

## Public

Ref: FOI/25/074

National Energy System Operator

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Dear requester

### Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 9 July 2025. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). This is because we have determined that information relating to connection agreements relates to a measure that could affect the environment and therefore meets the definition of 'environmental information' provided at Regulation 2(1)(c) of the EIR.

### Request

You asked us:

*(1) We would like to have all the available data you hold in relation to the demand connections queueing to connect to the transmission network at the following connection points as at the date of this letter:*

- (a) Amersham Main*
- (b) Amersham Molins*
- (c) Iver C*
- (d) Uxbridge Moor*
- (e) Saunderton*
- (f) London North West Connection Node A*
- (g) London West Connection Node A*

*(2) In relation to London North-West Connection Node A GSP and London West Connection Node GSP can you please provide their full addresses and precise location.*

*(3) In relation to the planned infrastructure development at each of the connection points set out above under (1)(a) to (1)(g) inclusive, please provide the current planned project start dates, end dates and the capacity that this will create for both demand and generation connections.*

## **Our response**

We can confirm that we hold information which falls within the scope of question 1 of your request however we do not currently maintain a register of demand connections. We have previously had enquiries about providing a demand register and are considering this as a development piece, but it would take some considerable time to produce. The data is currently held in various data sources including contracts, and would need to be extracted from these sources, reviewed and consolidated.

Unlike the Freedom of Information Act, where Section 12 allows for refusal of a request where compliance would exceed 18 hours of staff time, the EIR have no appropriate cost limit. There is however provision at Regulation 12(4)(b) for public authorities to refuse a request which would place an undue burden on the organisation. Although we endeavour to be as transparent as possible and uphold the presumption in favour of disclosure required by the legislation, in this case we do feel that the searches involved would be burdensome for NESO. When engaging Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR, burden can be thought of in terms of cost and can also take account of the distraction of resources, i.e., the disruption to the delivery of other services caused by staff having to spend time dealing with the request. We acknowledge that we are normally expected to exceed the FOIA appropriate cost limit for EIRs, but complying with this request would require significant resource from specialist teams who are currently delivering a transformational change to the Connections process, making it fit for the future and supporting the delivery of Clean Power by 2030.

Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR is subject to the public interest test. There is a general public interest in public organisations being accountable and transparent and NESO ensures that it upholds as far as possible the presumption of disclosure under EIR. The disclosure of information in many circumstances may increase public understanding of decision making, facilitate effective public participation and, in this case, increase the public's knowledge of how the electricity network is managed.

Public authorities must however be protected from any disproportionate burden caused by requests for information. It is not in the public interest for NESO's resources to be diverted away from its key functions. As referenced above, NESO is delivering a transformational change to the way that the grid connections process operates. Given the importance of Corrections Reform to Great Britain, there is no public interest in diverting staff away from this key project and on balance we believe that the public interest lies in maintaining the exception.

This concludes our response to your request.

## **Advice and assistance**

It is NESO's role to move electricity safely, reliably and efficiently through the electricity system. We don't generate or sell electricity and we're not responsible for the infrastructure needed to move electricity around. NESO Connections team is responsible for leading and facilitating the process by which customers connect to and make use of the transmission system. For information on the role of key market participants in the Connections process please see this link: [NESO's role in Connections | National Energy System Operator](#).

The three Transmission Owners own the infrastructure and the assets that make up the transmission system. You may wish to contact them to request information on infrastructure and related development, including address details of GSPs.

For information, NESO publishes the TEC Register twice weekly. The TEC Register is a current list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with NESO, including existing and future connection projects and projects that can be directly connected to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS), or make use of it. The current TEC Register is available on the NESO website and can be filtered by Connection Site: [Transmission Entry Capacity \(TEC\) register | National Energy System Operator](#). The TEC Register only covers connections to the transmission network. Some generation projects, particularly smaller projects, are contracted by Distribution Network Operators (DNO). Demand-only connections on the transmission system are not shown in the TEC Register.

A key part of Connections Reform is the introduction of the new Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) process, which ensures that only projects (both generation and demand) meeting specific readiness and Strategic Alignment Criteria progress through the reformed queue. This will mean that following the re-ordering process we will deliver a more orderly and predictable queue with less speculative projects. Following the closure of the submission window, NESO will begin re-ordering the current connections queue. Helping unlock connections which will support economic growth to enable new industrial development and serve the modern technology needs of the future. Information on Connections Reform is available here: [Connections Reform | National Energy System Operator](#).

## **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](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)