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Gurpal Singh
Ofgem
By email

Penny Garner
Acting Independent Chair – Grid Code Panel

17 July 2025

GC0183 Request for Urgency

Dear Gurpal,

Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP) Request for Urgency and Recommended Timetable for **GC0183: Generator and Interconnector Availability During a Severe Space Weather Event.**

On 09 July 2025, NESO raised **GC0183**. The Proposer sent a request to the Grid Code Review Panel Secretary for this modification to be treated as urgent.

GC0183 seeks to make changes to the Grid Code to obligate Generators and Interconnectors to notify NESO of their intended position in the event of severe space weather.

All documentation for this modification can be located via the following link:

[GC0183: Generator and Interconnector Availability During a Severe Space Weather Event](#)

The Grid Code Review Panel ("the Panel") on 17 July 2025, considered **GC0183** and the associated request for Urgency. This letter sets out the views of the Panel on the request for urgent treatment and the procedure and timetable that the Panel recommends.

The Proposer set out their rationale for Urgency against Ofgem's Urgency criteria (b), which is as follows:

b) A significant impact on the safety and security of the electricity and/or gas systems

There is a risk to security of supply of the electricity system due to the peak of the solar cycle being reached in 2025¹, and the highest risk of space weather events being expected in the descending phase following the peak.

The Space Weather Industry Protocol Workgroup have recently identified a risk to system stability due to the potential for Generators and Interconnectors to alter the operational status of some assets in the energy market based on the risk to their assets. This could lead to system instability or a shortfall in supply.

¹ National Risk Register – 2025 edition (pages 137–138)

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As it stands, under the current information processes, there may be insufficient time for NESO to be aware and thus manage any changes in Generators and Interconnector planned availability during an anticipated or actual severe space weather event.

The Proposer also clarified to the Panel that the most recent Solar Maximum was reached in late 2024. Solar storms that lead to high levels of GICs are statistically more likely during periods close to the Solar Maximum and in the descending phase of the solar cycle (which can last 2-3 years, so from late 2024 to late 2027 after the Solar Maximum), but they can also occur at all other times in the solar activity cycle.

Panel Consideration of the Request for Urgency

The Panel considered the request for Urgency with reference to [Ofgem Guidance on Code Modification Urgency Criteria](#). The unanimous view of the Panel is that **GC0183 does meet** Ofgem's Urgency criteria². Therefore, the recommendation of the Panel is that **GC0183 should** be treated as an Urgent Grid Code Modification Proposal.

Panel members set out their rationale behind this decision:

- Several Panel members noted that the provision of information will help NESO effectively manage system risk during Space Weather events and agreed that the Proposal meets Ofgem's Urgency Criteria (b).
- One Panel member highlighted the risk to system operation based on the lack of visibility that NESO currently has on the actions of generators and interconnectors in the event of space weather and agreed that the Proposal meets Ofgem's Urgency Criteria (b).
- Several Panel members noted the need for the Proposer to better justify their reasoning for Urgency, which the Proposer explained during the meeting.
- Several Panel members asked the Proposer to further define their proposed solution and scope, including clarifying the impacted parties prior to Workgroups commencing.

Procedure and Timetable

The Panel discussed an appropriate timetable for **GC0183** in the instance that Urgency is granted.

The Panel agreed that **GC0183** subject to Ofgem's decision on Urgency should follow the attached Code Administrator's proposed timetable (Appendix 1 **Urgent recommendation**). In Appendix 2 of

² Ofgem's current view is that an urgent modification should be linked to an imminent issue or a current issue that if not urgently addressed may cause:

- a) A significant commercial impact on parties, consumers or other stakeholder(s); or
- b) A significant impact on the safety and security of the electricity and/or gas systems; or
- c) A party to be in breach of any relevant legal requirements.

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this letter, the Code Administrator has also provided the timeline if this follows standard timescales with the assumption that Panel prioritise this high in the prioritisation stack.

Panel noted that if urgency is required, there would be;

- A Workgroup Consultation period of less than 15 Business Days
- There would be less than 5 clear Business Days between publication of the Draft Final Modification Report and Panel's recommendation; and
- There would be less than 5 clear Business Days for Panel to check that their Recommendation Vote had been recorded correctly

Under Grid Code Section GR.23.4, we are now consulting the Authority as to whether this Modification is an Urgent Grid Code Modification Proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on this letter or the proposed process and timetable. I look forward to receiving your response

Yours sincerely



Penny Garner
Acting Independent Chair of the Grid Code Panel

Appendix 1– Urgent Timeline

Modification Stage	Date
Modification presented to Panel	17 July 2025
Workgroup Nominations (8 Business Days)	17 July 2025 to 29 July 2025
Ofgem grant Urgency	29 July 2025 (by 5pm)
Workgroup 1	05 August 2025
Workgroup 2	11 August 2025
Workgroup 3	18 August 2025
Workgroup Consultation (7 Business Days)	19 August 2025 to 29 August 2025
Workgroup 4	04 September 2025
Workgroup 5	10 September 2025
Workgroup Report issued to Panel	15 September 2025
Panel sign off that Workgroup Report has met its Terms of Reference	18 September 2025

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Code Administrator Consultation	19 September 2025 to 20 October 2025
Draft Final Modification Report issued to Panel	27 October 2025
Panel undertake DFMR recommendation vote	30 October 2025
Final Modification Report issued to Panel to check votes recorded correctly	30 October 2025
Final Modification Report issued to Ofgem	30 October 2025
Ofgem decision	TBC – requested as soon as possible
Implementation Date	10 Business Days after Implementation

Appendix 2 – Standard Timeline

Modification Stage	Date
Modification presented to Panel	17 July 2025
Workgroup Nominations	17 July 2025 to 07 August 2025
Workgroup 1	26 August 2025
Workgroup 2	22 September 2025
Workgroup 3	21 October 2025
Workgroup Consultation	27 October 2025 to 17 December 2025
Workgroup 4	16 January 2026
Workgroup 5	13 February 2026
Workgroup Report issued to Panel	18 February 2026
Panel sign off that Workgroup Report has met its Terms of Reference	26 February 2026
Code Administrator Consultation	03 March 2026 to 07 April 2026
Draft Final Modification Report issued to Panel	15 April 2026
Panel undertake DFMR recommendation vote	23 April 2026
Final Modification Report issued to Panel to check votes recorded correctly	28 April 2026 to 06 May 2026
Final Modification Report issued to Ofgem	07 May 2026
Ofgem decision	TBC
Implementation Date	10 Business Days after Implementation

Appendix 3 – Panel Urgency Vote

See separate attachment