

Public

Ref: FOI/25/073

National Energy System Operator

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Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 6 July 2025. We would like to apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). This is because we have determined that the information you have requested meets the definition of 'environmental information' provided at Regulation 2(1)(c) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

Please supply data on the number of occasions during 2025 when Wind Generators and Solar PV generators have both been paid constraint payments at the same time. Also, I see (GridWatch) that since the end of April Wind and Solar PV generation combined has exceeded demand. Was surplus exported and was this at a loss?

To summarise questions are:

- 1. During 2025 have Wind and Solar PV been paid Constraint Payments simultaneously?*
 - 1.1 If this is the case how much was paid in total to Wind and Solar during simultaneous payment periods?*
 - 1.2 On how many occasions and for how long?*
- 2. Was surplus Wind and Solar generation exported via the inter connectors to Europe and Ireland?*

2.1 Were the exports made at a loss, the receiving operators paid to take our excess production

2.2 If this is case was this at a cost passed onto UK consumers?

For information

The Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) is a multi-party legal framework that underpins the electricity trading arrangements in Great Britain. It sets out the rules and processes for how:

- Electricity suppliers buy energy from generators.
- Market participants are charged or paid for imbalances between contracted and actual electricity volumes.

The BSC ensures that energy trades are settled accurately and that the system stays balanced in real-time. All licensed electricity suppliers and generators in Great Britain are required to become signatories to the BSC.

Electricity cannot be stored in large quantities and must be balanced continuously. While contracts between generators and suppliers are agreed in advance, actual generation and consumption often differ. The BSC provides a mechanism to:

- Compare contracted vs actual energy volumes
- Calculate and settle payments for any imbalances
- Maintain fairness and transparency across the market

Information related to the BSC is available here: [About Balancing and Settlement Code \(BSC\) - Exelon BSC](#). And a guide to Electricity Trading Arrangements is available here: [The Electricity Trading Arrangements A Beginner's Guide - Exelon Digital BSC](#).

[Exelon](#) administers the BSC on behalf of the industry and holds all data related to its administration. This enables them to compare how much electricity generators said they would produce, and suppliers said they would sell, with the actual volumes, allowing calculation of the price for these differences. Exelon makes sure that generators and suppliers either pay, or are paid, to settle any differences. This data is made publicly available through the Exelon website.

Our response

1. During 2025 have Wind and Solar PV been paid Constraint Payments simultaneously?

1.1 If this is the case how much was paid in total to Wind and Solar during simultaneous payment periods?

1.2 On how many occasions and for how long?

We hold information on accepted bids and offers by Balancing Mechanism Unit (BMU). This information is held by settlement period. Further analysis requiring specialist knowledge and skills would be required to manipulate that information in order to answer your queries. We therefore confirm that NESO does not hold recorded information that is directly in scope of your request.

We may be able to provide you with the raw data on accepted bids and offers and provide advice on how you can interrogate the data yourself. In this format we would still be required to review the data held. There is a presumption of disclosure under the EIR but organisations need to consider whether any exceptions apply to the data before disclosing information to the public. As this information is held for all BMUs by half-hourly settlement period and you have requested information from 1 January 2025 to the date of your request it would take a significant amount of time to prepare this data for disclosure.

This same information on accepted bids and offers by BMU is held by settlement period on Elexon's publicly available data portal. Information held on Elexon has been reviewed, checked and verified, and can be accessed freely and at any time, enabling you to interrogate the data without submitting an information request.

2. Was surplus Wind and Solar generation exported via the inter connectors to Europe and Ireland?

2.1 Were the exports made at a loss, the receiving operators paid to take our excess production

2.2 If this is case was this at a cost passed onto UK consumers?

We can confirm that we do not hold information in scope of this question. Electricity is delivered onto the Transmission System in real-time by Generators. Once it is on the system it is taken 'indiscriminately' by demand, i.e. generation goes where the system needs it to go. The electricity that is exported via interconnectors cannot therefore be traced back to a specific generation source, or Balancing Mechanism Unit (BMU).

Regulation 3(2) of the EIR makes clear that the right to access information is limited to information that is held by a public body at the time of a request and Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR states "A public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that it does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received." All EIR exceptions are subject to public interest test (PIT), however the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) recognises that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful PIT where information is not held.

This concludes our response to your request.

Advice and assistance

In relation to costs to UK consumers, Balancing Costs are recovered through part of the Balancing System Use of Services (BSUoS) charge that is allocated to Generators and Suppliers based on a market share of total generation and consumption in each interval. Generators recover these costs through the revenue streams of their business and suppliers recover these costs through their charges to consumers. The everyday household will therefore have a proportion of their electricity bill that recovers the Balancing Costs charged to their Supplier. NESO provides a

visualisation dashboard of BSUoS charges in consumer bills on this webpage: [Balancing costs | National Energy System Operator](#).

Further information on electricity markets and constraints payments is available on our website:

- [Electricity markets explained | National Energy System Operator](#).
- [What are constraints payments? | National Energy System Operator](#).

You may be interested in the Monthly Balancing Services Summary (MBSS) which includes a breakdown of constraints costs by fuel type. The published MBSS reports, by month for the current year and annually for previous financial years, are available from the 'MBSS' and 'MBSS archive' tabs at the bottom of this page: [Balancing costs | National Energy System Operator](#). Daily Balancing Costs are also available from the 'Daily Balancing Costs' tab on the webpage linked above. The information in the Daily Balancing Costs includes the amount of constraints costs, but not by fuel type.

Further information on balancing the grid can be accessed here: [How do we balance the grid? | 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. 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)