

Public

Ref: FOI/25/174

National Energy System Operator
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18 December 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 19 November 2025.

Your request has been considered under Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as we believe that the requested information about data centres and grid upgrade costs falls within the definition of environmental information as set out in Regulation 2(1) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

Could you please provide information and data on which data centre projects are most likely to proceed in England and the grid upgrade costs needed for these projects? Please provide the information in a PDF.

Our response

1. *Which data centre projects are most likely to proceed in England*

We do not hold the information required to address your specific request.

One of NESO's functions is to manage connections to the electricity transmission network. We receive applications for connections and issue agreements with projects which will generate

and/or store electricity and connect to the transmission network and demand connections that import electricity directly from the transmission system.

We do not currently have a register of demand connections. We are not required under the Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC) to maintain or publish one in the way that we are for generation connections ([Transmission Entry Capacity \(TEC\) register | National Energy System Operator](#)). We have previously had enquiries about providing a demand register and are considering this as a development piece, but it would take considerable time to produce (e.g., see the response to [FOI/25/074](#) on our [Disclosure log | National Energy System Operator](#)). The data is held in various data sources including contracts, and would need to be extracted from these sources, reviewed and consolidated. To determine whether any demand projects are data centres would involve manually checking these various data sources.

However, even if we were able to complete this exercise, we would not know which data centre projects are most likely to proceed. We hold information about which demand projects have an agreement with NESO. A project may or may not proceed for different reasons irrespective of whether they have a connection agreement.

2. Grid upgrade costs needed for these projects

We do not hold information on the grid upgrade costs needed for data centre projects.

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). You may therefore wish to contact Transmission Owners to request further information.

This concludes our response to your request.

Advice and assistance

The Existing Agreement (EA) Register details all projects that applied for "Gate 2" in the Connections Reform process where consent was given for inclusion: <https://www.neso.energy/document/373996/download>.

The Register can be filtered by 'Transmission Connected Demand' in 'Technology Type' (Column F). Some Transmission Connected Demand projects have 'Data Centre' in their 'Project Name' (Column A).

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)