

# Connections Reform:

# Supporting your resubmission after initial checks

September 2025



# What this guide covers

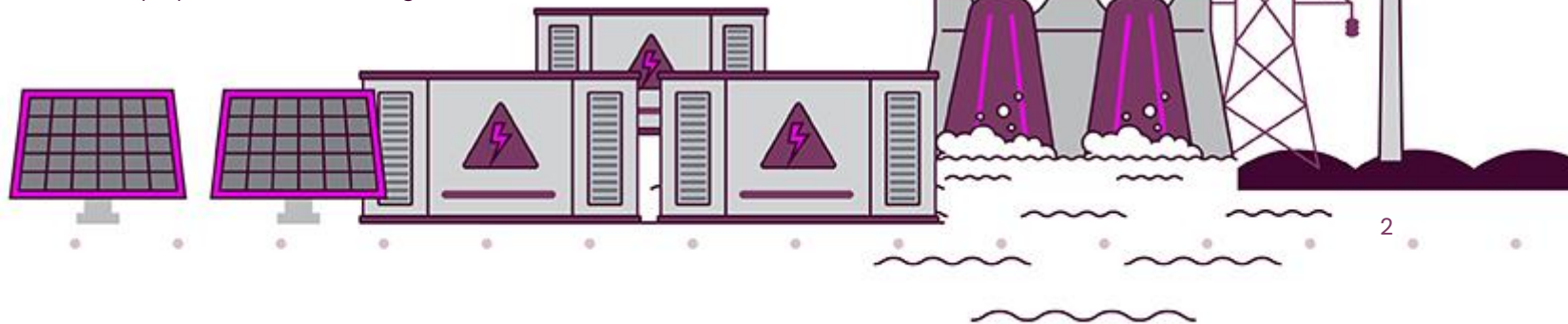
**This document outlines the key success criteria NESO uses when reviewing Gate 2 to Whole Queue submissions. If your application did not pass the initial check, we're here to help you move forward.**

You have four clear working days to resubmit the necessary documents, and this guide provides a snapshot of what a successful submission looks like.

This document consolidates information from the existing methodologies and guidance documents and **does not introduce any new requirements**, and it does not supersede either code or methodologies. It's designed to help you understand where improvements may be needed and confidently take the next steps in the resubmission process.

In some cases, the document outlines what you will need to change where you may have made an error that you can rectify in resubmission. In other cases, it's clarifying what we are looking for. The latter will especially help customers who may have inadvertently uploaded the wrong document.

**4**  
clear working days to  
resubmit necessary  
documents





# Quick reference

If you are seeking readiness through the Planning Route (for Development Consent Order) – **Page 4**

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# Success criteria

Initial Check Carried Out	Success Criteria	Useful Notes
<b>If you are seeking readiness through the Planning Route (for Development Consent Order)<sup>1</sup></b>		
<b>Initial Check: Readiness via Planning (Development Consent Order) – planning inspectorate number is valid</b>	Upon resubmission, where you have provided a planning inspectorate reference number for a Development Consent Order (DCO), we will check on the <a href="#">National Infrastructure Project</a> website that the number returns a valid DCO application.	
<b>Initial Check: Readiness via Planning (Development Consent Order) – document opens and is valid</b>	Where you have provided upon resubmission a Planning (Development Consent Order) document, we will check that it opens. We will check that the document follows the format and structure of a Planning Inspectorate Application form.	You can use your own branded title pages, but the form should be as per the planning inspectorate’s website.

<sup>1</sup> For more information, please review Section 2.8 of the [Connections Reform Evidence Handbook](#) and Section 5 of the [Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#)



Connections Reform: Supporting your resubmission after initial checks

<b>Initial Check: Readiness via the Planning - meeting Queue Management Milestone M1</b>	<p>Where you are a Transmission Connected customer and have stated that you have received confirmation from NESO that you have met Queue Management Milestone M1, we will check that you have previously achieved M1.</p> <p>For all customers, where new evidence is submitted, we will check M1 is met in line with Section 4.1.3 of the <a href="#">Queue Management Guidance</a> or Section 6.1 of the <a href="#">ENA Queue Management Guidance</a>.</p>	
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**If you are seeking readiness through the Land Route<sup>2</sup>**

**Initial Check: Original Red Line Boundary (ORLB) document opens and information checks**

We will check upon resubmission that the Original Red Line Boundary (ORLB)<sup>3</sup> document was provided and that it opens.

We will also check that the ORLB document contains the following information:

- A red line boundary diagram
- Scale
- Orientation
- Location (grid coordinates: longitude and latitude in WGS84 format to 3 decimal places of Northerly, Easterly, Southerly and Westerly extreme coordinates of project site)
- Installed capacity value per stage, for each technology (note that listing the technology is not required if your project is delivered as a single technology with a single stage)
- Total acreage figure secured for site, per stage

<sup>2</sup> For more information, please review Section 2.7 of the [Connections Reform Evidence Handbook](#) and Section 4.1c of the [Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#)

<sup>3</sup> For more information on ORLB, please review Section 2.7 and Appendix 3 of the [Connections Reform Evidence Handbook](#) and Section 4 – 7 of the [Connections Reform Evidence Handbook Addendum](#)

<p><b>Initial Check: Land readiness document opens</b></p>	<p>We will check upon resubmission that the land documentation was provided and that it opens.</p>	<p>This applies to all land readiness documents submitted.</p>
<p><b>Initial Check: Land readiness document checks via Option Agreement route</b></p>	<p><b>If you have an Option Agreement, we will check the following upon resubmission, as applicable:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document provided is an Option Agreement* and is signed and</li> <li>• Document provided is a Lease or Form of Lease</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document provided is a Purchase Agreement, Transfer or Disposition</li> </ul> <p>Where you were <b>unable to obtain the necessary land rights</b>, but you qualify for an exception, the following scenarios may be applicable:</p> <p><b>1)</b> For evidence of <b>Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Powers</b> granted for some or all of secured land, we will check the following upon resubmission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document provided is a valid Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) document and states compulsory purchase order</li> </ul>	<p>* Note this could also be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conditional Sale Contract, Conditional Agreement for Lease, or Scottish Missives document that is signed</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deed or Minute of Variation document that is signed</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conveyance document that is signed</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document that Option Agreement has been extended that is signed or includes confirmation from the landowner and/or the User/Applicant’s solicitor that the variation/extension has been activated</li> </ul>

**2)** For evidence of **Probate (England and Wales)** or **Application for Confirmation (Scotland)** for part of the secured land, we will check the following upon resubmission:

- Document provided is a Grant of Probate, Grant of Letters of Administration, or Grant of Letters of Administration with Will annexed
- Heads of Terms document (to accompany Grant of Probate/Confirmation) is signed

Where the Option Agreement **does not have the minimum term of three years** from the date it was signed and it qualifies for an exception, the following criteria will be reviewed:

- For evidence of **explanatory** letter providing a valid reason<sup>4</sup> why the minimum term requirement is not met, we will check upon resubmission that the document provided is signed

In terms of securing land, there are minor differences of approach for Non-GB Projects, Offshore Hybrid Assets (OHAs) and Interconnectors and Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG) projects to reflect the practicalities of how they would meet the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria for Land/Seabed. These differences of approach can be found in Section 4.1c of the [Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#) and Section 2.7 Part 3A of the [Connections Reform Evidence Handbook](#).

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<sup>4</sup> Section 4.1c of the [Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#) offers the acceptable reasons that can be included in the explanatory letter

<p><b>Initial Check: Land readiness document checks via Existing Lease route</b></p>	<p>If you have an <b>Existing Land Lease</b>, we will check upon resubmission that the document provided is a Lease or Lease Agreement, which must also be signed.</p>	
<p><b>Initial Check: Land readiness document checks via Existing Ownership route</b></p>	<p><b>If you have evidence of Existing Ownership registered at the Land Registry, we will check the following upon resubmission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official Copy of the Register of Title Document or Title Sheet is provided and shows the title number</li> <li>• Title Plan accompanying the Official Copy of the Register of Title Document or Title Sheet is provided</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have evidence of Existing Ownership unregistered at the Land Registry, we will check the following upon resubmission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate from Solicitor, or Certification of Title, or Report on Title is provided and is signed</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Initial Check: Land readiness document exception checks</b></p>	<p>If you have provided evidence where the holder of the land rights is different from the User or Applicant, we will check upon resubmission that the Explanatory Letter is provided and signed.</p>	



**If you are requesting advancement of connection date or if you are applying as transitional projects**

**Initial Check: Modification Application submitted**

We will check that your Modification Application (Mod App) is submitted.<sup>5</sup>

If you are experiencing technical issues with submitting Mod Apps, please contact us<sup>5</sup>

**If you are seeking to meet one of the four Gate 2 strategic alignment criteria**

**Initial Check: Strategic Alignment Criteria (b) or (d) - the technology listed by user matches strategic alignment**

Your project technology should align to the CP30 Action Plan technologies or be aligned to the 'out of scope' CP30 Action Plan technologies, as described in Section 5.4 of the [Connections Network Design Methodology](#).

<sup>5</sup> If you have a query, you can submit it through these channels:

- Connections Portal account: [Connections Portal | National Energy System Operator](#).
- Or contact us at: [box.connectionsreform@neso.energy](mailto:box.connectionsreform@neso.energy)

We will not accept queries through any other channels. You can find additional supporting information in our [help centre](#).

<p><b>Initial Check: Strategic Alignment Criteria (c) – the project is requesting designation</b></p>	<p>If you have applied citing project designation status, we will check that this has been approved by NESO.</p>	
<p><b>Initial Check: Strategic Alignment Criteria (a) – Protection 1 ‘Contracted to Connect by end of 2026’</b></p>	<p>Your project should have a connection date on or before 31 December 2026 or the project had a connection date on or before 31 December 2026 on the TEC register as of 20 December 2024 but was delayed due to network company driven change.</p> <p>We will also check that your project has met Milestone 2 (M2) and Milestone 7 (M7) and that the evidence you have provided relates to the project directly.</p> <p>Depending on the route you have selected and whether you have provided new evidence, the following checks will be carried out, as applicable:</p> <p><b>M2 checks:</b></p> <p>We will check that you have achieved Queue Management Milestone 2 (M2) in line with Section 4.1 of the <a href="#">Queue Management Guidance</a> or Section 6.1 of the <a href="#">ENA Queue Management Guidance</a>.</p>	<p>If your project does not require planning consent, we will check that an explanatory letter has been submitted. We will check that the letter is signed, that it relates to the project, and that it provides a valid reason why statutory consent is not required.</p> <p>Confirmation of having previously met the Queue Management Milestones is relevant to transmission connected customers only. For Small, Medium or Large Embedded generation projects, evidence must still be submitted.</p>

	<p><b>M7 checks:</b></p> <p>On any document submitted, we will check the following upon resubmission:</p> <p>a) For all evidence provided, we will match the following to the Readiness Declaration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Name</li> <li>• Company name and details</li> <li>• Capacity, where available</li> <li>• Technology or technologies, where available.</li> </ul> <p>b) Specific to the type of evidence submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will check upon resubmission that you have achieved Queue Management Milestone 7 (M7) in line with Section 4.1 of the <a href="#">Queue Management Guidance</a> or Section 6.2 of the <a href="#">ENA Queue Management Guidance</a>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Initial Check: Strategic Alignment Criteria (a) - Protection 2a “Significantly Progressed”</b></p>	<p>We will check that your project meets one of the following evidence routes and that the evidence provided relates to the project directly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your project has met Milestone 1 (M1) and Milestone 2 (M2) or</li> <li>• You are holding one of the following ‘live’ contracts such as Contract for Difference (CfD), Capacity Market Agreement, Ofgem Interconnector or LDES Cap and Floor arrangement or</li> </ul>	<p>If your project does not require planning consent, we will check that an explanatory letter has been submitted. We will check that the letter is signed, that it relates to the project, and that it provides a valid reason why statutory consent is not required.</p>

	<p>Interconnector Merchant approval, or a contract with NESO awarded through the 'Network Services' process (previously called NOA Pathfinders)</p> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If your project does not require planning consent, a signed letter confirming no statutory consent is required and that your project has met Milestone 7 (M7)</li></ul> <p>Depending on the route you have selected and whether you have provided new evidence, the following checks will be carried out, as applicable:</p> <p><b>Route 1) Milestone M1 checks:</b></p> <p>We will check upon resubmission that you have achieved Queue Management Milestone 1 (M1) in line with Section 4.1.3 of the <a href="#">Queue Management Guidance</a> or Section 6.1 of the <a href="#">ENA Queue Management Guidance</a>.</p> <p><b>Route 1) Milestone M2 checks:</b></p> <p>We will check upon resubmission that you have achieved Queue Management Milestone 2 (M2) in line with Section 4.1 of the <a href="#">Queue</a></p>	<p>Confirmation of having previously met the Queue Management Milestones is relevant to transmission connected customers only. For Small, Medium or Large Embedded generation projects, evidence must still be submitted.</p>
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[Management Guidance](#) or Section 6.1 of the [ENA Queue Management Guidance](#).

**Route 2) 'Live' contract/subsidy checks:**

We will check the following, depending on the contract you selected:

- A valid Contract for Difference (CfD) contract must be listed on the [official Low Carbon Contracts Company register](#)  
or
- A valid Capacity Market (CM) Agreement contract must be listed on [NESO's register](#)  
or
- A valid Cap & Floor/Merchant Interconnector approval must on the Authority's register  
or
- A valid Network Service contract must be listed on NESO's internal register

**Route 3)** If your project does not require planning consent, we will check that an explanatory letter has been submitted. We will check that the letter is signed, that it relates to the project, and that it provides a valid reason why statutory consent is not required.

	<p><b>Route 3) Milestone M7 checks:</b></p> <p>a) For all evidence provided, we will match the following to the Readiness Declaration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Name</li> <li>• Company name and details</li> <li>• Capacity, where available</li> <li>• Technology or technologies, where available.</li> </ul> <p>b) Specific to the type of evidence submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will check that you have achieved Queue Management Milestone 7 (M7) in line with Section 4.1 of the <a href="#">Queue Management Guidance</a> or Section 6.2 of the <a href="#">ENA Queue Management Guidance</a>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Initial Check: Strategic Alignment Criteria (a) – Protection 2a “Significantly Progressed”</b></p>	<p>Your project’s connection date should be on or before 31 December 2027 or that your project had a connection date on or before 31 December 2027 on the TEC register as of 20 December 2024 and was delayed due to network company driven change.</p>	<p>If your project is protected under Protection Clause 2a and has a connection date no later than 31 December 2027, then your connection date and Point of Connection (PoC) are protected. You can still meet Protection Clause 2a if you don’t meet this connection date requirement, but this will only guarantee you a place in the queue and not protection of the connection date and PoC.</p>

**If you are seeking readiness through Land Route, but your project's planning status will determine treatment during queue formation<sup>6</sup>**

**Initial Check: Readiness via the Land Route and planning application is submitted**

You must have previously achieved Queue Management Milestone 1 (M1), or where you have submitted new evidence we will check M1 is met in line with Section 4.1.3 of the [Queue Management Guidance](#) or Section 6.1 of the [ENA Queue Management Guidance](#).

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<sup>6</sup> See Section 5.7 of our [Connections Network Design Methodology](#) for more information

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