

Public

# CUSC Panel 04 July 2025

## CUSC Panel Minutes

**Date:** 04/07/2025      **Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Start:** 11:00 AM      **End:** 12:00 PM

## Participants

Attendee	Initials	Representing
Claire Huxley	CH	Acting Independent Panel Chair
Catia Gomes	CG	Panel Secretary, Code Administrator
Ren Walker	RW	Panel Technical Secretary, Code Administrator
Andrew Enzor	AE	Users' Panel Member
Binoy Dharsi	BD	Users' Panel Member
Cem Suleyman	CS	Alternate Panel Member
Garth Graham	GG	Users' Panel Member
Joe Colebrook	JC	Users' Panel Member
Joe Dunn	JD	Users' Panel Member
Kyran Hanks	KH	Users' Panel Member
Daniel Arrowsmith	DA	NESO Panel Member
Nadir Hafeez	NH	Authority Representative
Harriet Harmon	HH	Authority Representative
Rashmi Radhakrishnan	RR	ELEXON – Observer

## Public Apologies

Attendee	Initials	Representing
Penny Garner	PG	Acting Independent Panel Chair
Andy Pace	AP	Consumers Panel Member
Paul Jones	PJ	Users' Panel Member

## Presenters

Attendee	Initials	Representing
Joe Henry	JH	CMP448 Chair
Matt Magill	MM	NESO
Jack Presley Abbott	JPA	Ofgem
Salvatore Zingale	SZ	Ofgem

## 1. Introductions, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

12946. Apologies were received from Andy Pace and Paul Jones.

12947. CH advised the Panel that an AOB (Any Other Business) item has been raised that isn't within the Panel's usual scope. However, due to the urgency of the situation, it will be discussed in this closed forum with NESO present to provide further details.

## 2. Draft Final Modification Report

### **CMP448: Introducing a Progression Commitment Fee to the Gate 2 Connections Queue**

12948. JH delivered a presentation on CMP448, explaining that this proposal establishes a framework to introduce an additional financial requirement on developers, that can be activated if required, to incentivise the timely removal of unviable projects from the connections queue and facilitate the more timely and efficient connection of viable projects. In doing so it will support progress towards clean power by 2030 ("CP30") and net zero targets.

## Public

12949. JH advised the Panel that the Code Administrator Consultation was run from 10 June 2025 to 24 June 2025 and received 27 non-confidential responses and 2 confidential responses. Key points from the consultation were:

- The consultation received mixed levels of support against each of the solutions regarding the Applicable CUSC objectives. Of the 26 responses each response received the consultation, 14 respondents stated that none of the three solutions better facilitated the Applicable CUSC objectives, with 13 expressing some support for at least 1 solution against the ACO.
- 15 of the 27 responses raised supported the implementation approach. The justification of this support broadly aligned with the view that the modification should be implemented ahead of Gate 2 Offers being issued. Several respondents disagreed with the implementation approach not on the proposed implementation, but of the fact that they disagreed with the implementation of the modification in its entirety.
- A proportion of the responses stated that they did not believe that the defect highlighted by this modification had yet manifested. This was often linked to a belief that QM milestones and TMO4+ modifications needed time to embed. Respondents also highlighted potential disproportionate impacts on both small and large developers.
- No legal text issues identified

12950. Prior to the Panel conducting their recommendation vote, the Ofgem representative (SZ) confirmed that the Final Modification Report should be submitted in line with the approved timeline. In light of this advice given by the Authority, the Panel proceeded to carry out their recommendation vote for CMP448. The Panel recommended by majority that the Original and WACMI better facilitated the Applicable CUSC Objectives. **(Post meeting note: The Final Modification Report was submitted to Ofgem on 04 July 2025).**

## 3. Any Other Business (AOB)

### Connections Reform

12951. MM attended the Panel to provide an update on Connections Reform. MM discussed the ongoing changes in Connections Reform and the opening of Gate 2 submissions.

## Public

12952. MM explained that due to the high volume of applications, a new customer handling process was implemented, involving a dedicated team at NESO to address specific issues. Feedback indicated inefficiencies, leading to a redesign of the team and the use of AI to triage queries into three categories: BAU, active live projects, and projects with potential material impacts. The team is working with network owners to address connection agreements, particularly for projects after 2030, which will be handled after the Gate 2 process is in place. MM noted that the team are currently working through priorities, with 10 contract managers actively addressing issues.

12953. Some Panel Members emphasised the need for daily webinars or Q&A sessions to further engage with industry and ensure stakeholders can access collective information and have their questions answered. MM thanked the Panel Members for their suggestions and will take this into consideration.

## 4. Close

12954. The Chair thanked the Panel for their time and contributions and brought the meeting to a close.

**The next CUSC Panel meeting will be held on 25 July at Faraday House.**