

Public

Ref: FOI/24/0065

National Energy System Operator

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14 May 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 13 March 2025. On 11 April we notified you that we were applying Regulation 7(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) with the effect of extending the time for compliance to 40 working days.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Request

You asked us:

In November 2024 NESO published its Clean Power 2030 advice to government. This included a counterfactual scenario with no acceleration in delivery.

I would like to ask for copies of all correspondence (including emails) discussing how this counterfactual was chosen, including any assumptions that were required to construct the counterfactual scenario. I am requesting both internal correspondence, and any correspondence on this specific matter that NESO staff had with third parties.

Our response

We confirm we have conducted a thorough and due diligent search across our network but have not found any further recorded information which falls within the scope of your request other than that which is already published and in the public domain. All information relevant to Clean Power 2030 has been published online including the assumptions.

Page 3 of the Clean Power 2030 Annex 4 states: *'The Counterfactual is the same as in the Future Energy Scenarios 2024 but with aligned gas and carbon prices to allow for more direct comparison between the clean power pathways. It has much lower deployment of low carbon technologies than the clean power pathways, but there is still some (for example 29 GW offshore wind and 20 GW onshore by 2030). Full details are published in the [FES data workbook](#) (data table ES1).'*

The Clean Power 2030 (CP30) Counterfactual was developed using the Holistic Transition (HT) pathway in FES 2024 as a basis. The CP30 assumptions (and all associated material) and information on the Future Energy Scenarios can be found online using the links found below:

[CP30 online material](#)

[CP30 Assumptions](#)

[Future Energy Scenarios](#)

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)