Public

tRESP Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions

October 2025

Version 3.0

NESO
National Energy System Operator

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Transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) acronyms

tRESP Acronyms	
Component	E.g. tRESP component (pathways, common planning assumptions, etc.)
CPA	Common planning assumption
DNO	Distribution network operator
EV	Electric vehicle
FES	Future energy scenario
GDN	Gas distribution network
GSP	Grid supply point
Nations	The nations of Scotland and Wales
Regions	The nine English RESP regions, as defined by Ofgem for RESP

RESP role	Regional Energy Strategic Planning role - as defined by Ofgem and delivered by NESO
RESP team	Regional Energy Strategic Planning team – the team within NESO responsible for delivering NESO's RESP role
RESPs	Regional energy strategic plans – the bespoke plans that will be developed for Scotland, Wales and the nine English regions
RFI	Request for information
RIIO-ED3	Ofgem's upcoming electricity distribution price control framework, set to begin in April 2028, guiding the performance and revenue allowances for Distribution Network Operators (DNOs)
SI Need	Strategic investment need
SI	Strategic investment

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Transitional Regional Energy Strategic Energy Plan (tRESP)-Background and NESO's work to date

1. What is tRESP?

The transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) is the first publication in the journey towards transforming and improving local energy infrastructure, developing bespoke plans for Scotland, Wales and nine English regions.
The full RESP, to be published in 2027, will introduce a new approach to distribution network planning. NESO will produce 11 plans, one for each nation and region, which will be key inputs to the business plans for DNOs and GDNs.
The transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan(tRESP), with a focus on electricity, is therefore a transitional bridge to the full RESP, which will consider all energy types.

tRESP is also an initial starting point for the full RESP and is focussed on delivering as much benefit as is practicable to support the ED3 price controls setting process, while we develop and build the capability of our RESP team.
The final tRESP publication will be published in January 2026.
Over the last six months we have built a new capability to deliver tRESP, working closely with the DNOs through regular Technical Working Group and bilateral meetings. This consultation shares the progress we have made in developing tRESP and its four components. The final tRESP will be published in January 2026.

2. What else has NESO been doing towards the tRESP before the consultation?

NESO has been engaging with groups nationally (Scotland, Wales) and regionally (nine English regions) since the beginning of 2025, following its decision on the future of local energy institutions and governance.
We have taken a collaborative approach to the development of tRESP. We've been sharing our work and inviting, and taking on board, comments from stakeholders. Our three main channels for doing this have been: the 11 RESP Forums, with over 2,000 people joining the meetings in the spring and summer; the Technical Working Group, which is made up of the six DNOs, the four gas distribution networks (GDNs) and Ofgem; and one-to-one meetings with each of the six DNOs.
We're continuing this approach for the tRESP consultation, using it as an opportunity to share and invite comments on our latest work in progress.
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The tRESP Consultation – Overview

3. What is the tRESP Consultation?

The consultation gives customers and stakeholders the opportunity to understand the tRESP components and their purpose, and our work to-date, and to comment on key areas, before the final tRESP is published at the end of January 2026.
The tRESP consultation and supporting documents, consider matters such as pathway methodology, and common planning assumptions (see 'How it's being done', below). It contains 11 bespoke Nations and Regions Contexts (one for Scotland, Wales and each of the nine English regions). The consultation is being developed by NESO in line with Ofgem guidance and subject to Ofgem approval, with the key principles of transparency and collaboration.

The draft tRESP is live and open for consultation, from 23 September, to 3 November 2025. Once feedback has been gathered and analysed, and updates made, the transitional tRESP will be published in January 2026.

4. Why is NESO publishing the consultation now?

This consultation shares the progress we have made in developing tRESP and its four components.

We are running the consultation now to enable us to publish the final document in January 2026, in time for the DNOs to use it as an input to their business plans for RIIO-ED3. It's important that customers and stakeholders recognise the consultation is on our work to date, and that work is continuing in parallel with the consultation to enable us to meet the January 2026 deadline.

On 23 September 2025, NESO launched its transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) consultation.

We're now looking to gather further comments on our work to date and will be running the consultation on the proposed tRESP components, during the six weeks from 23 September to 3 November 2025.

5. Who is the consultation for?

The tRESP consultation is open to all customer and stakeholder groups, at all levels of technical knowledge, and all levels of seniority. The consultation will seek input from these customers and stakeholders on the proposed tRESP components. Our customers and stakeholders include local authorities, DNOs, GDNs, energy consultancies, energy providers, planning professionals, to name a few.

6. What are the four key areas, or different components of the tRESP consultation NESO is seeking feedback on?

We are seeking feedback on the four key tRESP components:

I. **Contexts for the Nations and Regions:** Initial views for each RESP nation and region, using nationally available datasets and narratives for further exploration.
II. **Pathways:** A set of short-term and long-term 'pathways', for each RESP nation and region, based on expected demand and generation up to 2050.
III. **Consistent Planning Assumptions**: Ensuring DNOs take a consistent approach in using tRESP pathways and translating them to network impacts for selected low carbon technologies.

IV. **Strategic Investment Need:** Identifying key projects requiring investment in electricity distribution networks, not yet in the connections process.

7. Why haven't I been involved before now?

NESO has been engaging with groups nationally (Scotland, Wales) and regionally (nine English regions) since the beginning of 2025.
Ofgem published its final decision on the details of the scope of tRESP in February 2025. We have been working in the 11 nations and regions in a series of RESP Forums, organised locally, to introduce the concept of regional energy strategic planning and provide a channel for engaging stakeholders in RESP, enabling an opportunity for feedback and questions.

8. Why should customers and stakeholders get involved now?

Our proactive approach to engagement includes listening to local customers and stakeholders to ensure that a wide range of priorities, insights and data are used to inform national and regional plans. If you have an interest in shaping the local energy system within Scotland, Wales, or one of the nine English regions, please respond to the consultation (see below). The tRESP consultation is open to all stakeholder groups, at all levels of technical knowledge, and all levels of seniority. We need your input now, as your ideas could help integrate national and regional needs within energy planning, including at a national level.

9. What happens after the consultation?

Following consultation:

- 3 November: consultation closes.
- January 2026: final tRESP document published: this will include how we've used the information we've received from stakeholders.
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10. What happens after the tRESP is published in January 2026 and how will consultation feedback be used?

tRESP will be used by the six DNOs as an input to their business plans for the ED3 period, 2028-33. The specific details of how DNOs are expected to use tRESP will be set out by Ofgem in their ED3 business planning guidance to the DNOs. This is expected to be published by Ofgem in late-2025/early-2026.
We are currently talking to Ofgem about NESO's 'technical coordination' role, to help assure DNO investment plans, in the context of tRESP.

It's important to remember the scope of tRESP is limited to the plans for the electricity distribution networks for 2028-33. The full RESP will provide a robust foundation for investment in future gas and electricity distribution price controls, from 2033. We will consult on our proposed approach for doing this in the RESP Methodology consultation in November 2025.

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How to get involved?

11. How can customers and stakeholders get involved?

If you have an interest in shaping the local energy system within your nation or region, let us know. You can access the consultation, here, where you'll be guided through the process and be asked questions seeking your feedback on NESO's RESP proposals. The consultation ends on 03 November 2025, so make sure you respond before the deadline.

In addition, you can:

i. RESP Forums: join the latest RESP Forum for your nation (Scotland, Wales) or English region (of which there are nine), starting with the next meeting in October 2025.

ii. Contribute to the tRESP consultation itself: 23 September to 3 November 2025.

iii. RESP Methodology consultation: November 2025 to Jan 2026 (further details to follow)

iv. NESO newsletter: signup for the NESO newsletter, here.

12. Can our organisation submit more than one response to the consultation, or can we submit as individuals?

We can only accept one response per organisation. It's suggested interested colleagues within a customer or stakeholder organisation collaborate to determine a common response.

If you wish to submit a separate response, with different considerations as a private individual, you are permitted to do so. However, we would ask you identify any additional input you may have had with another tRESP consultation response, perhaps through an organisation or body you are employed by or represent.

It's important to remember each consultation response will take time to analyse and assess, therefore the more feedback that can be consolidated, the easier and quicker it will be to consider.

13. Is it possible to request an extension to the 3 November tRESP Consultation submission deadline?

We cannot authorise an extension beyond the deadline of 3 November 2025 for the tRESP Consultation submissions.

NESO's RESP team is committed to assessing all feedback and publishing the final tRESP by the end of January 2026. Further, in November 2025, NESO will publish the RESP Methodology Consultation. Sufficient time is required to process both consultations in a thorough and timely manner.

14. Can consultation submission supporting documents or attachments be made via email instead of the Qualtrics platform?

To help us process responses more quickly and ensure consistency, attachments cannot be accepted or submitted via this form. Attachments will only be accepted by exception - if you wish to submit a request, please contact: box.consultations.resp@neso.energy

15. My submission was accidentally made using email, and not the consultation digital platform (Qualtrics) as it should have been. What should I do?

We appreciate your organisation submitting a response and contributing to the consultation. However, to ensure your feedback is fully captured in our analysis and review process, please resubmit your response via our online form - Transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) Consultation.

16. How do you suggest my organisation agrees our consultation response before submitting?

To make it easier for your organisation to submit a response, you can use the PDF version of the questions to prepare your answers collectively and then copy and paste your final response(s) into the online form (Qualtrics)

17. We do not intend to respond to every consultation question, but we do intend to make a submission. Is this okay?

We understand your organisation may only wish to respond to one, or several questions, for example. This is perfectly acceptable. Simply write "N/A" for any questions where you do not have an answer. This will allow you to move through the form and submit, without being blocked by mandatory fields.

18. We attempted to submit via the online form but encountered a technical issue: despite selecting an answer to Question 2 ("How well do the Nations and Regions Contexts reflect your understanding of your nation or region?") the form would not accept the response and flagged an error stating that text needed to be removed. Can you help?

Please try resubmitting your consultation response. Completing the Qualtrics form will ensure that your response is fully captured.

It is possible to complete the form whilst leaving Question 2: "How well do the Nations and Regions context reflect your understanding of your nation or region?". Simply write "N/A" for any questions where you do not have an answer.

19. Is there a response form online for the consultation, or are we expected to write a document response?

Yes, there is an online form. Once you click on the consultation form to submit a response, you will be able to see a PDF version of the questions included in the introduction section as well. This allows you to review all the questions before submitting a response.

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IT/Accessibility Related

20. Do I need a Qualtrics account or password to complete the form?

No, you don't need to sign in or create an account. Simply click the consultation link, and it will open directly in your browser. English and Welsh language versions are available when submitting responses.

Qualtrics is the platform NESO is using to receive customer and stakeholder feedback for the tRESP Consultation. The platform enables us to gather and analyse data to inform the final tRESP.

21. What should I do if the Qualtrics interface is not displaying correctly?
This issue might be due to a browser compatibility problem. Ensure that you are using a supported browser version and clear your browser's cache. If the problem persists, try accessing Qualtrics in a different browser to see if the issue is browser specific.

22. How do I navigate through the consultation (Qualtrics Survey)?
You can navigate through the consultation by clicking the "Next" or "Previous" buttons at the bottom of each page.

23. Can I access the consultation questions before submitting online?
Yes, once you click on the consultation form to submit a response, you will be able to see a PDF version of the questions included in the introduction section. This allows you to review all the questions before submitting a response.
tRESP consultation questions

24. Will my responses be anonymous?
No, as part of the consultation, you are required to complete the mandatory "About You" section. This includes providing your name and group / organisation so that we can understand your response in that context. Your response will be linked to the details you provide.

25. How do I know if my survey response is confidential?
You will be given the option to mark your response as confidential at the beginning of the form.
For confidential responses, we will not publish your response or your feedback in an identifiable form.
All responses will be shared in full with Ofgem and DESNZ even if marked as confidential. If you have any questions about the consultation process, other additional comments or queries, please contact us at box.consultations.resp@neso.energy

26. Can the consultation submission be made via letter, or must this be done online?
To ensure your feedback is fully captured in our analysis and review process, you must submit all responses via our online form - Transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) Consultation.

27. We are unable to respond via the online form due to the specificity of questions. However, we believe we can add value to the consultation and would like to share challenges as well as constructive points relating to our electrification process. Unfortunately, we will not be able to submit using the form. What do you advise?

Such information will be of great value but may be better suited to our RESP Methodology Consultation, which begins on 17 November 2025. More information about this consultation will be available soon on the NESO website and newsletter. You can sign-up for the newsletter here.

If your response does relate to the present tRESP consultation, it remains open for submissions until 3 November. We do require all responses to be submitted via the online form, to ensure consistency in data capture and to analyse input.

28. Will our consultation response (submission) be made public? We will be able to share a greater level of data if unpublished.

At the beginning of the form, you will have the option to mark your response as 'Confidential'. Confidential responses will not be published in an identifiable form.

However, all responses will be shared, in full, with Ofgem and DESNZ, even if marked as confidential.

29. What should I do if I encounter technical issues while responding to the consultation?

If you experience technical difficulties, try refreshing the consultation page or accessing it using a different browser. If the issue persists, please email our inbox at box.consultations.resp@neso.energy with details of the problem, including any error messages or screenshots if possible, so we can advise on the best way to resolve it.

30. Can I complete the consultation on my mobile device?

Yes, the consultation platform (Qualtrics) is mobile-friendly and can be completed on smartphones and tablets. Ensure that you have a stable internet connection and that your device's browser is up to date for the best experience.

31. How do I adjust the text size in the consultation feedback platform for better readability?

You can adjust the text size by using your browser's zoom feature. On most browsers, you can zoom in or out by pressing "Ctrl" (or "Cmd" on a Mac) and "+" or "-" keys, respectively.

32. I've tried to use the Chrome browser to save my responses to PDF, or download, however, using the three dots, as described, the drop-down menu doesn't appear. Can you help?

The three dots drop-down menu should provide an option for a 'Print Preview'. Click this, followed by the green/teal 'Print' button. Then, in the 'Print Options' box, change the 'Print Destination' to 'Save as PDF'.

33. Can I edit my response after I have submitted?

Once your survey response has been submitted, you can download a copy of your response, but you cannot edit. Please ensure all responses are complete and accurate before submitting.

34. How long will it take to complete the consultation survey?

The survey has six sections, each with about 5-6 questions in each section. The time it takes to complete will depend on the level of detail you choose to provide. Each text-based question allows up to 2,000 characters, so please allow enough time if you plan to give detailed responses. You can always return to the survey later if you don't finish it in one sitting by clicking on the original link you used to start the survey. See below on 'saving progress'.

35. Can I save my progress and return to my consultation response later?

Responses are saved as you progress through the form, so you don't have to complete all questions at once. However, please note your responses are only saved as you go to the next page of the survey. You will be able to download a copy of your responses as a PDF at the end.

36. Will I get a reminder before the consultation closes to complete my survey?

Yes. If you provided your email address in the "About You" section, we will be able to send you a reminder before the consultation deadline. You can return to your survey at any time by clicking the original link you used to start it.

37. Why am I unable to submit my consultation responses?

If you're unable to submit your responses, ensure that all required questions are answered. Additionally, check if any response validation errors are displayed, indicating that your answers need to meet specific criteria.

38. Can we receive a Word version of the consultation, before we submit our response, to share the consultation questions with colleagues?

A downloadable Word version of the tRESP consultation questions is available in the main Qualtrics Consultation submission platform.
https://www.neso.energy/document/368741/download

39. The National and Regional Context page could not be converted to PDF (using the three dots at the top of the page). Whilst it does put it into a print format, it does not convert well into this format. Is that something that could be looked at?

Our digital team has investigated the issue and found that it may be related to a browser plugin. The PDF format works correctly in Google Chrome, but not in Microsoft Edge. Please be advised to try an alternative browser.

Data

40. How can I be sure of my data security in responding to the consultation within the Qualtrics platform?

Qualtrics employs various security measures, including data encryption and compliance with standards like General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). To further secure your data, ensure that you use strong passwords for your account and manage permissions carefully for shared responses.

41. We found some data incorrect for the Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD), specifically for battery energy storage systems (BESS). What steps are you taking to verify data going forward? Will connection reform data be incorporated?

For the full RESP, we will build on the feedback we've received on gaps in current data, and gather the most comprehensive coverage we reasonably can, including updated connections data. We'll be consulting on the full RESP methodology from November 17 2025, and that will include our proposed approach on data governance.

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tRESP Component Related

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Strategic Investment (SI) Need

42. What is 'strategic investment (SI) need?'

Necessary network investment that is 'strategic' and which unlocks wider system value: those national (Scotland and Wales) and nine English regional needs that are strategically significant and which, if enabled through the appropriate network investment, could unlock system-wide value, accelerate decarbonisation, and support long-term economic development. Part of the consultation's aim is to identify these energy needs, specifically demand and generation needs that are not already captured in the Pathways component of the consultation (including the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan). This consultation presents our emerging assessment of SI need across each of the 11 RESP nations and regions. It reflects a point-in-time view based on submissions from the network operators and early responses to our request for information (RFI), during Summer 2025. Inclusion within this consultation indicates that a need may warrant further assessment within a strategic planning context particularly where scale, complexity, uncertainty or cross-boundary considerations are present.

At this stage, we have not categorically excluded any submissions, recognising that further evidence may emerge to strengthen individual or collective cases. We have developed an interactive digital platform that includes maps of SI need for each of the 11 RESP nations and regions. They are designed to help stakeholders explore where areas of SI need are beginning to emerge across different parts of Great Britain.

43. How have we identified areas of SI need?

We launched a GB-wide request for information (RFI) in Summer 2025. This process invited local authorities, distribution network companies, developers, and other stakeholders within RESP nations and regions to submit evidence of current and emerging energy needs across different energy types.

44. What do the consultation's maps show?

The locations of emerging energy needs, provisionally assessed as in scope for SI need, are identified on each map. These needs were submitted by distribution network operators (DNOs) and gas distribution networks (GDNs), and are shown as coloured points and reflect submissions received to mid-Summer 2025. The nature and purpose of these coloured points is explained in the tRESP Strategic Investment Need map(s).

45. What other information is available in the consultation?

Request for information (RFI) submissions received from local authorities, developers and all other customers and stakeholders have also been included. These projects, presented as a map overlay, show the distribution of these projects as clusters. These wider submissions have not yet been assessed, but the overlay indicates the areas where responses have been strongest and where potential new areas of need may emerge in the final transitional RESP publication.

Please note, these project clusters are not a complete representation of all RFI submissions, as additional responses continue to be received. In some cases, such as aggregated RFI submissions containing multiple projects or RFI submissions not containing a postcode, the data could not be mapped spatially. As a result, these overlays should be viewed as a helpful directional signal rather than a definitive summary. In this regard, please also note, motorway service areas (MSAs), transport hubs and hydrogen infrastructure, will be considered for assessment for the final tRESP, to be published in January 2026.

The maps show:

- A geospatial view of emerging areas, under consideration for SI need
- The location and energy type (e.g. electricity, heat, or across different types and sources) associated with each emerging area of need
- Clusters of submissions identifying emerging energy need(s), providing early visibility of potential areas of need (projects) across each RESP area
- Overlays should be viewed as a helpful directional signal rather than a definitive summary of all stakeholder engagement.

Each RESP area map is accompanied by a short summary. The narratives provide further context and include:

- An overview of emerging trends drawn from DNO and GDN submissions
- A summary of common hotspot types based on early spatial patterns

- A set of themes, reflecting the unique challenges and opportunities emerging in each part of the country.

This platform is intended to support transparency, encourage feedback, and test how early patterns of need might inform more strategic energy planning. We welcome your thoughts on both the format and the content presented. Please contact us by email, at box.consultations.resp@neso.energy

46. What do the different coloured points mean?

The coloured points are used to denote locations of emerging energy needs. Each colour reflects an energy type or requirements, or a combination thereof. Please refer to map legend for more details.
Grey points with soft edges refer to RFI submissions containing a postcode, but not yet assessed.

47. Why isn't my RFI submission displayed on the map?

This could be due to one of several reasons:

- It is not in scope for tRESP. The present focus is the period 2028 to 2040 and is not concerned with energy transmission need, for example.
- Your submission may have been received too late. Please note, however, all RFIs received by 30 September 2025, will be assessed before the final tRESP publication in January 2026.

Further, if the project postcode was not included in RFI submission:

- We have used the submission cluster (overlay) to visualise all RFI submissions received that comply with our data quality requirements (i.e. this included, but was not limited to, a valid UK postcode). If your submission is not on the map, we expect this is because a postcode, for example, was not provided in the RFI form you submitted. As such we are unable to map the project / energy need geospatially. You have until 31 October 2025 to update data and information in your RFI submission.

48. Why are Motorway Service Areas (MSAs) not yet on the RESP maps?

Questions were asked by some network operators about what information to feed into the tRESP, regarding motorway service areas (MSAs). We do not have a complete information set yet and so MSAs are not covered in this version (consultation documentation). They will be covered in the final tRESP, to be published in January 2026.

49. Why are there so many blank spaces and restricted text box sizes?
This is the current layout of the digital platform. We will be updating the look and feel of the digital platform for the final tRESP publication, in January 2026. All further feedback is welcome. Please email us at box.consultations.resp@neso.energy

50. Why can't I zoom in any further on the map?
We have restricted the amount of zoom on the maps for the tRESP consultation digital platform. The amount of zoom is restricted so that specific geographic locations are not revealed for RFI submissions not yet assessed, and to protect commercially sensitive spatial data.

51. What happens next?
The present tRESP consultation reflects our emerging view of SI need based on information received from customers and stakeholders by August 2025. Between now and January 2026, tRESP final publication, we will continue our work to assess and integrate further information, including all outstanding stakeholder RFI submissions. The ongoing analysis will ensure a more complete view of emerging areas of SI need.

52. How can I provide feedback or flag an issue with the SI need product, maps or narratives?
Please direct your query to our dedicated mailbox: box.consultations.resp@neso.energy

53. Why has industrial decarbonisation been excluded from the tRESP Consultation?
The decision to exclude industrial decarbonisation from tRESP was made because we targeted areas where standardisation would add the most value to the ED3 price control process. These tended to be areas supported by nationally available data sets and where the focus was clearly on electricity distribution. Industrial decarbonisation, by contrast, is highly varied—it can involve multiple energy sources (such as electricity, gas, and hydrogen) and span both transmission and distribution networks. Demand within the industrial sector ranges widely from small facilities to very large users, and can be very locationally specific, making it far more complicated for tRESP to model.

For these reasons, and the very short delivery timescales for tRESP, we concentrated on delivering maximum value from tRESP which included standardised approaches to heat pumps and electric vehicles (EVs), and not the complexity of industrial decarbonisation. Industrial decarbonisation projects may still be included in ED3 submissions through DNOs' DFES building blocks and the tRESP process we are running to gather inputs on strategic investment need. We plan to use DESNZ's Net Zero Innovation Portfolio (NZIP2) model to support the inclusion of industrial decarbonisation in the full RESP.

54. My request for information (RFI) submission does not appear to have been added to the initial RFI submission map digital platform. Please can you explain why this is?

We apologise that some RFI submissions may not have been included in the tRESP. We will investigate to ensure this is not repeated with the final tRESP publication, in January 2026.

However, please be assured your RFI submissions have been received and will be assessed between the end of the consultation (3 November), and publication of the final tRESP, on 26 January, 2026. We are working hard to ensure the final tRESP publication is thorough, and your feedback will help identify a challenge we can resolve.

55. There is no information about existing heat networks in my local authority area on the tRESP Consultation digital platform. Is there a reason for this?

The consultation provides an initial view of conditions and priorities for each RESP nation and region. Our focus, at this stage, remains primarily on supporting the ED3 price control. This means that some aspects of nations and regions' dynamics, particularly those extending beyond the immediate scope of ED3, have not yet been fully explored, but will be included in the full RESP. The final release of tRESP in January 2026 will include a finalised digital output, supporting nations and regions' reports with additional detail, data governance documentations and full data sources.

We are interested in any elements or topics that are missing, that you would have expected to see, and whether the context section reflects your understanding of the nation or region. Please highlight this in your consultation response. We are also interested in whether it is clear and easy to interpret, how you might use it, and welcome you feedback on how data is selected, and presented visually.

56. How does NESO's work on strategic investment (SI) need interact with the work that DNOs are doing to inform their ED3 business plans?

The purpose of our request for information (RFI) on strategic investment (SI) need is to provide insight on proposed investment in energy infrastructure, particularly in support of strategic growth areas across GB.

The DNOs' ED3 process is a critical opportunity to ensure local authority priorities are reflected in their network planning. NESO's work on SI need is complementary rather than duplication.

At NESO we are focused on identifying strategic energy needs that are less certain and would not normally result in network investment ahead of need, due to the uncertainty. This naturally feeds into the tRESP, which in turn will feed into DNOs' ED3 processes.

NESO's work will not substitute the engagement DNOs are undertaking (and have done previously) to inform the level of detail they need for their business planning.

57. There is a significant lack of distribution network infrastructure in my local area to provide an economic grid connection. We are also aware of renewable energy project developers, for example, in a similar position regarding their grid connection. Is this feedback something you would value for the current tRESP consultation? Under which section would it be applicable?

It is worth submitting this information; however, it won't be picked up by Strategic Investment Need (SI Need) at this stage. It will be useful for the full RESP, which is coming in 2027.

We would suggest submitting any information on this topic via the tRESP consultation form, under the 'Context for the Nations and Regions' section.

58. How does NESO's work on Strategic Investment Needs (SI Needs) interact with the work that DNOs are doing to inform their ED3 business plans?

For tRESP, SI Need and Pathways are separate, and there should be no duplication/overlap - the same need should not be in both. In contrast, in the full RESP, coming in 2027, Strategic Investment Need will feed into the Pathways.

High certainty needs should either be in Pathways (for the technology building blocks in the tRESP Pathways), or elsewhere; in a DNO's business plan (for technologies outside the technology building blocks in the tRESP Pathways).

Both the SI Need and Pathways will be finalised in January 2026. There are no plans for SI Need' submissions to adjust the volumes in tRESP Pathways. However, there are some planned sense checks to ensure no duplication between tRESP SI Need and Pathways:

- In tRESP Pathways, there will be checks as part of the alignment review framework across Grid Supply Points (GSPs). Growth outliers per building block will be identified for explanation, and where any duplication is identified, we will ensure it is not in both Pathways and SI Need.
- In SI Need, the request for information (RFI) process asks if a connection agreement to the distribution network already exists. If there is a pre-existing agreement, that indicates high certainty to proceed, this would exclude the need from further consideration as an SI Need.

For tRESP Pathways there is an expectation that the DNOs' ED3 plans are aligned with the volumes in the Pathways, whereas SI Need will be given further consideration by DNOs in their ED3 plans. The DNO can, and should, omit an SI Need, or part of an SI Need, from their plan if it is already in the Pathways.
When setting tRESP SI Need in January 2026, NESO will not consider whether an SI Need duplicates what is in a network's DFES or ED3 plan later in 2026. It will be for DNOs, within their business plans, to set out to Ofgem how their plans deliver SI Need.

59. What data has been used to map the planned generation? Have tidal range projects been included in these projections?

Tidal range projects are generally connected to transmission activity. tRESP is focussed on distribution networks and therefore is out of scope. However, distribution, connected, will fall into the scope of the full RESP, in 2027.

60. Why is there no environmental and cultural context?

The full RESP, from 2027, will be broader in terms of considering key priorities for all nations and regions. Contexts aim to set the scene for energy planning. We want to include all aspects that have implications for this.
The tRESP has been limited in scope due to capacity and the specific objectives of feeding into ED3.
Full RESP has a much broader scope, and we will be developing the Contexts with stakeholders over the coming months. More details will follow in the Methodology Consultation, published on 17 November 2025.

61. I don't see rail mentioned under 'Transportation'. Where is this being captured?
Rail will be included in full RESP, from 2027. Decarbonisation of transport is a key driver of growth.

62. How are you dealing with live developments and applications in the period up to the publication of the tRESP?
If there are live applications at a distribution network level, DNOs should know about these. Therefore, these applications are not captured in SI need or Pathways, but will be known by DNOs, thus considered as part of their ED3 business plans.

63. There are some considerable gaps in the maps on the consultation digital platform, why is this?
tRESP only considered and illustrates submissions to our request for information (RFI) received by early September 2025, before the submission window closed. The final map, to accompany the tRESP publication in January 2026, will contain the full range of submissions assessed as in scope. There are many other reasons for projects and energy needs not to be identified in the current map, for example submissions related to transmissions, or well-developed projects known by the DNOs, or connection applications and agreements already progressed.

64. If the tRESP data to be published in January is broken down by grid supply point (GSP), how is the data dealt with in regions where a new GSP is required?
Where a new grid supply point (GSP) is being proposed or identified, subsequent RESPs would then allow the mapping of data down to these new GSPs.
Where new GSPs are required, the DNOs will need to break down the data from tRESP; and potentially disaggregate some data at higher resolution, such as lower layer super output areas (LSOA) and output areas (OA).

65. What determines if a project is in scope or in the in-development register? E.g. a project reaching final investment decision (FID) in early 2027, but is currently in the feed
It's a mixture of uncertainty and strategic value. The In Development register is for items that are too uncertain to be in scope at the moment - those that are 'too

certain' i.e. short term, are expected to already be in connection pipelines for distribution network operators.

66. For the request for information (RFI) responses received, has there been any prioritisation in tRESP of the responses?
We haven't prioritised evaluation of responses. However, to manage capacity and ensure we can provide sufficient time for stakeholders to update any required information, we have been working through evaluations as batches. All responses will be assessed and published in the final tRESP publication in 2026.

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Pathways and common planning assumptions (CPAs)

67. What are the consistent planning assumptions, and will these be shared?
The consistent planning assumptions set out how DNOs should model electricity demand from electric vehicles and domestic heat pumps in their ED3 business plans. CPAs set out how this should be done consistently across Great Britain but reflecting appropriate local variation. The CPAs also covers changes in domestic energy efficiency (from appliances and lighting). Our draft consistent planning assumptions are being shared with the consultation for feedback on the values.

68. Who are the CPAs intended for?
The primary objective of the tRESP CPAs is to drive consistency across DNO demand forecasting as an input to DNOs' network impact assessment to create their business plans for the ED3 period (2028-2033). However, they are made available for anyone to use.

69. Do the same assumptions apply for all RESP nations and regions?
Not exactly, the CPAs set out:
a) a common calculation process for deriving network impacts from the uptake of low carbon technologies, and;
b) default values for the assumptions required to follow that process. While the process is consistent across nations and regions, the default values may vary between nations and regions.

70. Do CPAs only cover electricity or are other energy types included?

The focus of the tRESP CPAs is on electricity demand. However, for the full RESP, this will be expanded to cover other energy types as well.

71. How do CPAs account for consumer behaviour, like electric vehicle (EV) charging patterns or heating usage?

Consumer behaviour is captured within the CPAs through half-hourly load profiles, describing different behavioural patterns, and assumptions on the proportion of consumers who follow each behaviour pattern. For example, different half-hourly profiles are provided for each EV charger type (domestic, workplace, slow/fast public, rapid public, HGV depot), along with the proportion of EV users who charge at each location. For domestic charging, this is then further segmented into 'non-flexed' behaviour and 'smart' demand shift in response to static time of use tariffs.

72. What demand technologies have been omitted from tRESP pathways and why?

Examples of demand types not included in the tRESP pathways are the underlying domestic, industrial and commercial demand. For example, data centres, housing, rail and port infrastructure, industrial clusters. Please review the tRESP Pathways Building Blocks List.xlsx for what is included for demand in the pathways - electric vehicles, heat pumps, air conditioning and heat networks. Note we've only shown aggregated electric vehicles and aggregated domestic heat pumps in the visualisation by RESP nations and regions of the illustrative pathways for consultation. This is explained further in the tRESP Pathways Methodology and Detailed Design document.

The types of demand technologies included in the tRESP pathways are those which:

a) are expected to have a material impact on future demand growth so impact investment needs in ED3, and;

b) benefit from standardisation between DNOs.

For added context, the tRESP building blocks for generation only cover types of generation which are generally distribution-connected. So not including nuclear and offshore wind, for example.

73. For gas customers, are we including counterfactual data sets? Or are we just including short-term and three long-term pathways to net zero?

There is no counterfactual. The focus of the tRESP pathways is for use by electricity distribution networks as an input to prepare for the ED3 price control. The pathways do not involve planning for not meeting net zero. There is a single short-term pathway to 2035, then three long-term pathways. The long-term pathways are informed by the pathways in NESO's Future Energy Scenarios (FES): Pathways to Net Zero, Holistic Transition, Electric Engagement and Hydrogen Evolution.

74. How do strategic investment (SI) need and pathways interact with each other?

For tRESP, SI needs and pathways are separate, and there should be no duplication/overlap, i.e. the same need should not be in both. In the full RESP, in contrast, strategic investment needs will feed into the pathways.

High certainty needs should either be in pathways (for the technology building blocks in the tRESP Pathways), or elsewhere in a DNO's business plan (for technologies outside the technology building blocks in the tRESP Pathways).

Both the SI needs and pathways will be finalised in January 2026. There are no plans for SI need submissions to adjust the volumes in tRESP pathways. However, there are some planned sense checks to ensure no duplication between SI need and pathways.

- In tRESP pathways, there will be checks as part of the alignment review framework across Grid Supply Points (GSPs). Growth outliers per building block will be identified for explanation, and where any duplication is identified, we will ensure it is not in both pathways and SI need.
- In SI need, the RFI process asks if a connection agreement to the distribution network already exists. If there is a pre-existing agreement, that indicates high certainty to proceed, and this would exclude the need from further consideration as an SI need.

For tRESP pathways there is an expectation that the DNOs' ED3 plans are aligned with the volumes in the pathways, whereas SI needs are for further consideration by DNOs in their ED3 plans. So the DNO can and should omit an SI need or part of an SI need from their plan if already in the pathways.

NESO will not consider when setting tRESP SI need in January 2026 whether a SI need duplicates what is in a network's DFES or ED3 plan later in 2026. It will be for DNOs, within their business plans, to set out to Ofgem how their plans deliver SI need.

75. Are large new housing developments included?
New housing developments are not part of the standardised technology volumes in the tRESP pathways. Growth in housing is an assumption that DNOs are expected to add based on local evidence when developing their ED3 business plans. However, volumes of electric vehicles, small solar and heat pumps are included in the tRESP pathways, per Grid Supply Point area. These technologies may be linked to housing growth, in particular in new builds.

76. How will the tRESP and full RESP affect which generators are able to connect and when?
There are generation pathways in tRESP and full RESP. Inclusion in full RESP/tRESP will not directly affect an individual generation connection application. As an example, tRESP will reflect how the Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan has been implemented through connections reform, rather than supersede this to give projects a network connection. However, by setting spatial pathways, tRESP and RESP will give consistent views to the DNOs and Ofgem about volumes and distribution of generation the networks should plan for in ED3. This will enable Ofgem to set the appropriate funding framework for this investment period.

77. Is draft data (pathways, SI needs) underlying the digital platform available for download in a FES-style workbook?
For pathways we intend the data to be downloadable for the tRESP in January 2026. It is not currently downloadable at consultation stage because the pathways data is currently illustrative of scope only. The values will be updated and included in the final tRESP in January 2026.

78. What is the difference between FES, DFES and pathways?
Pathways in general indicate the scale and mix of supply and demand in the energy system to 2050. The FES is NESO's pathways for GB (the last one was published July 2025). The DFES are the DNOs' local interpretation of FES pathways, as scenarios for their electricity distribution network (the last one was published at the beginning of 2025).
The tRESP pathways will steer the DNOs to plan for volumes of specific technologies on their networks, informed by FES, DFES and other data.

79. How has modelling of intermittent tech (battery energy storage system, or BESS, and solar, for example) been considered?

Within the tRESP outputs, there is no modelling or standardisation of assumptions for the import and export of batteries and solar.
The capacity or volumes of battery and solar are included in the tRESP pathways, but how they are modelled has not been standardised in the tRESP CPAs. This may be done for the full RESP, but in the meantime the DNOs should be steered by the Electricity Network Association's (ENA) work on what they call "tactical solutions" for planning storage. In practice, both the import and export impacts of storage need to be considered by DNOs in their connection offers and business plans.

80. How will the DNOs' DFES help inform tRESP?
Our consultation draft for tRESP pathways uses the DNOs' DFES early 2025 versions as an input. The DNOs have agreed to provide an interim update to NESO in November 2025 on their technology volume projections ahead of their next DFES publications. The DFES are an important input to the tRESP but not the only input – further detail on all of the inputs and approach to tRESP is in our tRESP pathways methodology and detailed design document. We will also review the draft tRESP pathways in December 2025 as part of an alignment review. This will investigate any unusual trends per Grid Supply Point (GSP)and check consistency with carbon budgets and the implementation of the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan in transmission connection reform, to inform the final tRESP pathways.

81. Scottish targets, for example climate and wind generation, are different to wider UK targets. Will this be considered in the analysis and pathways?
Yes, the different targets are reflected in the tRESP Scottish Context. The targets are also reflected in the Scottish DNOs' inputs to tRESP, as part of their DFES. This information is noted in the digital platform outputs for Scotland (pathways and context).

82. How will NESO amend pathways over time to reflect what is actually happening rather than what might happen?
tRESP pathways will be published in January 2026 and not iterated further. The pathways component of the full RESP, that we will be introducing from 2027, will be updated every three years with a new baseline and uptake.

83. In heat pumps, do we cover ground source or is it just air? If it's both, how do we consolidate the widely differing characteristics?

Both air source and ground source heat pumps are included in the heat pump building blocks. Differences in heat pump size, and coefficient of performance, are addressed in the CPAs.

84. Why are large demands, such as rail electrification, industrial clusters and data centres, excluded from tRESP Pathways? Is NESO in communication with the sub regional transport bodies, and/or Network Rail, for example, as part of its stakeholder work?

Rail electrification and other large demand projects, are not included in the tRESP Pathways. These areas do not add value being standardised with a consistent approach at the spatial granularity level, used in pathways (i.e. Grid Supply Point – GSP - feeding area).

Rail electrification, for example, involves large location-specific demands. However, the specific scale and location below the GSP will be relevant.

As it's an area not covered by the pathways, DNOs can, and should, still be able to include rail electrification plans for their areas in their network investment plans for the ED3 price control period. DNOs are already able to include, based on known connection requests, or expected developments.

In contrast, the tRESP Pathways standardises the approach to understanding the scale of large volumes of small impacts on demand, based on nationally available datasets e.g. electric vehicle charging, heat pumps, heat networks and air conditioning.

In the Full RESP, from 2027, all demand types will be considered as there will be time to consider a wider range of data inputs and a lower spatial granularity.

85. Can you provide clarification about weather, and how, the tRESP considers potential environmental impacts in its assessment of feasibility of energy supply?

The tRESP is not undertaking any environmental impact assessment of the feasibility of energy supply. The tRESP Pathways are informed by inputs such as implementation of the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 and DNO projections informed by local inputs (including connection requests, local plans, and resource assessments in the nations and regions) and the national policy framework and ambition consistent with carbon budgets, which is set out in

NESO's Future Energy Scenarios (FES). The types of inputs to the pathways will expand for the full 11 RESPs in 2027.

86. With regard to marine energy, will you make sure that potential flaws evident with Future Energy Scenarios (FES), and shortcomings in the DFES, are not enshrined in the forthcoming RESP plans, and that you will seek local input accordingly?

In the timescale to deliver tRESP Pathways, there is unfortunately not time to deliver additional generation categories and integrate further local input beyond what is already being captured by DNOs in their DFES and related projections. There is a marine generation category in FES, but this is not one of the categories routinely in all DFES. However, the generation types in the 'building blocks' for the tRESP Pathways do not limit DNOs to only considering those generation categories.

Where there is local evidence for marine energy, DNOs are still able to accommodate this in their network investment plan for ED3. Marine energy projects may also have been included in strategic investment (SI) need submissions.

The Full RESP, in 2027, will have wider scope than tRESP, and more opportunities for projects to be included in the plans.

87. Are large new growth areas accounted for in the consultation, and should customers and stakeholders include information in their submission?

Large new housing developments are not part of the standardised technology volumes in the tRESP Pathways.

Growth in housing is an assumption that DNOs are expected to add, based on local evidence, when developing their ED3 business plans.

However, volumes of electric vehicles, small solar and heat pumps, are included. These technologies may be linked to housing growth, in particular for new housing developments.

88. Has the common planning assumptions (CPA) workbook been updated? What are those updates and how would those be used?

Yes, the CPA workbook has been updated since the consultation was published on 23 September 2025, with two new sheets added to the CPA workbook:

- EV End-to-End Example
- HP End-to-End Example

There have been no changes to the values. The new sheets help CPA users select the correct values to use and secondly, demonstrate the end-to-end calculations. It also presents this information on a dashboard with kW per half-hour demand profiles.

89. What assumptions will be used, for tRESP, to determine the proportion of different energy demands (e.g. industrial heat, mobility) will be electrified versus non-electrified (using hydrogen, etc.?).
We are aligning with the FES levers and assumptions that are reflected into each pathway.

90. Will specific information contained in the tRESP (e.g. energy demand) be used in the development of SSEP to determine generation and storage needs?
This will be an iterative process. SSEP (version one) will be developed using UK Government demand information, sector by sector.
The first full RESPs (published in 2027) will focus on national (Scotland and Wales) and regional (nine English regions) demand modelling. SSEP (version two) will be using demand breakdown per sector and energy source, from the first full RESP, and the process will become iterative and inform each other in the next cycles.

91. Did the tRESP consultation digital platform maps include heat network projects that are multi-node i.e. electric and thermal generation?
The Nations and Regions Contexts shown on the consultation's digital platform are presented as prototype story maps, showing a range of graphical visualisations (and maps), accompanied with supporting narratives.
We have been utilising the Heat Network Planning Database (HNPD) and identified heat network projects.
The HNPD map tracks the progress of both district and communal heat networks through the planning system, across Great Britain. It provides as accurate and comprehensive a snapshot as possible of projects. The information used in tRESP is from the HNPD and gathered from separate planning authority databases throughout the country.

92. Will the Consistent Planning Assumptions (CPAs) be published in a format that can be used by wider industry to standardise modelling assumptions?
Yes, for tRESP, there is already a downloadable workbook with all assumptions and an end-to-end calculation process included on the consultation digital

platform. For full RESP, we're not committed to the same format but there will be a way for stakeholders to access all the assumptions, their values and how they should be applied.

93. What data sources have you used to compile the 'Renewable Projects & Project Pipeline?'

The renewable energy findings in tRESP are based on DESNZ's Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD), which has applied different thresholds for recording installed capacity.

94. As the methodology for energy performance certificates (EPC) has been refined over the years, and EPCs themselves can be over ten years old, how comparable and useful are they?

The EPCs have been refined by the UK Government and may continue to be reformed.

Individual EPC ratings may have limitations, hence the reason for refining them. However, taken as an aggregate, the data shows some useful information about energy performance and efficiency of buildings across local areas and regions.

As we move from tRESP, into developing the full RESP coming in 2027, and future iterations of it (three-year cycles), we will monitor the evolution of datasets.

We are also consulting on the Consistent Planning Assumptions value workbook, in the tRESP Consultation. We're interested in any additional or alternative data sources, which may be appropriate, and which meet the data criteria we have set.

95. What balance of heat pumps versus heat networks will be assumed in tRESP?

The tRESP pathways includes a first projection of uptake curves for heat pumps, based on a disaggregation of FES data. For the full RESP, in 2027, we're developing a suite of modelling and analytic tools to produce a thorough approach to developing low-regrets affordable pathways for heat networks, heat pumps, and other viable technologies.

96. How will the tRESP and RESP reconcile national and regional net zero targets that are ahead of the 2050 target?

As we move to full RESP, coming in 2027, we will be reflecting local, regional and national priorities within the components. RESP's big challenge is to reconcile the

top-down targets and scenarios, with bottom-up data, priorities and objectives. Within tRESP, the compressed timelines meant we concentrated on aligning to the national scenarios. Within the forthcoming methodology consultation, starting on 17 November 2025, we will set out how we will develop our approach to merging the bottom-up with the top-down.

97. Is fuel poverty related to the age of the home?

There are multiple factors at play. tRESP includes energy performance certificate (EPCs). The full RESP, coming in 2027, will look to expand on the datasets available.

Older homes, for example, are typically larger and less efficient (lower EPC), so there is likely to be a link but it is not used as the metric. Under the low income low energy efficiency (LILEE) indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below, and when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

Nations and Regions Contexts

98. Could the boundary lines within the maps be made transparent to see the projects more clearly?

The Nations and Regions Contexts shown on the consultation's digital platform are presented as prototype story maps, showing a range of graphical visualisations (and maps), accompanied with supporting narratives.

The story maps are interactive and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based; a technology used for collecting, analysing, managing, and visualising spatial or geographic data. This enhances usability and accessibility, and provides a prototype which can easily be amended and added to, as we evolve from tRESP to the full RESP.

When visiting the digital platform, users can expand the maps as desired.

99. Please can you give examples of how the Nations and Regions Contexts has influenced tRESP?

We have mostly used the co-development of Nations and Regions Contexts (NRC), and Strategic Investment (S) Needs to validate whether we've been receiving requests for information (RFIs) commensurate with what we're seeing

in the NRC. Where industry hotspots exist, is NESO receiving RFIs there, and if not, how can NESO seek to engage better and seek input, for example.

100. Where is energy flexibility in your context figure for the tRESP?
Storage is included in the tRESP Nations and Regions Contexts and Strategic Infrastructure (SI) Needs returns. The UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan is also included, which includes battery storage, consumer-led flexibility (currently 2.5GW, 10-12GW, required by 2030).

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Please note, the tRESP FAQs will be updated every two weeks, so please revisit if you have any further questions. Alternatively, if you have a query that is not answered here, please contact the NESO tRESP team, at box.consultations.resp@neso.energy