

Public

Open letter to industry from Julian Leslie on Strategic Energy Planning

20 November 2025

Dear All,

We are writing to provide an update on Great Britain's strategic energy planning.

NESO is delivering the joined up strategic energy planning needed for Great Britain to decarbonise its energy systems and drive economic growth. As the strategic energy planner, NESO is committed to independent, data-driven recommendations that ensure our energy system is secure, clean, economic, and efficient. Robust, credible and transparent data underpins our work, giving stakeholders, investors, and government confidence in our plans. Developing a high quality plan is important to everyone in Great Britain.

The Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) is a world-leading, first of its kind plan, charting the course for energy investment over the next 25 years. It is a fundamental shift in how we plan our energy systems to deliver a secure, reliable system that supports consumer value and national economic growth.

Your engagement, feedback, and expertise have contributed to shaping the SSEP, and we wish to update you on progress and next steps.

Throughout our engagement with the energy sector and wider stakeholders, we have consistently heard the importance of accurate data, robust assurance, and transparency. We share your view that high quality, visible data and clear assumptions are essential for the credibility and effectiveness of the SSEP.

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has released refreshed energy generation cost data, with further releases expected by

the end of the year. This is a big step forward as most of this data will be publicly accessible, enabling stakeholders, consumers, and investors to see and understand key inputs shaping national energy planning. This increased transparency helps strengthen confidence in the SSEP and supports informed decision-making across the sector.

With the release of this new data, both NESO and DESNZ have taken the decision to re-run the SSEP modelling using this refreshed data to ensure our analysis and recommendations are based on the most credible and current information. While this will mean the timeline to develop the SSEP will extend by several more months, we believe it is the right thing to do to strengthen the quality and resilience of the plan.

We are working with our partners, including DESNZ and Ofgem, to understand the impact of this data update on our delivery timeline for the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) and accompanying Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESP). These plans will benefit from drawing upon the most robust and up to date outputs from the SSEP.

The development of GB's first SSEP is a collaborative effort, and we will keep our stakeholders informed as it progresses. We appreciate the constructive feedback received from across the industry. As part of our commitment to giving stakeholders greater visibility of the SSEP's data inputs and assumptions, we have published a range of documents that provide stakeholders with visibility of the data sources and information used in the plan neso.energy/document/371391/download. We remain dedicated to ongoing engagement and openness throughout this work.

Your expertise and insight are vital to the SSEP's success. Together, we can ensure that the SSEP is ambitious, transparent, and grounded in real world expertise, and that it sets a global standard for strategic energy planning.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Leslie

Director of Strategic Energy Planning & Chief Engineer