

## Public

Ref: FOI/25/186

National Energy System Operator  
Faraday House  
Gallows Hill  
Warwick  
CV34 6DA  
[InformationRights@neso.energy](mailto:InformationRights@neso.energy)  
[www.neso.energy](http://www.neso.energy)

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Dear requester

### Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by NESO on 19 November 2025. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as the requested information falls within the definition of environmental information as set out in Regulation 2(1) of the EIR.

### Request

You asked us:

*Could you please advise whether you hold, and are able to share data on demand connections? In particular, we are interested in new and pending demand connections:*

- 1. Number and aggregate capacity of new demand connections or connection applications with size (MW)*
- 2. Basic location granularity (e.g. GSP, network area, or region)*
- 3. Technology / customer type where available (e.g. industrial load, data centre, EV charging, electrolysers, other large demand)*
- 4. Status (e.g. application, accepted offer, contracted)*

### Our response

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

We do not currently maintain a single register of demand connections. The data is currently held in various data sources including contracts, and would need to be extracted from these sources, reviewed and consolidated. We have previously had enquiries about providing a demand register and are considering this as a development piece, but it would take some considerable time to produce.

Unlike the Freedom of Information Act, where Section 12 allows for refusal of a request where compliance would exceed 18 hours of staff time, the EIR have no appropriate cost limit. There is however provision at Regulation 12(4)(b) for public authorities to refuse a request which would place an undue burden on the organisation. Although we endeavour to be as transparent as possible and uphold the presumption in favour of disclosure required by the legislation, in this case we have determined that collating the requested information would be burdensome for NESO. When engaging Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR, burden can be thought of in terms of cost and can also take account of the distraction of resources, i.e., the disruption to the delivery of other services caused by staff having to spend time dealing with the request. We acknowledge that we are normally expected to exceed the FOIA appropriate cost limit for EIRs, but complying with this request would require significant resource from specialist teams who are currently delivering a transformational change to the Connections process, making it fit for the future and supporting the delivery of Clean Power by 2030.

Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR is subject to the public interest test. There is a general public interest in public organisations being accountable and transparent and NESO ensures that it upholds as far as possible the presumption of disclosure under EIR. The disclosure of information in many circumstances may increase public understanding of decision making, facilitate effective public participation and, in this case, increase the public's knowledge of how the electricity network is managed.

Public authorities must however be protected from any disproportionate burden caused by requests for information. It is not in the public interest for NESO's resources to be diverted away from its key functions. As referenced above, NESO is delivering a transformational change to the way that the grid connections process operates. Given the importance of Connections Reform to Great Britain, there is no public interest in diverting staff away from this key project and on balance we believe that the public interest lies in maintaining the exception.

This concludes our response to your request.

## Advice and assistance

It is NESO's role to move electricity safely, reliably and efficiently through the electricity system. We don't generate or sell electricity and we're not responsible for the infrastructure needed to move electricity around. NESO Connections team is responsible for leading and facilitating the process by which customers connect to and make use of the transmission system. For information on the role of key market participants in the Connections process please see this link: [NESO's role in Connections | National Energy System Operator](#).

NESO, in collaboration with the networks, industry, government and Ofgem has delivered [a transformational change](#) to the way that the grid connections process operates. A key part of this reform is the introduction of the new Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) process, which ensures that only projects that are ready to go (primarily meaning they have land rights) and are aligned to the Government's Clean Power Action Plan progress through to the new connections delivery pipeline. The Gate 2 Criteria Methodology and Connections Network Design Methodology can be found here: [Connections Reform design documents and methodologies](#). On 8 December 2025, we published the results of the new connections delivery pipeline, providing a high-level view of the reformed connections pipeline: [Connections Reform Results | National Energy System Operator](#).

The [Existing Agreement Register](#) details projects that applied for "Gate 2" in the Connections Reform process. This is not a complete list of projects as only those that consented to inclusion in the register are listed. Some of those projects are demand projects.

## 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](http://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)