAST (Wed 07 May)			OUTTURN		
		National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)	Dist. PV (GW)	National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)	Dist. PV (GW)
07 May 2025	Afternoon Min	22.7	0.7	8.9	21.8	0.7	8.9
08 May 2025	Overnight Min	19.9	0.7	0.0	19.8	0.6	0.0
08 May 2025	Afternoon Min	21.7	0.7	10.1	23.5	0.6	6.6
09 May 2025	Overnight Min	19.7	0.7	0.0	20.0	0.6	0.0
09 May 2025	Afternoon Min	20.1	0.7	10.2	18.3	0.8	12.0
10 May 2025	Overnight Min	18.1	0.6	0.3	18.5	0.9	0.0
10 May 2025	Afternoon Min	16.5	0.8	10.3	14.0	1.5	11.6
11 May 2025	Overnight Min	16.8	0.9	0.3	17.0	1.0	0.2
11 May 2025	Afternoon Min	16.5	1.0	9.9	15.7	1.2	11.4
12 May 2025	Overnight Min	17.5	1.3	0.0	18.5	0.8	0.0
12 May 2025	Afternoon Min	20.0	1.4	9.6	21.2	1.6	10.1
13 May 2025	Overnight Min	18.3	1.2	0.0	19.3	1.1	0.0
13 May 2025	Afternoon Min	21.9	1.2	8.6	18.7	1.3	11.2

The black line (National Demand ND) is the measure of portion of total GB customer demand that is supplied by the transmission network.

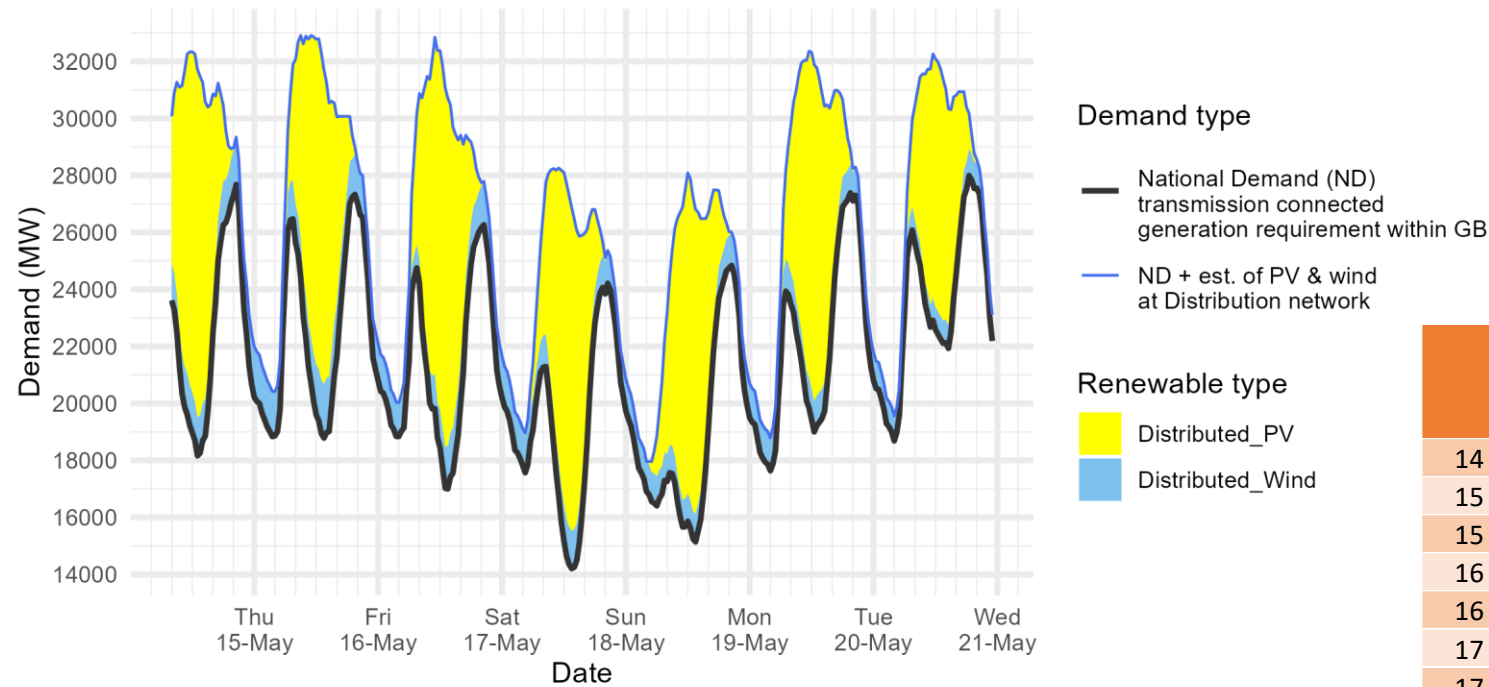
ND values do not include export on interconnectors or pumping or station load

Blue line serves as a proxy for total GB customer demand. It includes demand supplied by the distributed wind and solar sources, but it does not include demand supplied by non-weather driven sources at the distributed network for which NESO has no real time data.

Historic out-turn data can be found on the [NESO Data Portal](#) in the following data sets:
[Historic Demand Data](#) & [Demand Data Update](#)

Demand | Week Ahead

NESO Demand forecast for 14-20 May 2025



National Demand Minimum Demands

		FORECAST (Wed 14 May)		
Date	Forecasting Point	National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)	Dist. PV (GW)
14 May 2025	Afternoon Min	18.2	1.4	12.2
15 May 2025	Overnight Min	18.8	1.6	0.0
15 May 2025	Afternoon Min	18.8	1.9	11.0
16 May 2025	Overnight Min	18.8	1.2	0.0
16 May 2025	Afternoon Min	17.0	1.5	12.2
17 May 2025	Overnight Min	17.6	1.3	0.1
17 May 2025	Afternoon Min	14.2	1.3	11.3
18 May 2025	Overnight Min	16.4	1.0	1.4
18 May 2025	Afternoon Min	15.1	1.0	10.7
19 May 2025	Overnight Min	17.6	1.2	0.0
19 May 2025	Afternoon Min	19.0	1.1	11.8
20 May 2025	Overnight Min	18.7	0.9	0.0
20 May 2025	Afternoon Min	21.9	0.8	7.6

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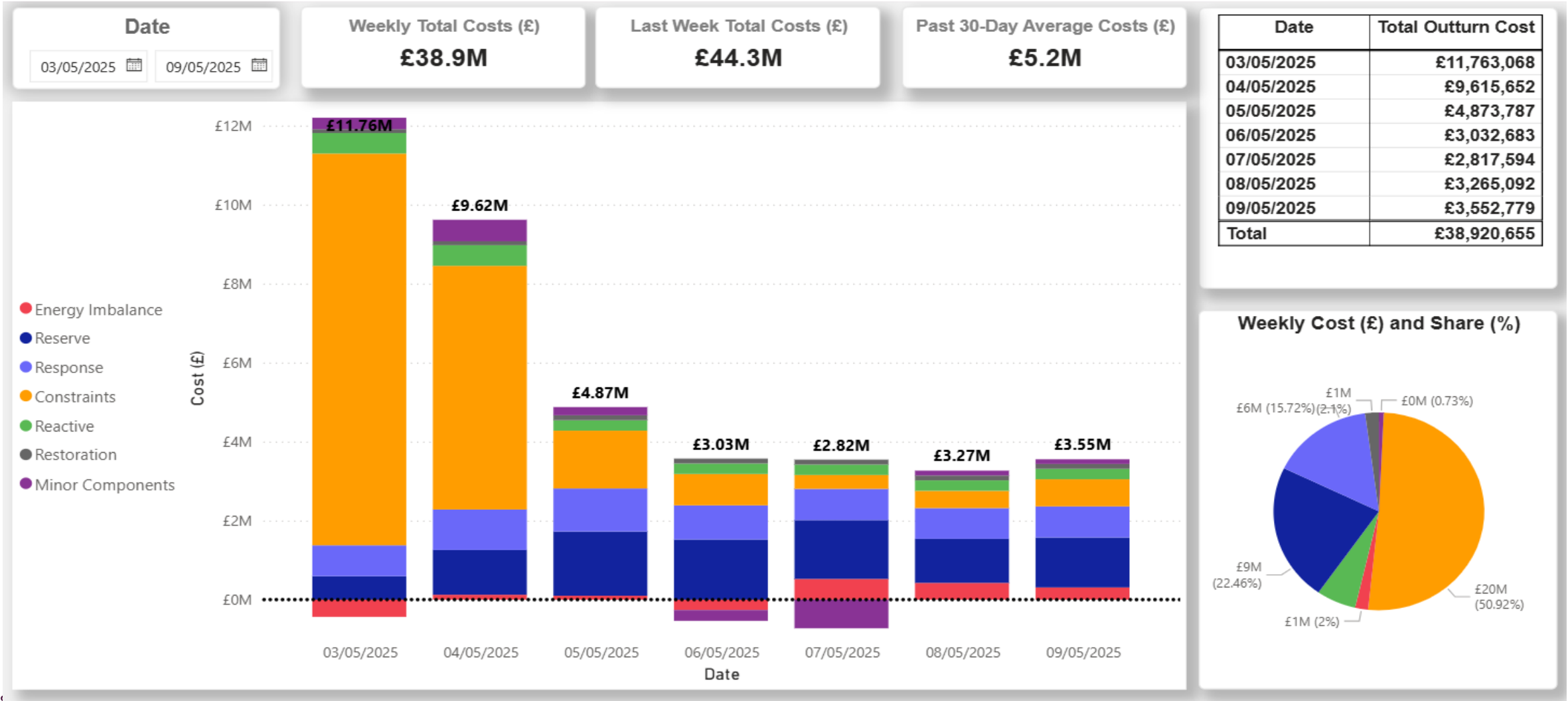
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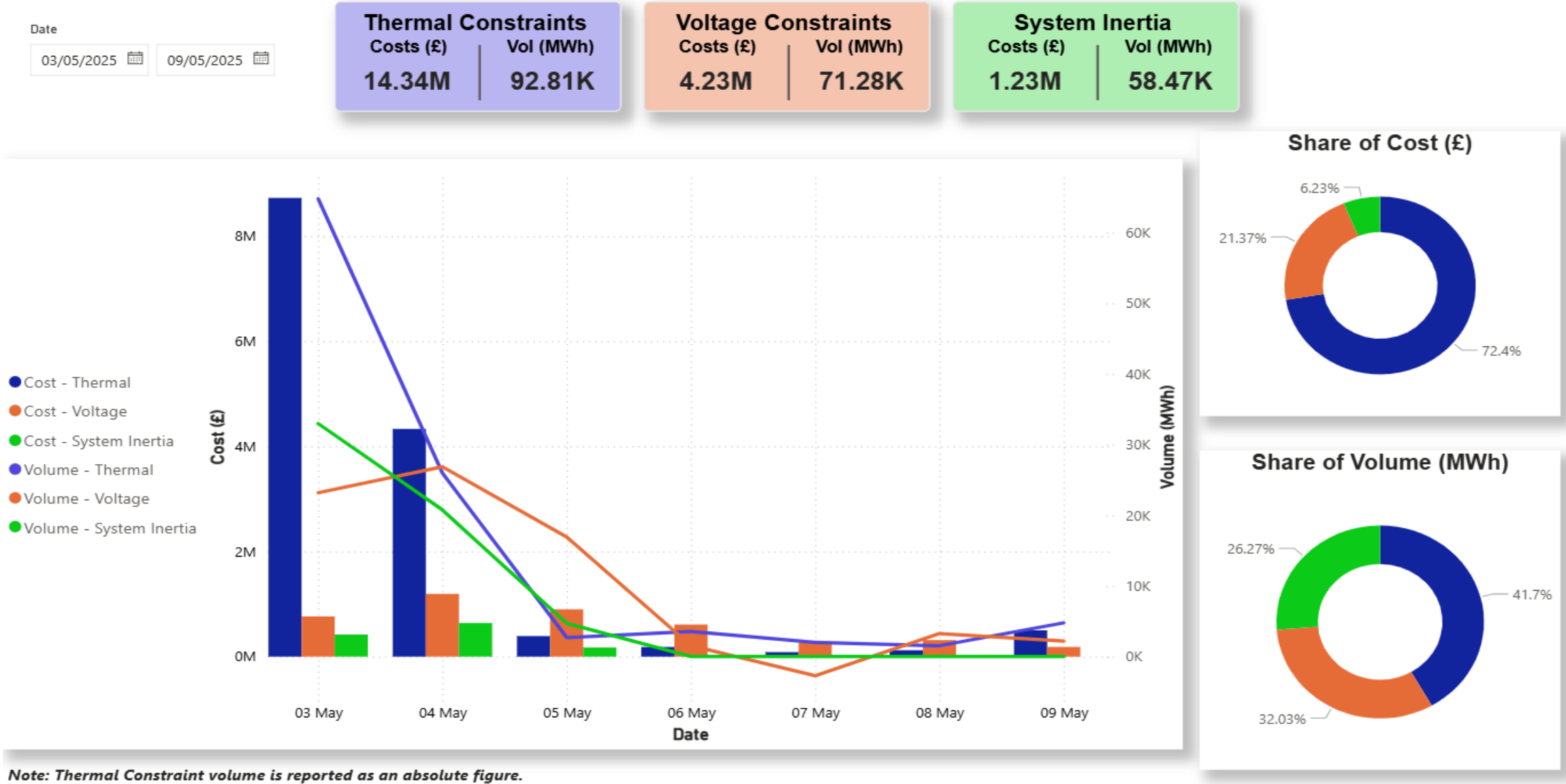


NESO Actions | Category Cost Breakdown



NESO Actions | Constraint Cost Breakdown

Slido code #OTF



NESO Actions | Peak Demand – SP spend ~£58k

Tuesday 6th May

Slido code #OTF

Date
06 May 2025

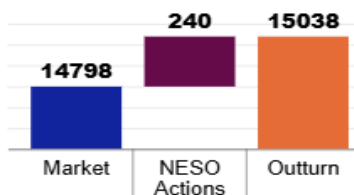
SP
41

Half-hour preceding
20:30

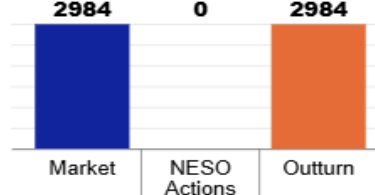
Carbon Intensity
(gCO₂/kWh)



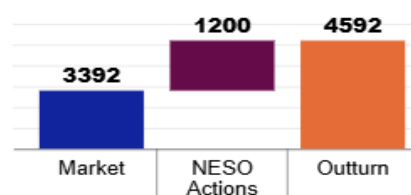
CCGT



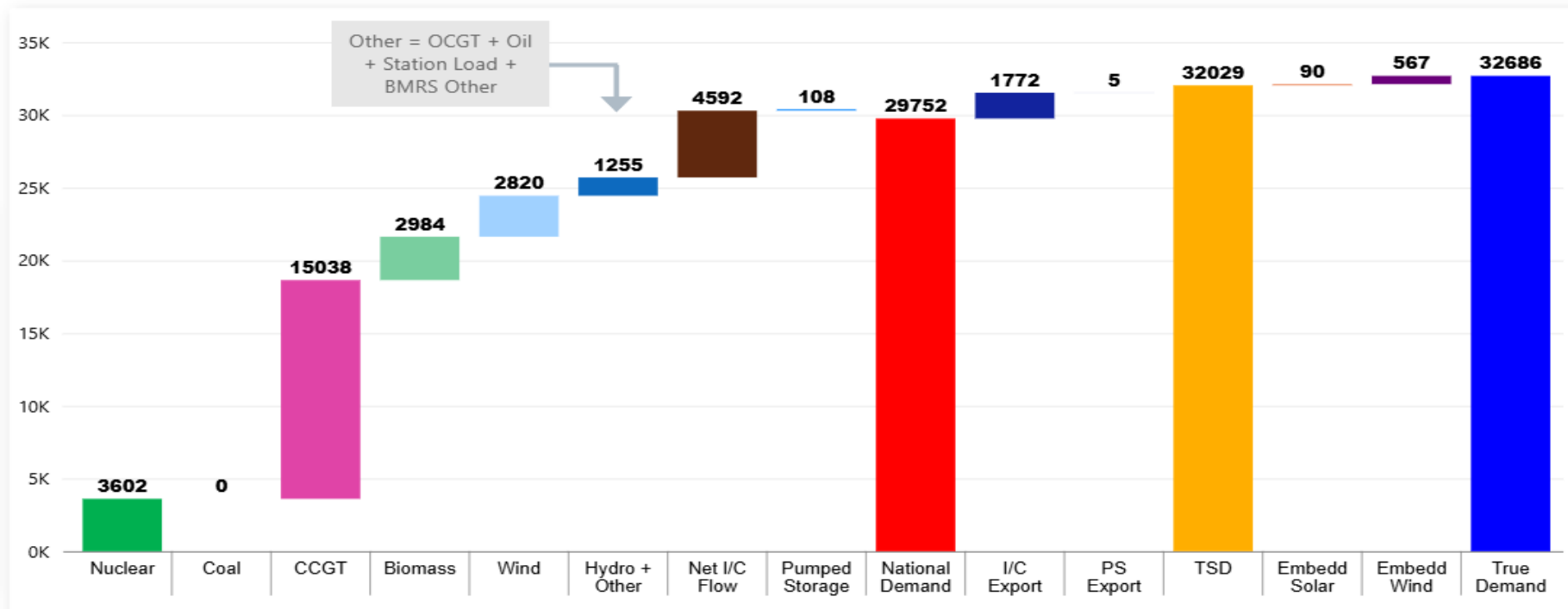
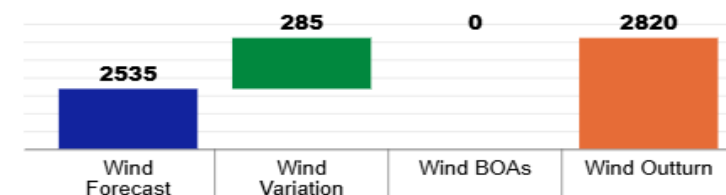
Biomass



Net I/C Flow



Wind



NESO Actions | Minimum Demand – SP spend ~£246k

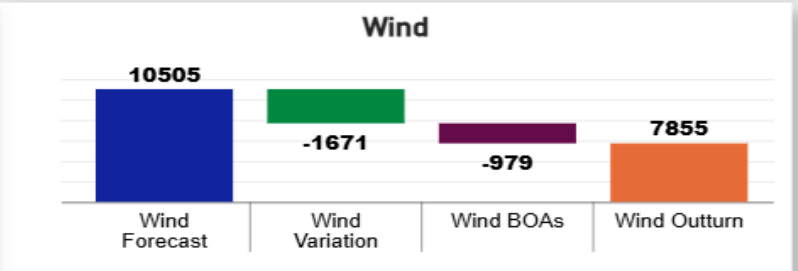
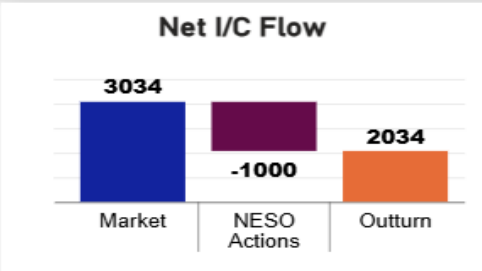
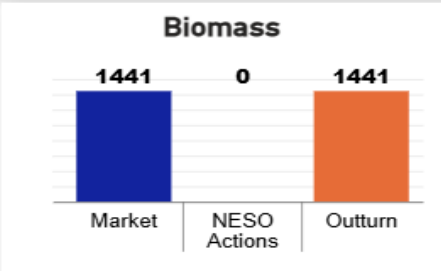
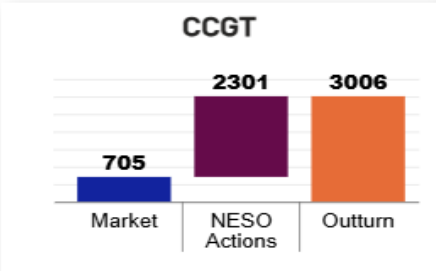
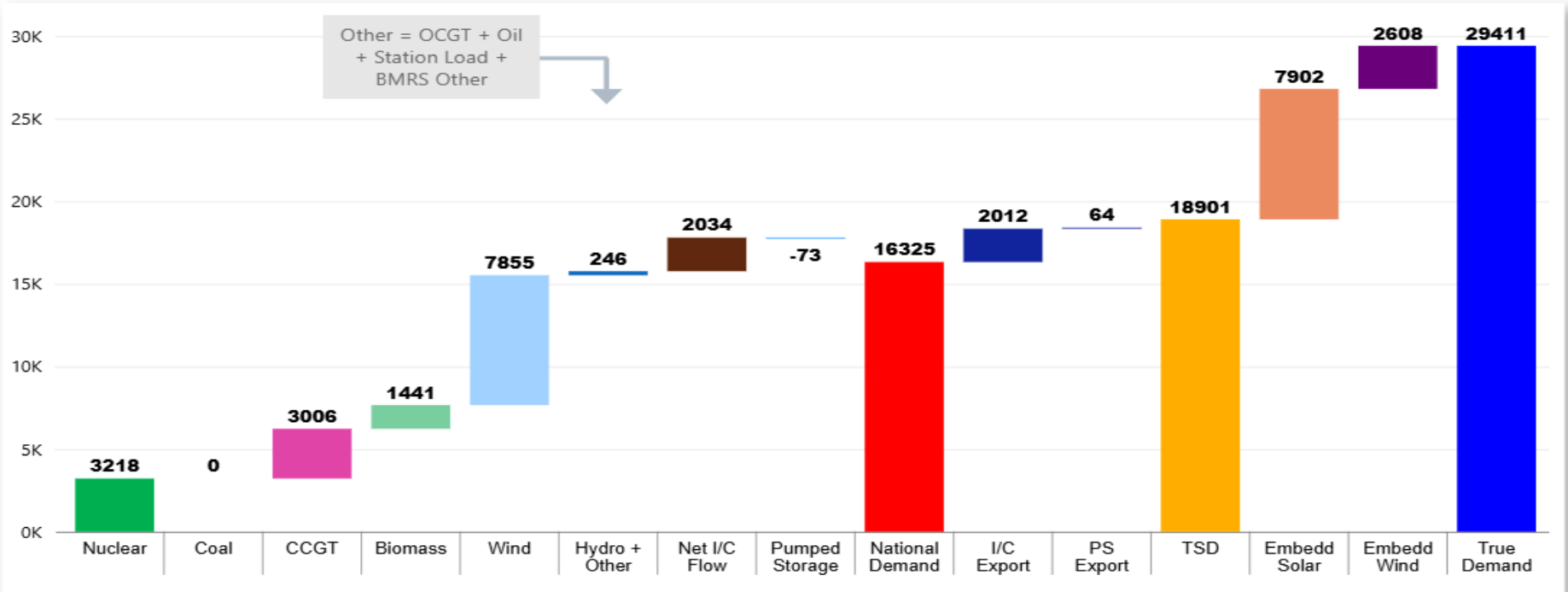
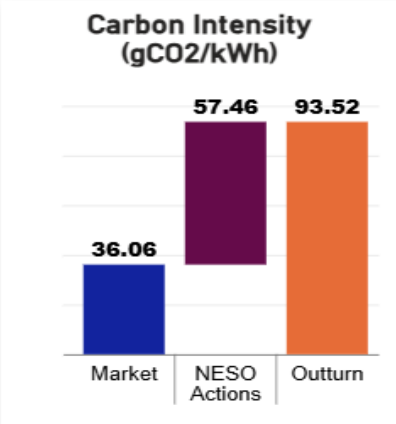
Saturday 3rd May

Slido code #OTF

Date▼
03 May 2025▼

SP▼
30▼

Half-hour preceding
15:00



NESO Actions | – Highest SP spend ~£303k

Saturday 3rd May

Slido code #OTF

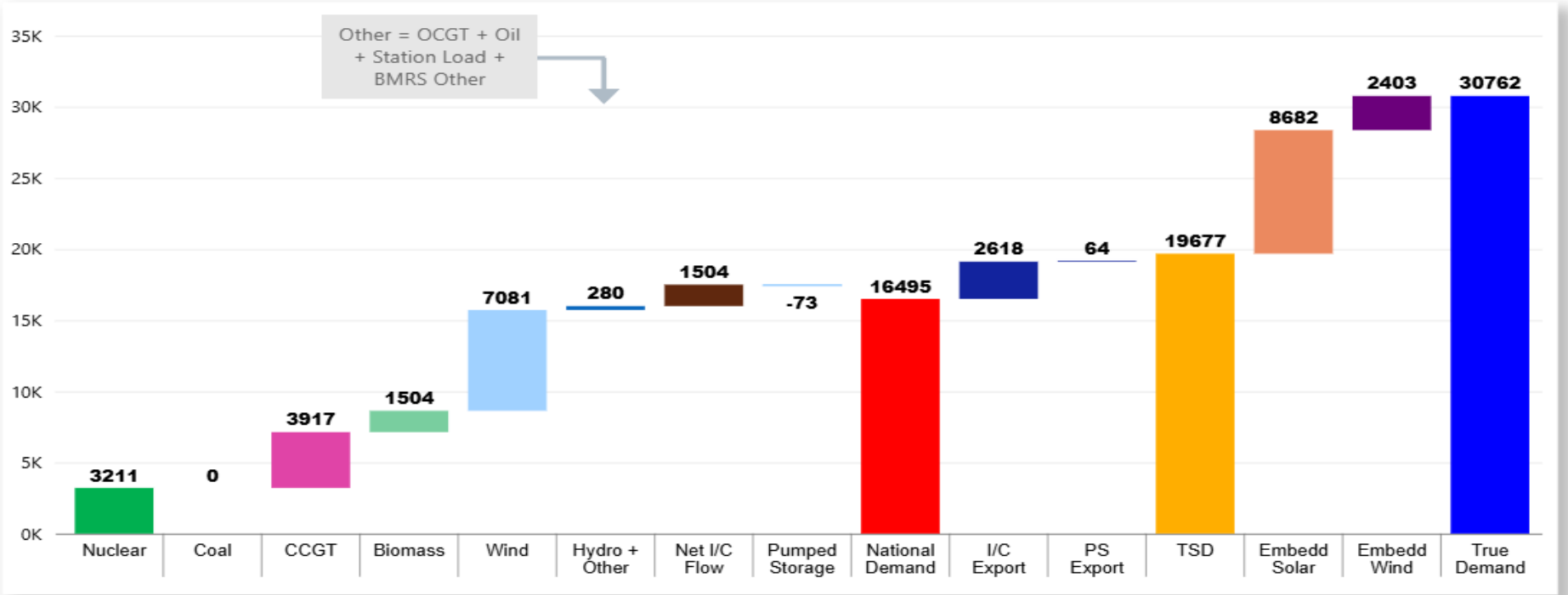
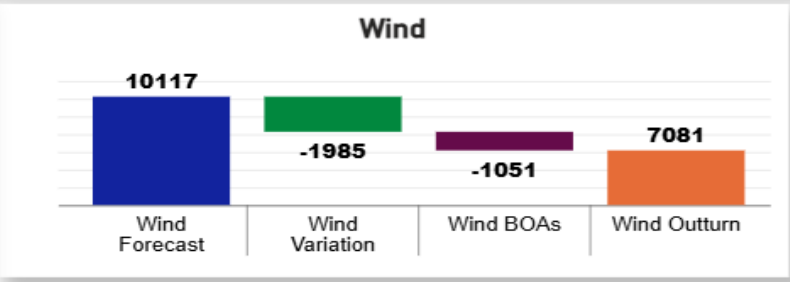
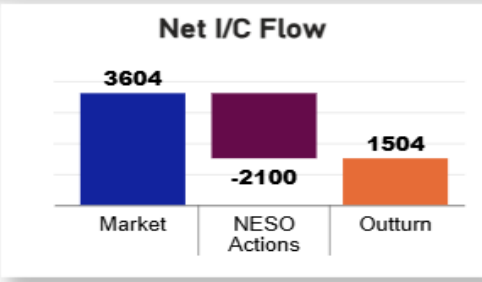
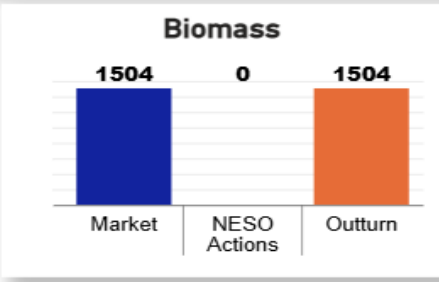
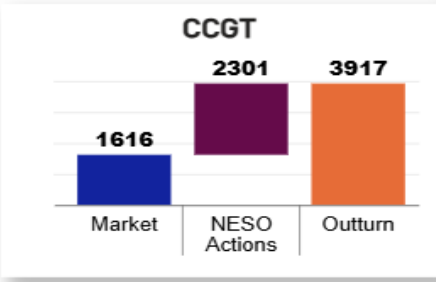
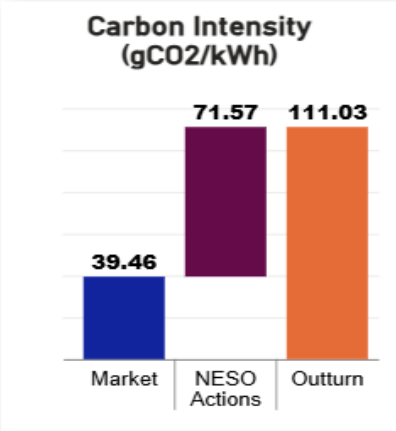
Date▼

03 May 2025▼

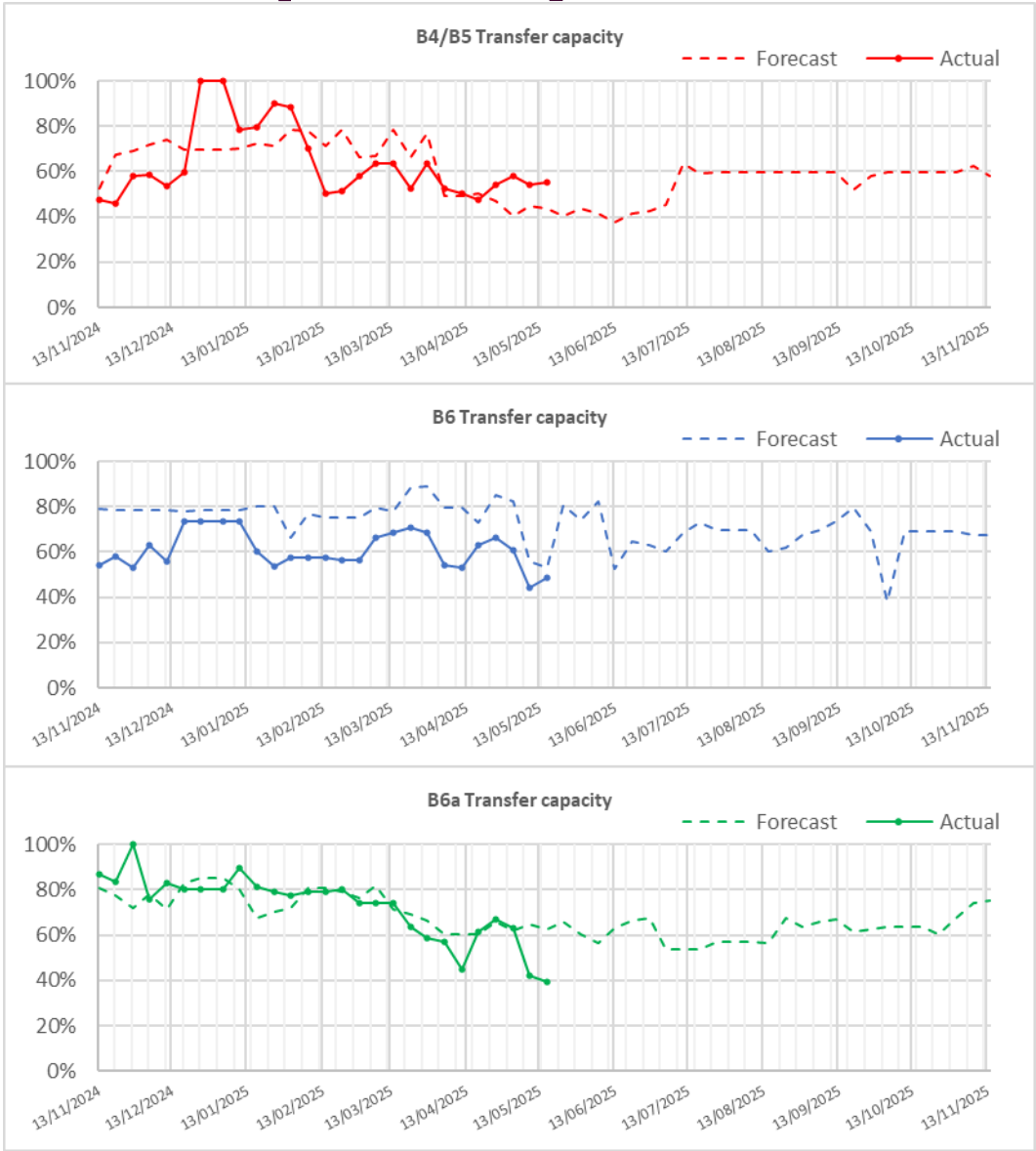
SP▼

28▼

Half-hour preceding
14:00

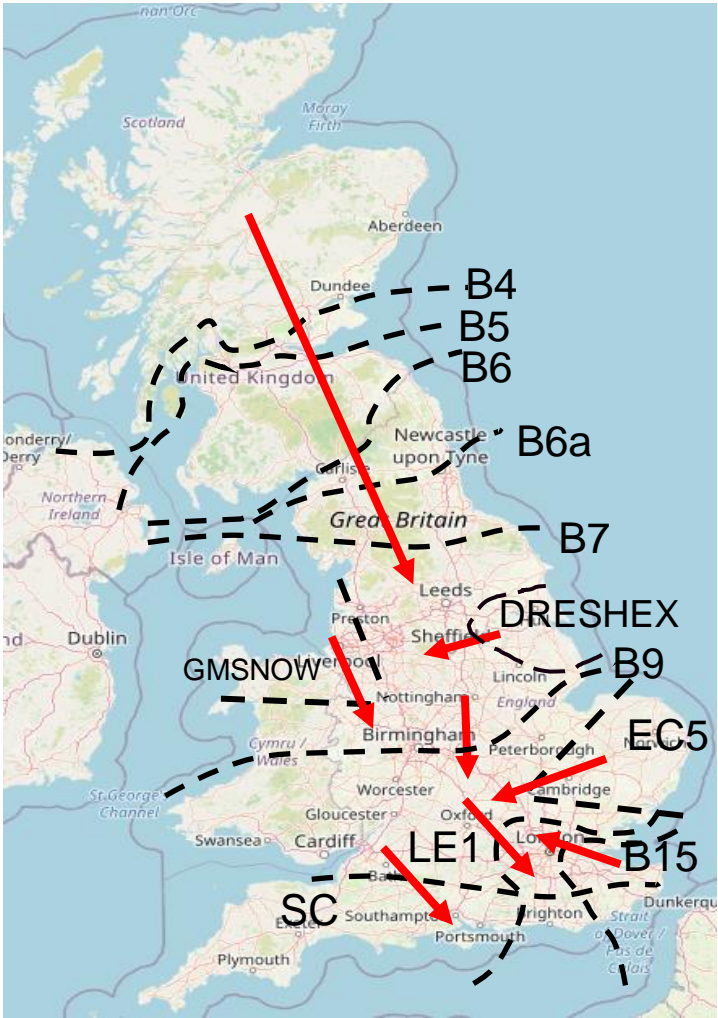


Transparency | Network Congestion

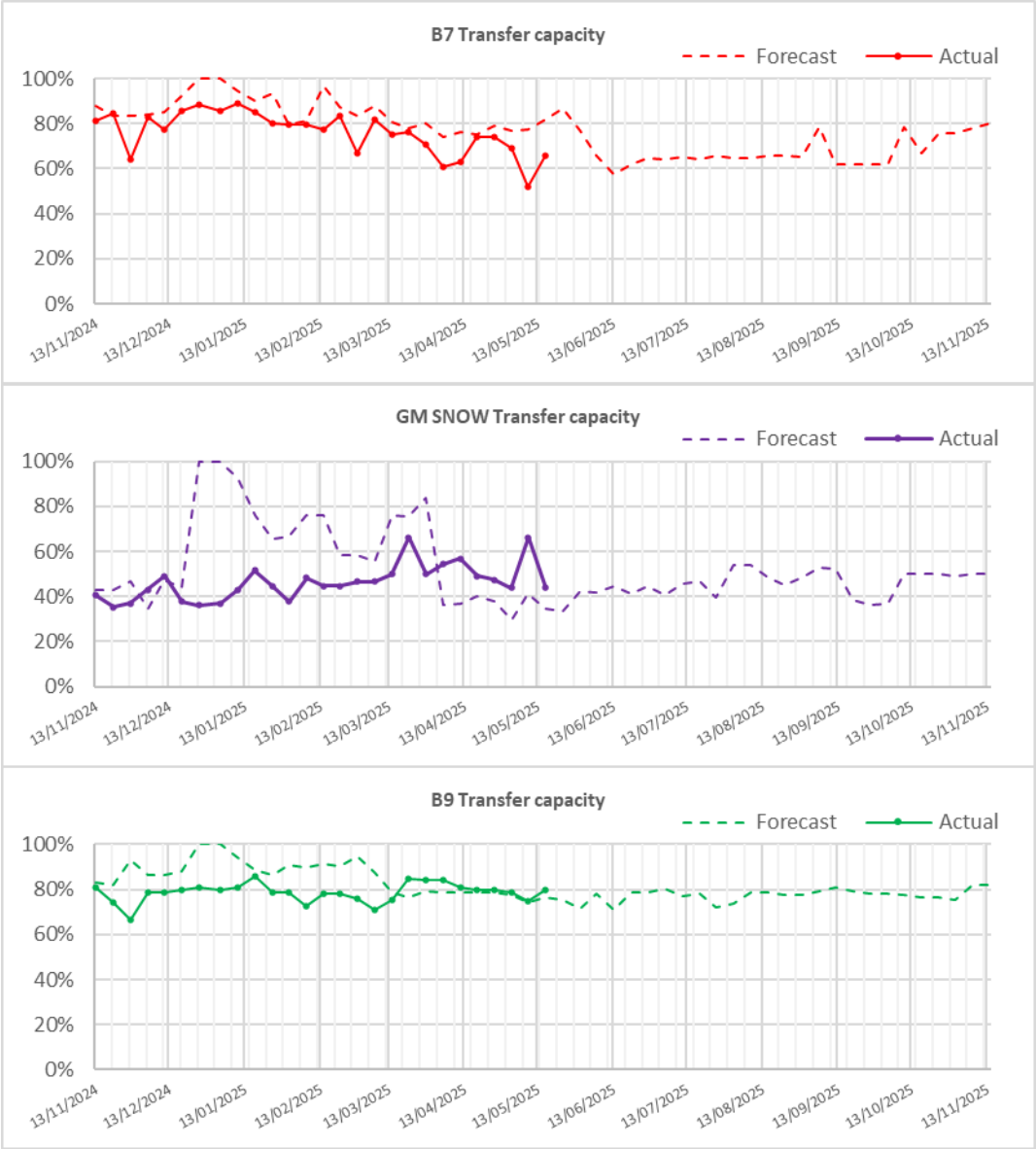


Boundary	Max. Capacity (MW)	Current Capacity (%)
B4/B5	3400	55%
B6 (SCOTEX)	6800	49%
B6a	8000	39%
B7 (SSHARN)	9850	66%
GMSNOW	5800	44%
FLOWSTH (B9)	12700	80%
DRESHEX	9675	62%
EC5	5000	71%
LE1 (SEIMP)	8750	46%
B15 (ESTEX)	7500	77%
SC1	7300	100%

Slido code #OTF

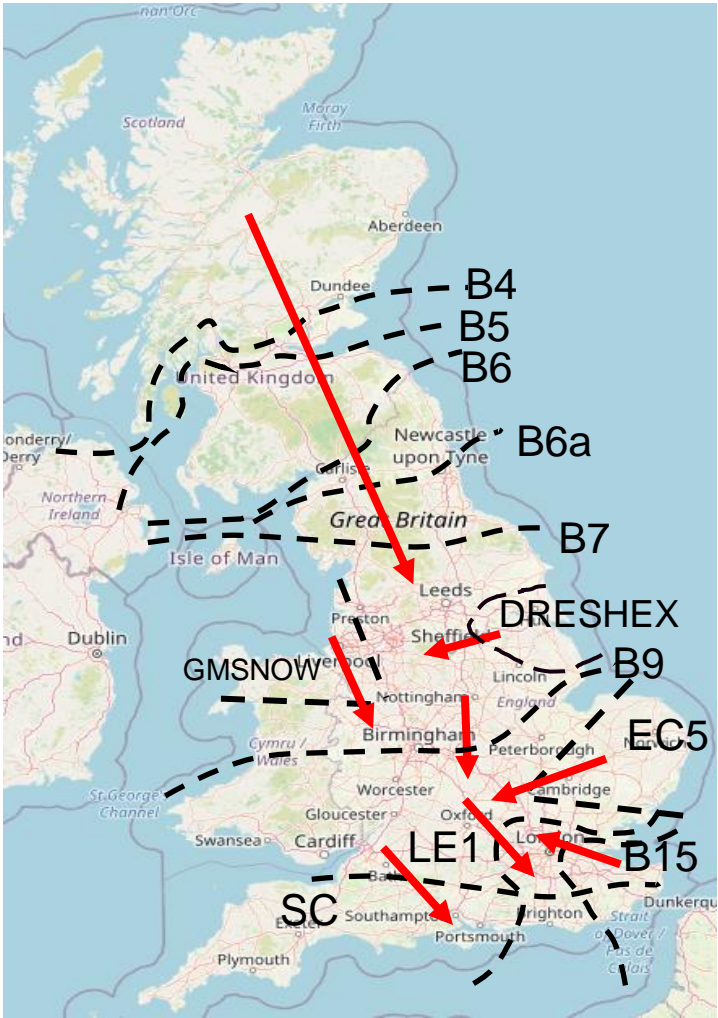


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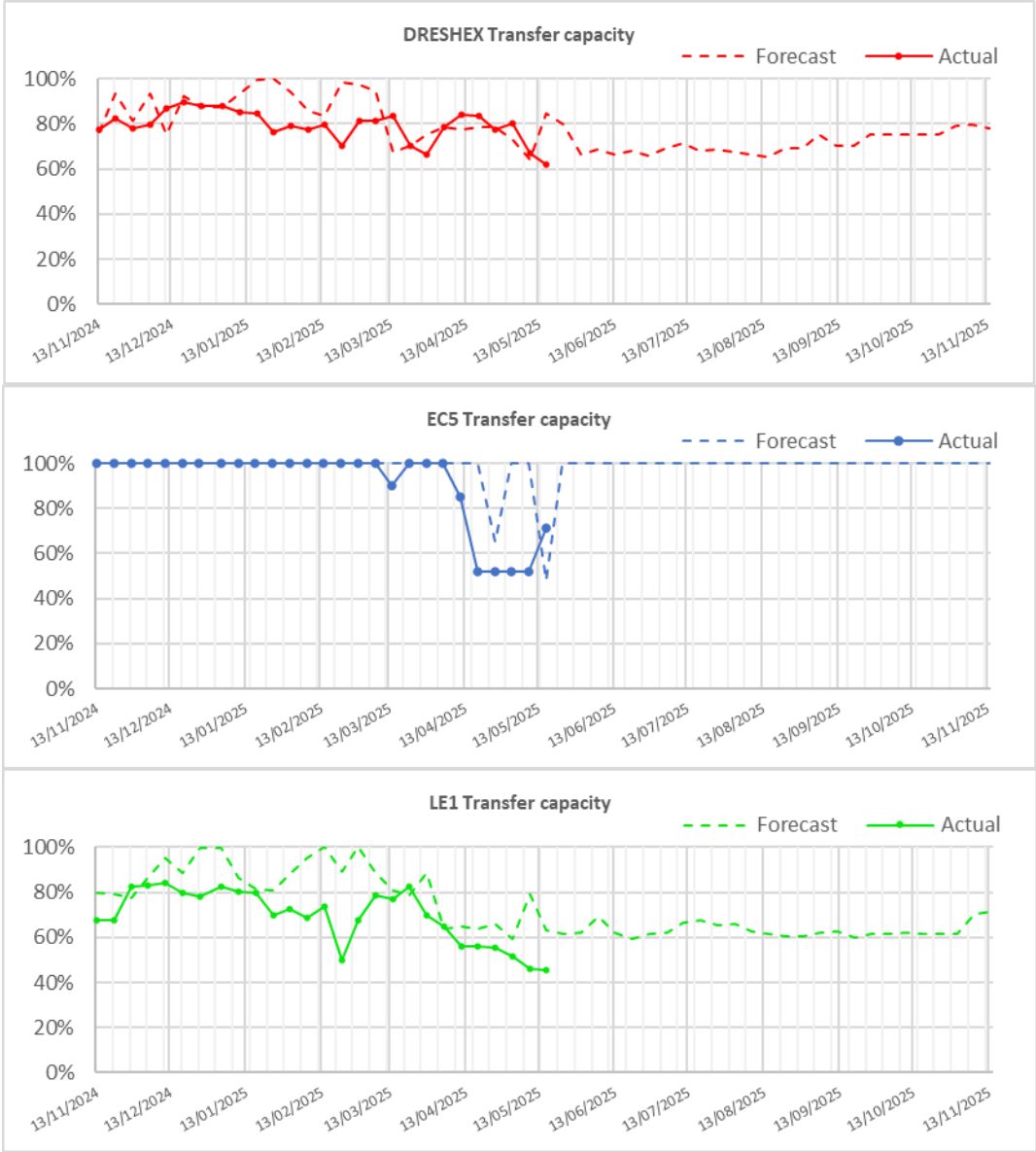


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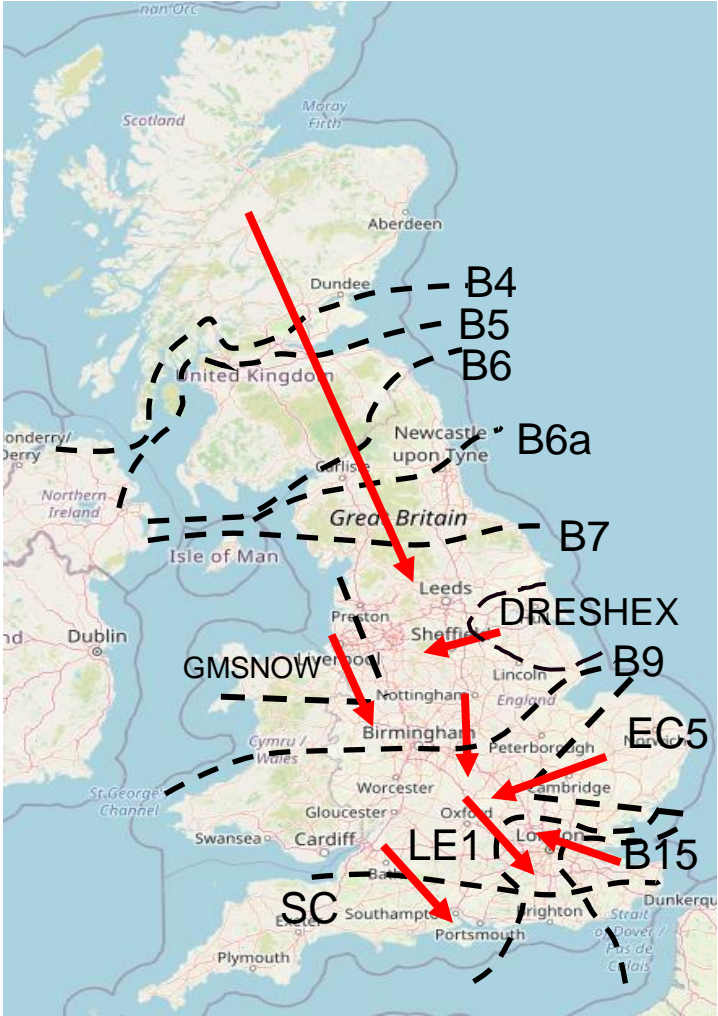


Transparency | Network Congestion

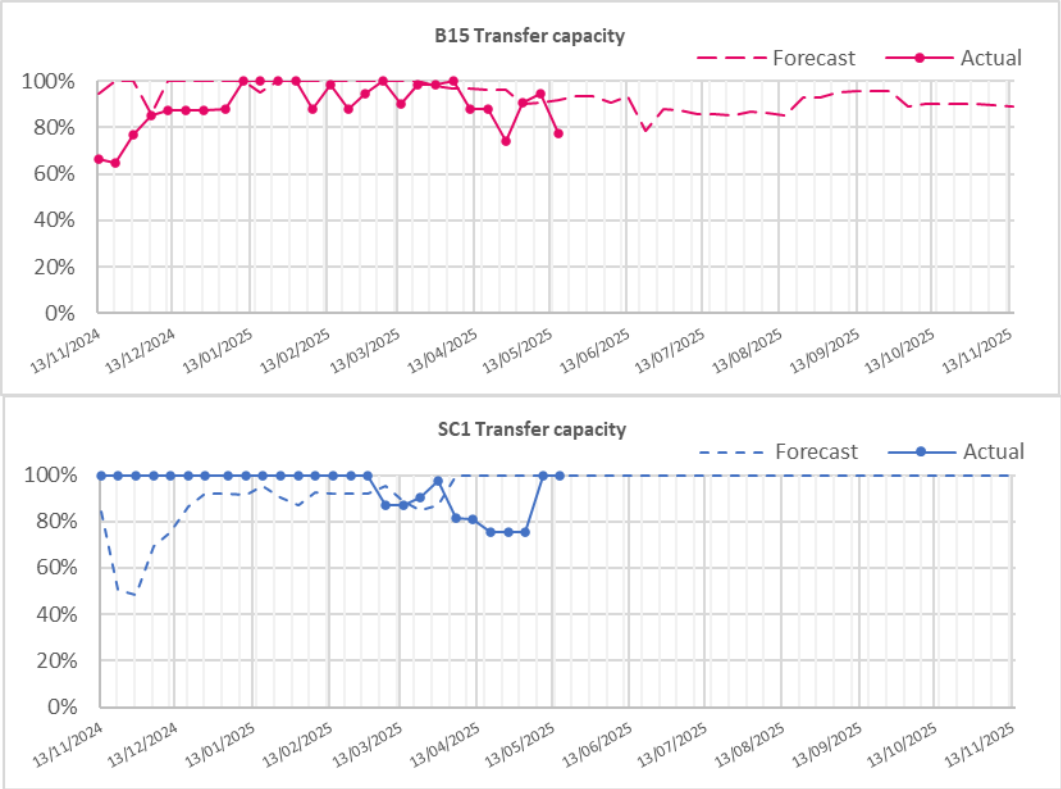


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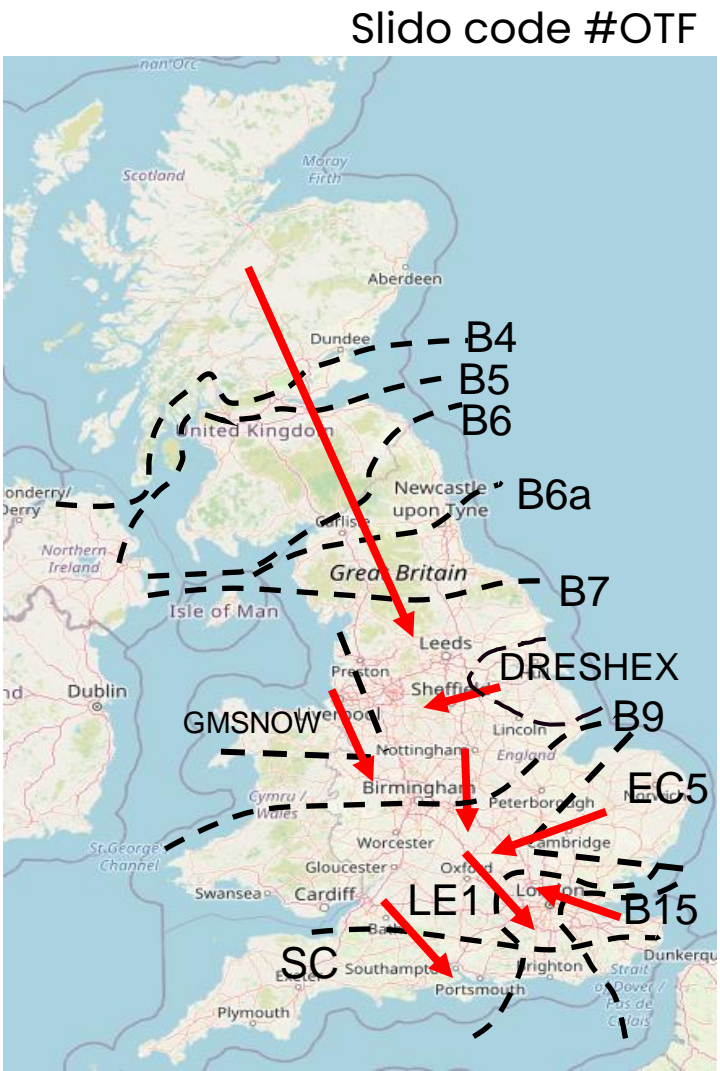
Slido code #OTF



Transparency | Network Congestion



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SC1	7300	100%



Day ahead flows and limits, and the 24-month constraint limit forecast are published on the ESO Data Portal: [Constraints Management](#)

(The forecast and day ahead limits may vary due to changes in the outage plan. The plan is reviewed periodically throughout the year to ensure we are optimising system conditions, whilst managing any necessary outage plan changes)

Skip Rates

Datasets: We will be reissuing all published datasets to address an inconsistency caused by treatment of marginal units. While we do not anticipate significant changes to the overall metrics, there may be some adjustments. Further details will be provided in next week's OTF.

Slido code #OTF

We are now sharing the summary skip rate data on a rolling 4-week basis. We welcome your comments on if you find this valuable and feedback on how we present this data.

Weekly Average w/e	Offers - All BM	Offers - PSA	Bids - All BM	Bids - PSA
20/04	9%	44%	17%	41%
20/04	20%	41%	11%	49%
04/05	13%	33%	9%	51%
11/05	6%	39%	34%	42%

Monthly Average	Offers - All BM	Offers - PSA	Bids - All BM	Bids - PSA
January	18%	34%	11%	53%
February	15%	33%	5%	49%
March	15%	29%	7%	47%
April	12%	41%	19%	44%
May (MTD)	9%	33%	18%	42%

Bids: Average Skip Rate and Total Skipped Volume (Daily)



Offers: Average Skip Rate and Total Skipped Volume (Daily)



box.SkipRates@nationalenergyiso.com

[Skip rate data](#) and more info on [skip rates](#) and [battery storage](#) including methodology.

w/e 11th May: Very few bid system actions this week which causes All BM and PSA to be very close, and All BM to be higher than previous weeks.

Slides and recordings from the Forum on 1st May will be made available on the skip rate website shortly.



PSA: Post System Action

Previously Asked Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (30/04/2025) Re skips – if two ICs tripped and a large volume of offers taken, are those skips or merit actions (taking account of dynamics)? Thanks, Christopher

A: This refers to Sunday 27th April. To clarify, there were two events: 1) an interconnector tripped and 2) the return of this interconnector coincided with the natural return, at short notice, of another interconnector from a planned outage.

In both instances we needed to quickly adjust energy flows to balance these interconnector ramps. The large volume of fast ramping units required to balance the interconnector flows meant that some actions were taken out of merit, causing skips. Therefore, the skipped volume is higher than previous days. This is a limitation of the skip rate methodology.

Previously Asked Questions

Q: (07/05/2025) We observed a frequency drop from 50Hz to 49.7Hz on 29th April at about 16:25. Are you able to share any details around this event?

A: Yes, this drop in frequency was due to a trip (unplanned) of one bipole of IFA which immediately prior to this event was importing 1000MW to us. The usual frequency response tools and techniques were utilised and the frequency returned to within our usual operating range of $50.2 < F < 49.8$ within a few seconds.

Q: (07/05/2025) COMMENT SUBMITTED RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Please can someone review the links to old documents? Seeing the history of things like TNUoS, TEC, etc. is useful.

“FYI – It is all the guidance docs that no one updates the links in.”

A: Thanks Lisa, we can pass your feedback on to document owners. If/when you come across any specific examples, please share them with us.

Advanced Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (08/05/2025) Is the DRESHEX1 boundary shown on the 24 Months Ahead Constraint Limits E&W network constraint diagram (available on the NESO data portal) the same as DRESHEX boundary shown on the regular OTF slides? Also for the 24 Months Ahead Constraint Limits E&W network constraint diagram, can a key be provided e.g. for dotted green lines.

A: DRESHEX boundaries could have variations depending on the outage pattern. For the OTF presentation, we consider the equivalent DRESHEX flow when a variation is active.

Thank you for the feedback regarding the green dotted lines. They indicate the voltage control circuits available for ENCC to use. We will update the keys on the published drawings accordingly.

Outstanding Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (02/04/2025) When you do an emergency return to service why do you not notify the market of what is returning? It would be useful to know at least the impacted region – gencos need to manage TCLC obligations.

Q: (09/04/2025) We noticed several periods last week (e.g. SP23 on 06/04) where many of the wind bids were not SO-flagged. From what we can tell, they seemed to be taken for system reasons. Could you please clarify whether they were taken for system reasons or not? and if we can expect this behaviour to continue?

Q: (30/04/2025) For BMU's with no dynamic data submitted (e.g. some solar sites) how does the OBP / control room know they're dispatchable and what MZT's are? There have been instances of solar turn off with no data visible on Elexon insights.

Reminder about answering questions at the NESO OTF

Slido code #OTF

- **Questions from unidentified parties will not be answered live.** If you have reasons to remain anonymous to the wider forum, please use the advance question or email options. Details in the appendix to the pack.
- **The OTF is not the place to challenge the actions of individual parties** (other than the NESO), and we will not comment on these challenges. This type of concern can be reported to the Market Monitoring team at: marketreporting@nationalenergyso.com
- **Questions will be answered in the upvoted order whenever possible.** We will take questions from further down the list when: the answer is not ready; we need to take the question away or the topic is outside of the scope of the OTF.
- **Slido will remain open until 12:00**, even when the call closes earlier, to provide the maximum opportunity for you to ask questions.
- **All questions will be recorded and published** All questions asked through Sli.do will be recorded and published, with answers, in the Operational Transparency Forum Q&A on the webpage: <https://www.neso.energy/what-we-do/systems-operations/operational-transparency-forum>
- **Takeaway questions** – these questions will be included in the pack for the next OTF, we may ask you to contact us by email in order to clarify or confirm details for the question.
- **Out of scope questions** will be forwarded to the appropriate NESO expert or team for a direct response. We may ask you to contact us by email to ensure we have the correct contact details for the response. These questions will not be managed through the OTF, and we are unable to forward questions without correct contact details. Information about the OTF purpose and scope can be found in the appendix of this slide pack

Feedback

Slido code #OTF

Please remember to use the feedback poll in Sli.do after the event.

We welcome feedback to understand what we are doing well and how we can improve the event for the future.

If you have any questions after the event, please contact the following email address:
box.nc.customer@nationalenergyso.com

slido



Audience Q&A

① Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.

Appendix

Purpose and scope of the NESO Operational Transparency Forum

Slido code #OTF

Purpose:

The Operational Transparency Forum runs once a week to provide updated information on and insight into the operational challenges faced by the control room in the recent past (1-2 weeks) and short-term future (1-2 weeks). The OTF will also signpost other NESO events, provide deep dives into focus topics, and allow industry to ask questions.

Scope:

Aligns with purpose, see examples below:

In Scope of OTF

Material presented i.e.: regular content, deep dives, focus topics
NESO operational approach & challenges
NESO published data

Out of Scope of OTF

Data owned and/or published by other parties
e.g.: BMRS is published by Elexon
Processes including consultations operated by other parties e.g.: Elexon, Ofgem, DESNZ
Data owned by other parties
Details of NESO Control Room actions & decision making
Activities & operations of particular market participants
NESO policy & strategic decision making
Formal consultations e.g.: Code Changes, Business Planning, Market development

Managing questions at the NESO Operational Transparency Forum

Slido code #OTF

- OTF participants can ask questions in the following ways:
 - Live via Slido code #OTF
 - In advance (before 12:00 on Monday) at <https://forms.office.com/r/k0AEfKnai3>
 - At any time to box.nc.customer@nationalenergyso.com
- **All questions asked through Sli.do** will be recorded and published, with answers, in the Operational Transparency Forum Q&A on the webpage: [Operational Transparency Forum | NESO](#)
- **Advance questions** will be included, with answers, in the slide pack for the next OTF and published in the OTF Q&A as above.
- **Email questions** which specifically request inclusion in the OTF will be treated as Advance questions, otherwise we will only reply direct to the sender.
- **Takeaway questions** – we may ask you to contact us by email in order to clarify or confirm details for the question.
- **Out of scope questions** will be forwarded to the appropriate NESO expert or team for a direct response. We may ask you to contact us by email to ensure we have the correct contact details for the response. These questions will not be managed through the OTF, and we are unable to forward questions without correct contact details. Information about the OTF purpose and scope can be found in the appendix of this slide pack.

Skip Rates – ‘In Merit’ datasets

Slido code #OTF

We recognise that these datasets aren't as intuitive as they could be – specifically the column headings. Please be reassured that we are looking at ways to improve this – we will update the documentation to include this information and will also discuss the datasets in more detail at the webinar on 27th February.

We will use ‘accepted’ and ‘instructed’ differently in this context, even though they are normally the same.

These datasets show the units that should have been instructed if decisions were solely based on price, rather than all units that were instructed. Therefore this dataset does not match the total accepted volume datasets in Elexon.

$\text{In Merit Volume} = \text{Accepted Volume} + \text{Skipped Volume}$

In Merit Volume

- This is the recreated in merit stack showing the lowest cost units that were available to meet the requirement, where the requirement is based on the volume of units that were actually instructed
- Therefore this is the volume that should have been accepted if decisions were solely based on price
- The sum of this column is the total instructed volume in the 5 minute period (subject to the relevant exclusions)

Accepted Volume

- This is the volume that was accepted in merit, as a subset of the ‘In Merit Volume’ column – i.e. how much volume was accepted in merit
- The sum of this column will be less than the sum of the ‘In Merit Volume’ column, unless there is no skipped volume
- Note: this column does not list all instructed units

Skipped Volume

- This is the volume that was skipped, as a subset of the ‘In Merit Volume’ column – i.e. of the volume that we should have instructed, how much was skipped

It's possible that the list of units increases, decreases, or stays the same between stages, but the total ‘In Merit Volume’ will always remain the same (or no volume is excluded) or decrease (due to exclusions).