

Public

Ref: FOI/25/158

National Energy System Operator
Faraday House
Gallows Hill
Warwick
CV34 6DA

InformationRights@neso.energy

www.neso.energy

27 November 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 30 October 2025.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). This is because we have determined that the requested information meets the definition of 'environmental information' provided at Regulation 2(1) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding two new transmission substations included in the Transmission Entry Capacity Register (TEC register).

Specifically, I would like to request:

- 1) The grid reference of the proposed Thormanby 400kV substation and expected completion of construction date. The substation is on two entries on the TEC Register. Project ID PRO-002642 and PRO-002123.*
- 2) The grid reference of the proposed North Humber Node E 400kV transmission substation and expected completion of construction date. The substation is on four entries on the TEC register. Project Numbers: PRO-003958, PRO-003740, PRO-003739 and PRO-003941.*

3) Also, please can you confirm which transmission lines these two new transmission substations intend to connect to?

4) Can you also provide any assessments, studies, or reports on the potential impact of the proposed 400kV substations including site selection information.

Response summary

Our role is to manage the flow of electricity across the transmission network. NESO Connections team is responsible for leading and facilitating the process by which customers connect to and make use of the transmission system. The companies that own the infrastructure and assets that make up the transmission system are called Transmission Owners (TOs).

We can only provide limited information in scope of your request and advise you to contact National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) who will hold more information and are also subject to EIR. However, we have provided more detail in line with our EIR obligations below.

Full response

Questions 1 & 2

The TEC Register is a list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with NESO: [Transmission Entry Capacity \(TEC\) register | National Energy System Operator](#). These include existing and future connection projects and projects that can be directly connected to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) or make use of it.

NESO holds contracted completion dates for connection projects and publishes this information in the TEC Register (Column H, MW Effective From). We do not hold the expected physical construction completion dates for projects or substations as TOs are responsible for these. The host Transmission Owner is NGET. NGET is subject to the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), and you may wish to contact them for information regarding the network infrastructure. NGET's contact details are available here: [Environmental Information Regulations \("EIR"\) 2004 | National Grid](#).

We hold project coordinates for the projects and substations referenced in your request. However, we are refusing to provide this information under the exception in Regulation 12(5)(e) of the EIR. Information is covered by Regulation 12(5)(e) if:

- The information is commercial or industrial in nature;
- Confidentiality is provided by law;

- The confidentiality is protecting a legitimate economic interest;
- The confidentiality would be adversely affected by disclosure.

We believe that information about specific projects in the TEC Register is commercial in nature and our use of this exception is primarily in respect of the potential consequence to the developer's commercial interests.

Whilst we review each request that we receive on a case by case basis, you will see from the responses published on our [Disclosure log | National Energy System Operator](#) that our decision to refuse your request is consistent with our decisions on similar requests for other projects.

Commercial companies develop generation projects and are independent of NESO and the respective transmission owners. These development projects are competitive processes, both for the rights to supply electricity to the transmission network and also for funding from investors and any available government funding where applicable.

Given the competitive arena in which renewable energy projects are developed and implemented, a developer would not expect their commercial information to be published. This would, in effect, make it available to other developers who could use it to undermine future bids for other renewable energy projects. Disclosure could also damage the developer's bargaining position whilst investment and build decisions remain outstanding. It could also affect the value and viability of an upfront investment before the project is connected.

Connection offers are made substantially in the form and under the terms of the Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC). NESO is bound by the confidentiality obligations under the CUSC and cannot share the specific terms put in place with a developer. NESO also falls within the scope of the Utilities Act 2000 and Section 105 of that Act makes it a criminal offence to disclose information: a) obtained under the Utilities Act 2000 and any other key energy legislation such as the Gas Act 1986 and the Electricity Act 1989, subject to specific exceptions; and b) where the information relates to the affairs of any individual or any particular business during the lifetime of the individual or so long as the business continues to be carried on.

In our opinion, the information in question which is held by our Connections Team is subject to the restrictions at Section 105 of the Utilities Act and does not fall within any of the limited exceptions to that duty of confidentiality. Beyond this, there is also a common law duty of confidentiality based on the expectations of the developers.

All exceptions in the EIR are subject to a public interest test.

NESO acknowledges that there are a number of public interest arguments in favour of disclosing the requested information. There is a public interest in renewable energy development, particularly where the construction and development of such projects may have an impact on local areas. The general public may be interested in the dates and times of construction, the connection dates, and the timelines and scope of developments.

There is a public interest in ensuring no specific developer is materially disadvantaged through disclosing confidential commercial information, which is not released in respect of other projects. This ensures that there is a level playing field across all projects.

NESO has a public duty under our licence to facilitate competition within the energy market and there is a recognised public interest in allowing competition in the energy industry. Increased renewable generation is crucial to the Government achieving its net zero and clean energy targets and anything that unjustifiably inhibits the competitive development of that renewable generation runs counter to these goals.

NESO is the designated independent system operator and planner under the Energy Act 2023 and must remain independent, fair, and consumer focused. Disclosure could erode trust within the sector, hampering NESO's role and our ability to drive forward reforms and initiatives that would bring benefits to consumers and to the environment.

Having weighed up these public interest arguments, our opinion is that the balance of the public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and withholding the information. The information in the TEC Register confirms that there is a project covered by an agreement whilst preserving the commercial confidentiality owed to the developer and ensuring that NESO meets its legal and licence obligations.

Questions 3 & 4

We confirm that we do not hold the information requested in questions 3 and 4.

Information about the transmission lines that Thormanby 400kV Substation and North Humber Connection Node E 400kV Substation connect to and site selection studies or environmental assessments relating to them would be held by NGET, rather than NESO. As suggested above, you may wish to contact NGET regarding this information.

Note regarding the engagement of the exception 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 exception at Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR. This allows us to

refuse a request or parts of a request where we do not hold the information when a 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 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)