

Public

Ref: FOI/25/094

National Energy System Operator

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10 September 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 12 August 2025. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as we have determined that information relating to planned transmission network outages falls within the definition of environmental information as set out in Regulation 2(1) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

Figure 12 on page 39 of NESO's Clean Power 2030 advice to government (<https://www.neso.energy/document/346651/download>) shows the number of planned transmission network outages for maintenance and upgrades that have taken place in recent years as well as the number of planned outages that have already been submitted for future years up to 2029/30.

Does NESO have any forecasts for the number of planned outages that are expected to take place each year up to 2029/30? If so, would you be able to provide these forecasts and the assumptions on which they are made? Can you provide a breakdown of these forecasts in terms of the location and duration of the outages if that information is available?

Our response

Your request was for '... forecasts for the number of planned outages that are expected to take place each year up to 2029/30?'. NESO does not forecast (i.e., we do not predict) the number of planned outages on the transmission network that are expected to take place in any given year –

we do not take information on submitted outages for any given year and use that to predict the number of outage requests we may receive for future years.

NESO assesses and manages outages on the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) across Scotland, England and Wales. The Transmission Owners (National Grid Electricity Transmission ([NGET](#)), Scottish Power Transmission (subsidiary of [SP Energy Networks](#)) and Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (trading as [SSEN Transmission](#))), build detailed year ahead plans, including all expected maintenance requirements and submit those outage requests to NESO. We use information submitted by TOs in the form of outage requests to issue a year ahead outage plan to affected users of the transmission network and work with TOs and other affected stakeholders to co-ordinate and agree operational plans that can be enacted by NESO's Electricity National Control Centre (ENCC).

Further information on what happens when a TO requests an outage is available here: [What happens when there's a request for an outage? | National Energy System Operator](#).

As we do not hold information containing forecasts of planned outages, we are engaging Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, which 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

Regulation 9 of the EIR requires that an organisation provide advice and assistance in a wide range of circumstances, including when we believe that the individual submitting a request may be seeking other information, beyond what they have asked for in the request.

Figure 12 of the Clean Power 2030 Report is compiled from information held on the actual, not forecast, number of transmission network outage requests submitted by TOs as of October 2024. Should you wish to submit a new request for the same information as at the current time we would consider this to be a new request under the EIR and would manage appropriately.

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)