

Public

Ref: FOI/25/095

National Energy System Operator

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Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 16 August 2025. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Request

You asked us:

The July 2025 "[Resource Adequacy in the 2030s](#)" assumes that the weather from 1984 to 2018 is a "reasonable representation of future weather" and that "historical weather from 1984 onwards is a reasonable representation of the 2030s". Please provide the following information:

- 1) The arguments raised for and against using 1984-2018 as a representation of future weather*
- 2) The reasons for selecting 1984 as a start year when this year has "data gaps" where "synthetic" data was needed to fill the gaps*
- 3) Additional time periods that were considered as candidates for representing future weather*

The December 2022 "[Resource adequacy in the 2030s](#)" highlights 1985 as "often cited by expert stakeholders" in relation to weather events of concern. Please provide:

- 4) The list of stakeholders citing 1985 that NESO is referring to*

Our response

Public authorities are required to respond to requests submitted under the Environmental Information Regulations (and the Freedom of Information Act 2000) with recorded information held at the time of the request. There is no obligation to create or recreate information to respond to a request, and no requirement to provide an opinion (unless it that opinion is held in the form of recorded information).

We can confirm that we do not hold recorded information in scope of your request.

The exception at regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR allows us to refuse a request or parts of a request where we do not hold the information at the time when a request is received. We are not required to create new information in order to respond to an EIR request. 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.

Further information

We have confirmed that we do not hold recorded information in scope of the questions that you have asked. You may find the following explanation helpful.

For Resource Adequacy Modelling NESO uses weather information provided to us by a data provider. The data set provided is for 1 January 1985 to 31 December 2018.

The modelling approach for the Resource Adequacy in the 2030s Report was published in March 2025 ([Resource Adequacy in the 2030s: Modelling Approach](#)) and includes the following: *"Since unserved energy events are more likely to occur in winter, for each future year of interest, we run simulations from 1 April of that year to 31 March of the following year. This approach means we model each winter in full within a single simulation, allowing us to observe whether energy stores are sufficiently replenished during spring and summer in preparation for winter."*

As the data set provided to NESO is from 1 January 1985, it was necessary to extrapolate the data set back to 1 April 1984 by creating some synthetic data for that period only. This enabled us to model the full year 1984/85.

In Resource Adequacy modelling using the full 34-year (1984–2018) data set allows us to assess adequacy against a wide range of different weather conditions, including cold spells and periods with low wind. We use this information on historic weather conditions to assess future risks to adequacy.

The [July 2025 Resource Adequacy in the 2030s Report](#) (page 16) states *'We considered 34 years of historical weather data (1984–2018), which we have assumed to be a reasonable representation of future weather. However, this does not account for the impacts of climate change or for extreme historical weather patterns that are not included in the dataset. To improve our weather modelling, we are working with external experts, including the Met Office. Future studies may incorporate synthetic weather datasets that reflect climate change and a wider range of possible outcomes.'*

You asked, in relation to the first "[Resource adequacy in the 2030s](#)" report (December 2022), for a list of stakeholders citing 1985 in relation to weather of concern. We do not, at the date of this request, hold recorded information in scope of this question. However, as an example of where 1985 has also been highlighted, you may be interested in the ENTSO-E (European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity) [2017 Mid-term adequacy forecast](#).

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)