Public

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- Click ‘Turn on live captions’

NESO Operational Transparency Forum

28 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

NESO National Energy System Operator

Future deep dive/focus topics

Slido code #OTF

Today's deep dive/focus topics

N/A

Future

Market Monitoring call for input feedback – 4 February

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

Network Access Planning (NAP) OC2 Forum

Slido code #OTF

When? Tuesday 24 March 2026, 9am-5pm (in-person attendance)
Where? Park Regis Birmingham, 160 Broad Street, Birmingham, B15 1DT

What is the NAP OC2 Forum?

The OC2 Forum **brings together customers and stakeholders to discuss outage coordination and network access planning**. We will share updates on key reforms—such as System Access Reform (SAR)—and work together to make complex topics, including constraint management, voltage challenges and various NAP projects, clearer and more accessible.

The forum will include **presentations, breakout discussions on challenges and opportunities, and a Q&A session** with some of our NESO leadership team. This is your opportunity to provide feedback, influence future processes, and connect with industry peers.

A detailed agenda and full plan for the day will be shared closer to the event.

Who should attend?

Anyone involved in or affected by outage coordination and network access planning:

- Transmission Owners (TO)
- Offshore TOs, Distribution Network Operators (DNO)
- Generators
- Interconnectors
- Academia
- Anyone interested in system access reforms

How do I register?

- Please book your space **by Monday 16 February 2026 via this Eventbrite link**.
- After registering, you'll receive full event details and joining instructions.

You can find content presented at our previous forums on our website here under Events & Documentation.

If you have any questions, please email box.oc2forum@neso.energy.

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Balancing Programme March 2026 Webinar

Slido code #OTF

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

Slow Reserve update

- **Single Markets Platform (SMP):** 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 Slow Reserve webpage.

- **Enduring Auction Capability (EAC):** 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

Slow Reserve update

Slido code #OTF

- Slow Reserve service go-live and end of the STOR service will be **31 March 2026**
- Thanks to market providers that have reached out to us to date to indicate their intention to enter the Slow Reserve market - we are engaged with around 25 providers, many of whom are already at various stages in the onboarding process
- Providers will have different system integration requirements depending on the markets they already participate in (BM or non-BM and/or if they are in other balancing services) and our onboarding teams are on hand to support you thorough the onboarding process

Onboarding Step	System	BM	Non-BM
Registration of Assets/Units	SMP	✓	✓
Performance Metering Testing	STAR	✓	✓
Balancing System Testing	OBP	✗	✓
Operational Metering Testing	iHost	✗	✓
EAC Access	EAC	✓	✓

- Interested providers yet to reach out to us are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.
- We would welcome any feedback on Slow Reserve onboarding and system integration
- box.futureofbalancingservices@neso.energy or commercial.operation@neso.energy

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Future Event Summary

Slido code #OTF

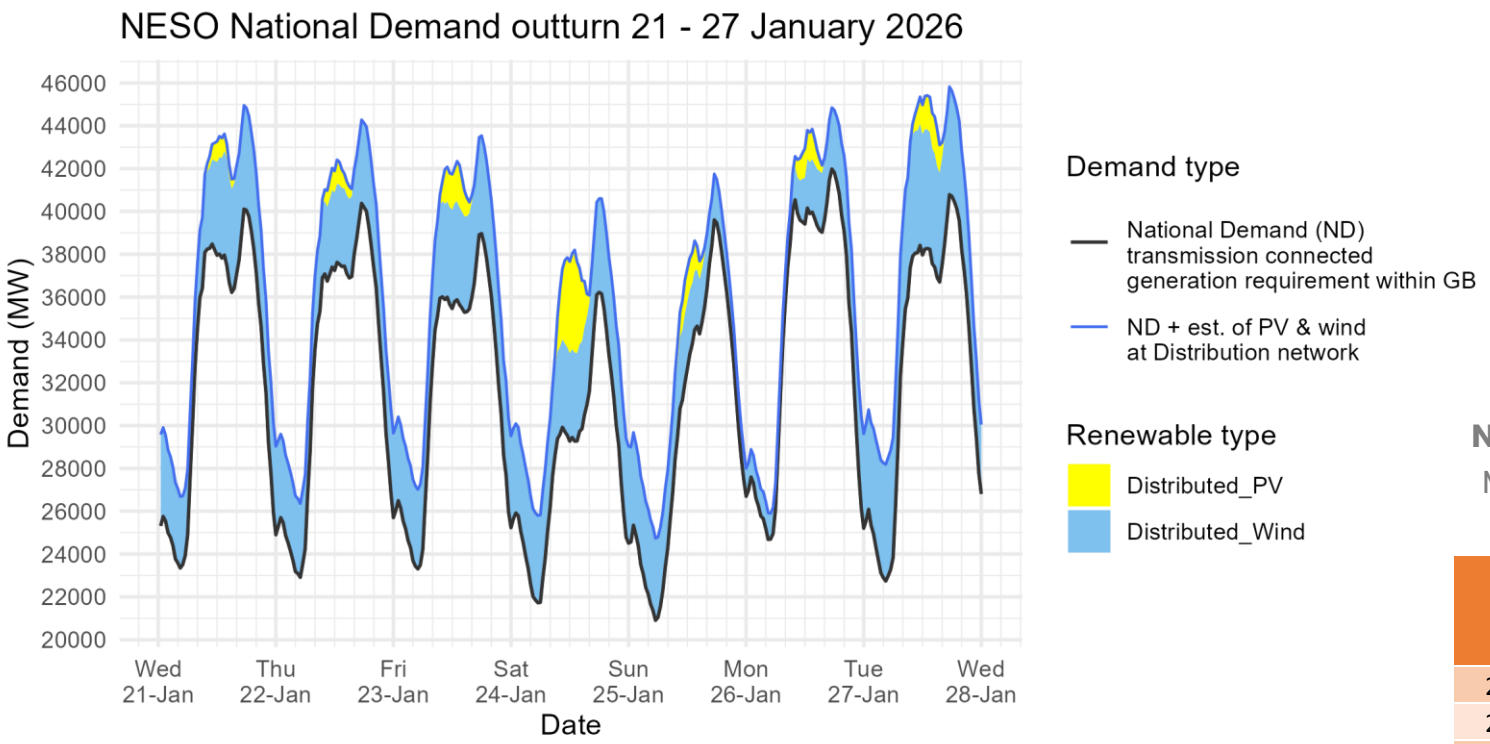
Event	Date & Time	Link
Reactive Power Mid-term Market: Pre-market Consultation	4 Feb (16:00) Closing Date	Consultation Documentation
C9 Licence Condition Annual Review: Consultation	6 Feb (17:00) Closing Date	Consultation Documentation
Network Access Planning (NAP) OC2 Forum	24 Mar (09:00-17:00)	Register here
Balancing Programme March 2026 Webinar	26 Mar (11:00-12:30)	Register here
Slow Reserve service go-live and end of the STOR service	31 Mar	

Check out the NESO Events Calendar for more...

NESO National Energy System Operator

Demand | Last week demand out-turn

Slido code #OTF



Distributed generation

Peak values by day

Date	OUTTURN	
	Daily Max Dist. PV (GW)	Daily Max Dist. Wind (GW)
21 Jan 2026	1.0	5.0
22 Jan 2026	1.1	4.0
23 Jan 2026	2.0	4.6
24 Jan 2026	4.8	4.7
25 Jan 2026	1.6	4.4
26 Jan 2026	1.4	4.4
27 Jan 2026	1.7	5.7

National Demand

Minimum & Peak Demands

Date	Forecasting Point	FORECAST (Wed 21 Jan)		OUTTURN	
		National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)	National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)
21 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	40.0	5.1	40.1	4.8
22 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	21.9	4.1	22.9	3.4
22 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	40.3	4.1	40.4	3.9
23 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	22.2	4.1	23.3	3.7
23 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	38.0	4.3	39.0	4.6
24 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	22.6	3.0	21.7	4.1
24 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	37.7	2.5	36.2	4.4
25 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	23.2	2.0	20.9	3.8
25 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	40.4	1.8	39.6	2.1
26 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	25.6	0.9	24.7	1.2
26 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	44.6	1.3	42.0	2.9
27 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	26.0	2.0	22.7	5.4
27 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	43.7	2.0	40.8	5.0

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

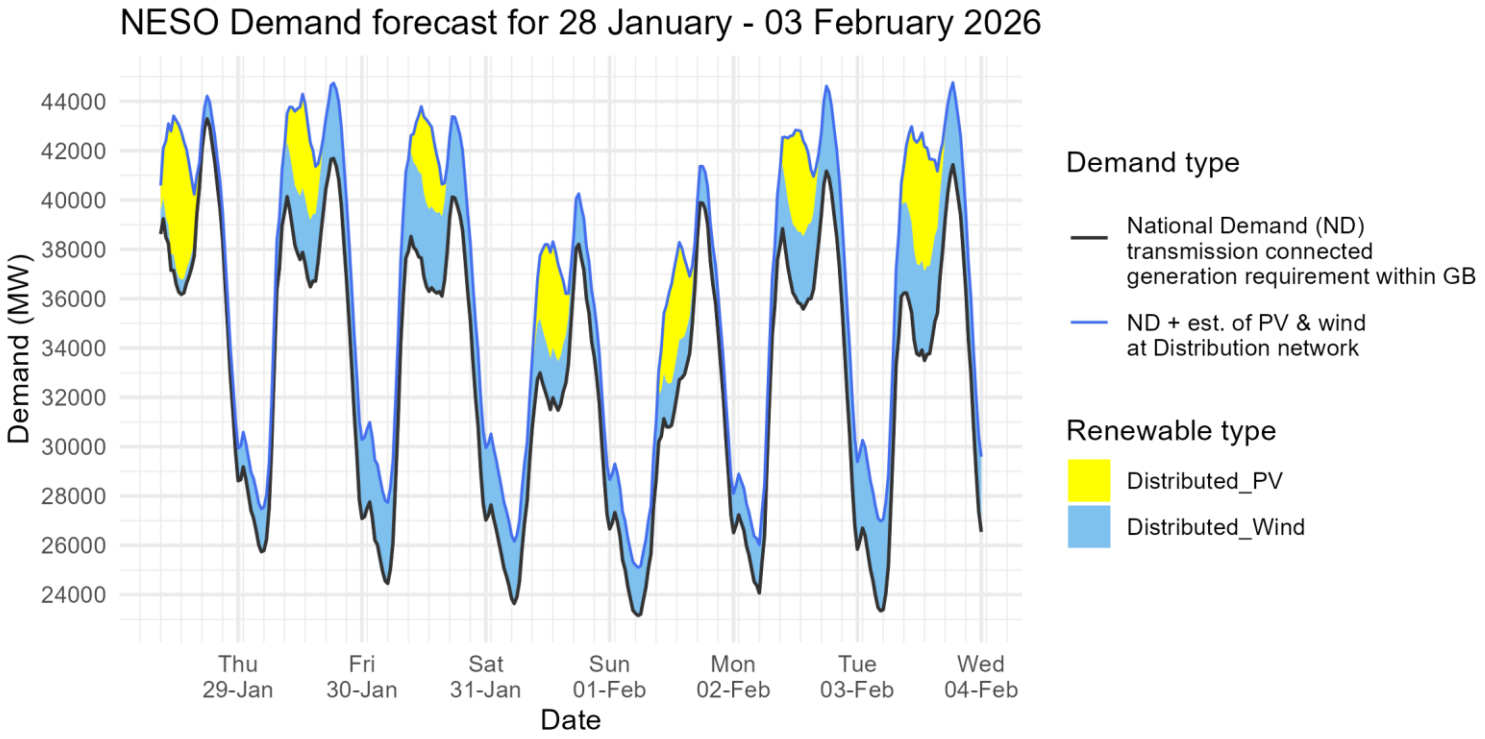
ND values do not include export on interconnectors or pumping or station load

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

Slido code #OTF



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National Demand

Minimum Demands

		FORECAST (Wed 28 Jan)	
Date	Forecasting Point	National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)
28 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	43.3	0.9
29 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	25.7	1.7
29 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	41.7	3.1
30 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	24.5	3.3
30 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	40.1	3.3
31 Jan 2026	Overnight Min	23.6	2.5
31 Jan 2026	Evening Peak	38.2	2.0
01 Feb 2026	Overnight Min	23.2	2.0
01 Feb 2026	Evening Peak	39.9	1.5
02 Feb 2026	Overnight Min	24.1	2.0
02 Feb 2026	Evening Peak	41.2	3.5
03 Feb 2026	Overnight Min	23.3	3.6
03 Feb 2026	Evening Peak	41.4	3.3

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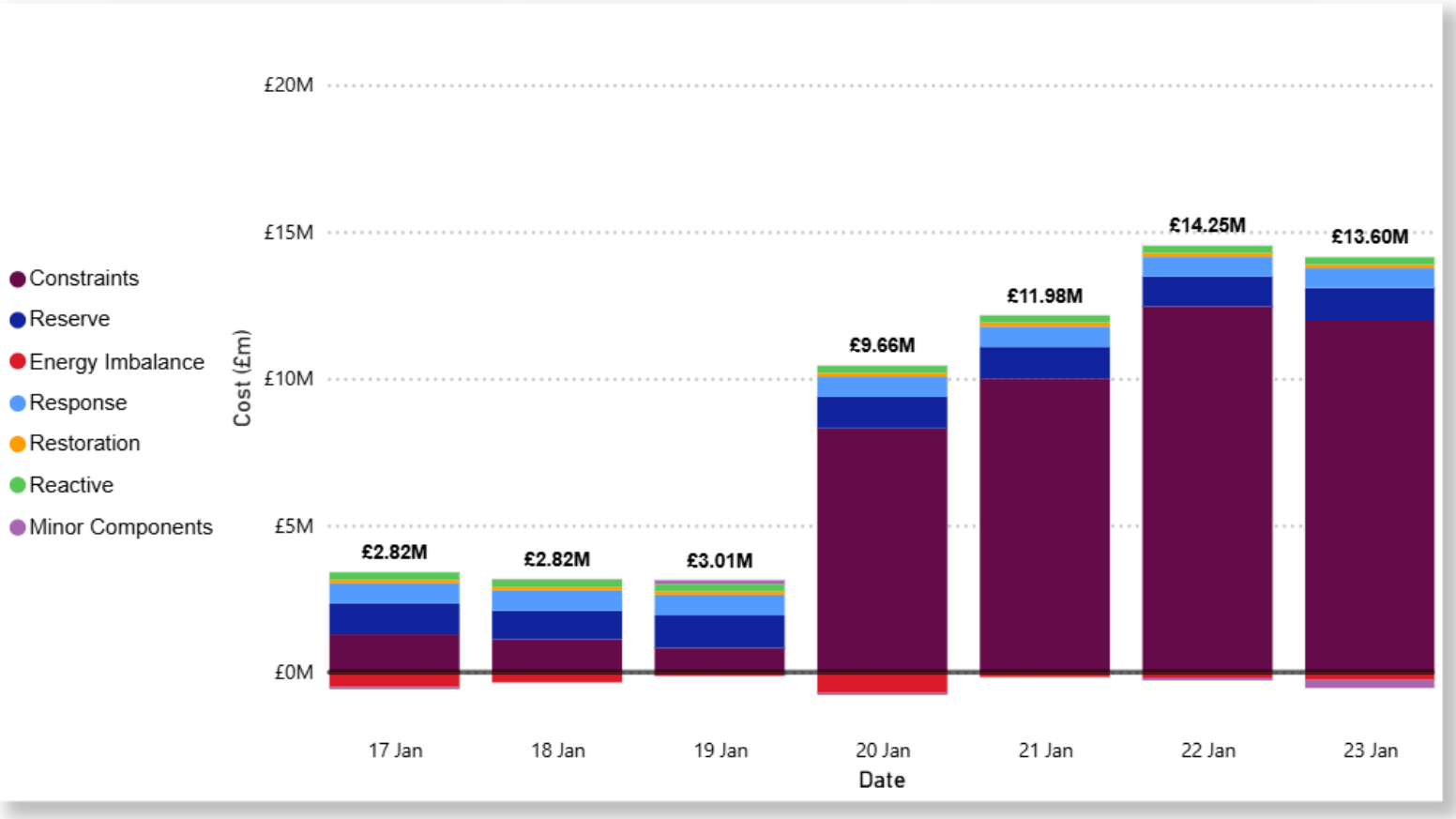
NESO Actions | Category Cost Breakdown

Date

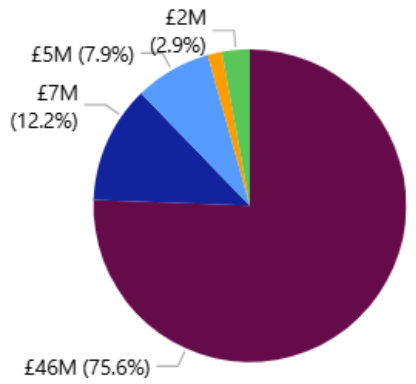
17/01/2026 23/01/2026

Weekly Total Costs (£)	Last Week Total Costs (£)	Past 30-Day Average Costs (£)
58.1M	65.4M	7.8M



Date	Total Costs
17 January 2026	£2,823,367
18 January 2026	£2,821,455
19 January 2026	£3,007,853
20 January 2026	£9,661,470
21 January 2026	£11,984,383
22 January 2026	£14,248,717
23 January 2026	£13,595,322
Total	**£58,142,567**

Weekly Cost (£) and Share (%)



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NESO Actions | Constraint Cost Breakdown

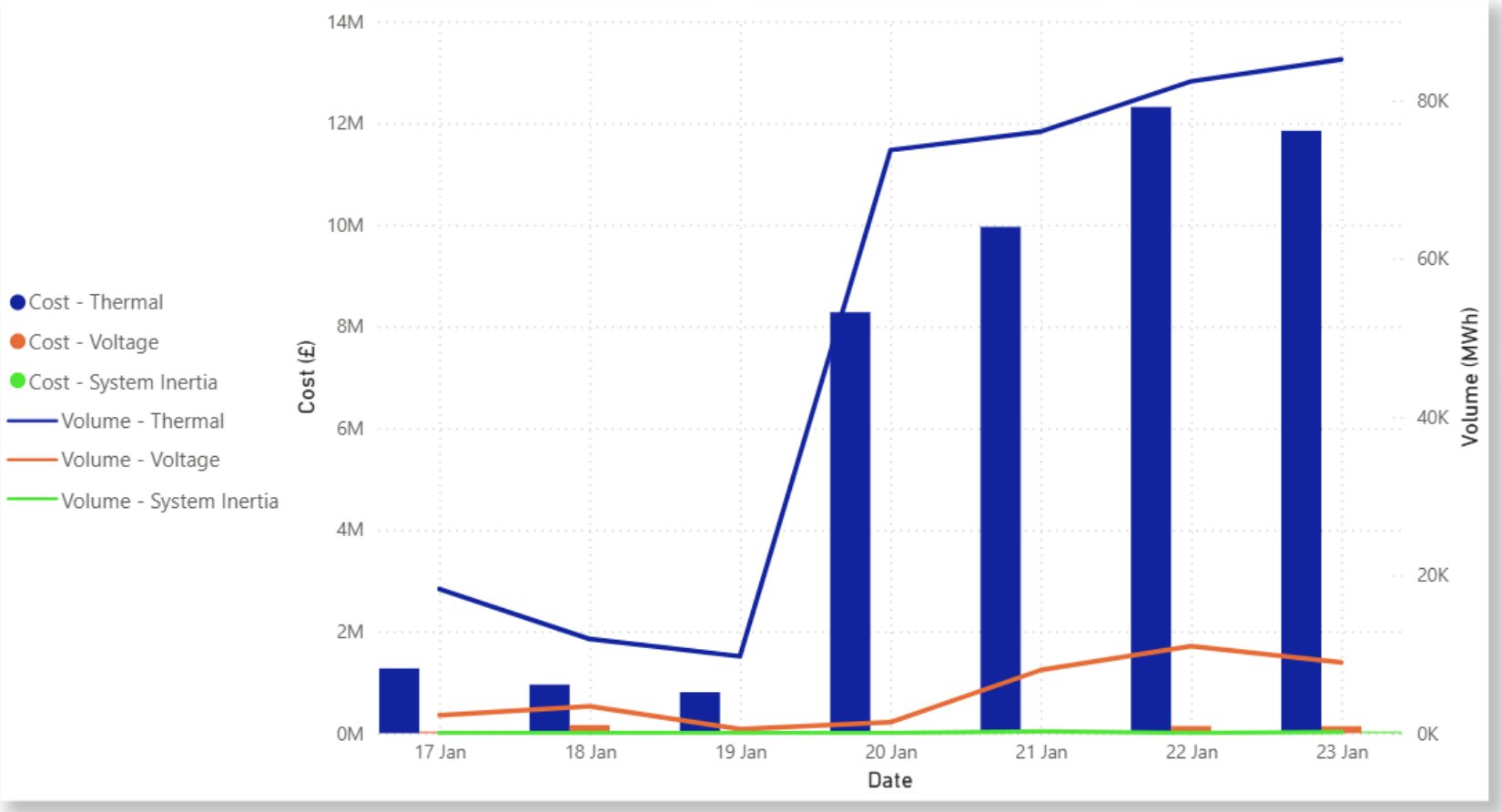
Slido code #OTF

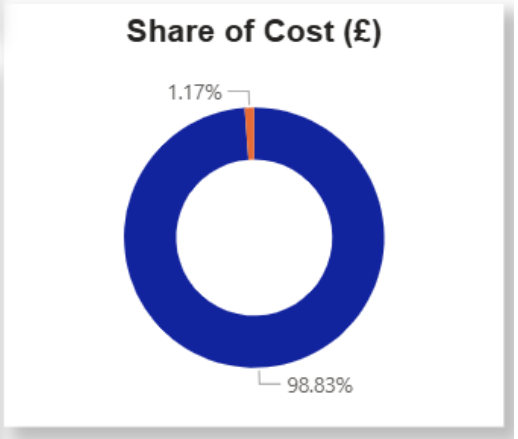
Date
17/01/2026 23/01/2026

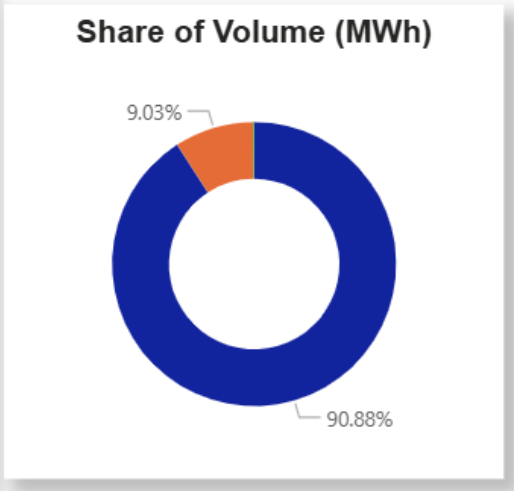
Thermal Constraints	
Costs (£)	Vol (MWh)
45.44M	357.27K

Voltage Constraints	
Costs (£)	Vol (MWh)
537.27K	35.49K

System Inertia	
Costs (£)	Vol (MWh)
391.50	368.53







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

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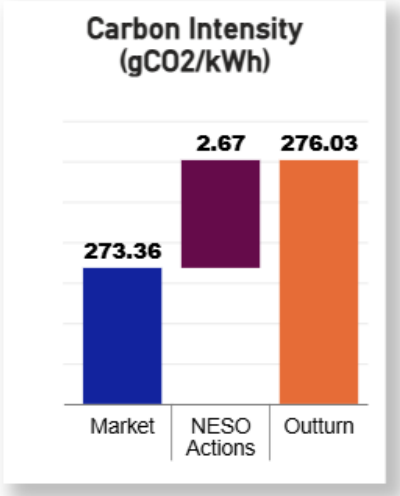
NESO Actions | Peak Demand – Settlement Period (SP) spend ~£84k Monday 19th January

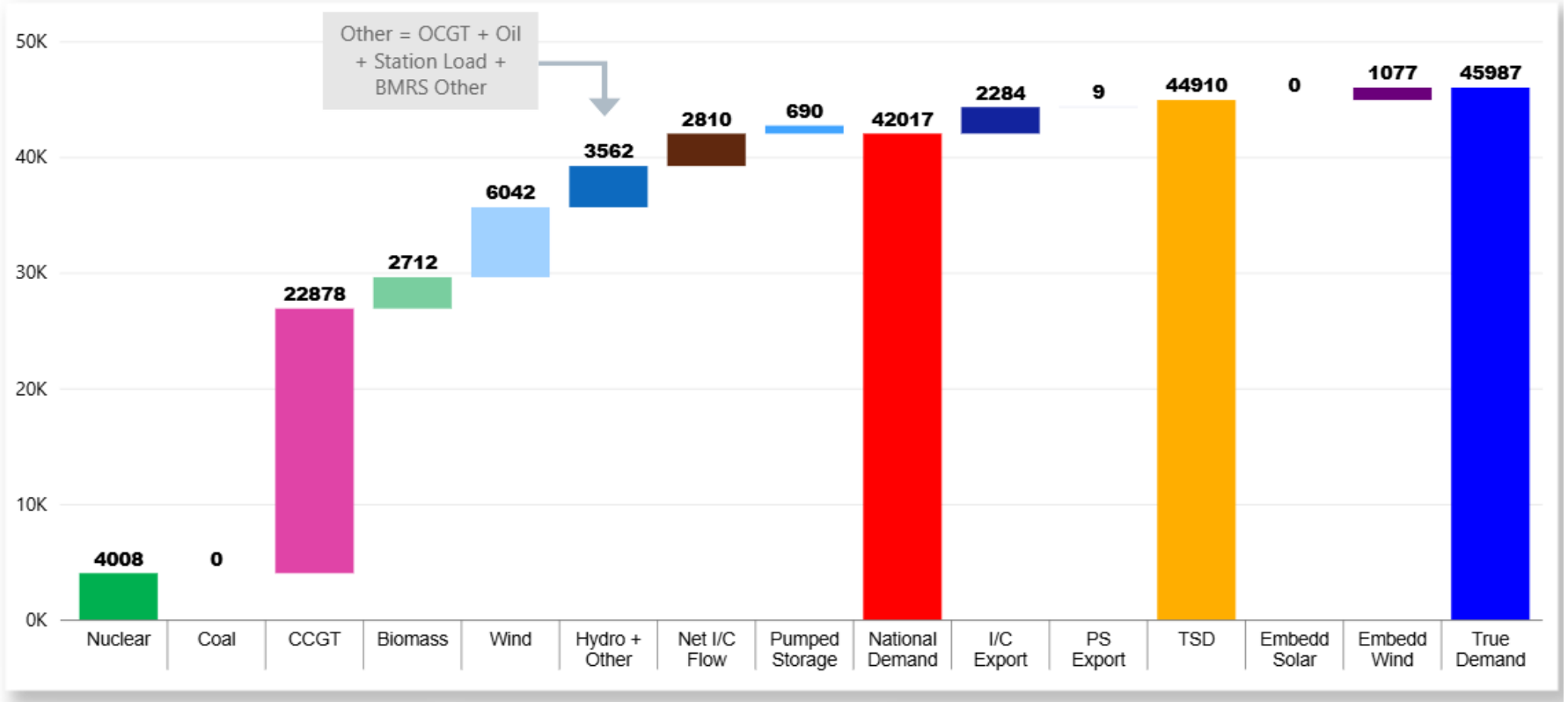
Slido code #OTF

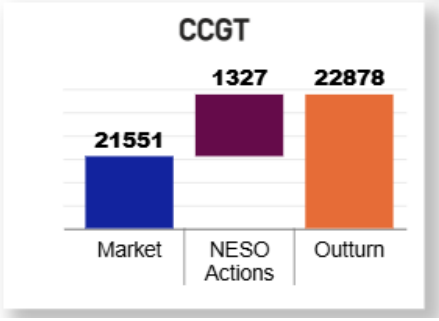
Date: 19 January 2026

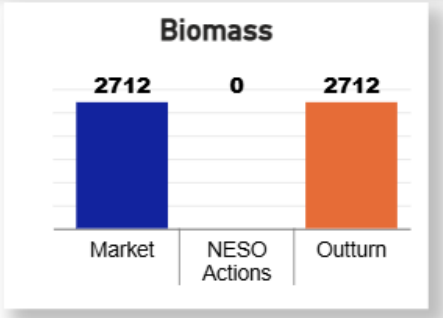
SP: 35

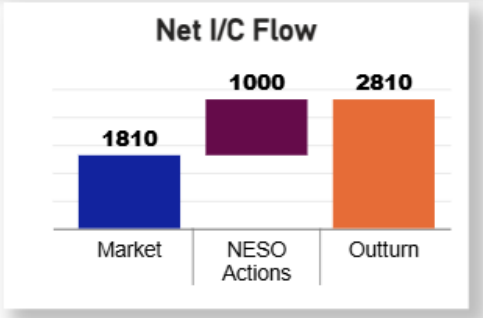
Half-hour preceding: 17:30

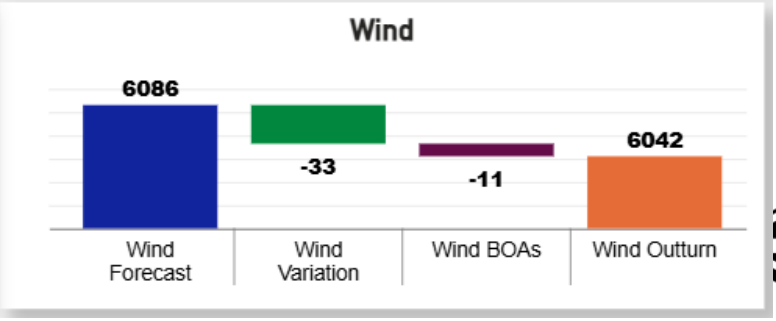










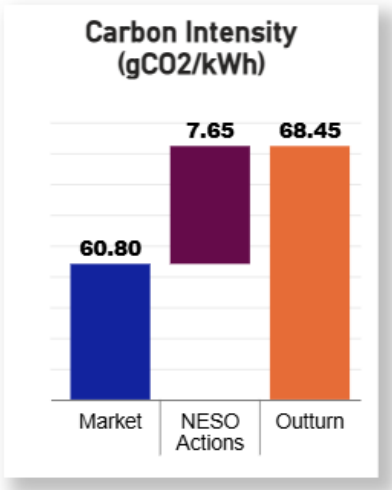


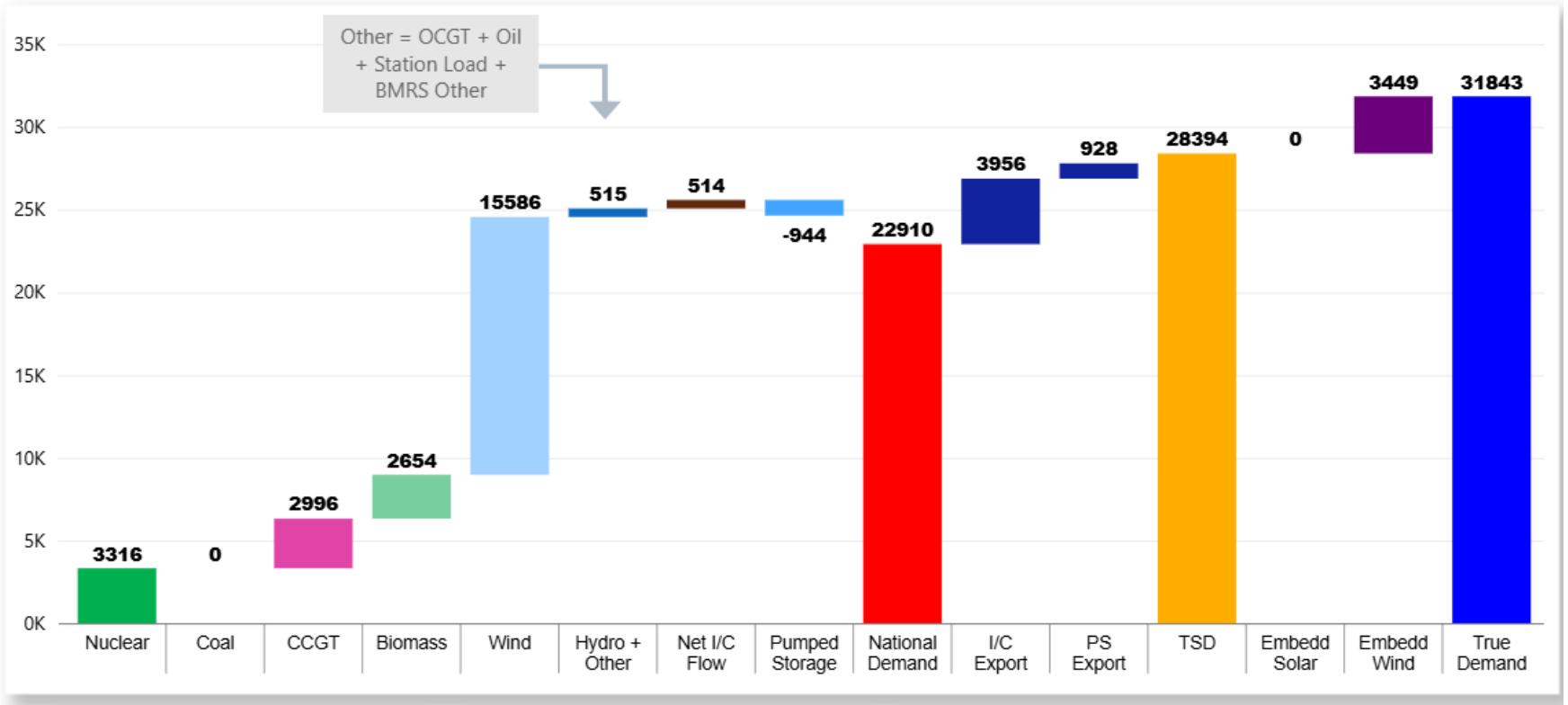
NESO Actions | Minimum Demand – SP spend ~£220k
Thursday 22nd January

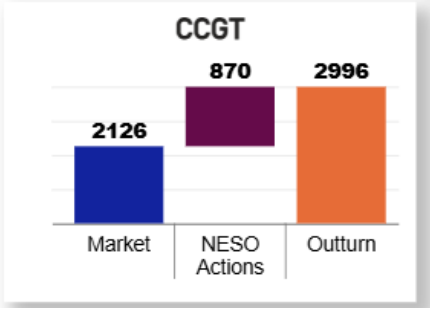
Slido code #OTF

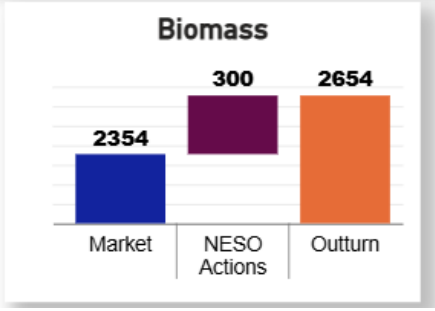
Date: 22 January 2026 | SP: 10

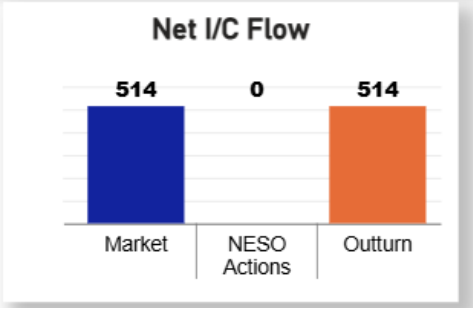
Half-hour preceding
05:00

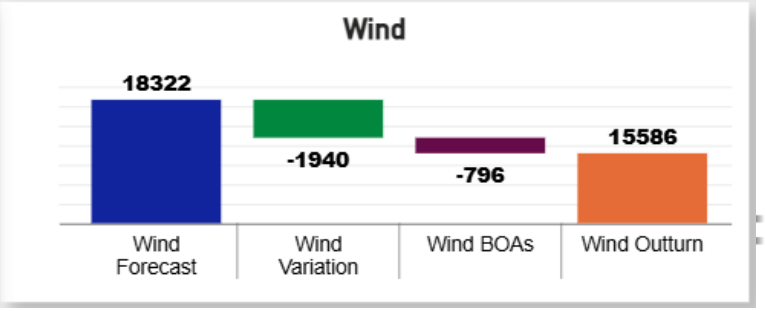










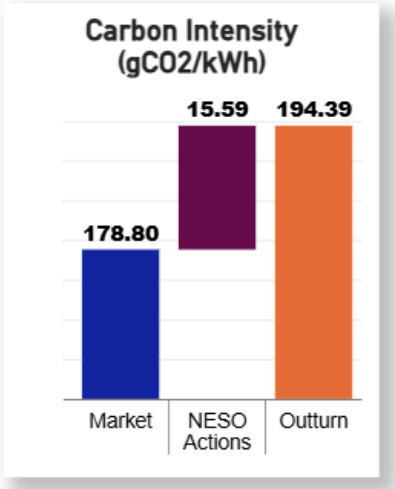


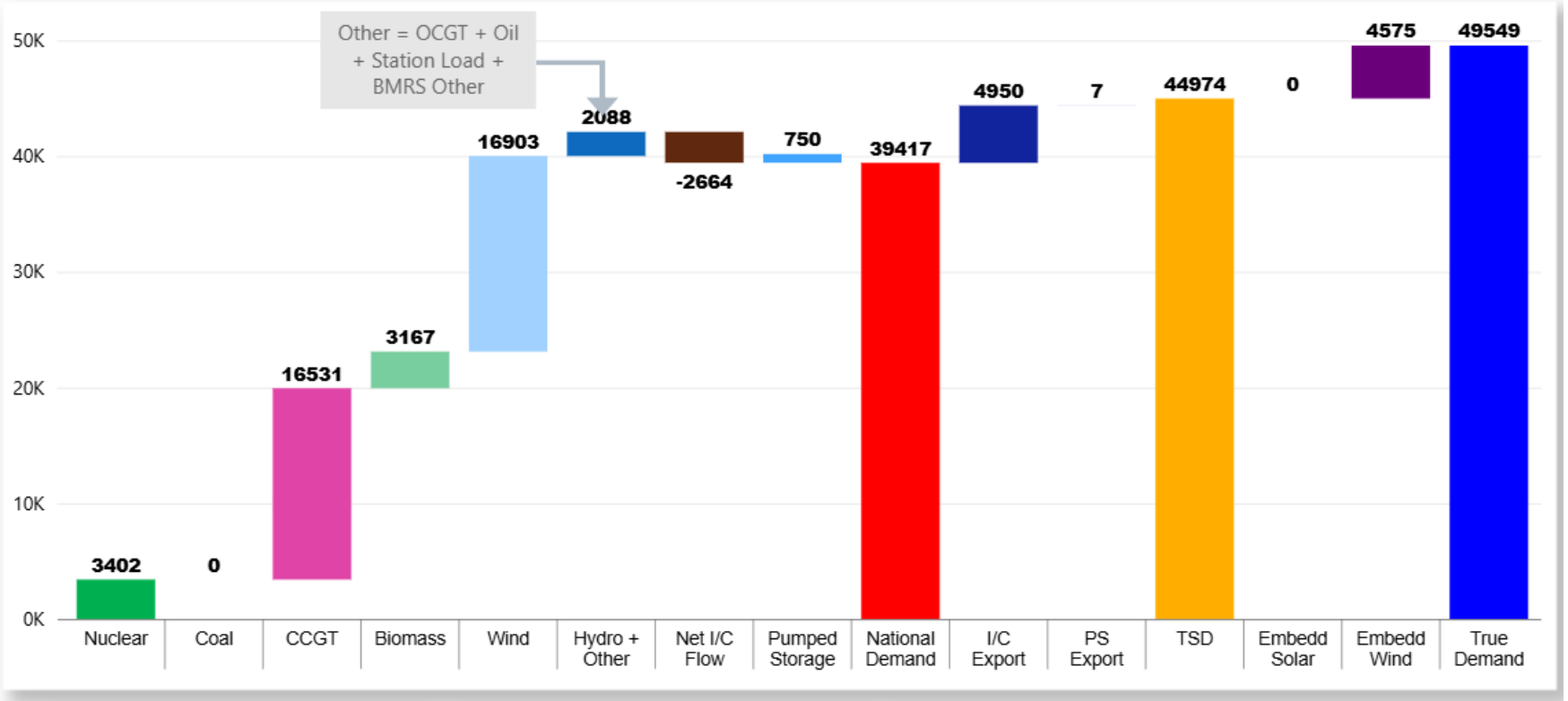
NESO Actions | Highest SP spend ~£364k
Tuesday 20th January

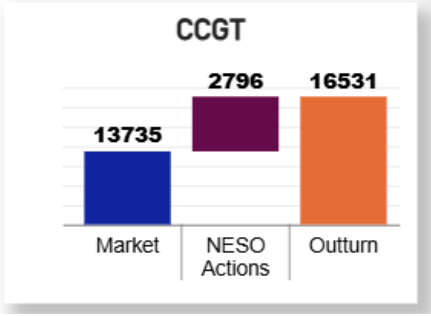
Slido code #OTF

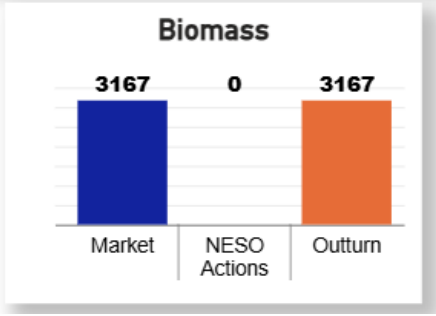
Date: 20 January 2026 | SP: 36

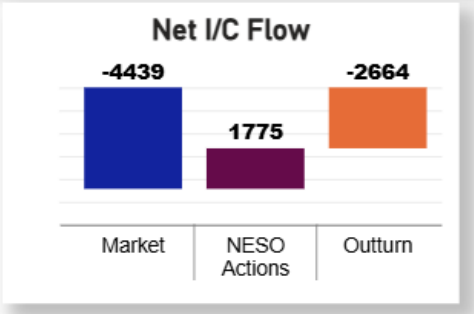
Half-hour preceding
18:00

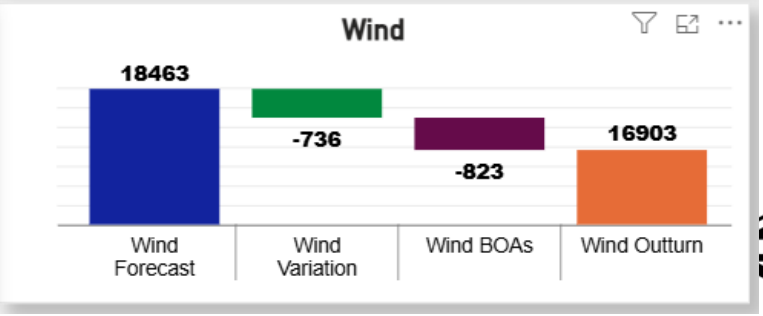






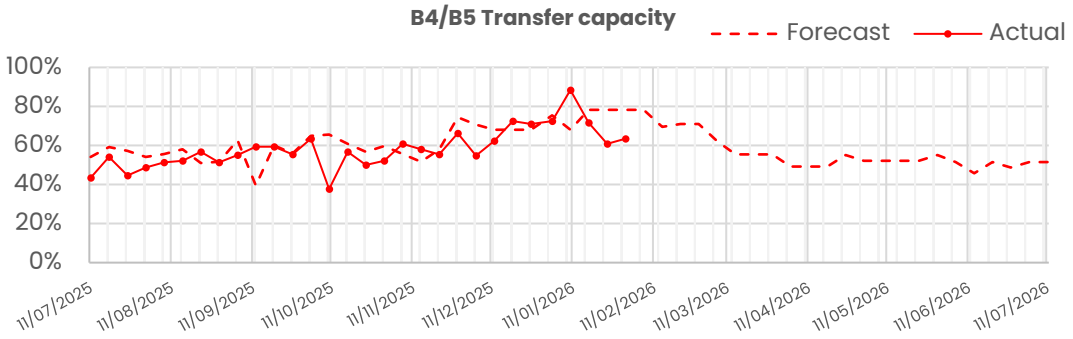


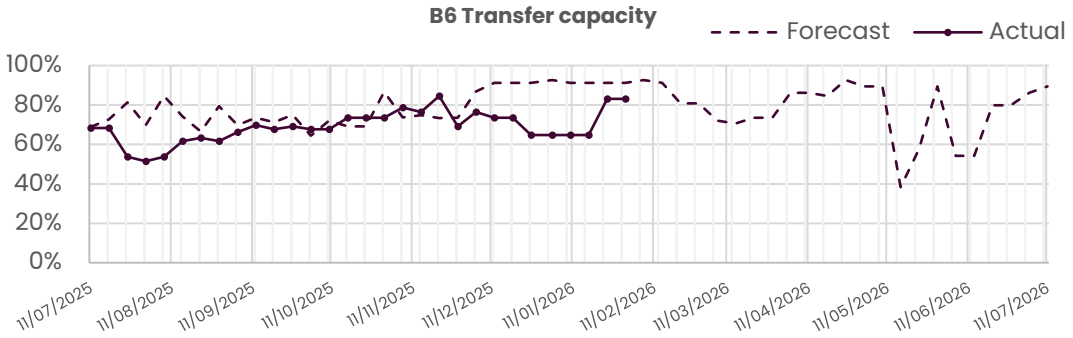


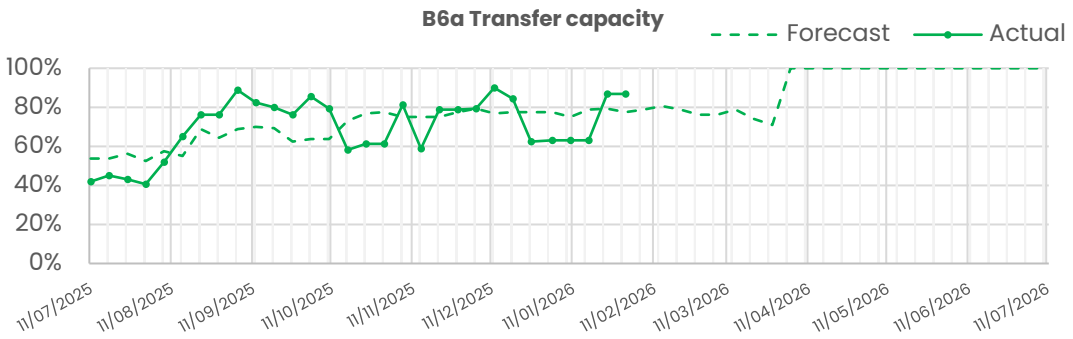


Transparency | Network Congestion

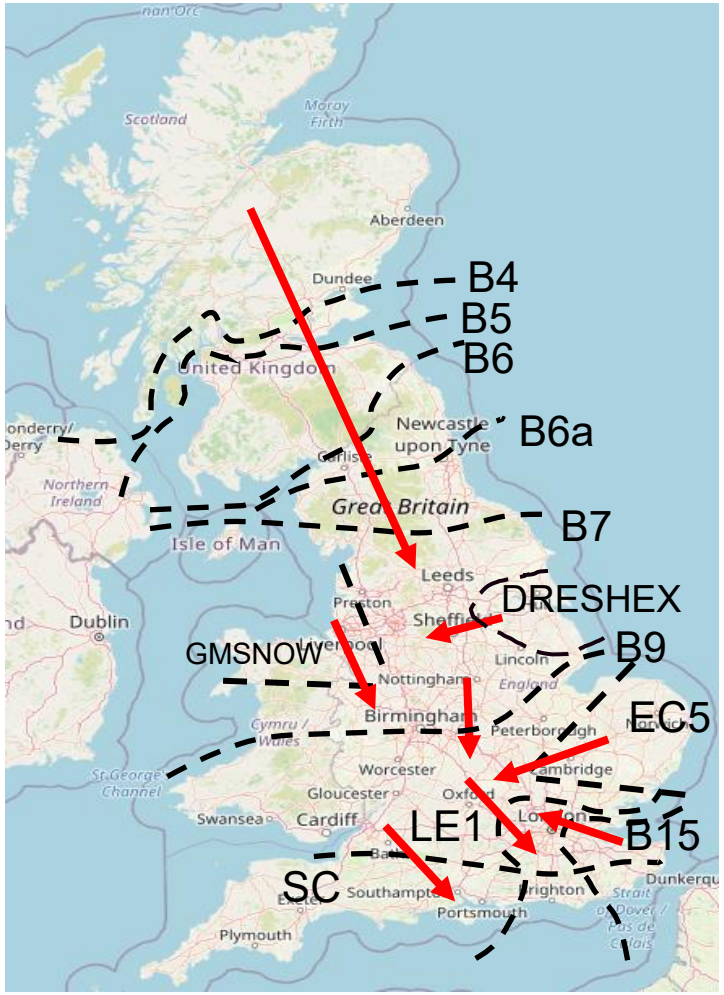
Slido code #OTF







Boundary	Max. Capacity (MW)	Current Capacity (%)
B4/B5	3400	64
B6 (SCOTEX)	6800	83
B6a	8000	87
B7 (SSHARN)	9850	82
GMSNOW	5800	48
FLOWSTH (B9)	12700	76
DRESHEX	9675	69
EC5	5000	100
LE1 (SEIMP)	8750	69
B15 (ESTEX)	7500	93
SC1	7300	100

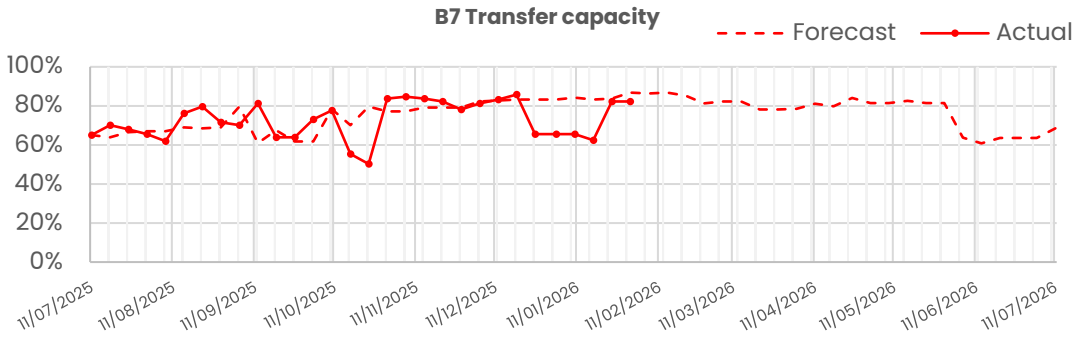


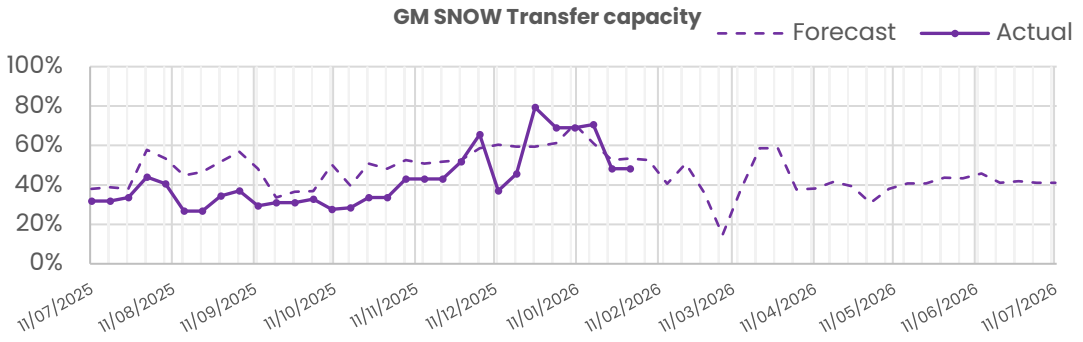
The forecast line is updated with the 10-week ahead view, and this happens each week. So, everything up to 10 weeks ahead is the forecast from 10-week ahead view, and everything after that is the fixed long-term forecast view.

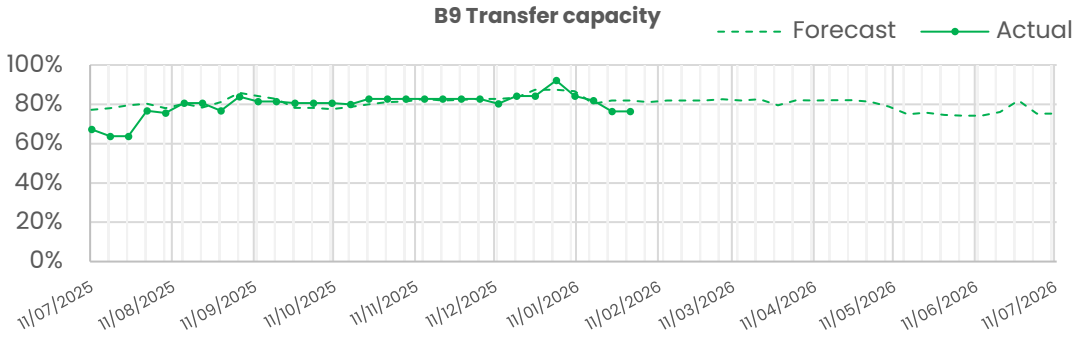
NESO National Energy System Operator

Transparency | Network Congestion

Slido code #OTF







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EC5	5000	100
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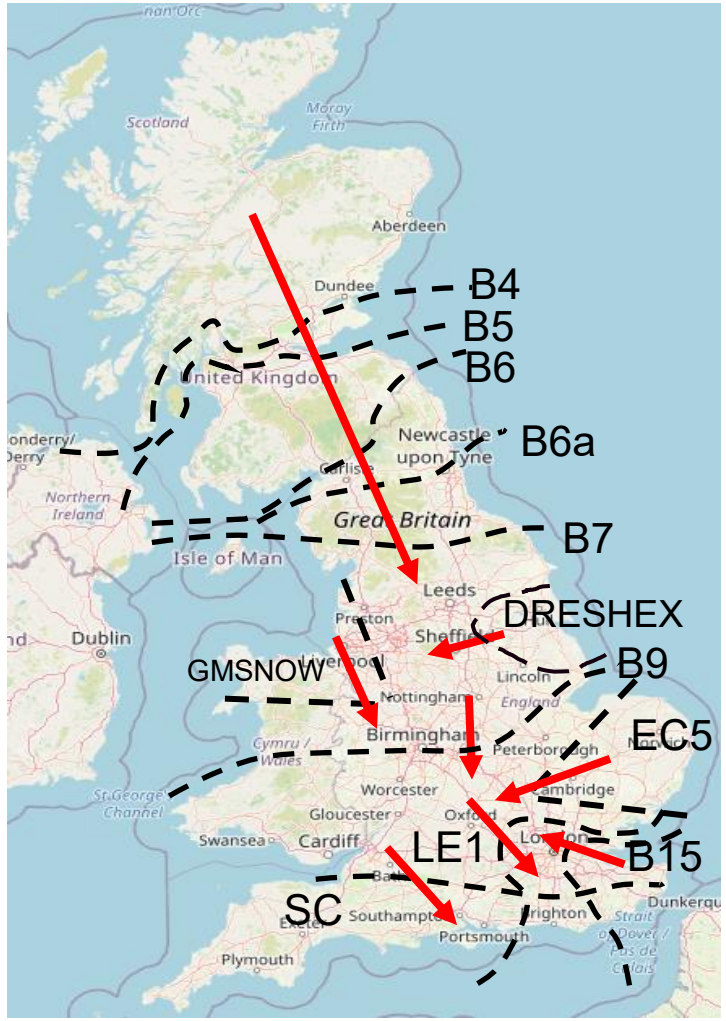
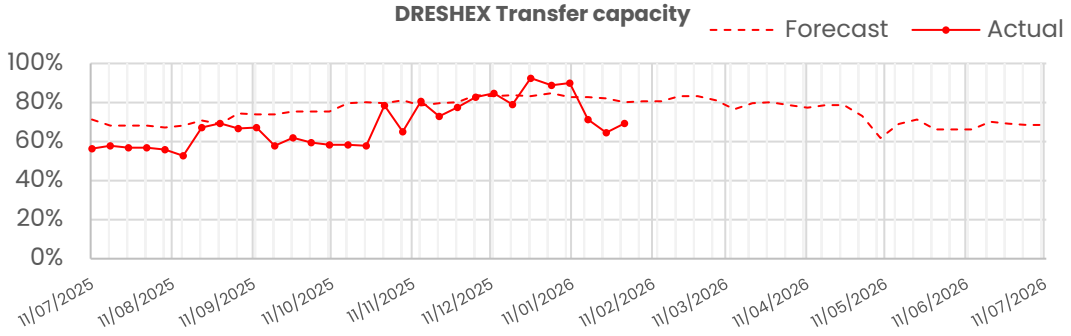
B15 (ESTEX)	7500	93
SC1	7300	100

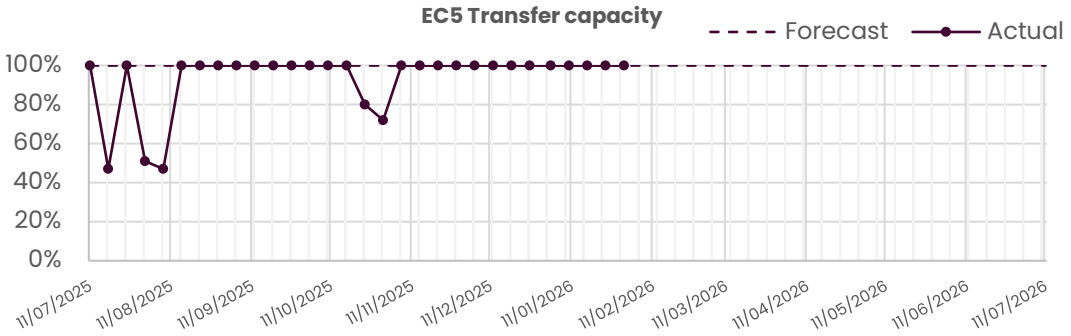


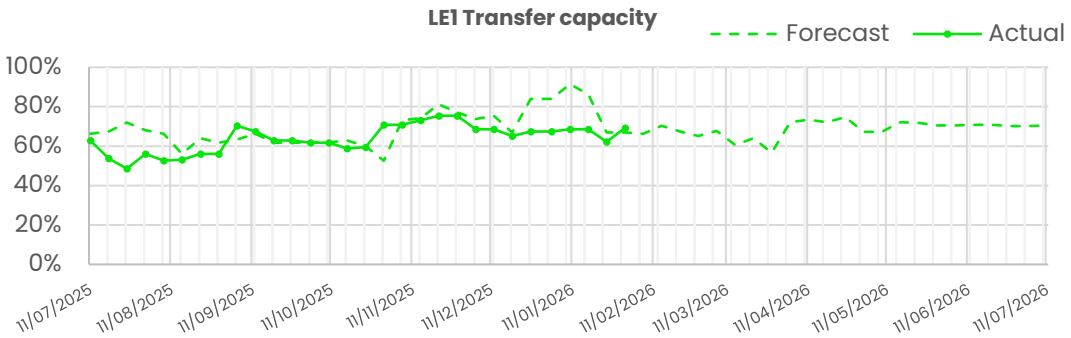
The forecast line is updated with the 10-week ahead view, and this happens each week. So, everything up to 10 weeks ahead is the forecast from 10-week ahead view, and everything after that is the fixed long-term forecast view.

NESO National Energy System Operator

Transparency | Network Congestion

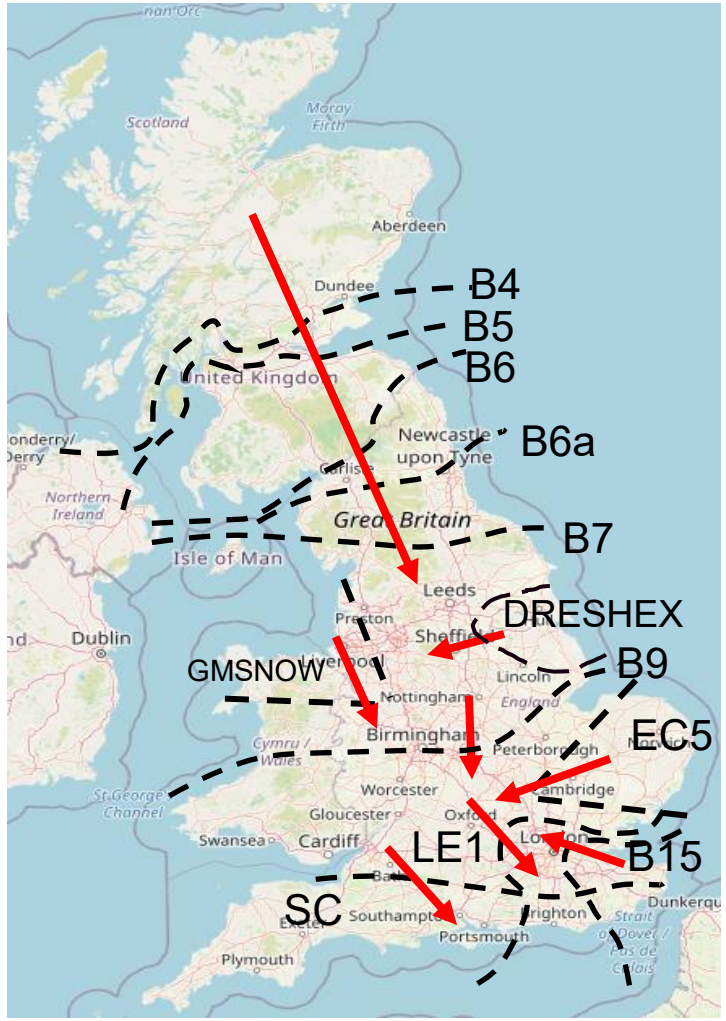






Boundary	Max. Capacity (MW)	Current Capacity (%)
B4/B5	3400	64
B6 (SCOTEX)	6800	83
B6a	8000	87
B7 (SSHARN)	9850	82
GMSNOW	5800	48
FLOWSTH (B9)	12700	76
DRESHEX	9675	69
EC5	5000	100
LE1 (SEIMP)	8750	69
B15 (ESTEX)	7500	93
SC1	7300	100

Slido code #OTF



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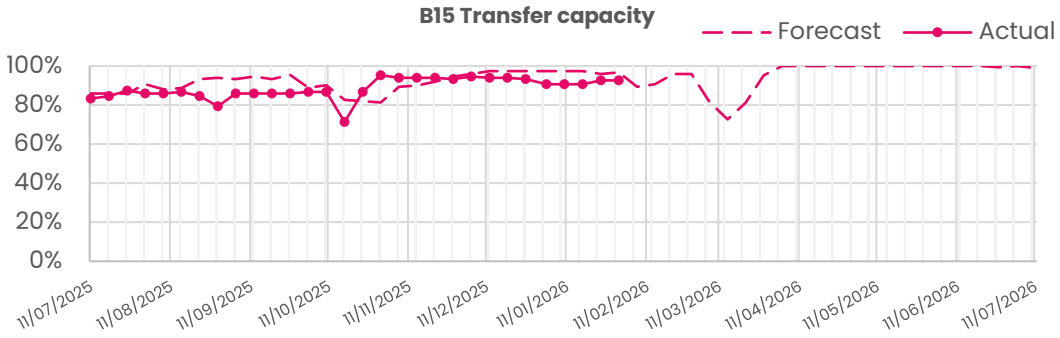
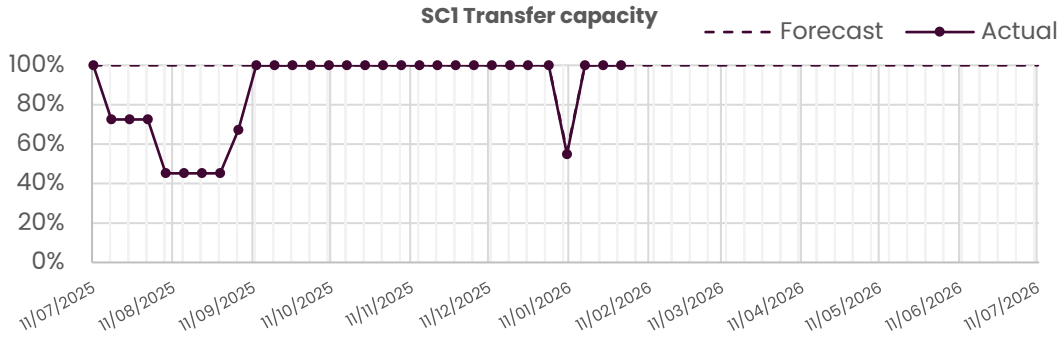
NESO National Energy System Operator

Transparency | Network Congestion





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	64
B6 (SCOTEX)	6800	83
B6a	8000	87
B7 (SSHARN)	9850	82
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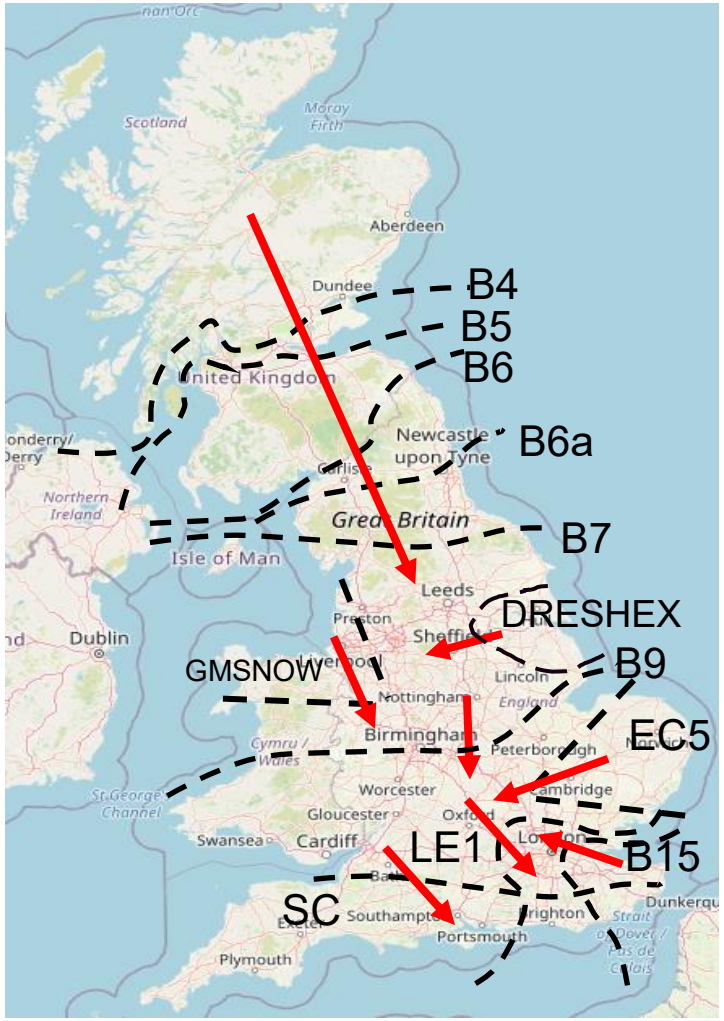
Slido code #OTF



Skip Rates by Technology Type – Bids

Slido code #OTF

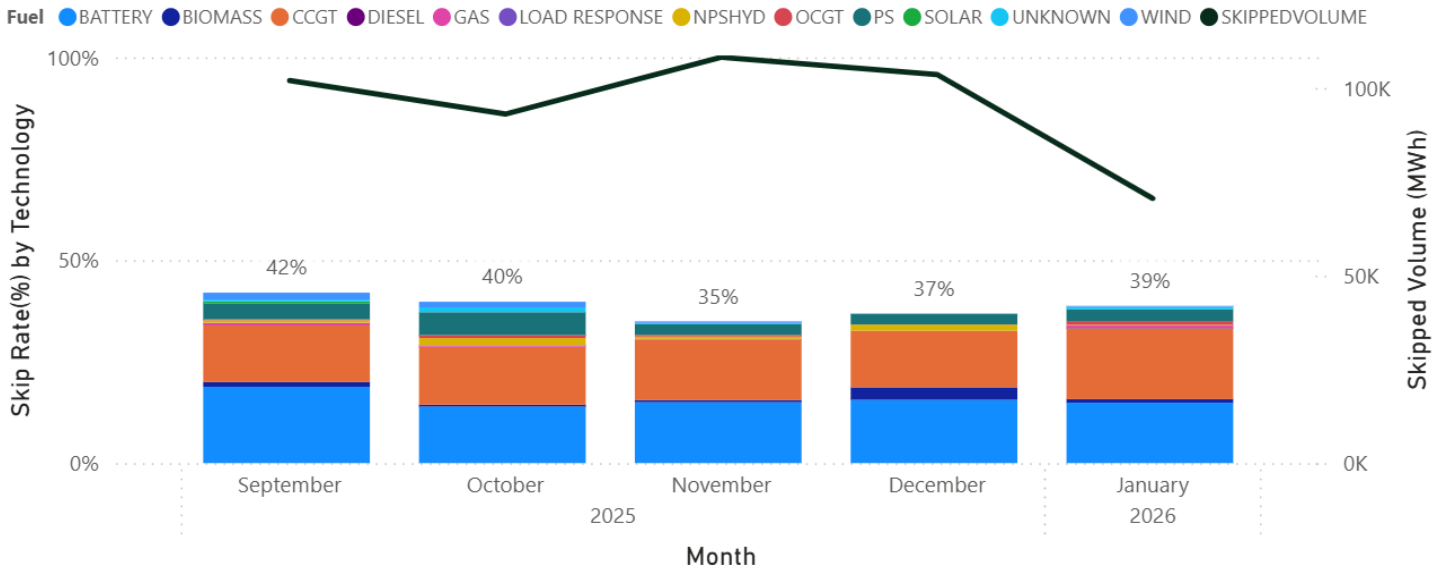
The current skip rate methodology only considers energy actions within the BM

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

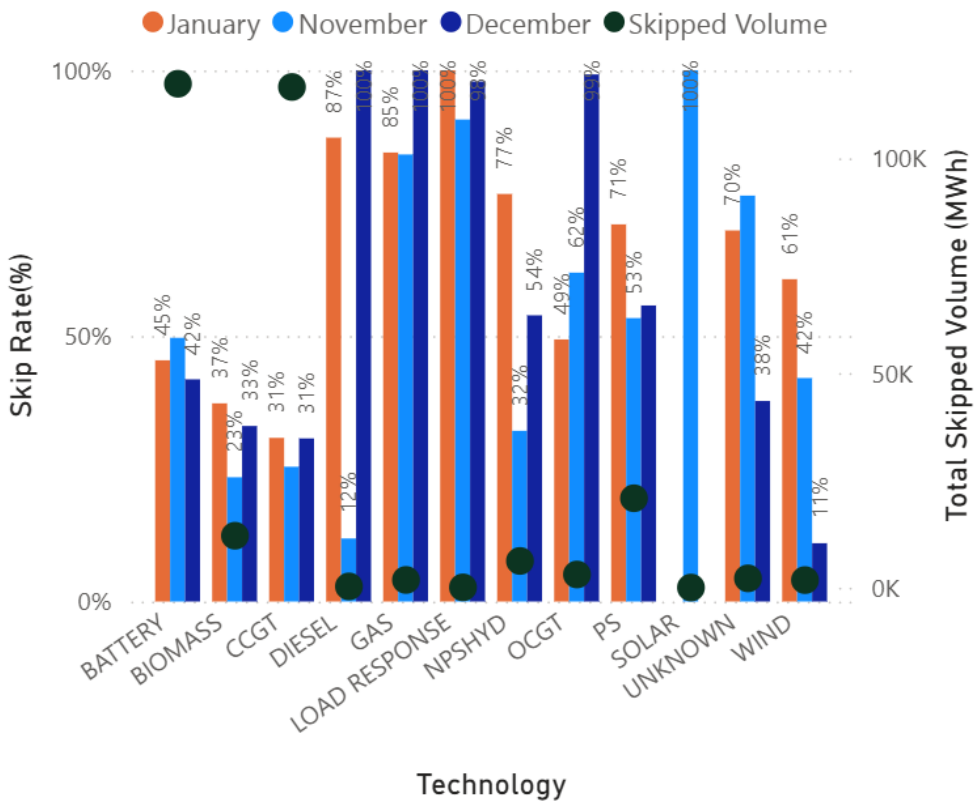
These graphs are based on stage 5 of the Post System Action definition.

Weekly Average w/e	Bids - All BM	Bids - PSA
04/01	7%	41%
11/01	10%	37%
18/01	6%	40%
25/01	1%	45%

Relative Technology Skip Rate



Technology Specific Skip Rate – last 3 months



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

Skip Rates by Technology Type – Offers

Slido code #OTF

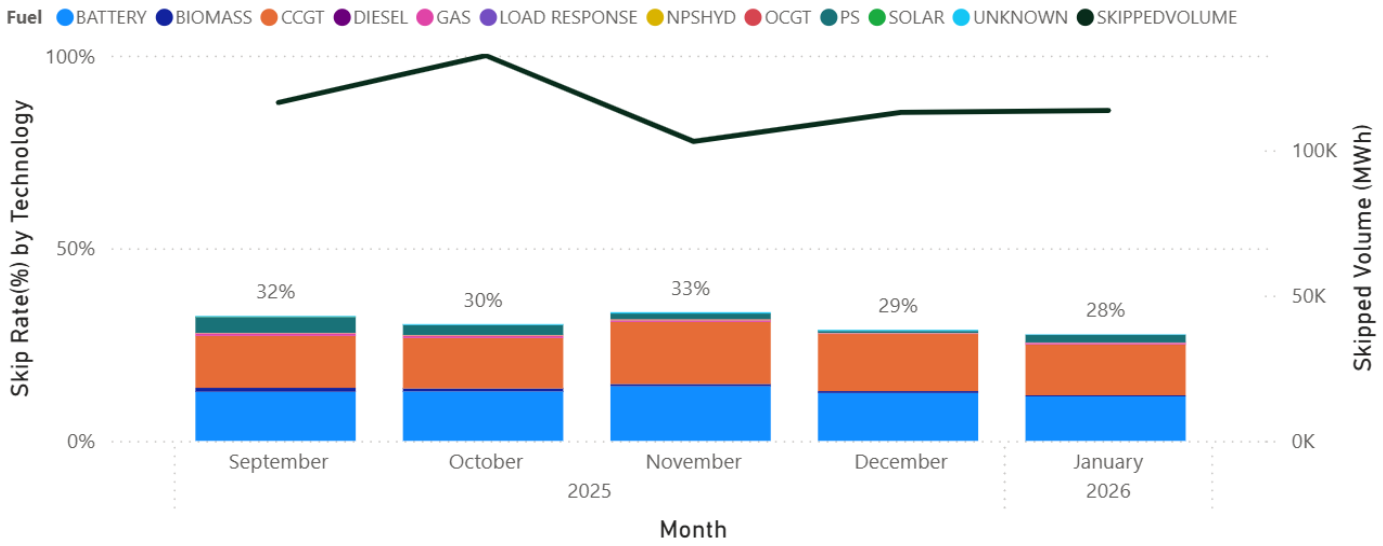
The current skip rate methodology only considers energy actions within the BM

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
04/01	18%	26%
11/01	17%	23%
18/01	20%	30%
25/01	16%	31%

Relative Technology Skip Rate



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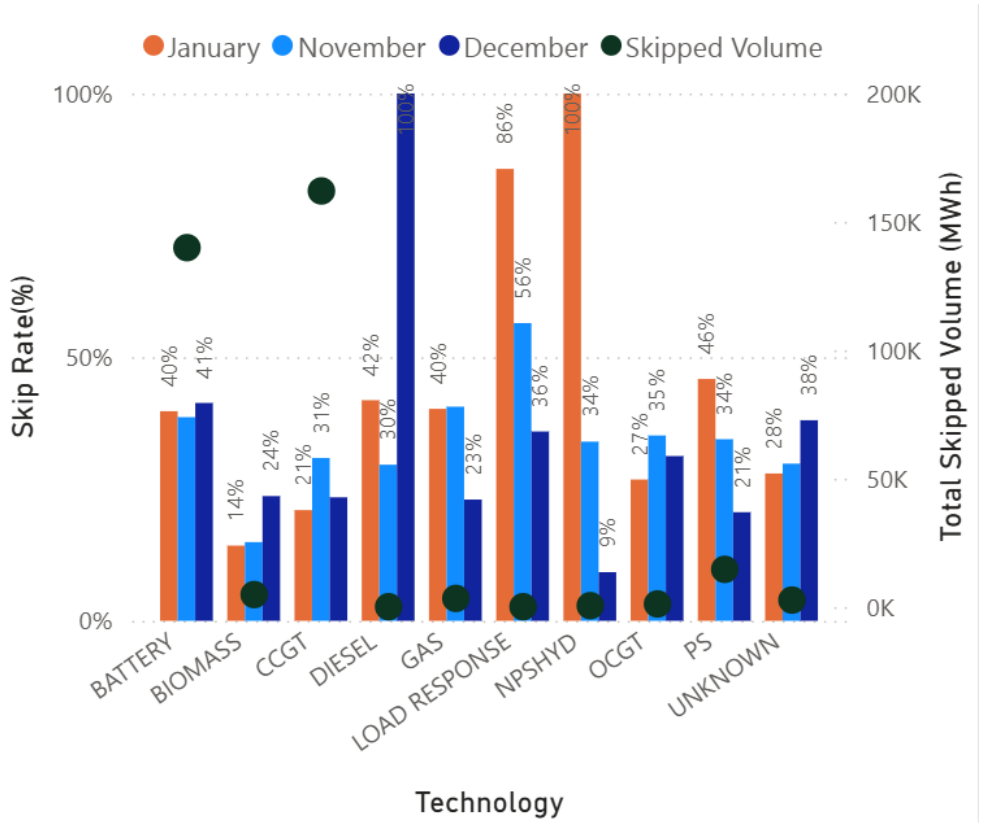

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NESO National Energy System Operator

Advanced Questions

Slido code #OTF

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.

A. Participants in the live forum have the opportunity to provide immediate feedback via the weekly Slido poll. We also welcome feedback and any follow-up questions through the Advance Questions form or via email to: box.nc.customer@neso.energy.

We do not currently have a mechanism for scoring answers and given the number of questions received each week it is not feasible for us manage scoring on all the answers we provide.

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?

A. This question was regarding adding a column to the Q&A document to monitor outstanding actions. We have started tracking these future actions internally and will be monitoring progress.

Given the number and range of questions we receive every week, some of which are outside the scope of the OTF, we think that adding an additional column for the occasional question with future actions would be an additional complication of the published Q&A log. We will reconsider if the internal monitoring demonstrates this will add value for the forum participants.

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 raising this and your patience whilst we investigated the information. Following this review, we recognised the original volumes were submitted incorrectly and we have revised accordingly. We have also now received updated prices, so we have made a submission on 27th January updating the positions. Confirmation of the figures are shown in the table below:

Time in BST 20th Nov	Settlement Period	Midchannel Volume (MWh)	Reported cost in GBP
14:30	30	28.3	7530.39
15:00	31	488.95	130,105.46
15:30	32	499.66	132,955.30
16:00	33	496.92	115,774.49
16:30	34	496.93	115,776.82
17:00	35	498.06	97,279.54
17:30	36	477.86	93,334.13
18:00	37	20.36	3,976.65

Outstanding Advanced Questions

Slido code #OTF

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

A: This related to a question regarding the visibility of the DRESHEX boundary in day ahead constraints data. We are assessing how to provide further market transparency on these and will provide an update soon.

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

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

NESO National Energy System Operator

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.

NESO National Energy System Operator

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).