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NESO Operational Transparency Forum

21 January 2026

NESO
National Energy System Operator

Introduction | Sli.do code #OTF

Slido code #OTF

To ask questions live & give us post event feedback go to Sli.do event code #OTF

- **Ask your questions as early as possible** as our experts may need time to ensure a correct answer can be given live.
- **Please do not edit or update your questions after submission** as this may result in us answering the first version only. To get the answer you need feel free to submit the revised version as a new question.
- **Please provide your name or organisation**. This is an operational forum for industry participants therefore questions from unidentified parties will not be answered live. If you have reasons to remain anonymous to the wider forum, please use the advance question or email options below.
- **The OTF is not the place to challenge the actions of individual parties** (other than the NESO), and we will not comment on these challenges. This type of concern can be reported to the Market Monitoring team at: marketreporting@neso.energy
- **Questions will be answered in the upvoted order whenever possible**. We will take questions from further down the list when: the answer is not ready; we need to take the question away or the topic is outside of the scope of the OTF.
- **Sli.do will remain open until 12:00**, even when the call closes earlier, to provide the maximum opportunity for you to ask questions. After that please use the advance questions or email options below.
- **All questions will be recorded and published.** Questions which are not answered on the day will be included, with answers, in the slide pack for the next OTF.
- **Ask questions anytime** whether for inclusion in the forum or individual response through our Advance Questions form or at at: box.nc.customer@neso.energy

Stay up to date on our webpage: https://www.neso.energy/what-we-do/systems-operations/operational-transparency-forum
(OTF Q&A is published with slide packs)

Note: to access previous OTF webinars from Slido click on the three lines to the left of forum title

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Future deep dive/focus topics

Slido code #OTF

Today's deep dive/focus topics

Network Topology Optimisation – 21 January

December Balancing Costs – 21 January

Future

January Balancing Costs – 18 February

If you have questions/suggestions of areas to cover during above presentations or ideas for deep dives or focus topics you would like us to consider, please send them to us at: box.nc.customer@neso.energy

Balancing Programme March 2026 Webinar

Date: 26 March 2026

Time: 11:00 – 12:30pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

We will be sharing the latest progress updates on our Balancing and Forecasting capabilities delivered into the Control Room along with further information on upcoming future capabilities planned for delivery. As always there will be updates from our subject matter experts and opportunities to ask questions.

A more detailed agenda will be shared closer to the webinar.

To sign up to the event, click **here** or scan the QR code below

Slido code #OTF

Dynamic Response Consultation Drop-in Sessions

Join our upcoming Dynamic Response Consultation Drop-in Sessions this month to find out about the key themes and questions raised in your consultation responses. Time will be set aside for you to ask questions on the changes being proposed too.

Drop-In Session 1 is on **22 January** from **3pm - 4pm** sign up here

Drop-In Session 2 is on **27 January** from **1pm - 2pm** sign up here

If you have any questions, contact: futureofbalancingservices@neso.energy

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Reactive Power Mid-term Market

Pre-Market Consultation

- NESO is pleased to confirm that we have published an update regarding the Reactive Power Mid-term Market through the NESO Website
- As part of this, NESO has launched a further pre-market consultation
- **Market participants are invited to provide feedback on the published information and associated documents**
- The deadline for responses is **4 February 2026 at 4pm**
- Responses must be provided to box.voltage@neso.energy by the deadline for feedback to be considered by NESO.
- If you have any questions, please submit them to box.voltage@neso.energy

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C9 Annual Review: Official Consultation published

NESO has launched its official consultation on proposed changes to five C9 Licence statements under the Electricity System Operator (ESO) Licence Condition C9: Procurement and Use of Balancing Services. The C9 statements are:

- The Procurement Guidelines Statement (PGS)
- The Balancing Principles Statement (BPS)
- System Management Action Flagging Methodology (SMAF)
- Applicable Balancing Service Adjustment Data Methodology Statement (ABSVD)
- The Balancing Services Adjustment Data Methodology Statement (BSAD)

NESO welcomes all BSC and interested parties to respond.

All consultation documentation is located on the C9 Webpage within 2026-2027 C9 Consultations folder.

Responses should be submitted using the Appendix G - C9 Official Consultation Response Proforma and emailed to **box.EFTConsultations@neso.energy** by **5pm 06 Feb 2026.**

To keep up to date with C9 communications and publications, please subscribe to the balancing services mailing list.

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Slow Reserve update

Slido code #OTF

- **SMP Portal –** accompanying Slow Reserve system onboarding that commenced in November, the SMP portal is now available for providers to commence their Slow Reserve unit and asset registrations. Our onboarding webinar from 6 November 2025 gives full details on joining the service. For any questions regarding onboarding please contact commercial.operation@neso.energy

- **Transition Plan:** The Slow Reserve Transition Plan has been updated and published with full details of how NESO will migrate from STOR to Slow Reserve. As part of this there will be a transitional period with a requirement to link service windows for the positive service. Whilst this is detailed in the Transition Plan, further information is provided in an explainer video on the SR webpage.

- **EAC Auction platform:** The EAC auction sandbox environment for Slow Reserve remains available covering all Response and Reserve co-optimised services. Contact commercial.operation@neso.energy if you wish to take part or have any questions.

Any questions or feedback please contact us at box.futureofbalancingservices@neso.energy

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Future Event Summary

Slido code #OTF

Event	Date & Time	Link
Dynamic Response Consultation: Drop-in Session	22 Jan (15:00-16:00)	Register here
Dynamic Response Consultation: Drop-in Session	27 Jan (13:00-14:00)	Register here
NESO Dispatch Transparency Forum	28 Jan (09:30)	*Registration closed*
Reactive Power Mid-term Market: Pre-market Consultation	4 Feb (16:00) Closing Date	Consultation Documentation
C9 Licence Condition Annual Review: Consultation	6 Feb (17:00) Closing Date	Consultation Documentation
Balancing Programme March 2026 Webinar	26 Mar (11:00-12:30)	Register here

Check out the NESO Events Calendar for more...

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Public

Network Topology Optimisation

Network Control Programme

Ian Dytham

NESO
National Energy System Operator

What is Network Topology Optimisation (NTO)?

Objective: Reliably route power around the congested assets

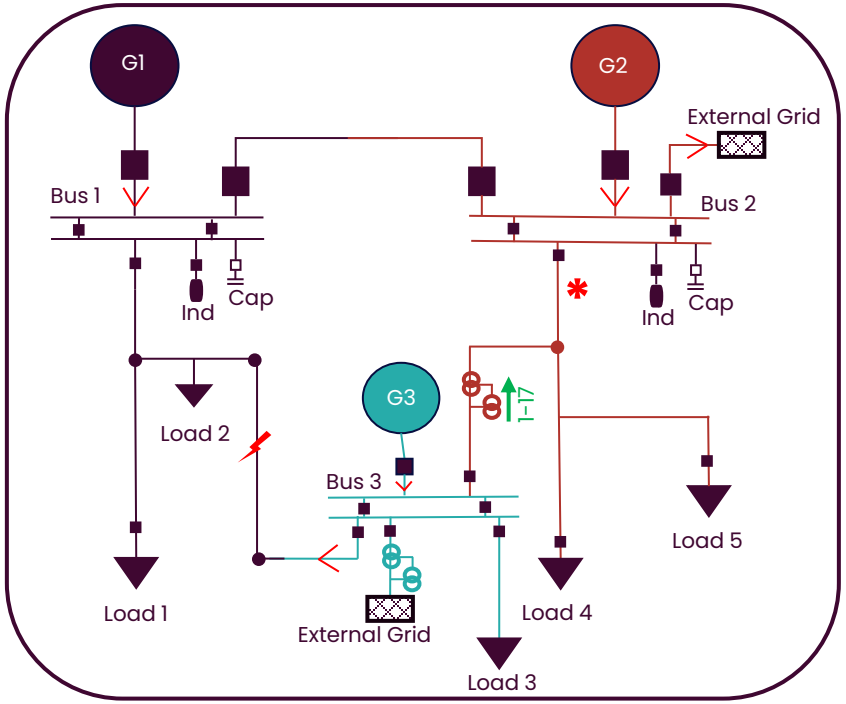
Control Variables: Quad Boosters, Dynamic Line Ratings, Switch Positions, Static VAR Compensators, Capacitors, Inductors, Automatic Tripping Schemes, Automatic Network Management Schemes.

Current Practice: Today, operators use reconfigurations to manage network challenges, identifying them based on their experience and knowledge of the system

Future NTO solutions: Assist operators to identify reconfiguration options to further:

- eliminate overloads/increase constraint boundary flows
- reduce associated operational costs

Estimated operational cost savings = £75m per year



Global status of NTO

Topology: There is no dominant mathematical routine in NTO. A handful of TSOs are in early, promising stages of implementing machine learning.

Power Flow: DC solvers with AC post-validation is a mature method and universally available for implementation to alleviate thermal constraints.

Computation: Use of Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) are limited within NTO solvers. Underutilisation of available Central Processing Unit (CPU)resources was observed.

User Interface & User Experience: User interfaces are underdeveloped for control room applications.

Implementation: NTO solutions developed are not integrated with TSOs' digital estate such as EMS (Energy Management System) and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition).

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Gap Analysis – Areas of Focus

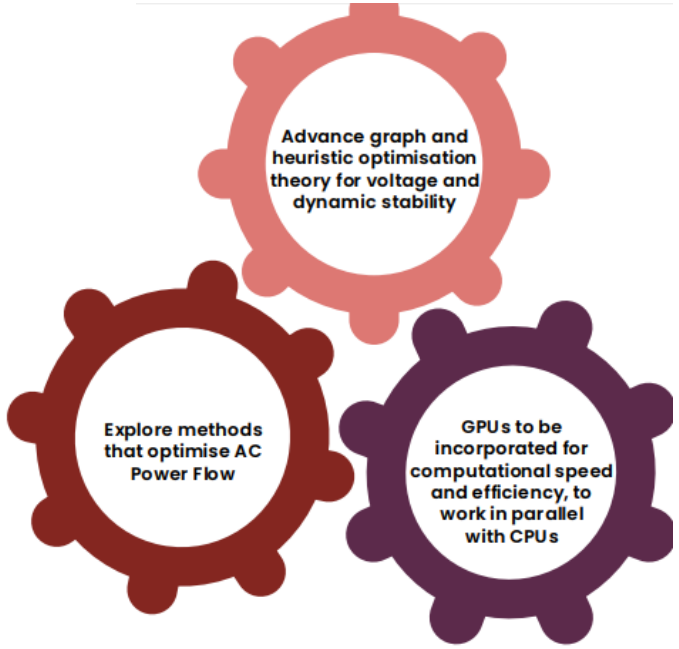
Topology: Graph based optimisation techniques to optimise for voltage and stability

Power Flow: Improve the speed of AC Load Flow Solvers

Computation: Refine the use of CPU technology and investigate future use of GPU technology

User Interface & User Experience: Develop visualisation options that enhance operator self-serve useability of Network Topology Optimisation tools

Implementation: Integrate with existing platforms



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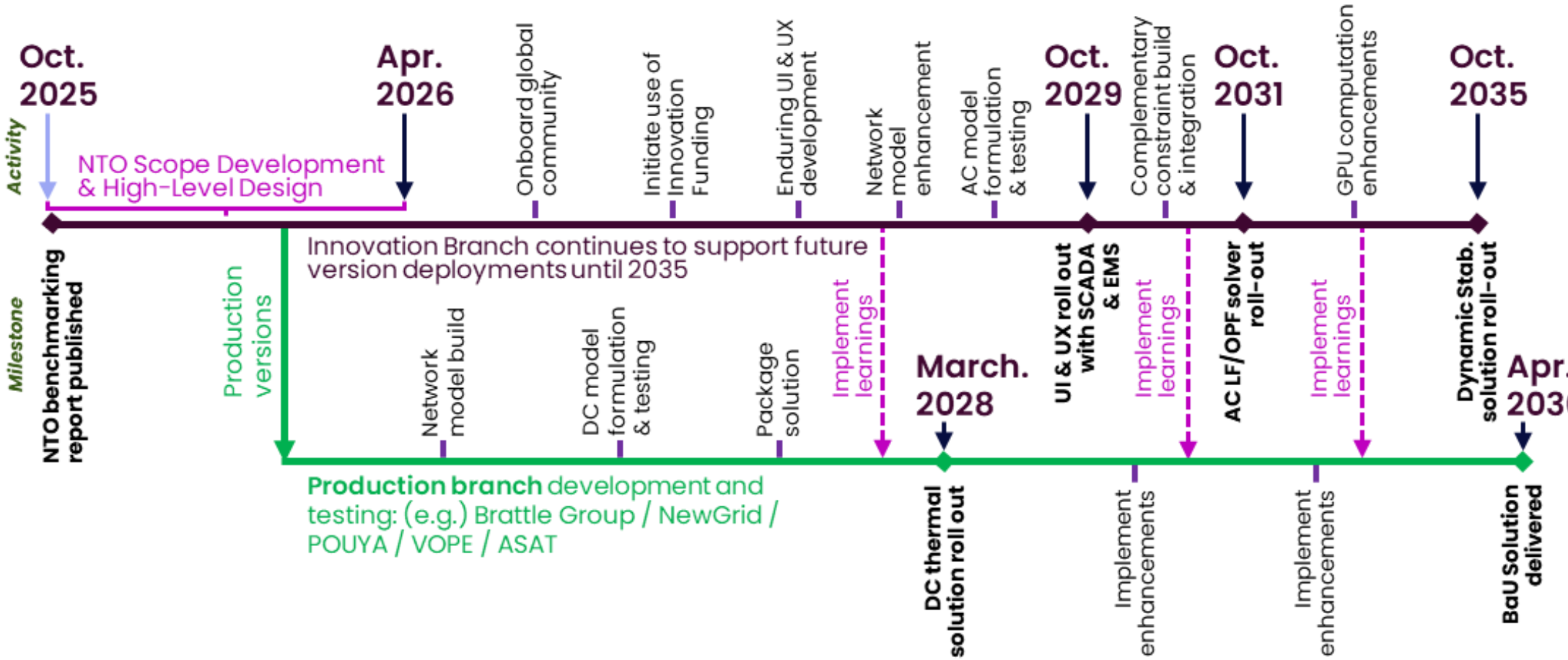
Next Steps


Oct. 2025
Apr. 2026
Oct. 2029
Oct. 2031
Oct. 2035
Activity
NTO Scope Development & High-Level Design
Onboard global community
Initiate use of Innovation Funding
Enduring UI & UX development
Network model enhancement
AC model formulation & testing
Complementary constraint build & integration
GPU computation enhancements
Milestone
NTO benchmarking report published
Innovation Branch continues to support future version deployments until 2035
Production versions
Network model build
DC model formulation & testing
Package solution
Implement learnings
March. 2028
UI & UX roll out with SCADA & EMS
Implement learnings
AC LF/OPF solver roll-out
Implement learnings
Dynamic Stab. solution roll-out
Apr. 2036
Production branch development and testing: (e.g.) Brattle Group / NewGrid / POUYA / VOPE / ASAT
DC thermal solution roll out
Implement enhancements
Implement enhancements
BaU Solution delivered

Public

Monthly Balancing Cost Update

December 2025

Cost and Operational Insights Team

James West

NESO
National Energy System Operator

Monthly Cost Summary

Slido code #OTF

Balancing costs in December 2025 were £242m.

This was a decrease of £23m on last month and a decrease of £84m from December last year.

Wind outturn was higher than November, with only one storm, Storm Bran during the month. However, over the Christmas period we saw several days with very low or zero curtailment.

Voltage costs decreased significantly in December partly down to an interconnector returning from full outage along with the wholesale market providing voltage support. There was a slight increase in inertia costs due to an increase in wind outturn.

Non constraint costs have decreased by £1m despite a small increase in the volume of actions.

Voltage: £9.9m ↓ **Thermal: £151.1m ↓** **Inertia: £0.7m ↑**

These are monthly costs; the arrows indicate the change compared to the previous month.

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System Conditions

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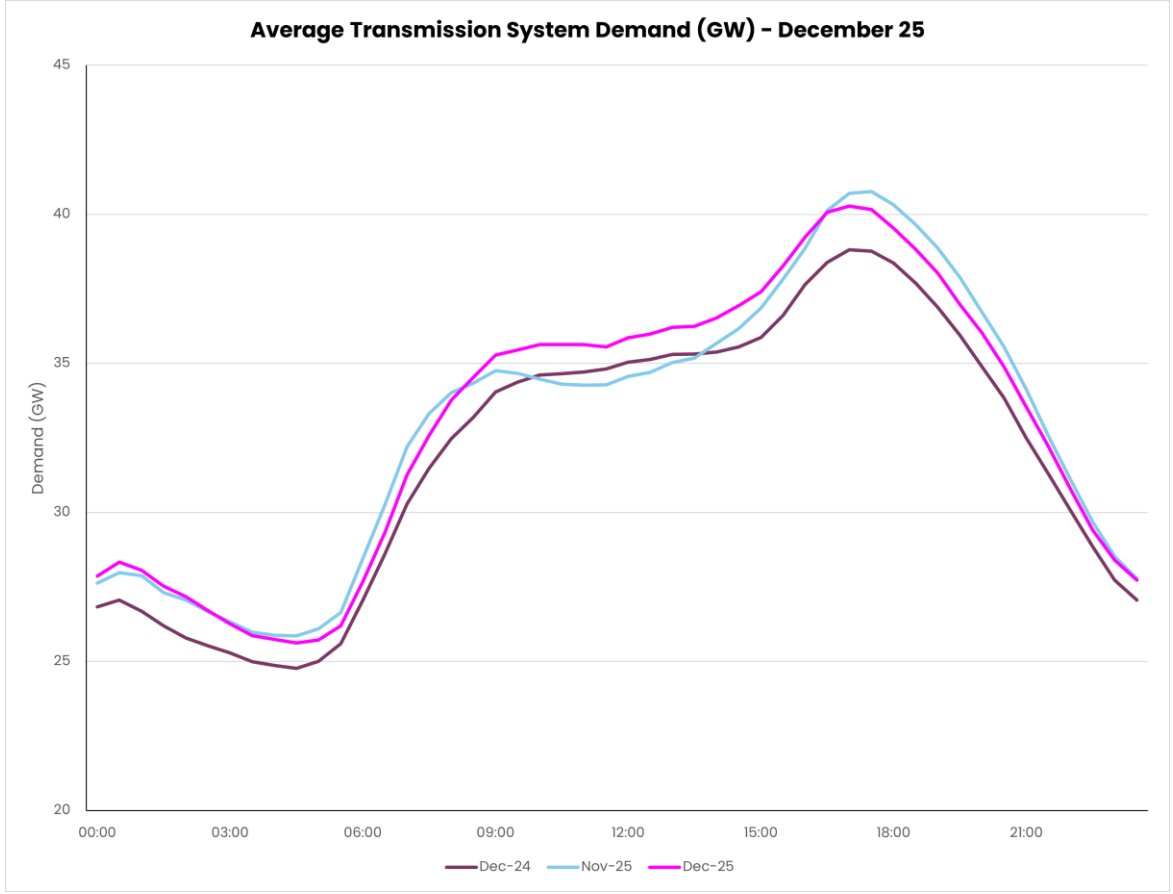

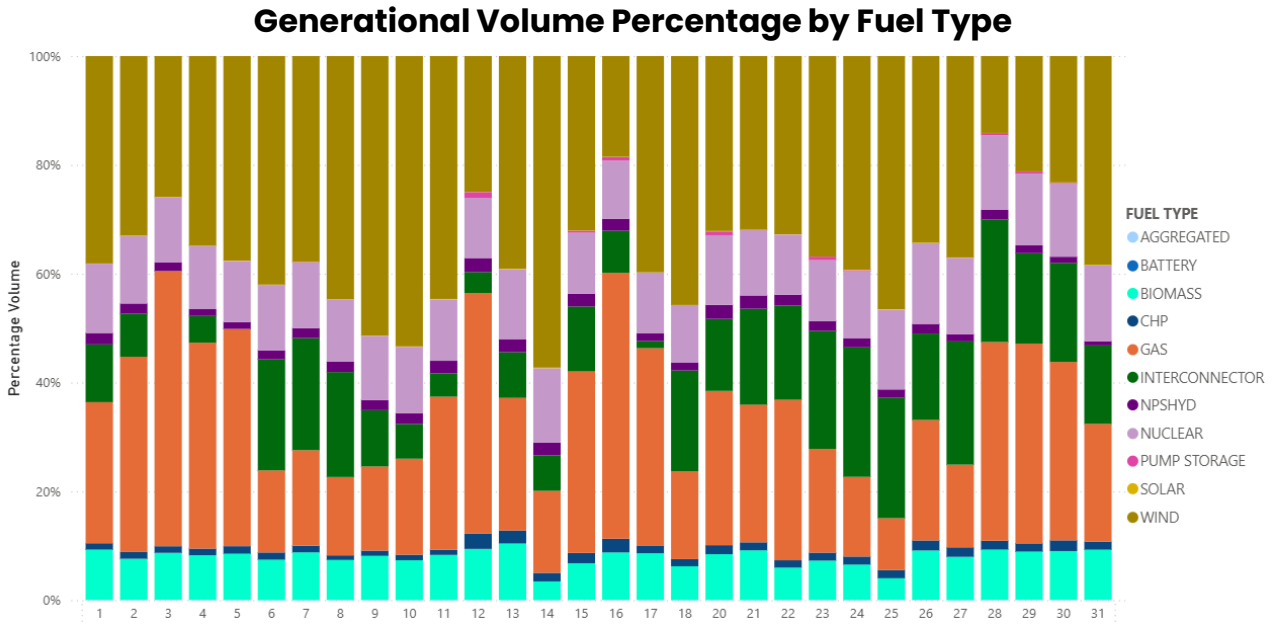

Market Conditions

	DA Power Price	VWA offer price	VWA bid price
M-o-m change	-£7/MWh	-£26/MWh	-£2/MWh
Y-o-y	-£24/MWh	-£25/MWh	+£13/MWh

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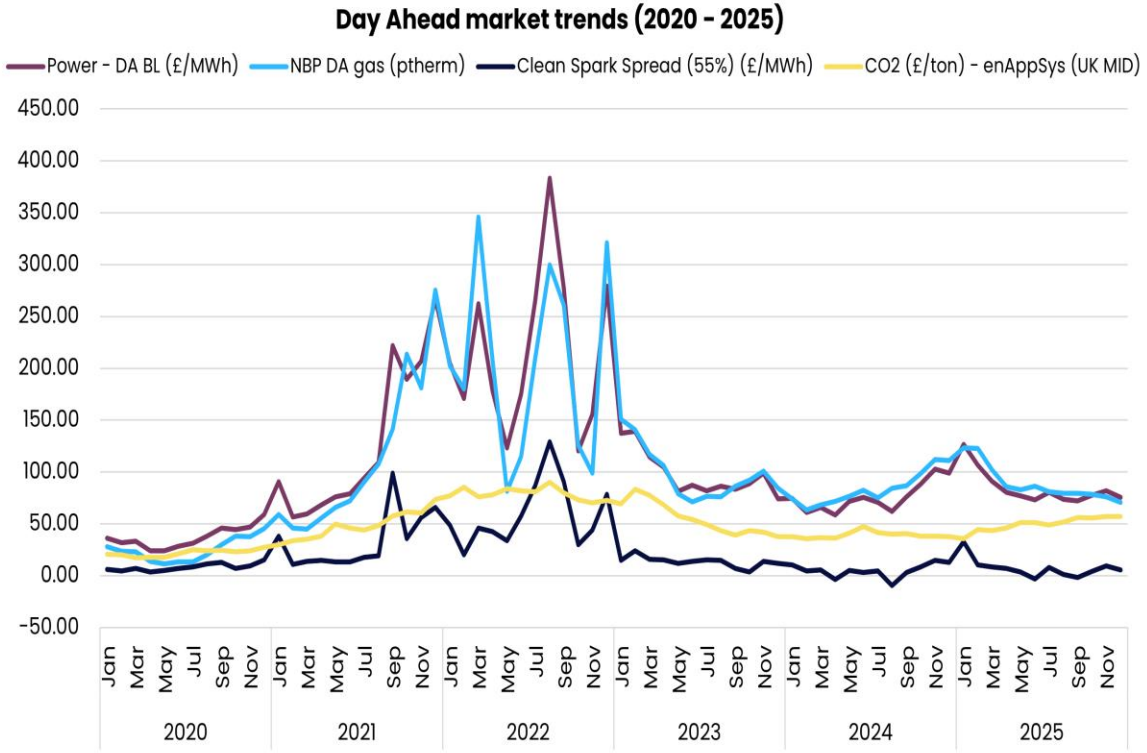

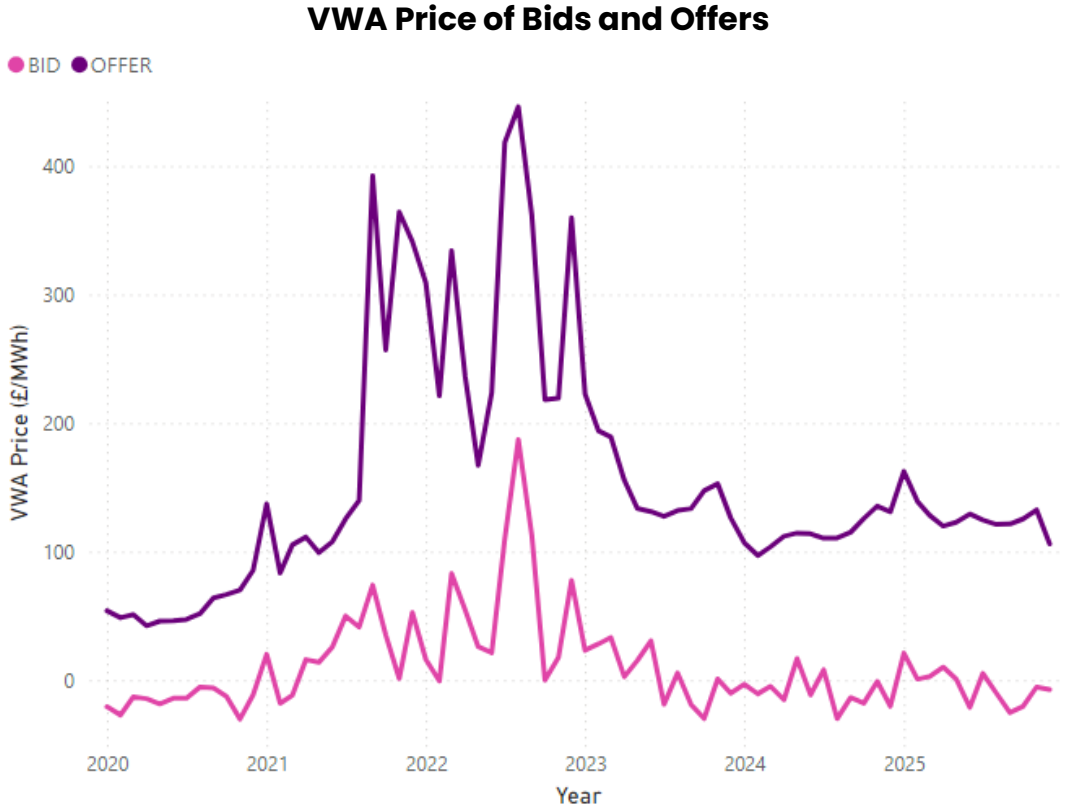

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Daily Costs and Volumes

Daily average cost:
£7.8m

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The highest cost day was 19th December at £20.4m.

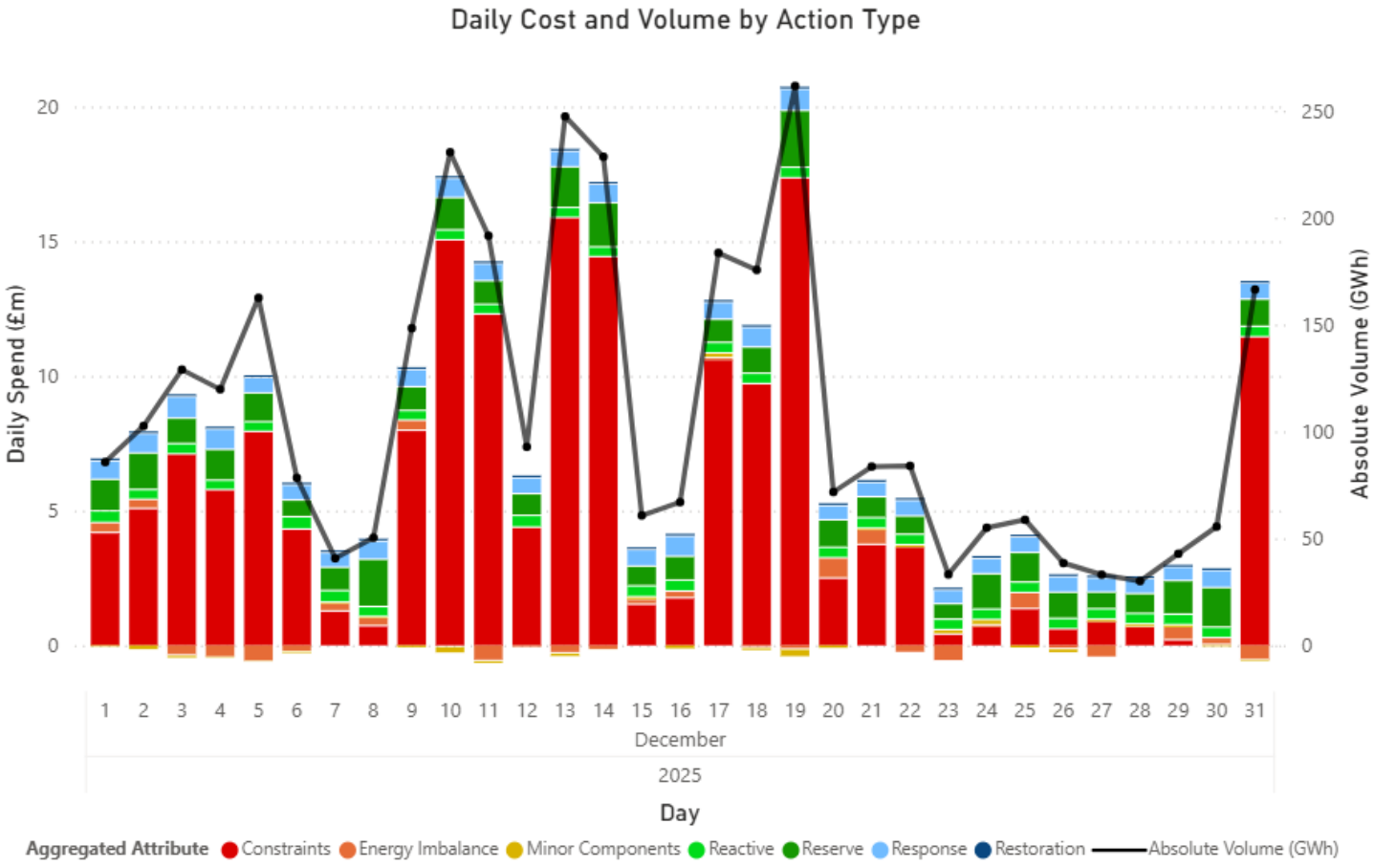
The costs were driven by the highest level of wind curtailment seen during the month.

Highest spend allocation on the day was for Scottish constraints (£17.3m) linked to high wind outturn and outages in the region.

Daily average cost was £7.8m, approximately a £1.0m decrease on the previous month.

Key trends from previous month:

	Constraint	Non-constraint
Cost	↓ 12%	↓ 1%
Volume	↑ 9%	↑ 0%



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Wind Outturn

Overall wind outturn rose from 7.9TWh in November to 8.3 TWh in December, the second highest wind outturn observed.

There was a 47GWh increase in the amount of wind curtailment compared to November, but a 353GWh decrease from December 2024.

With variable weather conditions, the highest volume wind curtailment days were seen during the middle of the month:

- 19th December (121GWh), highest cost day
- 14th December (105GWh)
- 13th December (104GWh), second highest cost day

	Total*	England & Wales	Scotland
Wind Outturn (GWh)	**8,257**	**5,616**	**2,609**
Wind Curtailment (GWh)	**1007**	**13**	**991**

Monthly wind curtailment %:

10.9%

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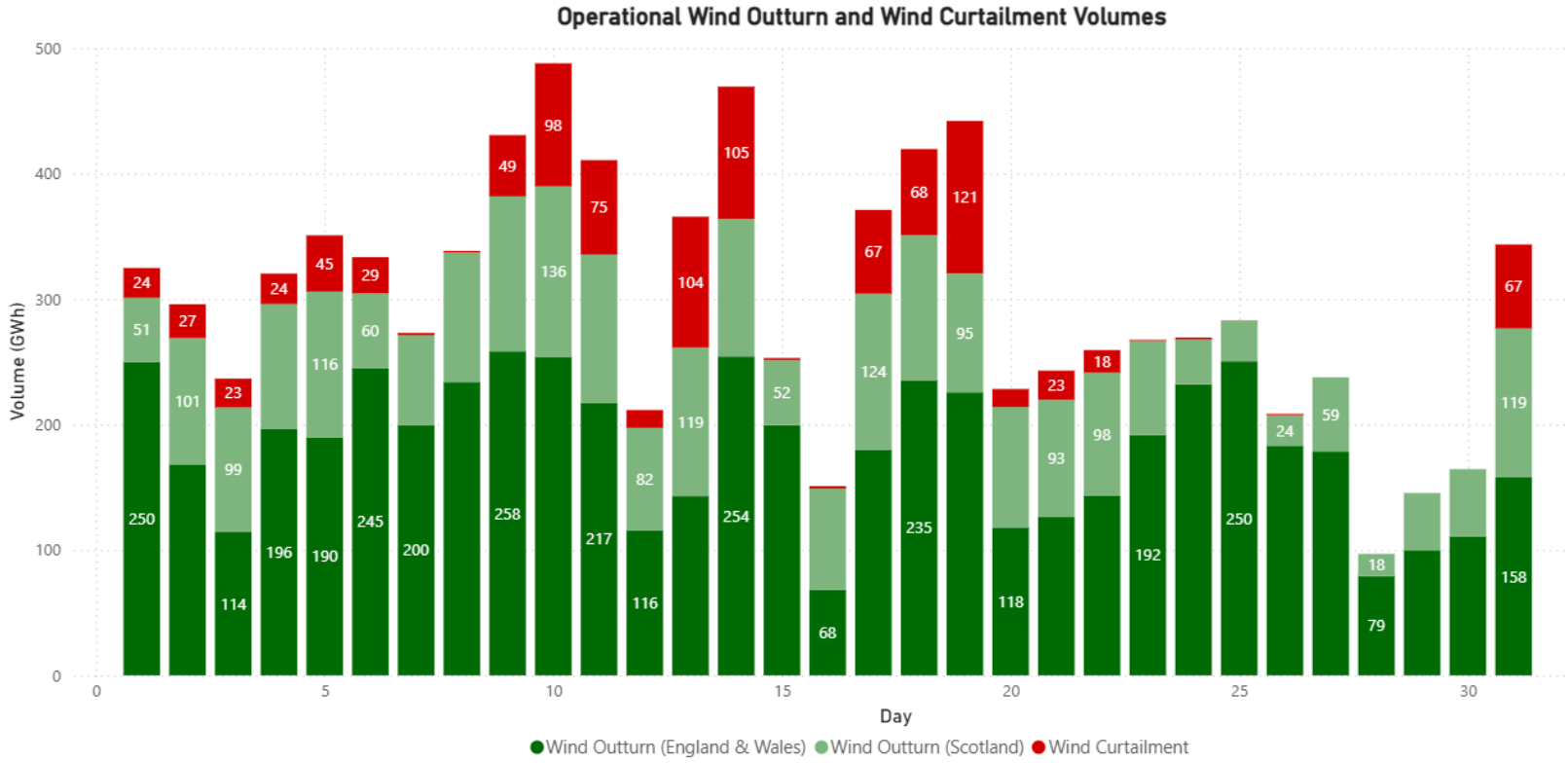

*These figures may not match exactly due to data categorisation.

Demand | Last week demand out-turn

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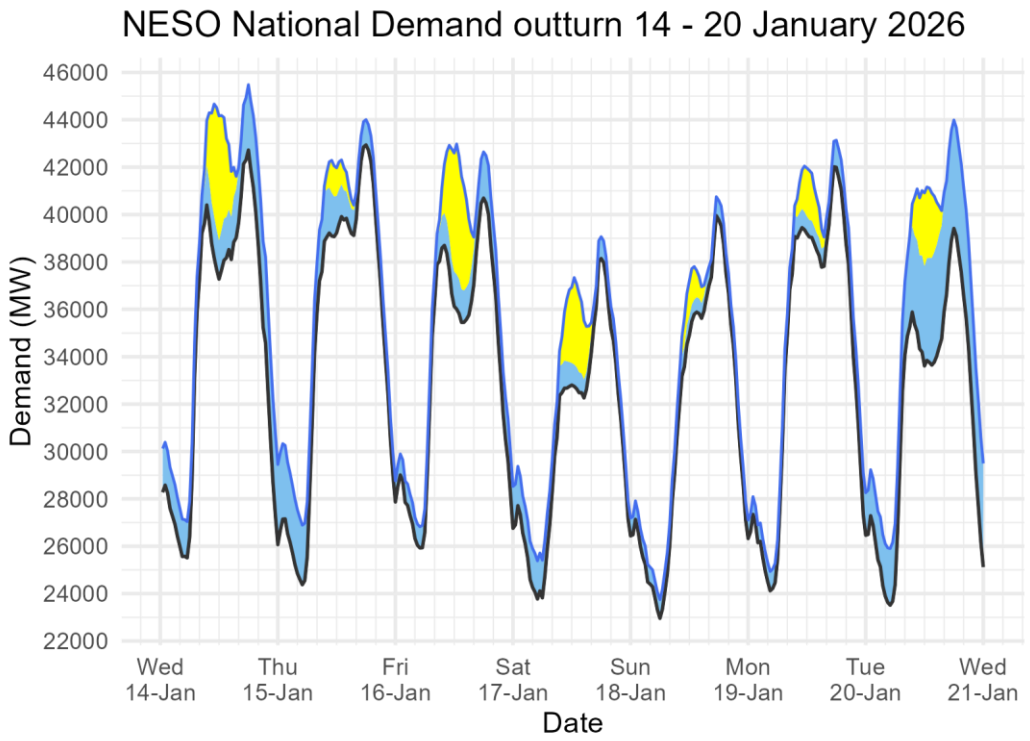

Distributed generation
Peak values by day

Date	OUTTURN Daily Max Dist. PV (GW)	OUTTURN Daily Max Dist. Wind (GW)
14 Jan 2026	5.3	3.6
15 Jan 2026	1.4	3.3
16 Jan 2026	5.5	2.1
17 Jan 2026	3.7	1.7
18 Jan 2026	1.5	0.9
19 Jan 2026	2.1	1.8
20 Jan 2026	3.1	4.8

National Demand
Minimum & Peak Demands

Date	Forecasting Point	FORECAST (Wed 14 Jan) National Demand (GW)	FORECAST (Wed 14 Jan) Dist. wind (GW)	OUTTURN National Demand (GW)	OUTTURN Dist. wind (GW)
14 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	42.1	2.5	42.7	2.8
15 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	24.5	2.7	24.4	2.5
15 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	43.0	1.6	42.9	1.1
16 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	25.6	1.7	25.9	0.9
16 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	42.3	1.4	40.7	1.9
17 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	25.1	0.9	23.8	1.6
17 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	40.0	0.9	38.1	0.9
18 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	24.1	1.0	23.0	0.8
18 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	41.4	0.8	40.0	0.8
19 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	25.1	1.0	24.1	0.8
19 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	44.7	0.9	42.0	1.1
20 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	26.0	1.0	23.5	2.4
20 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	43.4	1.6	39.4	4.6

The black line (National Demand ND) is the measure of portion of total GB customer demand that is supplied by the transmission network.
ND values do not include export on interconnectors or pumping or station load

Blue line serves as a proxy for total GB customer demand. It includes demand supplied by the distributed wind and solar sources, but it does not include demand supplied by non-weather driven sources at the distributed network for which NESO has no real time data.

Historic out-turn data can be found on the NESO Data Portal in the following data sets: Historic Demand Data & Demand Data Update

Demand | Week Ahead

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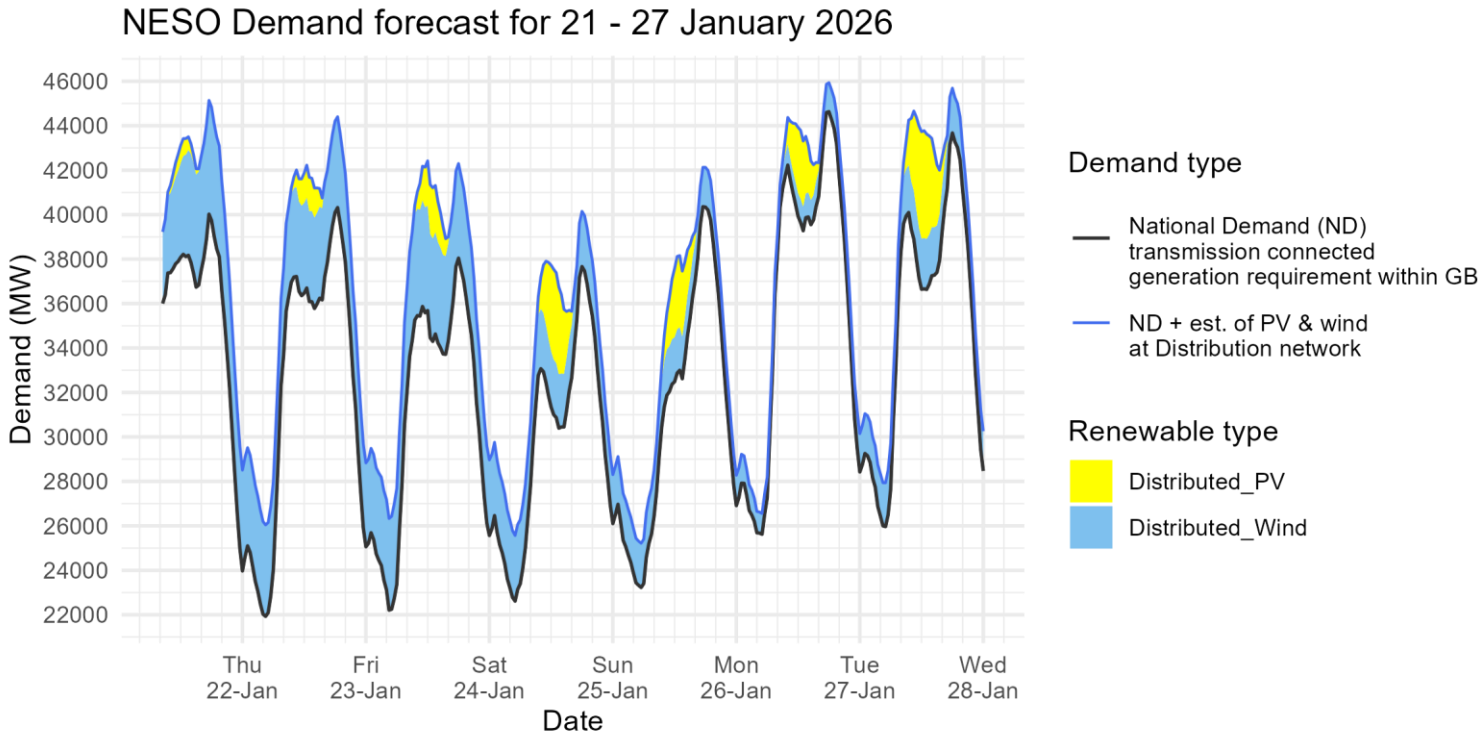

National Demand

Minimum Demands

		FORECAST (Wed 21 Jan)	
Date	Forecasting Point	National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)
21 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	40.0	5.1
22 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	21.9	4.1
22 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	40.3	4.1
23 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	22.2	4.1
23 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	38.0	4.3
24 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	22.6	3.0
24 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	37.7	2.5
25 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	23.2	2.0
25 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	40.4	1.8
26 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	25.6	0.9
26 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	44.6	1.3
27 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	26.0	2.0
27 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	43.7	2.0

The black line (National Demand ND) is the measure of portion of total GB customer demand that is supplied by the transmission network.

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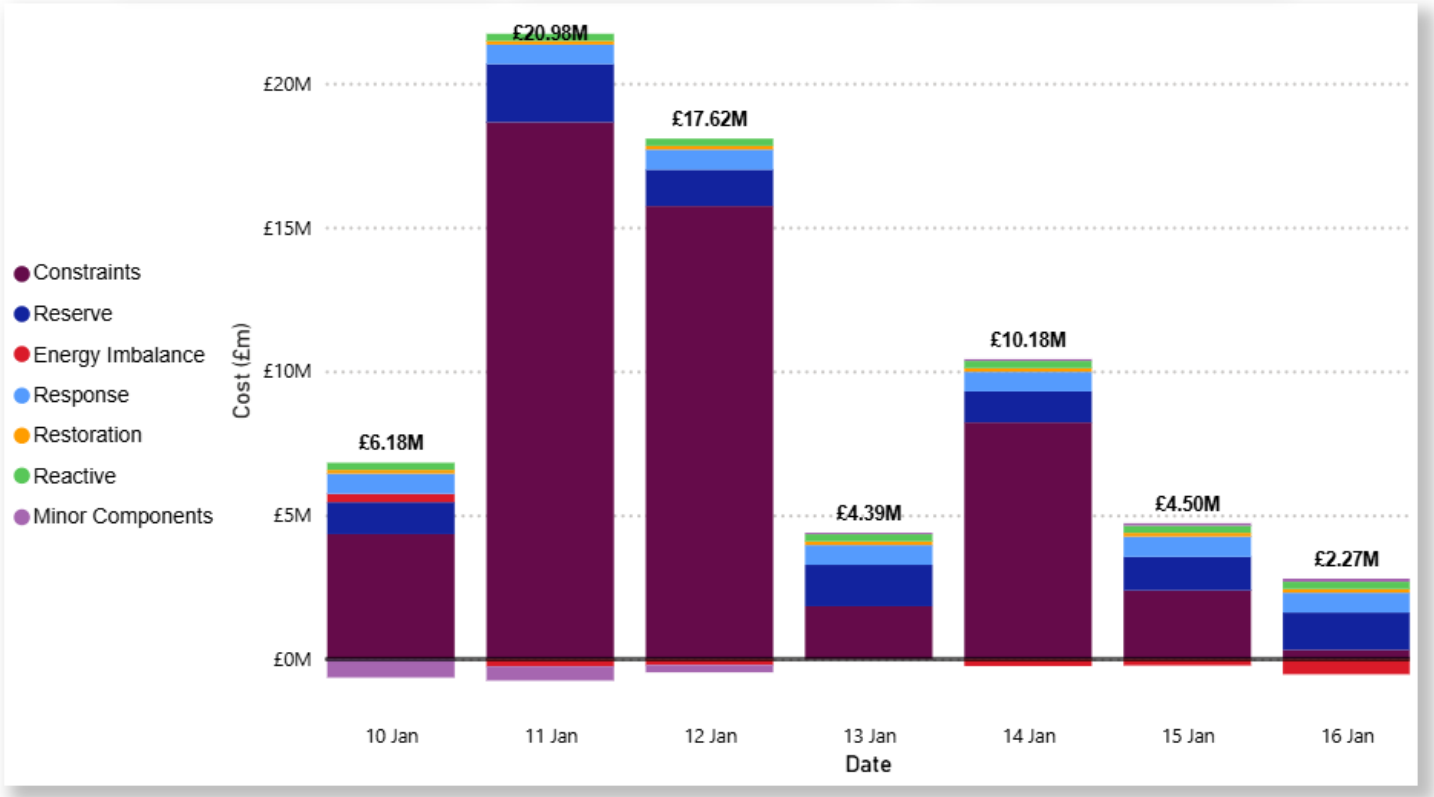
NESO Actions | Category Cost Breakdown

Slido code #OTF

Date

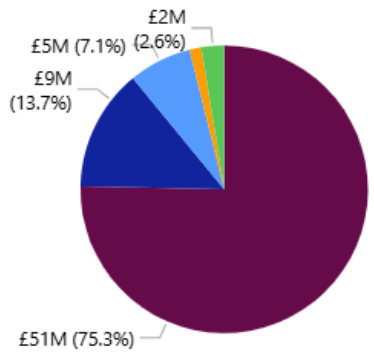
10/01/2026 16/01/2026

Weekly Total Costs (£)	Last Week Total Costs (£)	Past 30-Day Average Costs (£)
66.1M	50.7M	7.4M



Date	Total Costs
10 January 2026	£6,179,049
11 January 2026	£20,977,370
12 January 2026	£17,619,077
13 January 2026	£4,385,704
14 January 2026	£10,178,880
15 January 2026	£4,498,644
16 January 2026	£2,267,609
Total	**£66,106,334**

Weekly Cost (£) and Share (%)



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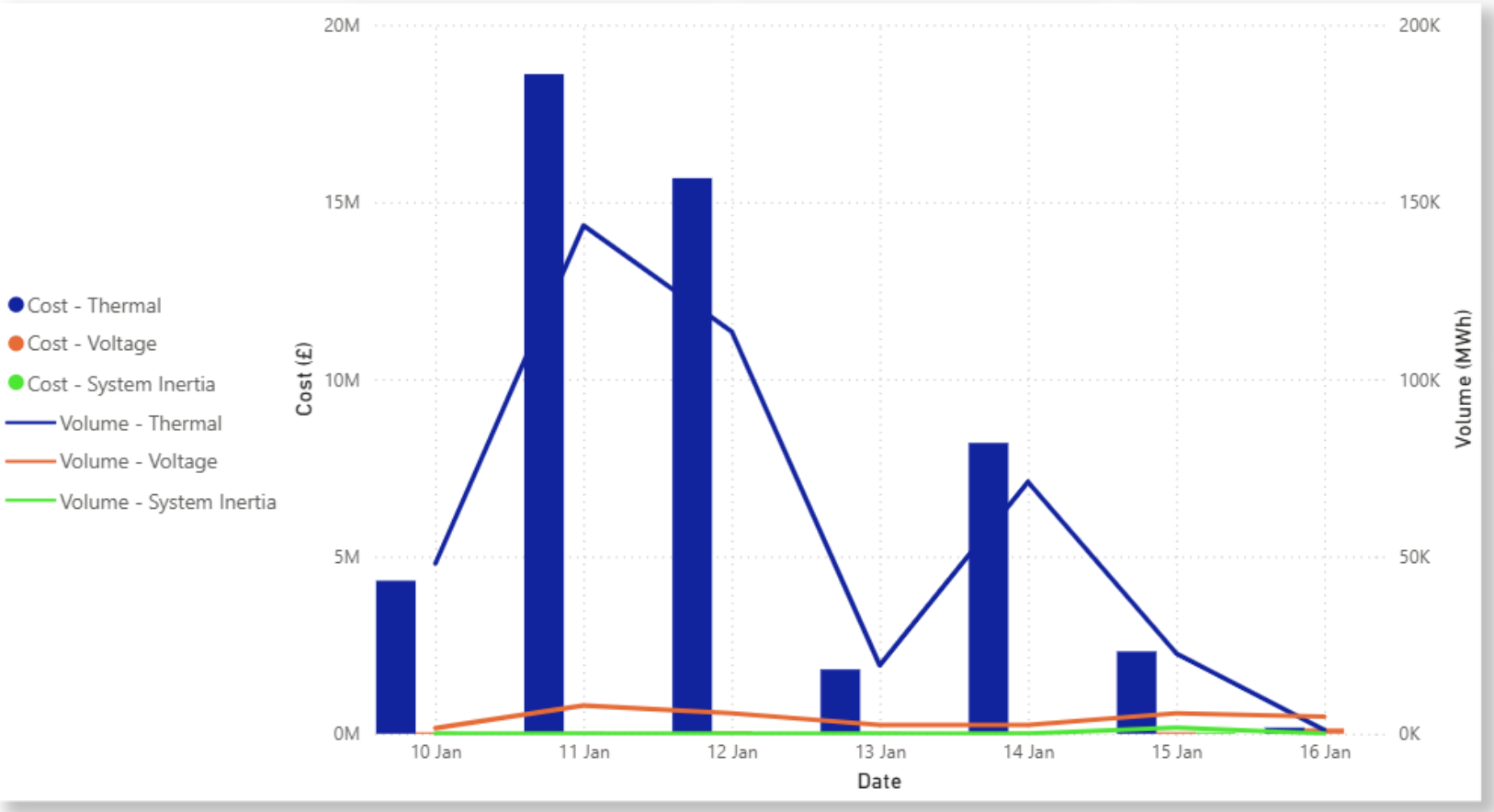
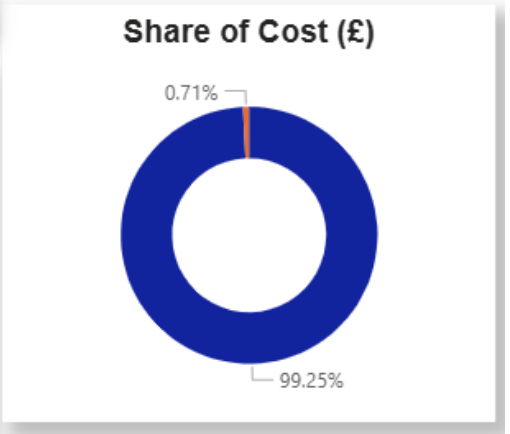
NESO Actions | Constraint Cost Breakdown

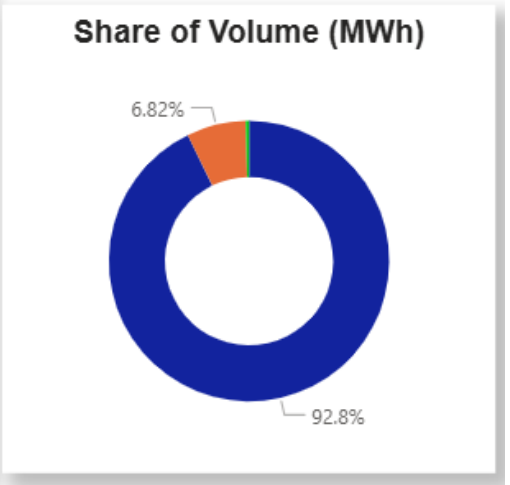
Date

10/01/2026 16/01/2026

Thermal Constraints		Voltage Constraints		System Inertia	
Costs (£)	Vol (MWh)	Costs (£)	Vol (MWh)	Costs (£)	Vol (MWh)
51.11M	418.96K	366.87K	30.79K	18.17K	1.74K







Note: Thermal Constraint volume is reported as an absolute figure.

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NESO Actions | Peak Demand – Settlement Period (SP) spend ~£59k Thursday 15th January

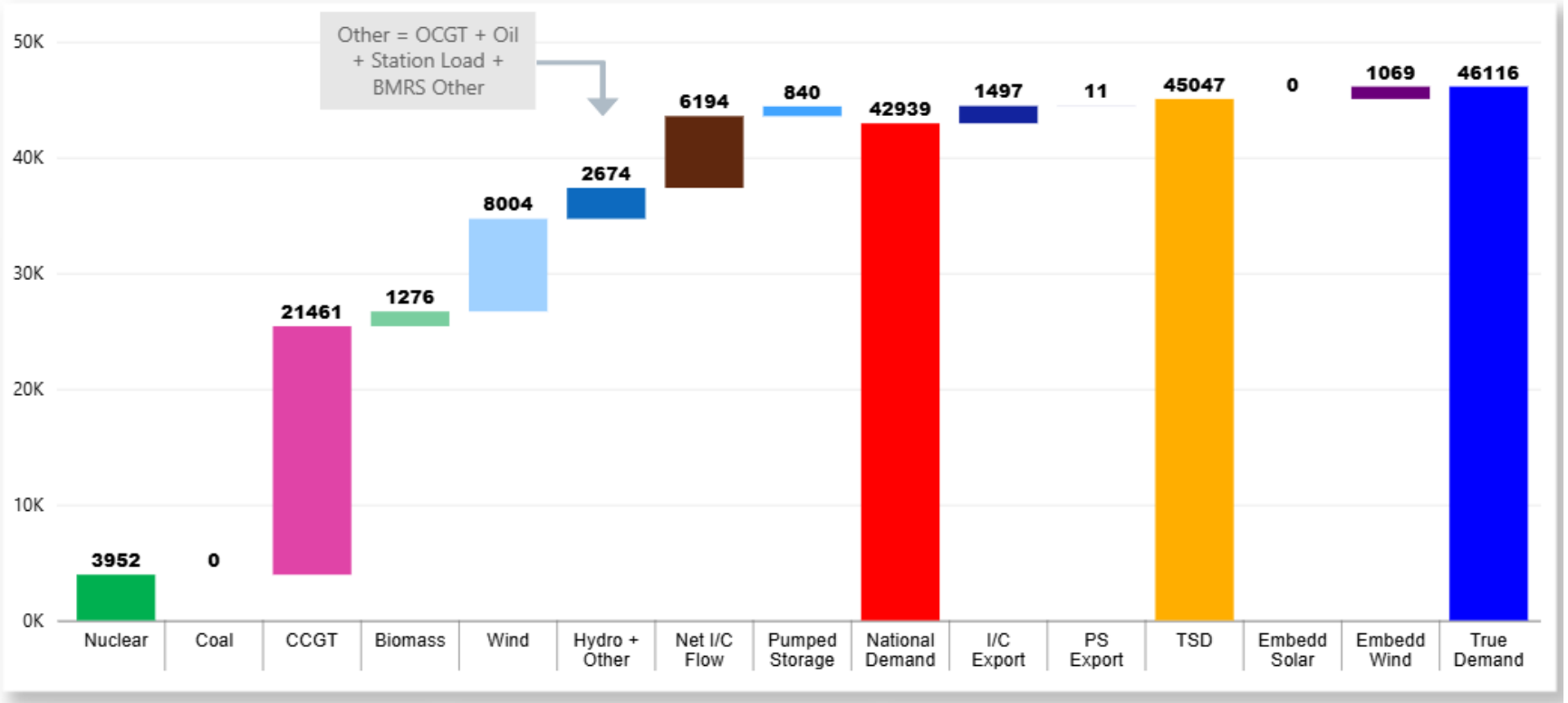
Slido code #OTF

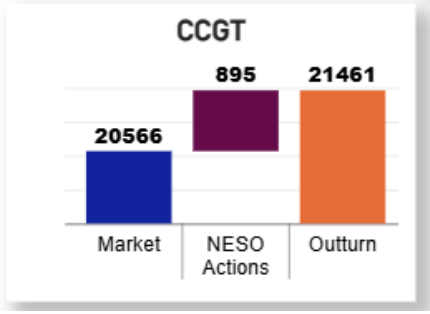
Date: 15 January 2026

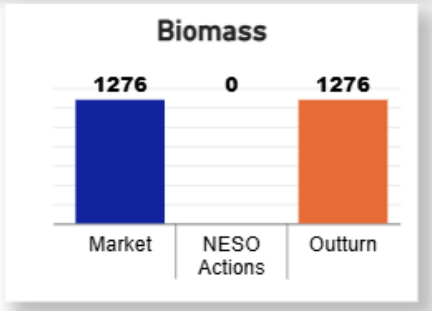
SP: 36

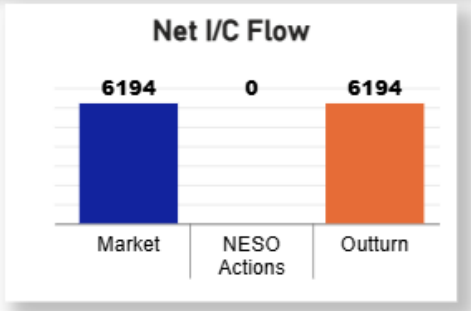
Half-hour preceding

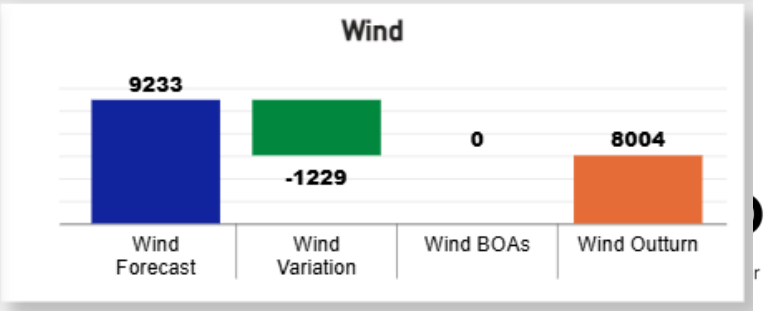
18:00









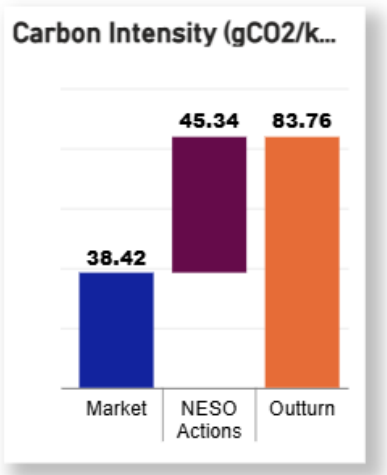


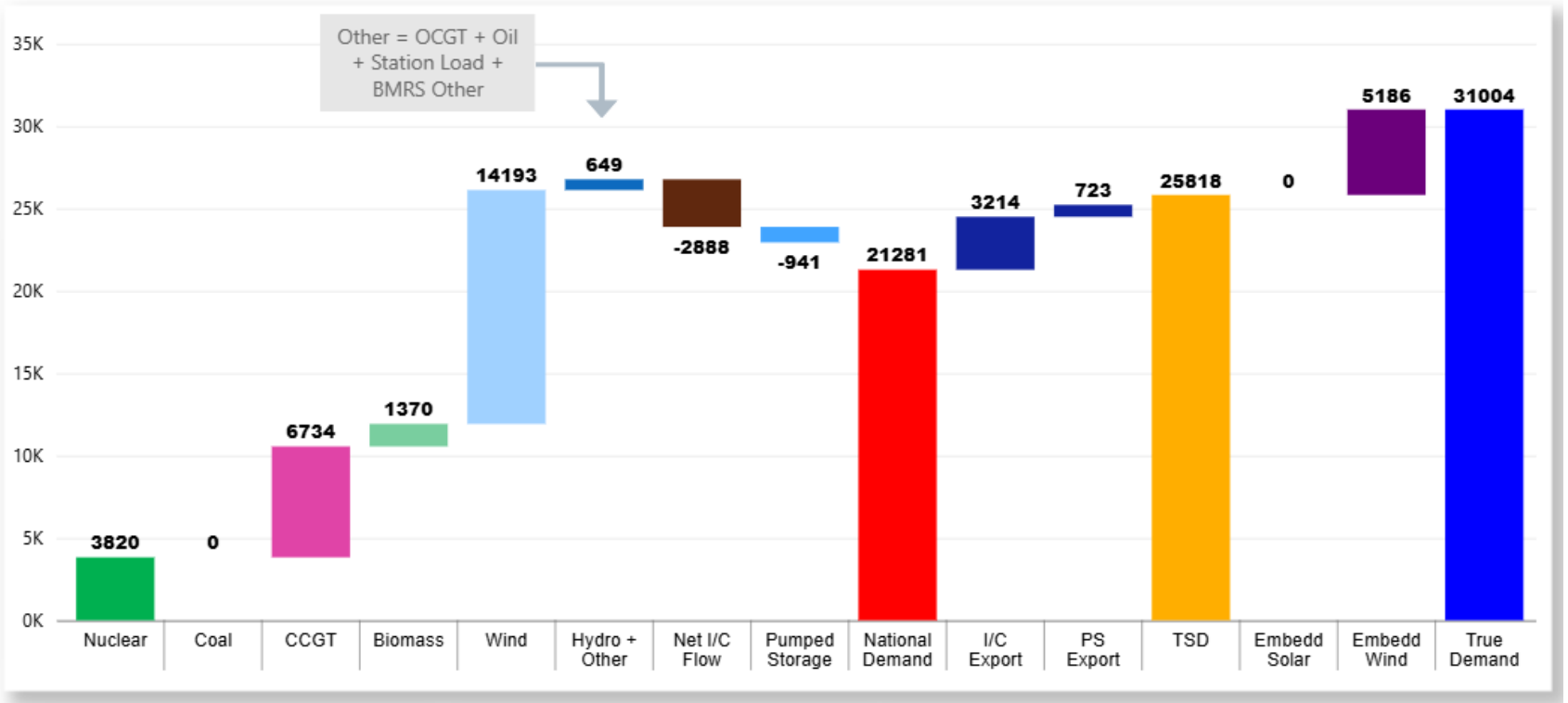
NESO Actions | Minimum Demand – SP spend ~£527k
Monday 12th January

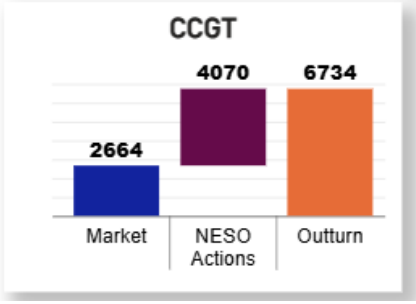
Slido code #OTF

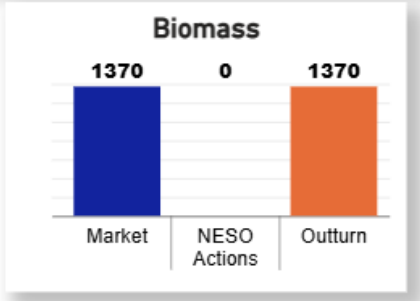
Date: 12 January 2026 | SP: 9

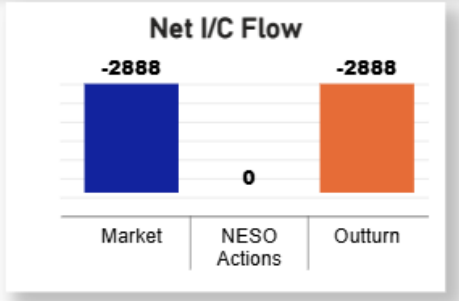
Half-hour preceding
04:30

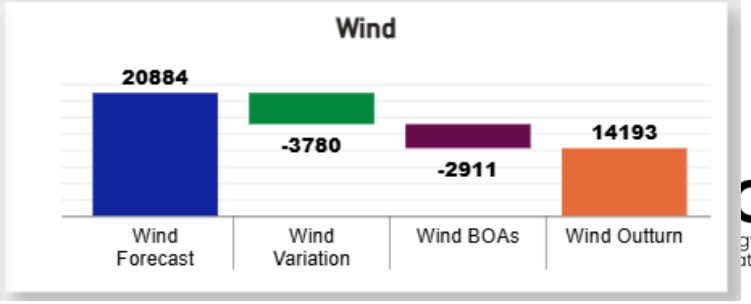










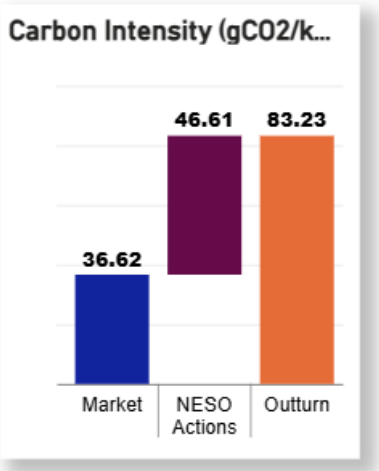


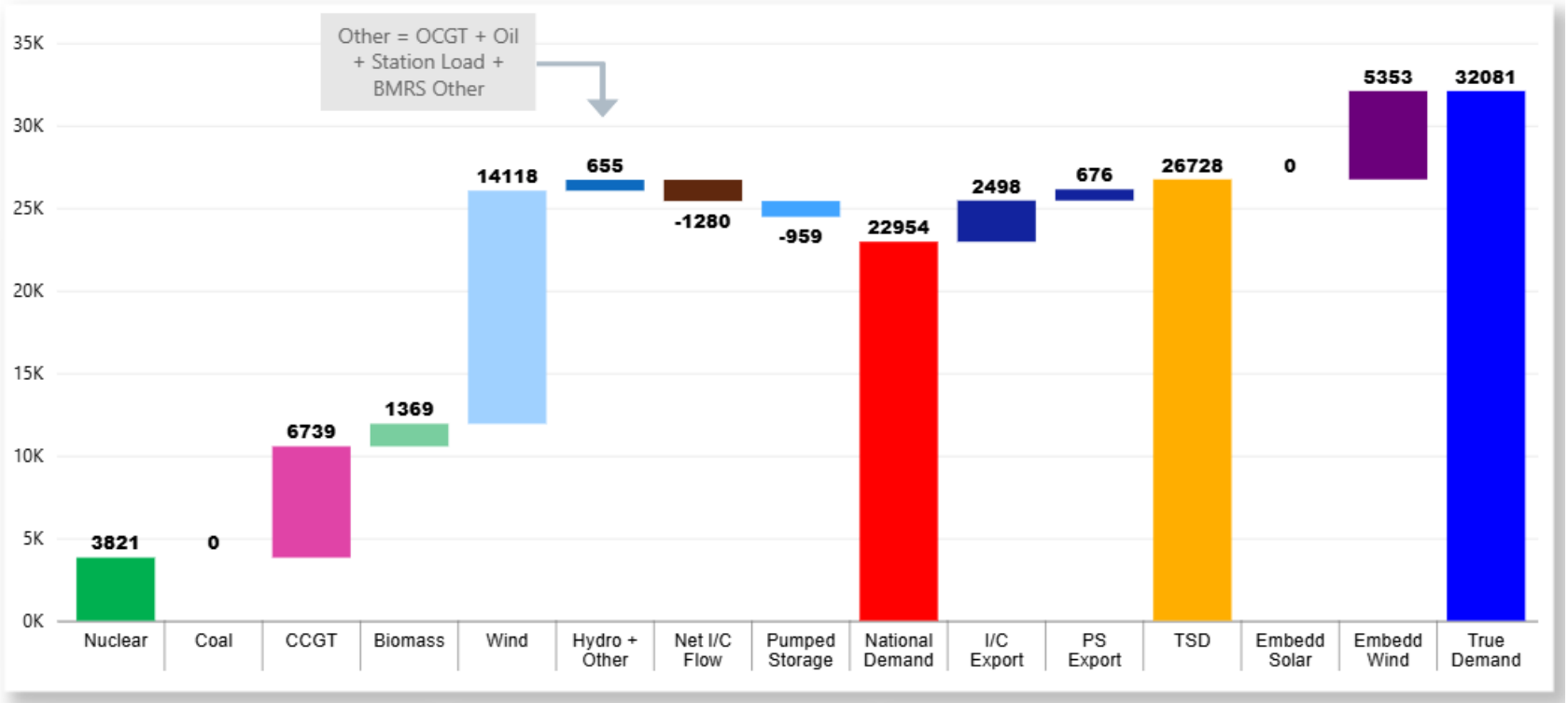
NESO Actions | Highest SP spend ~£551k
Monday 12th January

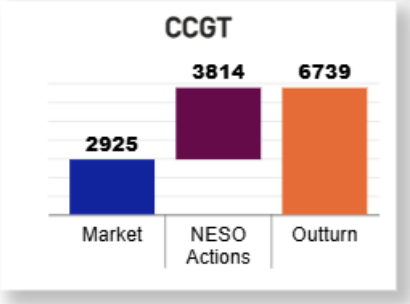
Slido code #OTF

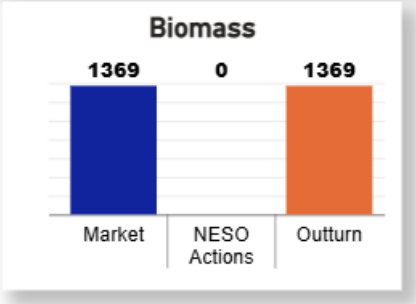
Date: 12 January 2026 | SP: 6

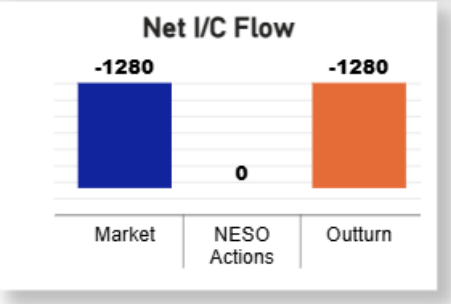
Half-hour preceding
03:00

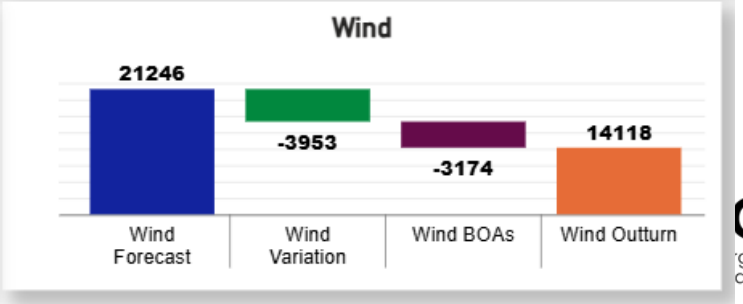






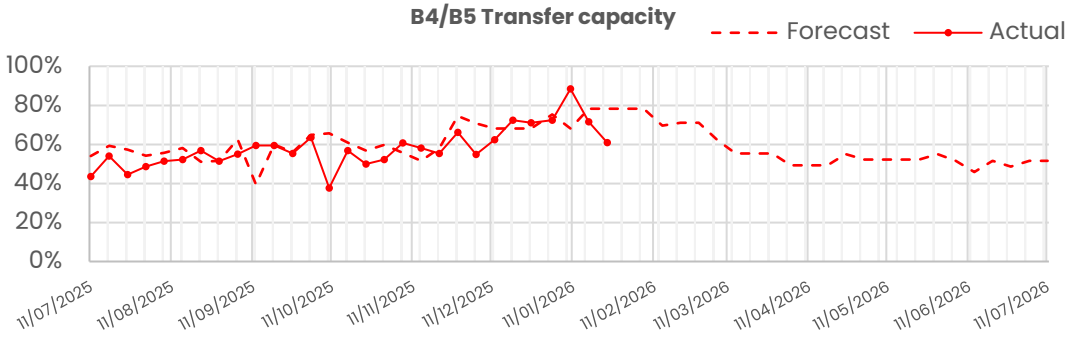


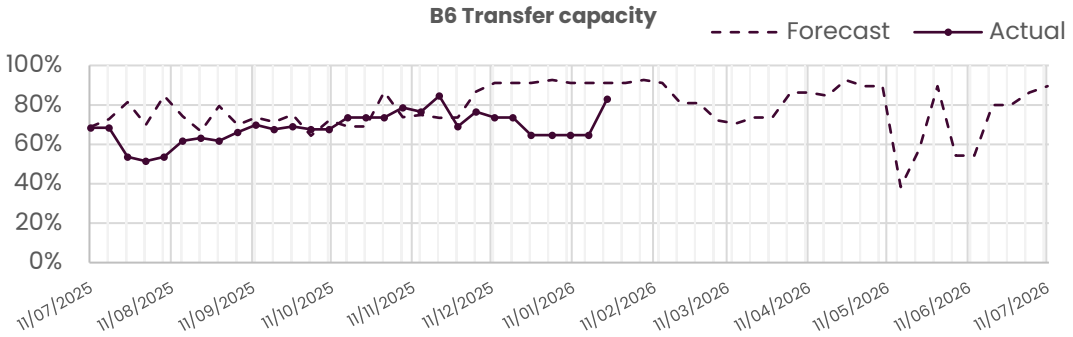


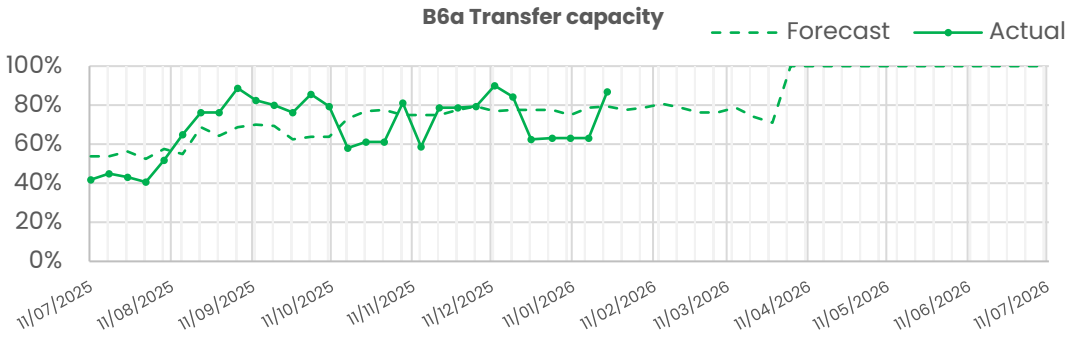


Transparency | Network Congestion

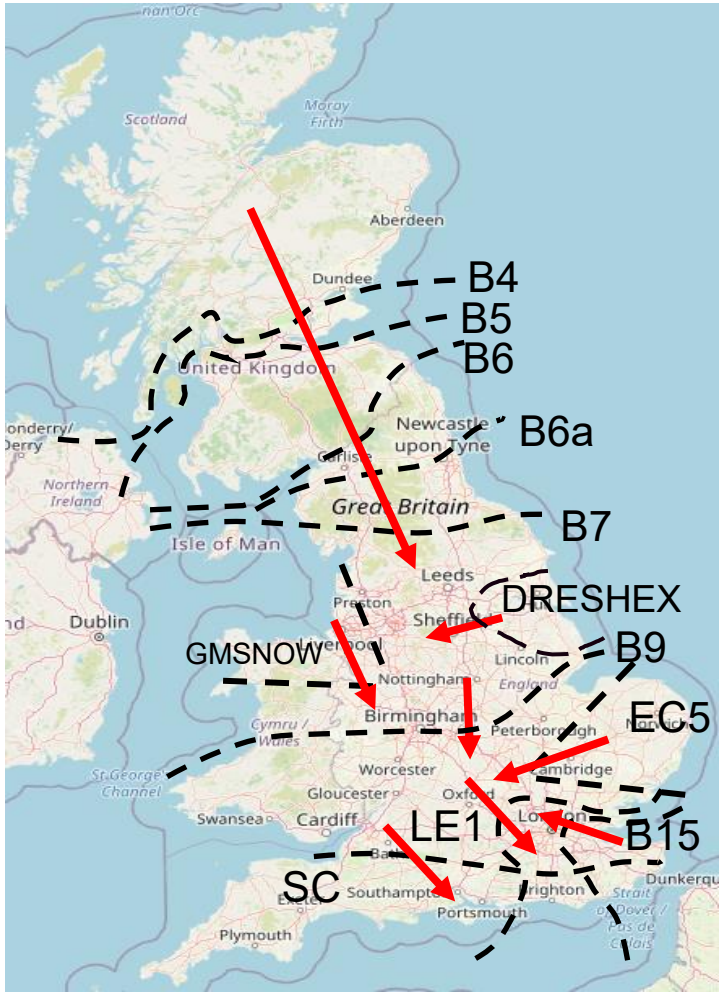
Slido code #OTF







Boundary	Max. Capacity (MW)	Current Capacity (%)
B4/B5	3400	61
B6 (SCOTEX)	6800	65
B6a	8000	87
B7 (SSHARN)	9850	82
GMSNOW	5800	48
FLOWSTH (B9)	12700	76
DRESHEX	9675	76
EC5	5000	100
LE1 (SEIMP)	8750	62
B15 (ESTEX)	7500	93
SC1	7300	100

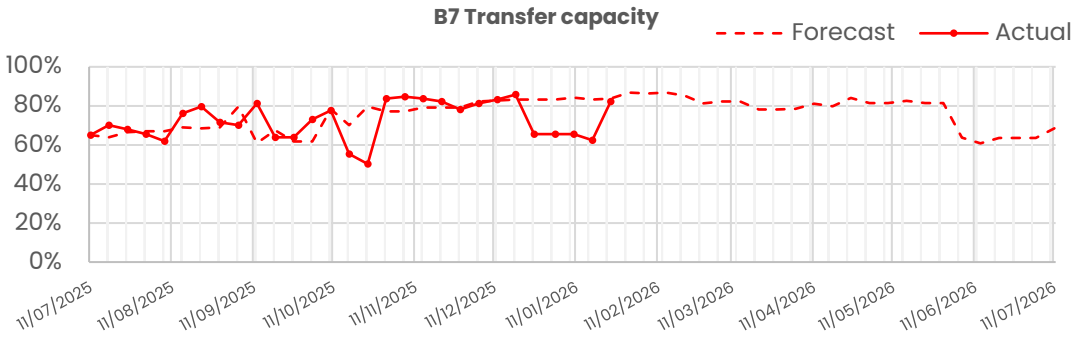


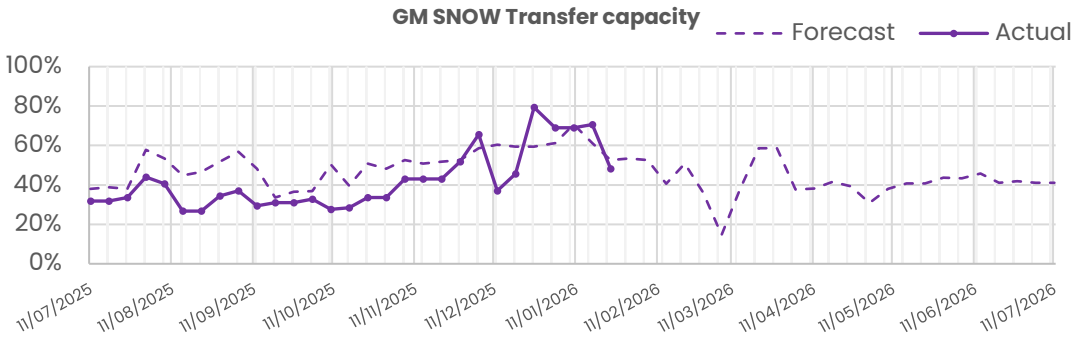
The forecast line is updated with the 10-week ahead view, and this happens each week. So, everything up to 10 weeks ahead is the forecast from 10-week ahead view, and everything after that is the fixed long-term forecast view.

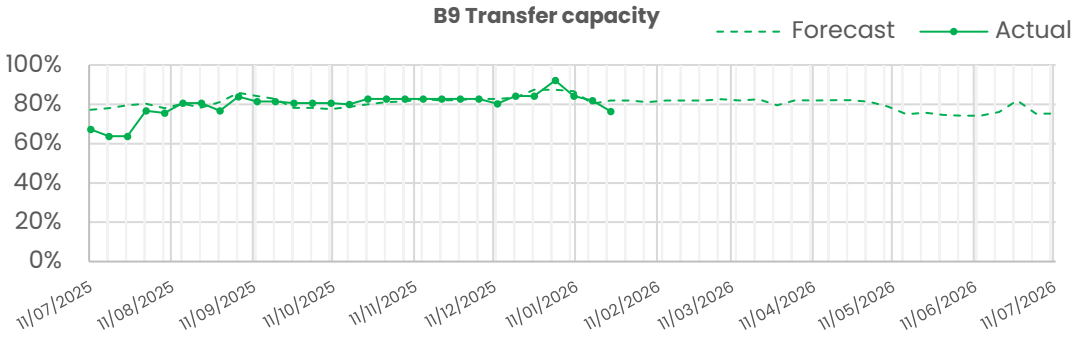
NESO National Energy System Operator

Transparency | Network Congestion

Slido code #OTF







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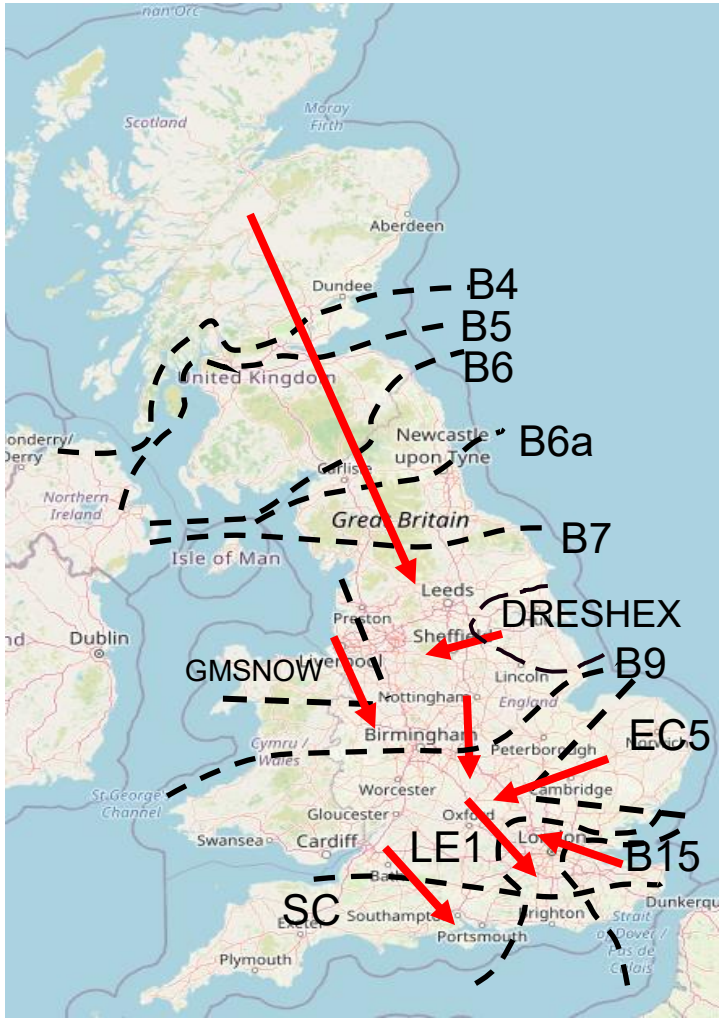
SC1	7300	100



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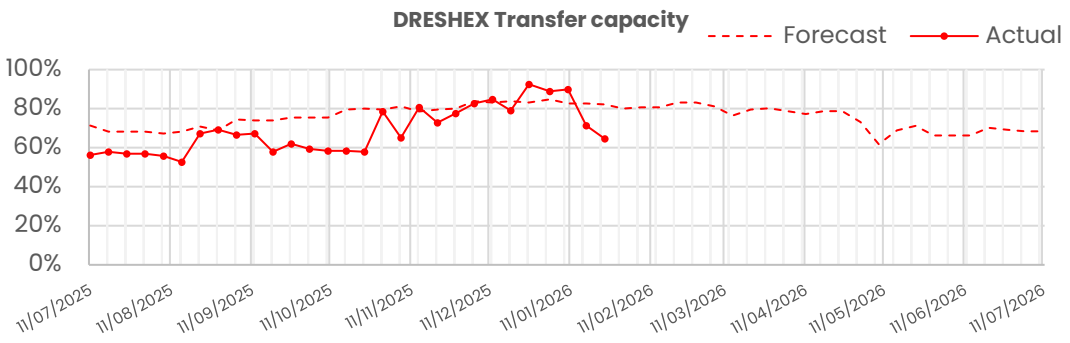
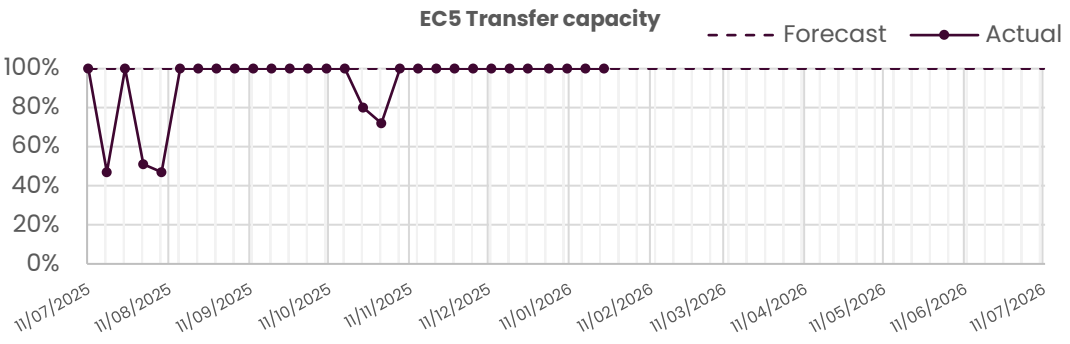
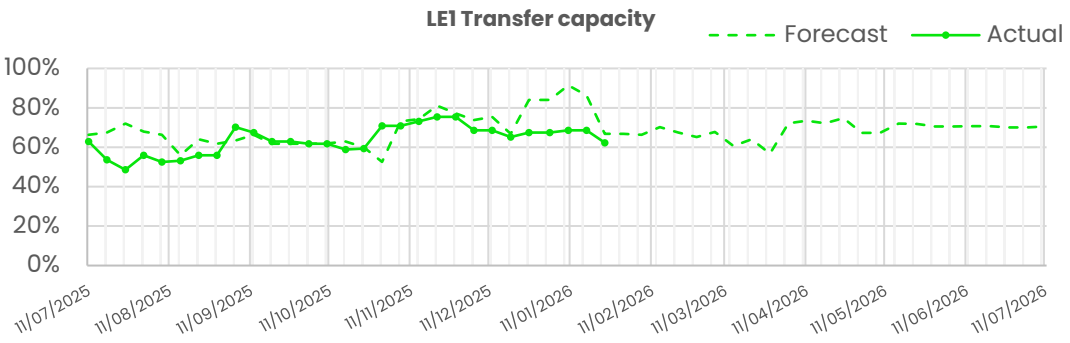
NESO National Energy System Operator

Transparency | Network Congestion

Slido code #OTF







Boundary	Max. Capacity (MW)	Current Capacity (%)
B4/B5	3400	61
B6 (SCOTEX)	6800	65
B6a	8000	87
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GMSNOW	5800	48
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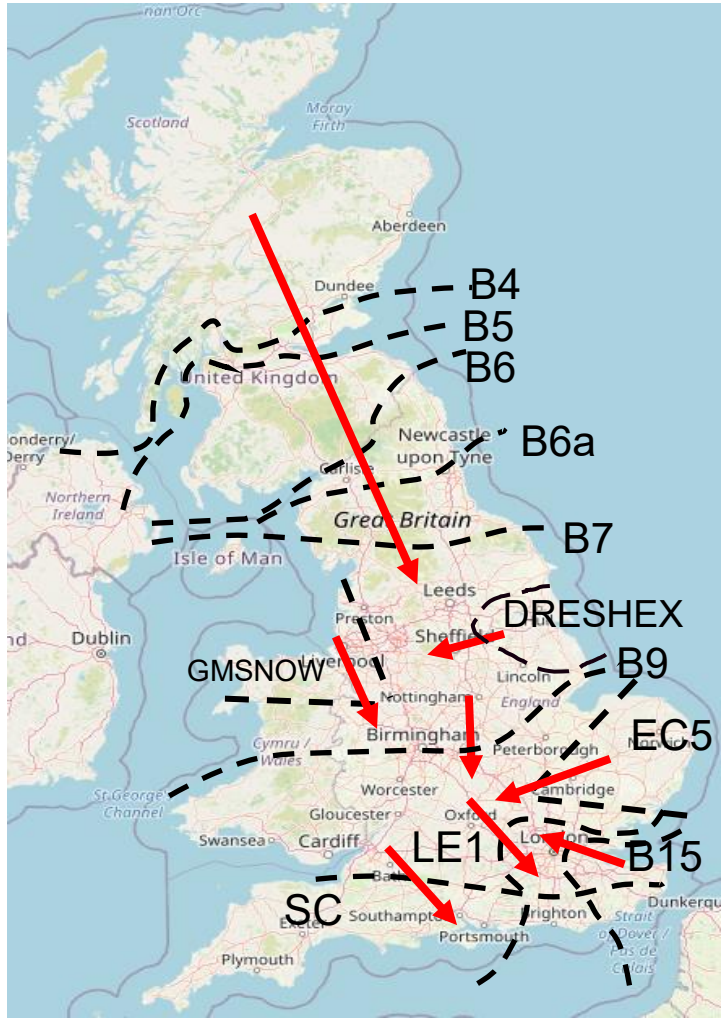

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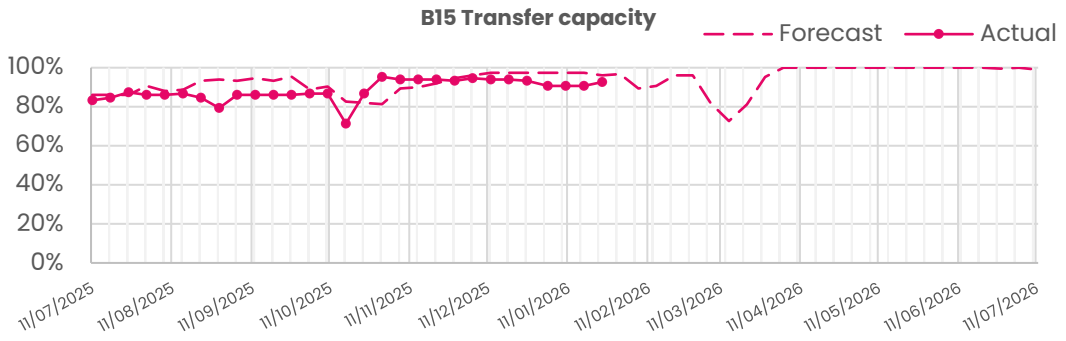
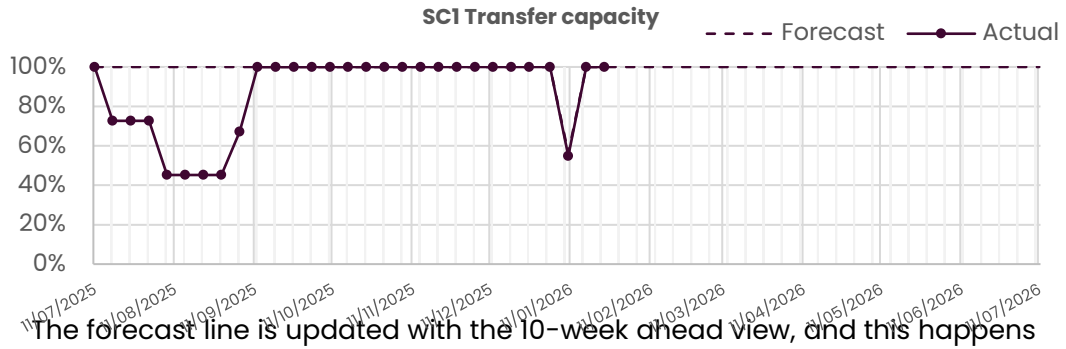
NESO National Energy System Operator

Transparency | Network Congestion

Slido code #OTF



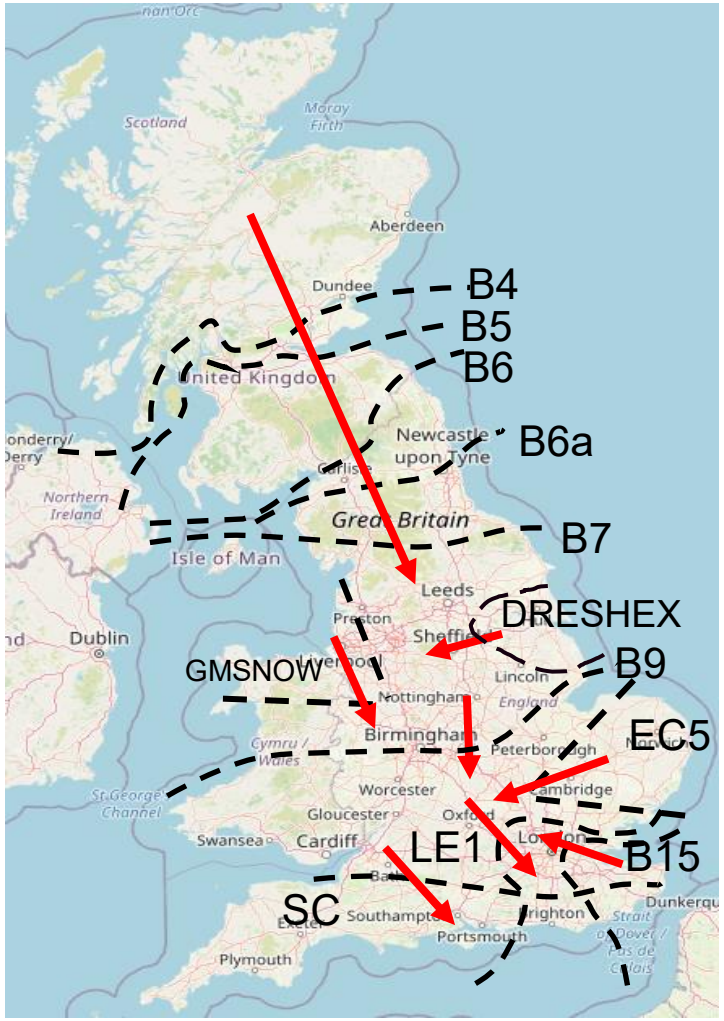


The forecast line is updated with the 10-week ahead view, and this happens each week. So, everything up to 10 weeks ahead is the forecast from 10-week ahead view, and everything after that is the fixed long-term forecast view.

Day ahead flows and limits, and the 24-month constraint limit forecast are published on the ESO Data Portal: Constraints Management

(The forecast and day ahead limits may vary due to changes in the outage plan. The plan is reviewed periodically throughout the year to ensure we are optimising system conditions, whilst managing any necessary outage plan changes.

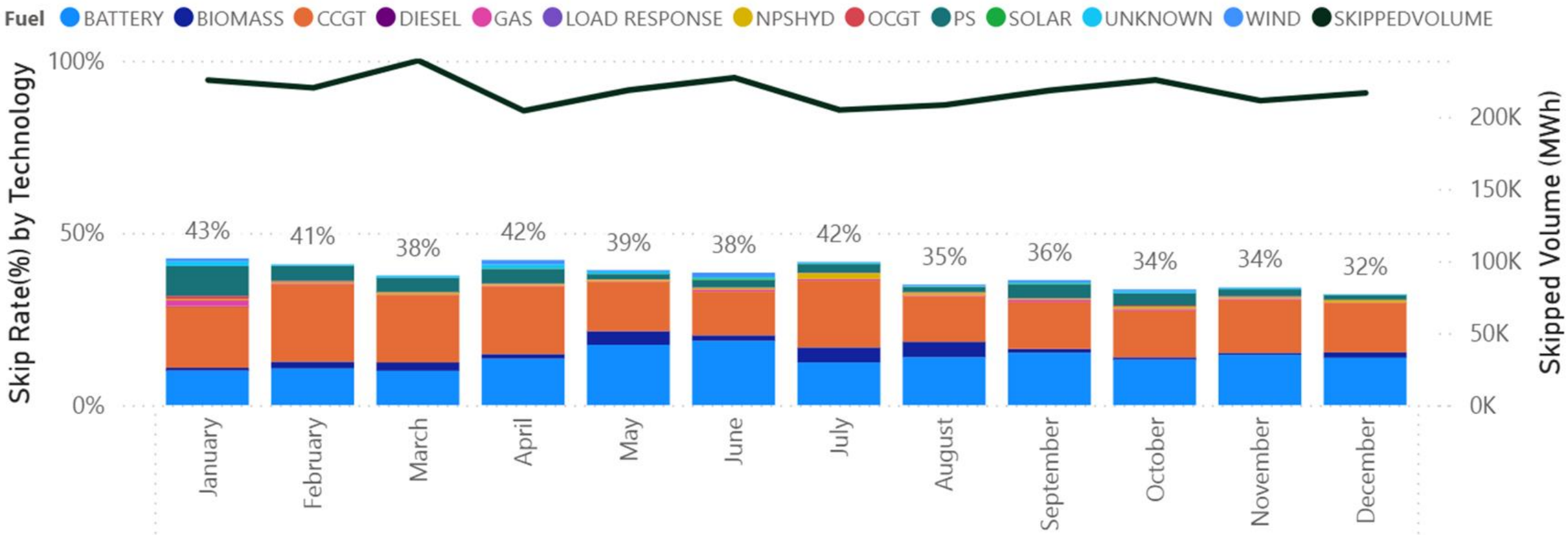
Boundary	Max. Capacity (MW)	Current Capacity (%)
B4/B5	3400	72
B6 (SCOTEX)	6800	65
B6a	8000	63
B7 (SSHARN)	9850	62
GMSNOW	5800	71
FLOWSTH (B9)	12700	82
DRESHEX	9675	71
EC5	5000	100
LE1 (SEIMP)	8750	69
B15 (ESTEX)	7500	91
SC1	7300	100



Combined Skip Rate – 1st Year Summary

Slido code #OTF

The current skip rate methodology only considers energy actions within the BM



Gas: Gas reciprocating units
NPSHYD: Non-Pumped Storage Hydro
PS: Pumped Storage

Contact us on box.SkipRates@neso.energy

Skip rate data and more info on skip rates including methodology can be found on our website.

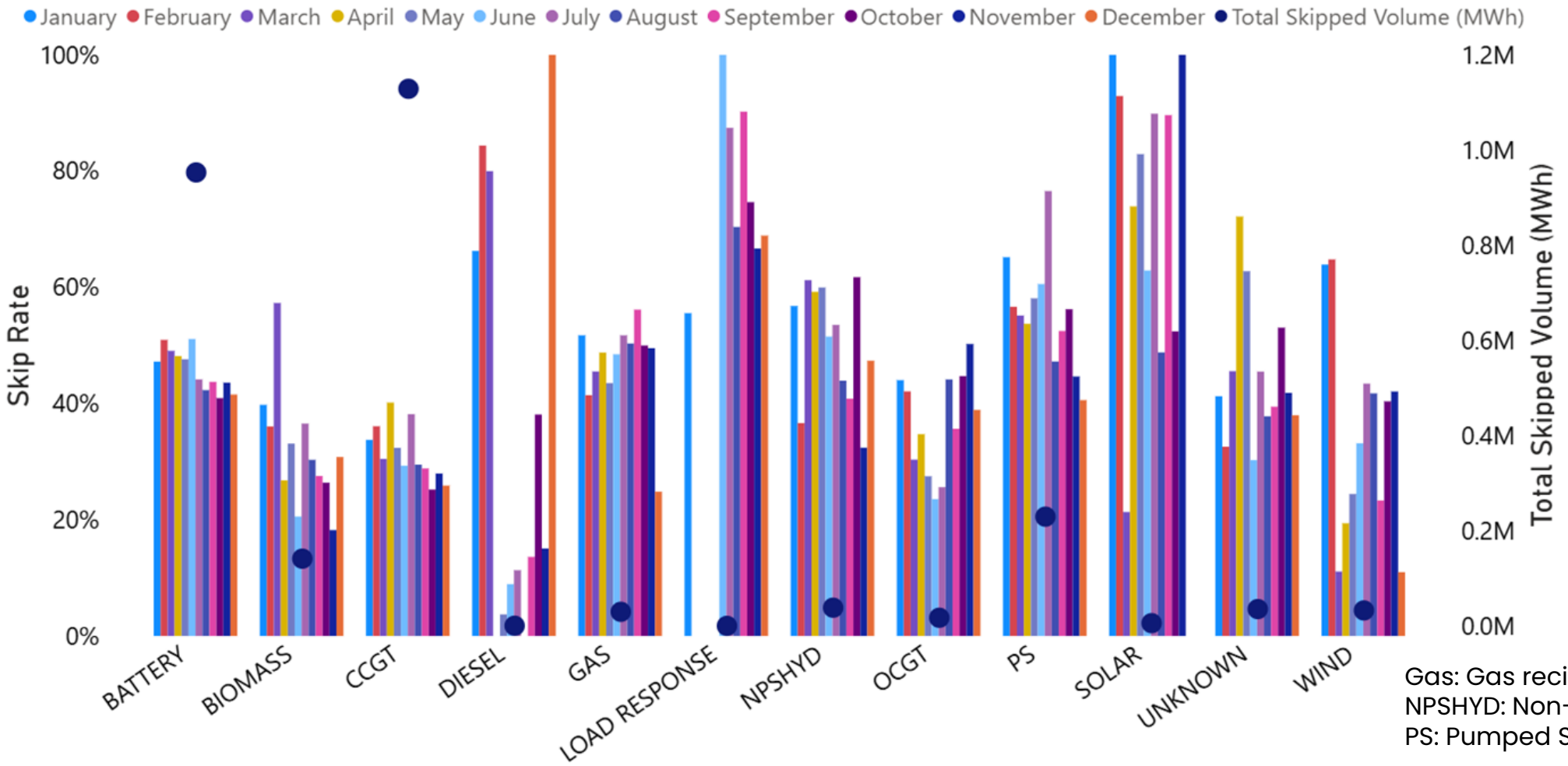
Rerecorded deep dive can be found on our webpage: here

NESO National Energy System Operator

Technology Specific Skip Rate – 1st Year Summary

Slido code #OTF

The current skip rate methodology only considers energy actions within the BM



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Skip Rates by Technology Type – Bids

Slido code #OTF

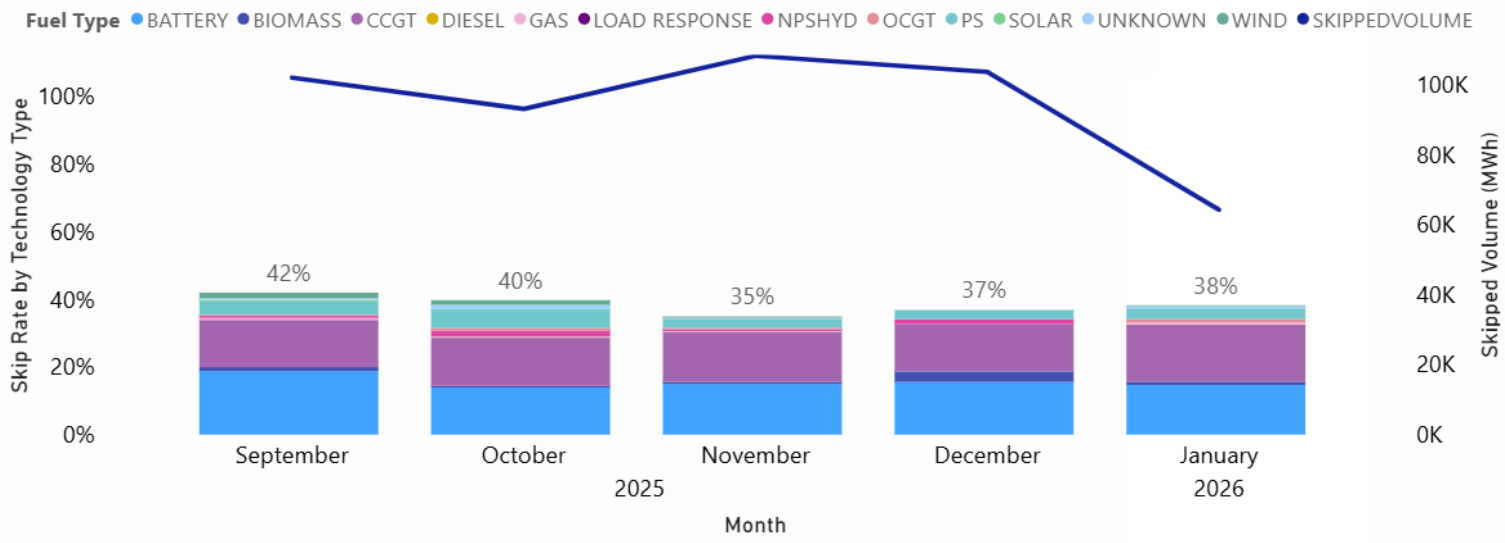
The current skip rate methodology only considers energy actions within the BM

We welcome your comments and feedback on these figures and how we present this data.

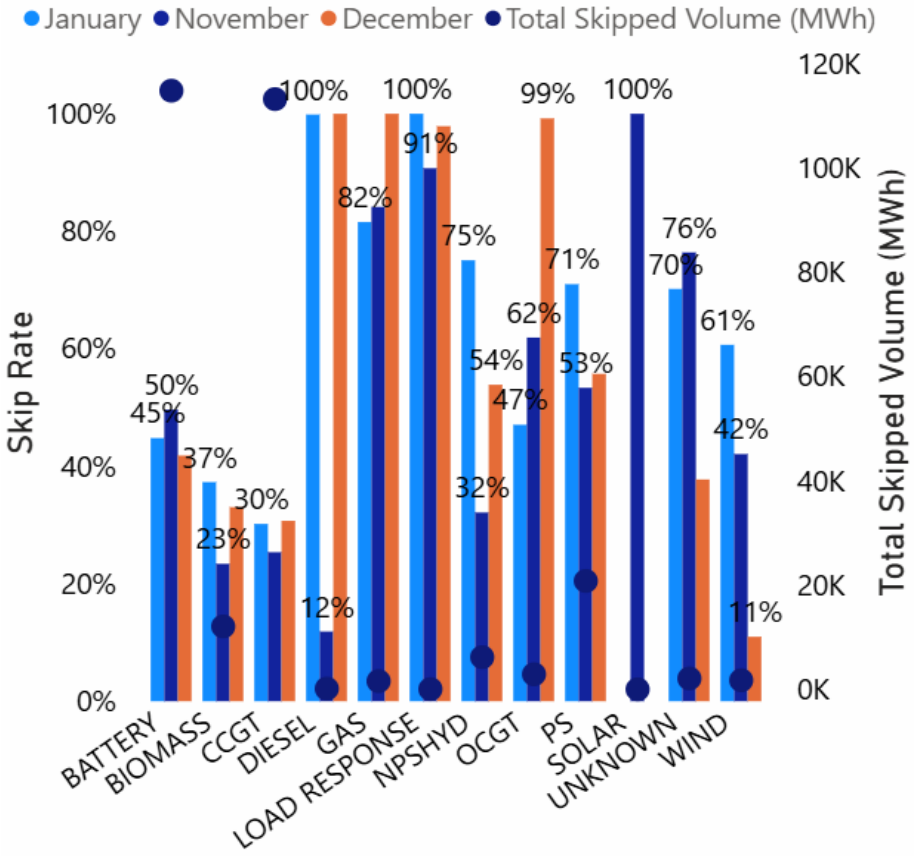
These graphs are based on stage 5 of the Post System Action definition.

Weekly Average w/e	Bids - All BM	Bids - PSA
28/12	26%	33%
04/01	7%	41%
11/01	10%	37%
18/01	6%	40%

Relative Technology Skip Rate



Technology Specific Skip Rate – last 3 months



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Skip Rates by Technology Type – Offers

Slido code #OTF

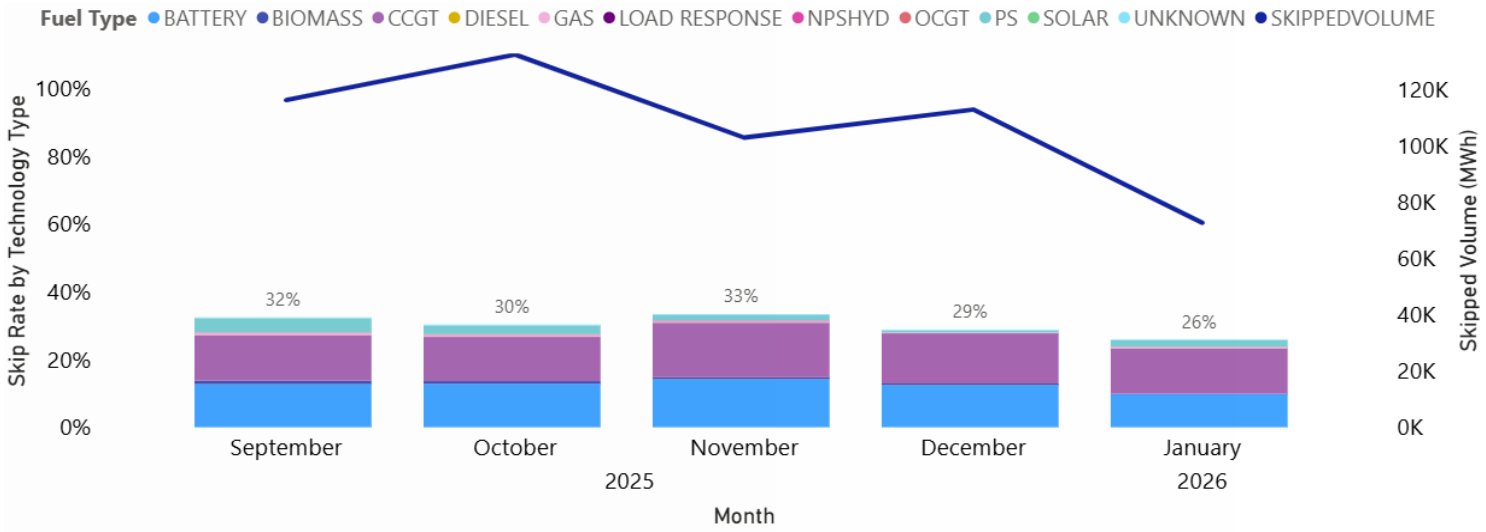
The current skip rate methodology only considers energy actions within the BM

We welcome your comments and feedback on these figures and how we present this data.

These graphs are based on stage 5 of the Post System Action definition.

Weekly Average w/e	Offers - All BM	Offers - PSA
28/12	5%	33%
04/01	18%	26%
11/01	17%	23%
18/01	20%	30%

Relative Technology Skip Rate



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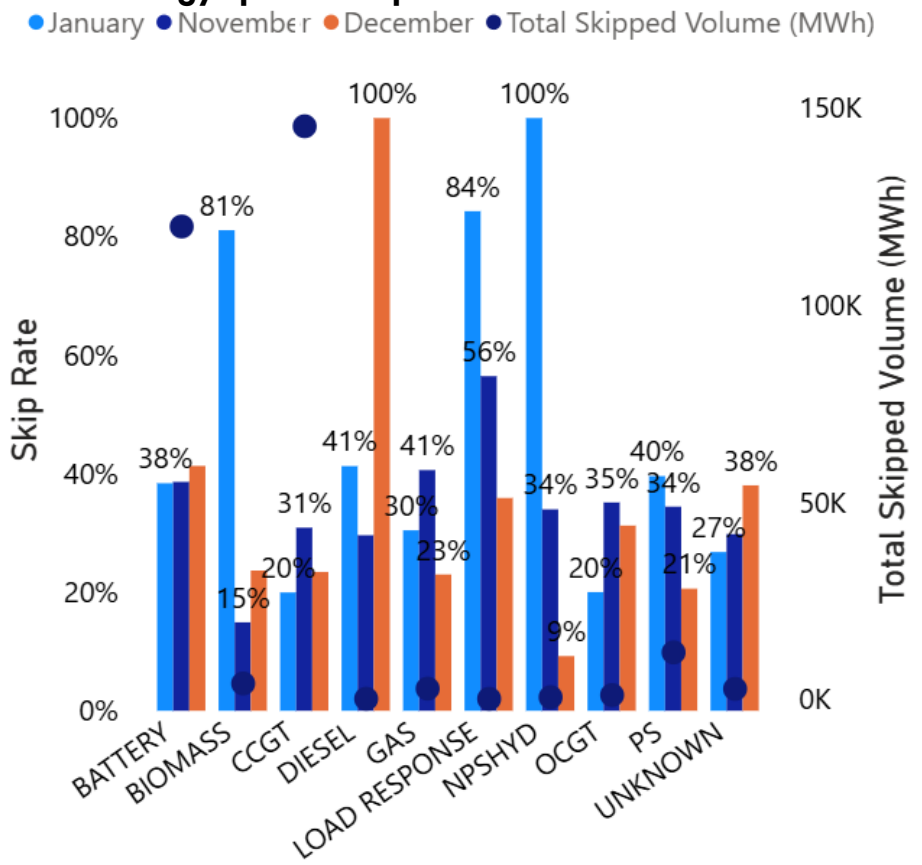

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NESO National Energy System Operator

Previously Asked Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (17/12/2025) Why does the B4/B5 boundary not reaching 100% capacity during the winter? Is it the B4 outages or B5 that are limiting the boundary? I think this should be close to 100% percent in winter given that is likely the most expensive boundary

A: The boundary capacity has increased because of the higher ratings during winter, due to lower ambient temperatures. However, we are unable to reach 100% due to outages across these boundaries. Currently, B5 is the more restrictive boundary of the two due to outages across the B5 boundary. On a day-to-day basis, the limiting boundary may change due to differing generation patterns.

Previously asked Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (07/01/26) On 5th&6th Jan IC export capacity restrictions were placed intraday by NESO across IC's with export capacity, preventing cheap GB MWs from flowing to higher priced border markets. NESO then buy GW's of volume across the IC's at higher prices than domestic BM. How are domestic MW's meant to sell MWs?

Q: (07/01/26) Again this week NESO have used IC over dispatching GB CCGTs at + 2x the price of Domestic MWs. Given your regular answer to this is CR intended to use everything priced below IC at time of procurement. Is it that NESO cannot forecast demand any more or that NESO favorites using IC over Domestic MWs?

Q: (14/01/26) I noted that NESO have not prepared answers for the 2 questions regarding interconnector dispatch ahead of cheaper GB MWs from 07/01. Please can NESO answer these questions as soon as possible and bring answers to the forum.

Q: (14/01/26) Regards the IC's on the 5th/6th, You say the experts are in the room making the decisions at the time, so why do they need to go away and collate the data. They were there making the decisions, what do they need to go find? A justification for a wrong decision?

A: On 5th and 6th January the NESO Control Room were managing a number of constraints on the network which limited the options available. All alternative options within the Balancing Mechanism were considered alongside the interconnector trades. The decisions made had to take into account the impact of network constraints.

We realise it can be frustrating when we do not answer questions on the day, however we ask all participants to remember the OTF is a professional forum where all participants expect to be treated with respect. If you have concerns about NESO decision making these should be reported to the Market Monitoring team at: marketreporting@neso.energy or alternatively to Ofgem at market.conduct@ofgem.gov.uk.

NESO National Energy System Operator

Advanced Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (17/12/25) In answer to question 2792 NESO said, "We are planning to present the impact of constraints on balancing costs at a future OTF". When is this happening?
A. We do not yet have a confirmed date, but likely February or March. This presentation will discuss the causes of constraints and cover the work NESO is doing together with government, industry and Ofgem to minimise constraints.

Q: (17/12/25) In answer to question 2783 and 2776 in June NESO stated "there are ongoing discussions being held to explore the possibility of publication of constraint information across NESO, Ofgem and DESNZ". What is the outcome of those discussions?
A: We are aware of the desire for greater transparency of constraint information and are continuing to explore and discuss what is possible to publish. We are sorry this is taking some time and will provide an update as soon as we are able. If you would like to ensure we understand your specific request around constraint information, you can view information on how to submit a Data Request at at: Data Sharing Approach | National Energy System Operator .

Q: (17/12/2025) In answer to question 2733 in May NESO stated "We are actively working on expanding our published datasets to include this information [re Constraints] " What is NESO's expectation on when that will be?
A: To add to the answer above, our data sharing team is working to address two requests for data about network congestion. You can view the External Data Sharing Requests at: Data Sharing Approach | National Energy System Operator . You can also make requests for data that is not currently shared using Data Request Form on this webpage.

NESO National Energy System Operator

Advanced Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (17/12/2025) In answer to question 2523 in January NESO stated "We aim to publish this [a lookup table that links the grid codes (SCOTEX, ESTEX, SEIMP etc etc) used in the constraint limit and other data sets to the constraint boundaries B6, B4 etc that are commonly used and to the constraint zones A-L] in the next couple of months and will inform the OTF when this is available." Please can NESO provide a link to this table.
A: As noted in the question answered last week about why the DRESHEX boundary is not included in Day Ahead constraints data, we are currently reviewing which boundaries are appropriate to publish across the areas of Day Ahead publications, OTF data, and 24-month-ahead data. Therefore, this table is currently pending while a decision is made on which boundaries will be published going forwards. Apologies we have not published it within the previously indicated timescales.

Q: (13/01/26) In the System incidents report (https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/industry-data-and-reports/system-performance-reports) there were trips on 12/08/2025 at 11:33:17 (Ref. 20250812-1) and 22/08/2025 at 11:13:40 (Ref. 20250822-1) where there were two close infeed/generation trips (at 18s and 2s respectively). The station of the second trip in each case is not recorded. Please can NESO report which stations tripped second in both of these events.

A: Extra details for Balancing Mechanism Units (BMUs) are typically placed in Column J, "Generation/Interconnection (MW) in the report. In the first event, no additional notes were required, as it involved the same BMU. Peterhead Power Station's steam turbine and a gas turbine suffered a trip (600.29 MW), followed 18 seconds later by another gas turbine (242.19 MW) in the same BMU (PEHE-1).

During the second incident, WBURB-3 (409.81 MW) tripped, with WBURB-2 (291.34 MW) also tripping two seconds afterwards. This information was recorded in Column J. WBURB-2 and WBURB-3 are separate BMUs which are both part of the West Burton site.

Advanced Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (14/01/26) NESO's Balancing Mechanism system is on outage on the 15th Jan, which will cause some disruption to parties look to re-optimise their positions whilst the system is unavailable.

Can NESO provide a plan regarding BM outages for the rest of 2026 - and are there any plans to allow the system to be maintained whilst minimising the impact on the market?

A: As yet there is no set plan as to when we have BM outages as this depends on testing any updates to the system. However, we get notified about 2-3 weeks ahead and a message is sent out to trading parties. Please can you contact bmu.registration@neso.energy to be put on the list for this email. Please note, although we plan when we need to take an outage, they don't always go ahead and can be cancelled on the day depending on Control Room needs. Please keep an eye on the Events Notices on the BMRS Events | Insights Solution, under IT Outages, where the notifications are published Week ahead, day ahead and on the day ahead.

Q: (15/01/26) Could you provide time-stamped capacity data illustrating how the Western HVDC Link fault results in a 2.2 GW impact across the B6 boundary?

A: This data is not currently publicly available. To request data that is not currently shared via the Open Data Portal or our public website, please submit a request through the Data Request Form. For more information go to: Data Sharing Approach | National Energy System Operator

NESO National Energy System Operator

Advanced Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (20/01/26) With regards to Q3109 and the answers to previous questions 2899, 2886 and 2874, am I correct that the only person who can see the answer to these questions is the person who asked it/them? And therefore if I want to get answers to what you determine to be “out of scope questions”, I must also ask the same question myself?

A. For questions on topics which are outside the scope of the Operational Transparency Forum, you can direct your questions to the specific NESO teams. If you are not sure which team to contact you can use the NESO help centre, details at: Contact us | National Energy System Operator and they will advise where to direct your query.

Outstanding Advanced Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (16/01/26) Are you aware that the EI volumes on VikingLink for the afternoon of 20th Nov 25 have been submitted to Elexon in the wrong direction. They have been applied to the cashout calculation as negative volumes, thereby reducing the NIVs throughout the afternoon and in turn reducing the cashout prices - in some instances flipping the system from short to long. Can you resubmit them in the correct direction? When will the updated cashout prices then be released?

A: Thank you for bring this to our attention. We will investigate the issue, resubmit details as necessary and update the OTF on progress.

Q: (20/01/26) As part of its customer facing and stakeholder focus and in order to replicate the good practice of leading commercial organisations, can NESO please provide a scoring mechanism for the answers to questions, so that users can score the answer given by NESO.

Q: (20/01/26) In answer to Q3112, NESO said "Thank you for your feedback, we will consider your suggestion." Please can NESO give a deadline for considering this suggestion?

Q: (20/01/26) In answer to Q3110, NESO said "We are currently reviewing.....". Please can NESO give a deadline for completing this review.

Reminder about answering questions at the NESO OTF

Slido code #OTF

- **Questions from unidentified parties will not be answered live**. If you have reasons to remain anonymous to the wider forum, please use the advance question or email options. Details in the appendix to the pack.
- **The OTF is not the place to challenge the actions of individual parties** (other than the NESO), and we will not comment on these challenges. This type of concern can be reported to the Market Monitoring team at: box.nc.customer@neso.energy.
- **Questions will be answered in the upvoted order whenever possible**. We will take questions from further down the list when: the answer is not ready; we need to take the question away or the topic is outside of the scope of the OTF.
- **Slido will remain open until 12:00**, even when the call closes earlier, to provide the maximum opportunity for you to ask questions.
- **All questions will be recorded and published** All questions asked through Sli.do will be recorded and published, with answers, in the Operational Transparency Forum Q&A on the webpage: https://www.neso.energy/what-we-do/systems-operations/operational-transparency-forum
- **Takeaway questions** – these questions will be included in the pack for the next OTF, we may ask you to contact us by email in order to clarify or confirm details for the question.
- **Out of scope questions** will be forwarded to the appropriate NESO expert or team for a direct response. We may ask you to contact us by email to ensure we have the correct contact details for the response. These questions will not be managed through the OTF, and we are unable to forward questions without correct contact details. Information about the OTF purpose and scope can be found in the appendix of this slide pack

NESO National Energy System Operator

slido

Audience Q&A

ⓘ Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.

Feedback

Slido code #OTF

Please remember to use the feedback poll in Sli.do after the event.

We welcome feedback to understand what we are doing well and how we can improve the event for the future.

If you have any questions after the event, please contact the following email address: box.nc.customer@neso.energy

Appendix

Purpose and scope of the NESO Operational Transparency Forum

Slido code #OTF

Purpose:

The Operational Transparency Forum runs once a week to provide updated information on and insight into the operational challenges faced by the control room in the recent past (1-2 weeks) and short-term future (1-2 weeks). The OTF will also signpost other NESO events, provide deep dives into focus topics, and allow industry to ask questions.

Scope:

Aligns with purpose, see examples below:

In Scope of OTF

Material presented i.e.: regular content, deep dives, focus topics
NESO operational approach & challenges
NESO published data

Out of Scope of OTF

Data owned and/or published by other parties
e.g.: BMRS is published by Elexon
Processes including consultations operated by other parties e.g.: Elexon, Ofgem, DESNZ
Data owned by other parties
Details of NESO Control Room actions & decision making
Activities & operations of particular market participants
NESO policy & strategic decision making
Formal consultations e.g.: Code Changes, Business Planning, Market development

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Managing questions at the NESO Operational Transparency Forum

Slido code #OTF

- OTF participants can ask questions in the following ways:
  - Live via Slido code #OTF
  - In advance (before 12:00 on Monday) at https://forms.office.com/r/k0AEfKnai3
  - At any time to box.nc.customer@neso.energy

- **All questions asked through Sli.do** will be recorded and published, with answers, in the Operational Transparency Forum Q&A on the webpage: Operational Transparency Forum | NESO
- **Advance questions** will be included, with answers, in the slide pack for the next OTF and published in the OTF Q&A as above.
- **Email questions** which specifically request inclusion in the OTF will be treated as Advance questions, otherwise we will only reply direct to the sender.
- **Takeaway questions** – we may ask you to contact us by email in order to clarify or confirm details for the question.
- **Out of scope questions** will be forwarded to the appropriate NESO expert or team for a direct response. We may ask you to contact us by email to ensure we have the correct contact details for the response. These questions will not be managed through the OTF, and we are unable to forward questions without correct contact details. Information about the OTF purpose and scope can be found in the appendix of this slide pack.

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Skip Rates – 'In Merit' datasets

We recognise that these datasets aren't as intuitive as they could be – specifically the column headings. Please be reassured that we are looking at ways to improve this - we will update the documentation to include this information and will also discuss the datasets in more detail at the webinar on 27th February.

We will use 'accepted' and 'instructed' differently in this context, even though they are normally the same.

These datasets show the units that should have been instructed if decisions were solely based on price, rather than all units that were instructed. Therefore this dataset does not match the total accepted volume datasets in Elexon.

In Merit Volume = Accepted Volume + Skipped Volume

In Merit Volume
- This is the recreated in merit stack showing the lowest cost units that were available to meet the requirement, where the requirement is based on the volume of units that were actually instructed
- Therefore this is the volume that should have been accepted if decisions were solely based on price
- The sum of this column is the total instructed volume in the 5 minute period (subject to the relevant exclusions)

Accepted Volume
- This is the volume that was accepted in merit, as a subset of the 'In Merit Volume' column – i.e. how much volume was accepted in merit
- The sum of this column will be less than the sum of the 'In Merit Volume' column, unless there is no skipped volume
- Note: this column does not list all instructed units

Skipped Volume
- This is the volume that was skipped, as a subset of the 'In Merit Volume' column – i.e. of the volume that we should have instructed, how much was skipped

It's possible that the list of units increases, decreases, or stays the same between stages, but the total 'In Merit Volume' will always remain the same (or no volume is excluded) or decrease (due to exclusions).