

Public

Ref: FOI/25/131

National Energy System Operator

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28 October 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 7 October 2025.

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

Request

You asked us:

Thank you for your email, although UK Power Networks so far have failed to provide any information about connection timings.

It seems from your email, that you aren't expecting that to happen for 11 years (2036)

- 1. Are you able to confirm if that connection timing is likely to change?*
- 2. Is there a date queuing system or is it just a matter of at some point in the future it might happen or change?*
- 3. What evidence do you have that electricity generation (however it's obtained) in the UK is actually used in the UK?*
- 4. My understanding is that there is an underground cable at Cleve Hill that goes between the UK & France. So, how much of UK power generation stays in the UK, and how much do you send to France / Europe?*

5. *Why should our high grade agricultural land be allocated for solar panels just to provide France with our electricity?*

Our response

1. *Are you able to confirm if that connection timing is likely to change?*
2. *Is there a date queuing system or is it just a matter of at some point in the future it might happen or change?*

We confirm that we do not hold any information in scope of questions 1 and 2.

These questions relate to your previous request about Pitstock Solar Farm ([FOI-25-123](#)). Pitstock Solar Farm is an embedded generator and will be connected at a distribution level. The connection contract will be held with the UK Power Networks (UKPN) and not with NESO.

In our response to FOI-25-123, we provided the 'Target Energisation Date' for Pitstock Solar Farm from UKPN's published [Embedded Capacity Register 2](#) to be helpful. NESO does not hold information on the connection timing or queuing system for the Pitstock Solar Farm, for the reason we have explained.

3. *What evidence do you have that electricity generation (however it's obtained) in the UK is actually used in the UK?*

Great Britain's electricity network is linked to networks in several other countries including France, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, and Ireland via interconnectors that allow electricity to be imported or exported depending on supply and demand. More information about interconnectors can be found here: [Interconnectors | National Energy System Operator](#).

In terms of your specific question:

- Our monthly statistical reports show the proportion of imported vs exported energy: [Great Britain's Monthly Energy Stats | National Energy System Operator](#).
- The Elexon portal provides information relating to the GB>European interconnector flows. This shows both interconnector imports and exports, including for IFA and IFA2 linking the UK and France: <https://bmrs.elexon.co.uk/interconnector-flows>. This Elexon data is based on NESO data, but Elexon are responsible for publishing it and it is easily accessible and regularly updated, so we advise accessing the information from Elexon.

Electricity is delivered onto the Transmission System in real-time by Generators. Once it is on the system it is taken 'indiscriminately' by demand, i.e. generation goes where the system

needs it to go. The electricity that is exported via interconnectors cannot therefore be traced back to a specific generation source, or Balancing Mechanism Unit (BMU).

4. *My understanding is that there is an underground cable at Cleve Hill that goes between the UK & France. So, how much of UK power generation stays in the UK, and how much do you send to France / Europe?*

Please see above response to question 3.

5. *Why should our high grade agricultural land be allocated for solar panels just to provide France with our electricity?*

We do not hold any recorded information that addresses the specific question you have asked. Under FOIA and the EIR we are not required to create new information to answer a question.

Note regarding the engagement of the exception provided at Regulation 12(4)(a) – information not held

Where we have explained that we do not hold recorded information which falls within the scope of your request, we are relying on the EIR exception at Regulation 12(4)(a) which states that a public authority may refuse to disclose information if it does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received. All EIR exceptions are subject to public interest test (PIT), however the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) recognises that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful PIT where information is not held.

This concludes our response to this request.

Advice and assistance

The National Grid Electricity System Operator (NG ESO) was part of the National Grid PLC group of companies until 30 September 2024. On 1 October 2024 we became the National Energy System Operator (NESO) under government ownership (the Independent System Operator and Planner as designated in the Energy Act 2023).

We are aware that you have made a number of requests about Pitstock Farm Solar Farm to both NESO and previously to NG ESO. We have attached copies of our previous responses.

The Information Commissioner has published guidance for members of the public on how to request information under FOIA and the EIR: [How to access information from a public authority | ICO](#) which may be helpful.

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)