

Public

Ref: FOI/25/100

National Energy System Operator

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22 September 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 22 August 2025. We have considered your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Request

You asked us:

Please provide the following. Where possible, supply information for the period November 2024 to the present, and ongoing forward-looking items for the next year.

Information relevant to renewable-energy projects and data centres:

- *Datasets and reports held by NESO relating to renewable generation projects (wind, solar, hydro, storage, etc.) and data-centre connections, including but not limited to: connection offers issued, accepted, and withdrawn; queue/sequence indicators where recorded; project name, technology, capacity (MW/MWh), connection point/substation, transmission owner region, and indicative connection date or milestone dates;*
- *Outcomes of any queue-management exercises or amnesties, including capacity released or re-sequenced;*

- *Network capacity/constraints relevant to renewables and data centres: hosting-capacity assessments, load/generation headroom at nodes, and reinforcement plans affecting connection timing;*
- *Studies, options appraisals or impact assessments concerning data-centre demand, including load forecasts, locational guidance, or interactions with renewable integration and system stability;*
- *Any geospatial datasets (e.g., connection locations, constraint zones, transfer limits) and their data dictionaries.*
- *For each dataset, please state:*
The data fields, frequency of update, earliest available date, and format;
Whether it is already publicly available (and where), or only held internally;
Any open-data licensing terms or restrictions.
If NESO provides APIs, dashboards, mailing lists, RSS/ICS feeds or calendars for meetings, data releases, outages, or system-planning milestones, please provide access details or files (e.g., iCal).

Our response

We confirm that we hold information in scope of your request. However, due to the breadth of your request we are refusing your request in its entirety under Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR allows a public authority to refuse a request where the request is manifestly unreasonable. We have determined that responding to your request will cause a disproportionate burden and unjustified level of disruption to NESO.

As an example of the burden on the organisation that responding to this request would represent, in the first part of your request you have asked for any “*Datasets and reports held by NESO relating to renewable generation projects (wind, solar, hydro, storage, etc.) and data-centre connections, including but not limited to: connection offers issued, accepted, and withdrawn; queue/sequence indicators where recorded; project name, technology, capacity (MW/MWh), connection point/substation, transmission owner region, and indicative connection date or milestone dates*”. To respond to this part of your request alone, NESO would have to search for milestone dates for all renewable energy projects.

Some of the information you have requested is publicly available in the [Transmission Entry Capacity \(TEC\) register | National Energy System Operator](#). The TEC Register is a list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with NESO. These include existing and future connection projects and projects that can be directly connected to the National Electricity

Transmission System (NETS) or make use of it. Inclusion on the TEC Register is evidence that a connection agreement is held between NESO and a customer.

Looking at the TEC Register, more than 2,000 projects have a description that includes a renewables element. These can be identified by filtering by 'Plant Type' and excluding projects that do not have a renewable element.

Our connections tool does have a report that shows all the milestones, but this report cannot be extracted (e.g. exported to a spreadsheet). It is structured in a way that shows all milestones for each project with potentially multiple lines of milestone records for a project, including commercially sensitive information.

The tool used does not currently have the capability and would require further development in order to provide a dataset of the milestones for each project in scope of your request. With 2,000 plus projects that would require review we have calculated that, even at a conservative estimate of just 10 minutes per project, to respond to this part of your request alone would exceed 333 hours of staff time.

Regulation 12(4)(b) is subject to the public interest test. There is a general public interest in public organisations being accountable and transparent and NESO ensures that it upholds as far as possible the presumption of disclosure under EIR. Disclosure may increase public understanding of decision making, facilitate effective public participation in current debates about the construction of renewable energy projects in the UK and could increase the public's understanding of connections and connections reform.

Public authorities must, however, be protected from any disproportionate burden caused by requests for information. It is not in the public interest for NESO's resources to be diverted away from delivery of our public tasks and licensed activities. Responding to your request would necessitate resource from NESO teams that are currently assigned to transitioning to the reformed processes and this could put at risk the timely and efficient delivery of the reform process.

Despite the presumption in favour of disclosure, the excessive burden of responding to your request means that we conclude that the public interest lies in maintaining the exception in Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR. This is because we believe that to respond to your request would represent a disproportionate burden on the organisation and its staff (both in terms of cost and time), and the speculative nature of this request means that we cannot clearly determine that the value or purpose of the request would justify the burden.

NESO makes a wide range of information publicly available and engages with the public on a wide range of issues. In the advice and assistance section below, we have provided links to publicly available information.

This concludes our response to your request.

Advice and assistance

Regulation 9 of the EIR require a public authority to provide advice and assistance. You may wish to refine your request in such a way that we would be able to allocate reasonable resource to managing the review of the information held.

We have provided links below to publicly available information that may assist you to narrow the focus of your request. For example, you may wish to review the publicly available information and request information about a specific project or projects. Limiting your request to a particular type of record, or for information relating to a specific topic may assist us to provide a focused response. This would make your request more manageable for us to consider. However, it does not mean it will necessarily result in disclosure of the requested information as other EIR exceptions may apply.

Should you submit a refined request, we will consider it as a new request under the information rights legislation.

- The current TEC Register is published here: [Transmission Entry Capacity \(TEC\) register | National Energy System Operator](#). The TEC register does not set out the milestones but does classify projects as “scoping”, “awaiting consents”, “consents approved”.
- The TEC Register is supplemented by the Connections 360 portal which you can register to access: [Connections 360 | National Energy System Operator](#).
- Further information about NESO’s role in Connections is available here: [NESO’s role in Connections | National Energy System Operator](#).
- NESO is delivering a [transformational change](#) to the way that the grid connections process operates. A key part of this reform is the introduction of the new Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) process, which ensures that only projects meeting specific readiness and Strategic Alignment Criteria progress through the reformed queue. This will mean that following the re-ordering process we will deliver a more orderly and predictable queue with less speculative projects.
- Following the closure of the submission window on 26 August 2025, NESO will begin re-ordering the current connections queue. Currently the queue stands at 738GW, more than four times the clean generation capacity required by 2030, with particularly more battery and

solar projects than are needed. Helping unlock connections which will support economic growth to enable new industrial development and serve the modern technology needs of the future. Information on Connections Reform is available here: [Connections Reform | National Energy System Operator](#)

- The Data Portal enables you to access all NESO published data including our published GIS datasets. It offers powerful tools to search and query data, and consume data via APIs. Detailed descriptions help you to get a clear understanding of each dataset: [Welcome to the NESO Data Portal | National Energy System Operator](#).
- On this page you can find links to all our [Applications, portals and APIs | National Energy System Operator](#).

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)