

## Public

Ref: FOI/25/090

National Energy System Operator

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9 September 2025

Dear requester

### Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 11 August 2025.

Your request has been considered under the or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as we believe that the requested information falls within the definition of environmental information as set out in Regulation 2(1)(c) of the EIR.

### Request

You asked us:

*Please will you send me a list of all actions taken by Neso for the past 24 months which were in response to forecast extreme or severe space weather?*

*A Neso spokesperson told me on 8 April "Severe space weather is a rare event and as with all the risks we manage on a daily basis, we have plans in place to manage potential impacts if the situation develops.*

*"We coordinate closely with the Met Office and experts in Government and industry to monitor developments and take actions when necessary to reinforce the national electricity network."*

*So I'm asking about what actions NESO might have taken to reinforce the national electricity network, with regards to space weather.*

## **Our response**

There are records covering four time periods in the last twenty-four months from our system operation teams/control centre that refer to space weather.

These records show normal operational communications and engagement with the Meteorological Office, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), and Transmission Owners (TOs), however no reinforcement action was required or undertaken during any of these time periods.

The circumstances did not necessitate formal system warnings to be issued, but informal communications were shared with industry to confirm that NESO were aware of the potential situation, were not taking action, and were continuing to monitor in case action was required.

As no reinforcement actions were taken, we can confirm that we do not hold any recorded information that falls within the scope of your request.

This concludes our response to your request.

## **Advice and assistance**

There was a presentation on space weather at NESO's Operational Transparency Forum (OTF) on 2 October 2024 which you may find helpful. The slides from the OTF are available here: [PowerPoint Presentation](#). You can find information about the OTF and past meetings on our website: [Operational Transparency Forum | National Energy System Operator](#).

NESO is undertaking an innovation project entitled Space Weather Impact for Future Electricity System Resilience (SWIFTER). The project is outlined here: [Space Weather Impact for Future Electricity System Resilience \(SWIFTER\) | National Energy System Op...](#)

We have a Space Weather Subgroup, which led to the Space Weather Industry Protocol (SWIP) Subgroup being set up. Over the last 12 months, the SWIP Subgroup has been creating an industry protocol which will provide guidelines for operational decision making during an anticipated or actual severe space weather event. The protocol is currently being finalised and it is planned for this to be shared with affected industry parties by mid-late September.

Additionally a Grid Code modification has been raised as part of the work on the protocol. More information about all Grid Code modifications is available on our website: [Grid Code Modifications | National Energy System Operator](#). The Code Modification relating to severe space weather is here: [download](#).

## 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)