

## Public

Ref: FOI/25/164

National Energy System Operator

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6 November 2025

Dear requester

### Request for Information

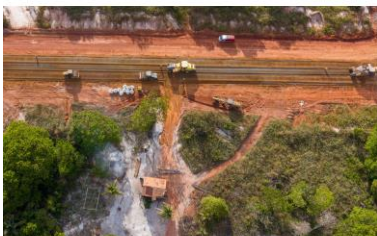
Thank you for your request for information which was received by NESO on 3 November 2025. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

### Request

You provided a screenshot of a news article title:

#### Government admits botched climate projects could be greenwashing

UK is helping companies achieve net zero through 'risky' scheme funded by taxpayers



One of the projects funded by taxpayers is a £52m road cutting through the Amazon jungle | Credit: Paul Grover

You also asked:

1. Who – which officers – were responsible for this.
2. What auditing was done of the expenditure of taxpayers' money.

3. *Are those responsible for what is egregious waste of our money still in their posts?*  
4. *If so, when will they be held to account?*

### **Our response**

Unfortunately, we are unable to progress your request any further without clarification of your request. We have provided some advice and assistance below to help you to clarify your request. Should you choose to submit a clarified request we will consider that as a new request under the appropriate legislation.

We have considered your request under both the FOIA and the EIR. This is because it is likely that, should NESO hold recorded information in scope of a clarified request, information relevant to the subject matter of your request would meet the definition of 'environmental information' in Regulation 2(1) of the EIR.

Under FOIA, once a public authority has informed the requester that clarification is required, the public authority is not under any further obligation to respond to the request until that clarification has been provided.

Regulation 12(4)(c) of the EIR allows for a public authority to refuse a request for environmental information where it is formulated in too general a manner. This exception applies where a request is unclear or open to more than one interpretation and the public authority has provided advice and assistance to help the requester to provide clarification.

The Regulation 12(4)(c) exception is subject to the public interest test in the EIR. However, the Information Commissioner recognises that it is difficult to conduct a public interest test when a public authority is unsure about what the requester is after. The Commissioner therefore takes the position that the public interest in maintaining the exception will outweigh the public interest in disclosing what may be the wrong information.

This concludes our response to your request.

### **Advice and assistance**

We understand that you are asking NESO to answer the 4 questions in your email but are not certain to what those questions relate.

We were able to locate the article for which you have provided an image of the headline. Public authorities may not always be able to do this. When submitting an information request under the FOIA or EIR that relates to an article, it may be helpful to provide the full text of that article or explain in your request the subject matter of the article and of the recorded information that you believe the public authority may hold.

The article refers to International Climate Finance (ICF) spending, and we therefore believe that your request may relate to this, or to specific schemes/projects mentioned within the article. As we are not certain that this is correct, we are advising you that we cannot progress your request any further without clarification of your request.

[International Climate Finance \(ICF\)](#) is a UK government commitment. Government departments are subject to EIR and FOIA and, if you have not already done so, you may wish to submit your request to the departments named on the government website linked above.

Should your request relate to ICF it is unlikely that NESO will hold recorded information in scope of your request. However, should you decide to submit a clarified request to us we will consider such a request in full, and respond in line with the FOIA and/or EIR.

For information, NESO is a publicly owned organisation with its own board and independent directors, set up to have operational independence from government, the regulator, and industry interests. The government ultimately owns NESO but has no operational control and NESO is not a government department. Information on NESO's role is available here: [Operational information | National Energy System Operator](#), and an overview of what we do here: [What we do | National Energy System Operator](#).

Should you wish to submit a clarified request please note that the right of access under the FOIA and the EIR only extends to recorded information held at the time of the request. Public authorities are not required to create new information in order to respond to a FOI or EIR request.

### **Next steps**

If you decide to submit a clarified request, we will respond as soon as possible and within 20-working days of receiving that clarification.

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](http://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)