

Public

Ref: FOI/24/122

National Energy System Operator

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16 October 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 23 September 2025.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Request

You asked us:

On 5 November 2024, you summarised the findings of your 'Clean Power in 2030' report as follows:

'The analysis shows that overall systems costs should not increase for a clean power system. Other factors could reduce electricity bills in 2030, including a reduction in legacy policy costs (as contracts expire) and energy efficiency improvements. Government policy decisions could also reduce bills by 2030.'

<https://www.neso.energy/news/our-clean-power-2030-advice-government>

Can you confirm if you have done any recent research to confirm:

- If it's still the case that energy bills should not increase despite all the subsequently announced data centres (particularly those announced on 17 September and 13 January).

- If it's still the case that energy bills should not increase despite the predicted number of new data centres which could be built (estimated to be 100 more in the next 5 years).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/articles/cd9jk9de80zo>

- If no such research exists, can you confirm when it will be completed?

This is in the public interest because of evidence that data centres 'drive up electricity bills':

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/14/business/energy-environment/ai-data-centers-electricity-costs.html>

Our response

In our Clean Power 2030 (CP30) advice we did not attempt to calculate the impact on consumer bills, as distinct from system costs. We provided a qualitative statement explaining how other factors could reduce bills. On page 76 of CP30, we explain:

"The translation of clean power costs into bill impacts depends on policy choices, including how and when costs are reflected in prices and how they are distributed among different consumers. These choices will affect both current and future consumers, as well as the allocation of costs between gas and electricity consumers. The impact on bills may vary among consumers, such as those with electric vehicles or electric heating and those who have more flexibility in their electricity usage. Potential distributional impacts across residential and business users should be carefully considered when designing policies in this area."

For the same reasons, we haven't carried out any research into how data centres would impact bills and have no current plans to do so.

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

This concludes our response to your request.

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)