

Public

Ref: FOI/25/176

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8 December 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information, which was received by NESO on 10 November 2025, and transferred to the Information Rights teams on 20 November 2025. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as the requested information meets the definition of 'environmental information' provided at Regulation 2(1) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

- (1) are there any proposals to bring the surplus variable Wind Turbine energy from onshore and offshore in the North-West of Scotland down, via a seabed cable, running parallel to the Scottish and North-West English coasts, to landfall at North Wales?*
- (2) are there then any proposals to bring this variable Scottish sourced wind power down through north and mid Wales to South Wales, picking up more variable power on its way through Wales from the many proposed onshore erratic Wind Turbines in central upland Wales, to a final destination of massive battery complexes in north Swansea?*
- (3) then to regularise that power via this immense battery system at north Swansea to send it as a regularised renewable wind energy source via pylon lines running then East parallel to the M4 motorway corridor up along to where the big demand lies in various English cities?*
- (4) if not exactly as I describe it as above - what are your plans and details for a grid system running north down to south through mid-Wales to pick up the variable power proposed to be generated by many hundreds of new generation giant wind turbines in rural upland Wales that will be far distant from the urban population consumers of English cities?*

Our response

The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) require public authorities to respond to information requests by disclosing recorded information held at the time of the request. When we respond to EIR requests that ask a question, we can provide copies of information that relate to that question.

We can confirm that we hold recorded information in scope of your request.

NESO's plans for the future strategic electricity transmission network, including reinforcements from North-West Scotland to North Wales and strategic wider works through North and Mid-Wales, are published in the [Beyond 2030 report](#).

The [Beyond 2030 report](#) suggests network recommendations through the 2030s. The report recommends around £58 billion in direct investment for offshore and onshore network upgrades. These upgrades will help connect an additional 21GW of offshore wind power, along with various other low carbon energy sources across Great Britain. The regional blueprint chapters each focus on a different region or country, showing the background behind the current electricity network in that area, how it fits into the national picture, and the required infrastructure we have identified.

All options received from the TOs are outlined in the Beyond 2030 report – no option was provided by the TO for an overhead line along the M4 corridor.

Further information about NESO's role in network planning has been provided in the advice and assistance section of this response.

This concludes our response to your request.

Advice and assistance

The National Energy System Operator (NESO) is an independent, public corporation responsible for planning Great Britain's electricity and gas networks, operating the electricity system and creating insights and recommendations for the future whole energy system.

NESO manages the flow of electricity from generation to transmission and is responsible for 'balancing the grid' and planning and co-ordinating the design of electricity networks. NESO does not own or operate the electricity network infrastructure but moves high voltage electricity from where it is generated through the energy system using the infrastructure owned by three onshore transmission companies (National Grid Electricity Transmission, Scottish Power Transmission and Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks Transmission). This high voltage electricity is passed onto

the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) which own the local networks and maintain the infrastructure connecting homes and businesses to the transmission network. There are also several offshore developers that own the assets that connect offshore wind farms to the transmission or distribution network.

One of NESO's key responsibilities is [Strategic Planning](#), assessing Great Britain's future electricity supply and demand needs and designing a high-level coordinated network to meet those needs in a safe, efficient, and affordable way. This process involves assessing a range of different network options to ensure electricity can get to where it is needed, when it is needed.

Network options are mostly provided by the TOs, and we work in close collaboration with TOs throughout this process.

NESO provides recommendations on which network reinforcement projects should receive investment, and when. We are not responsible for making the final decision on what, where, and when to invest.

Further information on strategic network planning can be found in the following links:

- [Transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan \(tCSNP\) | National Energy System Operator](#)
- [Centralised Strategic Network Plan \(CSNP\) | National Energy System Operator](#)

You may also be interested in information on NESO's role in Connections i.e., the process by which customers connect to and make use of the national electricity transmission system: [NESO's role in Connections | National Energy System Operator](#)

As explained, NESO does not own or maintain the transmission network infrastructure or assets. Transmission Owners (TOs) are also subject to the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). Specific design questions should be directed to the relevant TO – the map on page 13 of the Beyond 2030 report linked above illustrates their boundaries.

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)