

Public

Ref: FOI/25/104

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02 October 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 26 August 2025.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as we believe that the information requested falls within the definition of environmental information as set out in Regulation 2(1) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

This request concerns the Clean Power 2030 Data workbook published in November 2024, specifically the data in tab ES5 of the spreadsheet.

The information I would like is the list of projects underpinning the capacity data for offshore wind by geographic region in the two scenarios (Further Flex and Renewables and New Dispatch). Since the offshore wind pipeline is a relatively short list of large and discrete projects, it should be fairly easy to provide this data.

Our response

We confirm that we hold information in scope of your request.

Information about the capacity and geographic location of offshore wind projects is publicly available. 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. We have provided links to the current TEC Register and other publicly available information in the advice and assistance section below.

We are refusing your request for a list of projects underpinning the regional projections for offshore wind in our Clean Power 2030 pathways as we consider this information to be exempt from disclosure under the exception at Regulation 12(5)(e) of the EIR.

Information is covered by the exception at Regulation 12(5)(e) of the EIR if:

- The information is commercial or industrial in nature;
- Confidentiality is provided by law;
- The confidentiality is protecting a legitimate economic interest;
- The confidentiality would be adversely affected by disclosure.

We believe that information relating to specific generation projects is commercial in nature and our use of this exception is primarily in respect of the adverse effect on developers' commercial interests and the energy market from disclosing this information.

Our [Clean Power 2030](#) (CP30) report set out that an additional 28–35 GW of offshore wind is required to reach a total of 43–50 GW in 2030. While the connection queue has enough projects to expand up to 54 GW by 2030, reaching even the lowest level of 43 GW in our pathways will be challenging. Offshore wind contracting and deployment must happen at unprecedented pace, far exceeding previous records.

The pathways in CP30 were developed from the analysis set out in [Future Energy Scenarios \(FES\)](#), with adjustments based on the greater challenge of clean power, our deeper assessment of the 2030 pipelines and our stakeholder engagement for our report. We considered additional project delivery and timeline information as part of our analysis. Although the capacity projections would have been built from projects, for modelling purposes we may have assumed a specific generation doesn't appear.

These assumptions are not intended to reflect judgement beyond the typical attrition rates of projects at certain stages. However, publishing a breakdown of which projects were/were not included in the projections could inadvertently damage a developer's bargaining position whilst

investment and build decisions remain outstanding. It could also affect the value and viability of an upfront investment before the project is connected.

Connection offers are made substantially in the form and under the terms of the Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC). NESO is bound by the confidentiality obligations under the CUSC. We are generally unable to publish information beyond what is held in the TEC Register which confirms that there is a project covered by an agreement and the CUSC information outlines the substantial content of connection agreements whilst preserving the commercial confidentiality owed to the developer and ensuring that NESO meets its legal and licence obligations.

NESO also falls within the scope of the Utilities Act 2000 and Section 105 of that Act makes it a criminal offence to disclose information: a) obtained under the Utilities Act 2000 and any other key energy legislation such as the Gas Act 1986 and the Electricity Act 1989, subject to specific exceptions; and b) where the information relates to the affairs of any individual or any particular business during the lifetime of the individual or so long as the business continues to be carried on.

You may find it helpful to know that this kind of confidentiality obligation is not limited to the energy sector. There are equivalent provisions in legislation governing other sectors (e.g. the Water Act 1989, the Telecommunications Act 1984, the Airports Act 1986, and the Broadcasting Act 1990). In our opinion, the list of projects in question is subject to the restrictions at Section 105 of the Utilities Act and does not fall within any of the limited exceptions to that duty of confidentiality. Beyond this, there is also a common law duty of confidentiality based on the expectations of the developers.

Commercial companies develop generation projects and are independent of NESO and the respective transmission owners. These development projects are competitive processes, both for the rights to supply electricity to the transmission network and also for funding from investors and any available government funding where applicable. For these reasons we have concluded that Regulation 12(5)(e) applies to the list of projects you have requested.

Regulation 12(5)(e) is subject to a public interest test. NESO is mindful that the EIR requires us to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure when considering the public interest test. There is a public interest in NESO, as a public corporation, being accountable for its advice. NESO acknowledges that information about our CP30 advice could help to inform public debate around clean power, energy security, and energy costs which affect private and business consumers. There is a public interest in furthering public understanding of the costs and assumptions used in the development of public energy policy, planning and investment. NESO recognises that there is

a public interest in adoption of renewable energy sources and decarbonisation plans which impact on the environment.

The public interest argument in favour of the exception is ensuring that no specific developer is materially disadvantaged through disclosing of commercial information. This ensures that there is a level playing field across all projects. NESO has a public duty under our licence to facilitate competition within the energy market and there is a recognised public interest in allowing competition in the energy industry. Increased renewable generation is crucial to the Government achieving its net zero and clean energy targets and anything that unjustifiably inhibits the competitive development of that renewable generation runs counter to these goals.

NESO is the designated independent system operator and planner under the Energy Act 2023 and must remain independent, fair, and consumer focused. Disclosure could erode trust within the sector, hampering NESO's role and our ability to drive forward reforms and initiatives that would bring benefits to consumers and to the environment. If suppliers of information are concerned about the disclosure of the information, and feel that they cannot trust NESO, such that they are unwilling to provide information in the future, this would be likely to have a detrimental effect on NESO's ability to carry out our role, which would not be in the public interest.

Having weighed up these public interest arguments, our opinion is that the balance of the public interest lies in maintaining the exception and withholding the requested information. NESO published its CP30 report and further supporting documents including the Data Workbook. The publicly available information meets the public interest in public accountability and transparency, without adversely impacting developers and the energy market.

This concludes our response to your request.

Advice and assistance

The current TEC Register is published here: [Transmission Entry Capacity \(TEC\) register | National Energy System Operator](#). Inclusion on the TEC Register is evidence that a connection agreement is held between NESO and a customer. You can find details of offshore wind projects in a with a connection agreement by filtering the register by 'Plant type'.

Further information on connections sites is available through [Connections 360](#) (registration required).

The Crown Estate [UK Offshore Wind Report 2024](#) includes a map and list of projects in the UK offshore wind development pipeline (Figure 28 on page 29).

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)