

Public

Ref: FOI/25/054

National Energy System Operator
Faraday House
Gallows Hill
Warwick
CV34 6DA

InformationRights@neso.energy

www.neso.energy

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Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 16 June 2025.

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). There is information on both pieces of legislation on the NESO website: [Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations | National Energy System Operator](#).

We can confirm that NESO holds some information in scope of your request however not all information you have requested relates to our operations. Where NESO does not hold recorded information in scope of your request, we have advised you of other organisations that may hold the information that you are interested in and provided external links.

Please note that information rights legislation provides the right to access information that already exists. Public authorities do not have to create new information to respond to your request and there is no requirement for us to answer questions unless we already hold the answer as recorded information.

For information, NESO manages the flow of electricity from generation to transmission and is responsible for '[balancing the grid](#)' and planning and co-ordinating the design of electricity networks. NESO does not own or operate the electricity network infrastructure but moves high voltage electricity from where it is generated through the energy system using the infrastructure owned by three onshore transmission companies (National Grid Electricity Transmission, Scottish Power Transmission and Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks Transmission). This high voltage electricity is passed onto the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) which own the local networks and maintain the infrastructure connecting homes and businesses to the transmission network. Information on DNOs can be found in the link at the bottom of this page: [Energy outages | National Energy System Operator](#).

NESO's duties include:

- developing and maintaining an efficient, co-ordinated and economical transmission system and facilitating competition in generation and supply.
- promoting net zero, energy security and cost efficiency.
- the provision of advice, analysis, or information to the government or Ofgem.

Further information on our operations is available here: [Operational information | National Energy System Operator](#) and you may find the '[What We Do](#)' section of the NESO website of interest.

Request

You asked us:

- 1. Are scheduled or rolling power cuts expected in the coming weeks and months up to January 2026 and if so WHEN are these likely to occur?*
- 2. What are the expected causes – will any power cuts be due to energy supply constraints, infrastructure issues or instability in renewable energy integration?*
- 3. How long are these expected outages expected to last and what regions are expected to be impacted?*
- 4. What provisions are in place to protect vulnerable residents, patients in hospitals or those for whom a loss of power could have life threatening or altering results?*

5. Will customers still be 'liable' for standing charges or energy rates during any planned or unplanned outages?

6. What plans are in place to maintain vital services such as water, heating and communications?

7. If energy resilience is at risk please confirm where additional energy will be sourced from if UK renewable energy systems cannot meet demand?

Our response

1. Are scheduled or rolling power cuts expected in the coming weeks and months up to January 2026 and if so WHEN are these likely to occur?

2. What are the expected causes – will any power cuts be due to energy supply constraints, infrastructure issues or instability in renewable energy integration?

3. How long are these expected outages expected to last and what regions are expected to be impacted?

NESO does not hold recorded information on scheduled or rolling power cuts.

NESO publishes two reports each year, presenting our view of the security of supply for GB's electricity systems for the winter or summer ahead. These Outlook reports set out how NESO will tackle any expected operational challenges and help energy companies plan so they can best provide electricity. Links to the most recent Outlook reports are provided below – the Early View is an initial assessment of the electricity security of supply outlook for November to March.

- [Winter Outlook 2025-26: Early View](#)
- [NESO Summer 2025 Outlook](#)

Information on any changes to the published outlook are shared via the NESO's weekly [Operational Transparency Forum](#).

You may find this page of interest: [Energy outages | National Energy System Operator](#)

For information related to scheduled or expected power cuts resulting from specific infrastructure issues you may wish to direct your questions to Transmission Operators and Distribution Network Operators.

4. What provisions are in place to protect vulnerable residents, patients in hospitals or those for whom a loss of power could have life threatening or altering results?

Recorded information is not held on specific provisions in place to protect specific groups of people. NESO's role is to balance the grid and 'keep the lights on'. NESO does not supply electricity directly to homes and businesses. It is the responsibility of the network operators to restore power to homes and businesses in the event of a power outage.

For information:

- the [Priority Services Register \(PSR\)](#) is a free UK wide service which provides extra advice and support to customers of utility companies, including when there's an interruption to the electricity, gas or water supply. Ofgem also hold information on the Priority Services Register: [Join your supplier's Priority Services Register | Ofgem](#).
- the [Electricity Supply Emergency Code \(Department of Energy Security and Net Zero - DESNZ\)](#) sets out the actions which companies in the electricity industry should plan to take and which may be required to deal with disruption to electricity supplies or an electricity supply emergency. The ESEC includes information on 'Protected Sites'. For further information on the ESEC you may wish to contact DESNZ.

5. Will customers still be 'liable' for standing charges or energy rates during any planned or unplanned outages?

Information not held.

Ofgem, as the industry regulator, provides advice for consumers, including in relation to energy bills: [Energy advice for households | Ofgem](#).

6. What plans are in place to maintain vital services such as water, heating and communications?

Information not held – please see the link to the Electricity Supply Emergency Code provided in response to Q4.

NESO recently published its [report into the North Hyde substation outage](#) – you may find the section on Critical National Infrastructure of interest.

7. If energy resilience is at risk please confirm where additional energy will be sourced from if UK renewable energy systems cannot meet demand?

NESO is an independent advisor on the pathway to clean power by 2030, a government ambition for Great Britain. It provides analysis, pathways, enablers, costs and benefits of a low-carbon energy system:

- NESO's report, analysis and advice to government on achieving Clean Power by 2030 are available here: [Clean Power 2030 | National Energy System Operator](#). CP30 presents different pathways, demonstrating that it is possible to move to a renewables-dominated clean power system by 2030 without compromising security of supply.
- The [Future Energy Scenarios \(FES\) 2024: NESO Pathways to Net Zero](#) represent different, credible ways to decarbonise GB's energy system as we aim towards the 2050 target of Net Zero.
- We recently published [Resource Adequacy in the 2030s Report](#).

The following report is due to be published in July:

- [Future Energy Scenarios 2025 \(FES25\)](#)

We currently hold this report in draft format. There is an exception at Regulation 12(4)(d) of the EIR which allows us to refuse a request where it “relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data”. This exception applies to the FES25.

We are required to complete a public interest test for all EIR exceptions. As always, we are mindful of the presumption in favour of disclosure and the general public interest in transparency and accountability. We recognise that there is ongoing public interest in and debate around energy related issues at the current time and in climate change related matters and that the disclosure of information can assist the public’s understanding of the issues and make it easier for them to participate in public debate. It is not, however, in the public interest to release information which is still in draft format as this could result in public misinformation and loss of trust amongst wider stakeholders. NESO has webinars planned for the time of publication to provide context and further explanation and has allocated staff resource for managing queries post-publication. Early publication of a draft document would be likely to result in additional and unnecessary enquiries that would also draw resource away from other key activities. Given that this report is due to be finalised and published very soon and are currently in the final stages of checking and assurance, we believe that the public interest lies in publishing the report once finalised.

Monthly energy statistics are published on our website, providing information on the sources of energy generation for the previous months: [Great Britain’s Monthly Energy Stats | National Energy System Operator](#)

This concludes our response to your request.

Advice and assistance

Ofgem, as the industry regulator, provides advice for consumers and is subject to the FOIA and EIR. For information on how to submit information requests to Ofgem please visit [Information requests | Ofgem](#).

Transmission Owners are subject to the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)

The Energy Networks Association provides helpful information for consumers: [Information for customers – Energy Networks Association \(ENA\)](#)

Next steps

If you are 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. You can find our procedure here: [Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations | National Energy System Operator](#). The ICO's website also provides guidance on the internal review process: [What to do if you are dissatisfied with the response | ICO](#).

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)