

Public

Ref: FOI/25/015

National Energy System Operator

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12 May 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 14 April 2025. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

You asked us:

Commenting on the chosen pathways for electricity generation in 2030, the Clean Power 2030 Report says, "While alternative options could deliver the same outcomes, these options have greater delivery risks." Would you please provide details of the alternative options you considered and your assumptions, analysis and commentary on the delivery risks of the alternatives.

On 30 April 2025, you clarified that your request relates to [NESO's Statement on Government Biomass Announcement](#) (10 February 2025) which includes the sentence "While alternative options could deliver the same outcomes, these options have greater delivery risks."

Our response

We recently responded to a similar request for information (our reference FOI/24/0044), in which we were asked:

NESO recently produced some advice and analysis for DESNZ on the impact on Great Britain's electricity system covering the period 2027 to 2031, if bespoke support for large-scale biomass generation at Drax (2.5 GW capacity) and Lynemouth (0.4 GW capacity)

was withdrawn from 2027. The analysis showed that without large-scale biomass, security of supply would not be ensured in scenarios with additional supply losses. While alternative options could deliver the same outcomes, these options have greater delivery risks. The department then announced new policy on 10 February. I am writing to request a full copy of the advice and analysis produced by NESO for DESNZ. Please ensure this includes supplementary annexes and datasets.

We refused this request, applying the exemption at S43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. The full text of our response is available here: [FOI/24/0044 \(27 March 2025\)](#).

We have determined that your request for ‘details of the alternative options you considered and your assumptions, analysis and commentary on the delivery risks of the alternatives’ is materially the same as the earlier request for ‘a full copy of the advice and analysis produced by NESO for DESNZ’. We therefore advise that the explanation provided in the linked response applies equally to your request i.e., we are applying the exemption at S43(2) of the FOIA and refusing your request.

This concludes our response to your request.

Next steps

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. 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)