Public

GSR035: System Access Reform - Changes to Enable Beneficial Outages Without Compromising System Security

Workgroup Meeting 1 , 03 March 2026

Online Meeting via Teams

NESO
National Energy System Operator

WELCOME

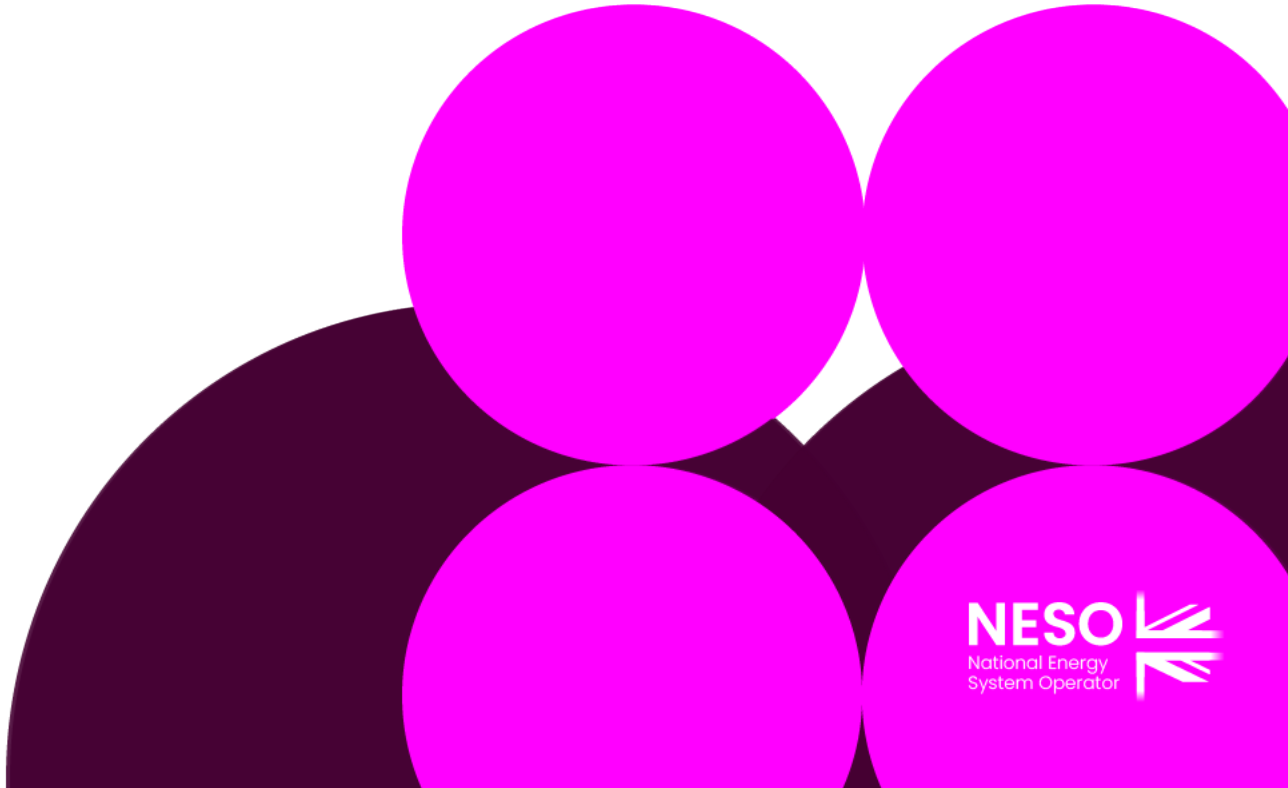
NESO
National Energy System Operator

Agenda

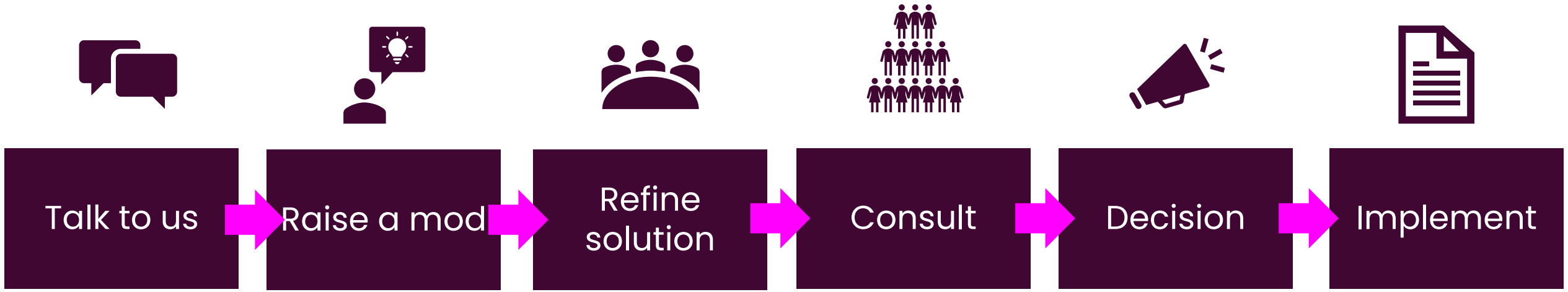
Topics to be discussed	Lead
Introductions	Chair
Code Modification Process Overview • Workgroup Responsibilities • Workgroup Vote	Chair
Objectives and Timeline • Walk-through of the timeline for the modification	Chair
Review Terms of Reference	All
Proposer presentation	Proposer
Questions from Workgroup Members	All
Agree Terms of Reference	All
Cross Code Impacts	All
Any Other Business	Chair
Next Steps	Chair

Modification Process

Ren Walker – NESO Code Administrator



Code Modification Process Overview



Forums	Panels	Workgroups (Workgroup Consultations)	Ofgem/Panel

Refine Solution

Workgroups

- If the proposed solution requires further input from industry in order to develop the solution, a Workgroup will be set up.
- The Workgroup will:
  - further refine the solution, in their discussions and by holding a **Workgroup Consultation**
  - Consider other solutions, and may raise **Alternative Modifications** to be considered alongside the Original Modification
  - Have a **Workgroup Vote** so views of the Workgroup members can be expressed in the Workgroup Report which is presented to Panel

Consult

Code Administrator Consultation

- The Code Administrator runs a consultation on the **final solution(s)**, to gather final views from industry before a decision is made on the modification.

- After this, the modification report is voted on by Panel who also give their views on the solution.

Decision

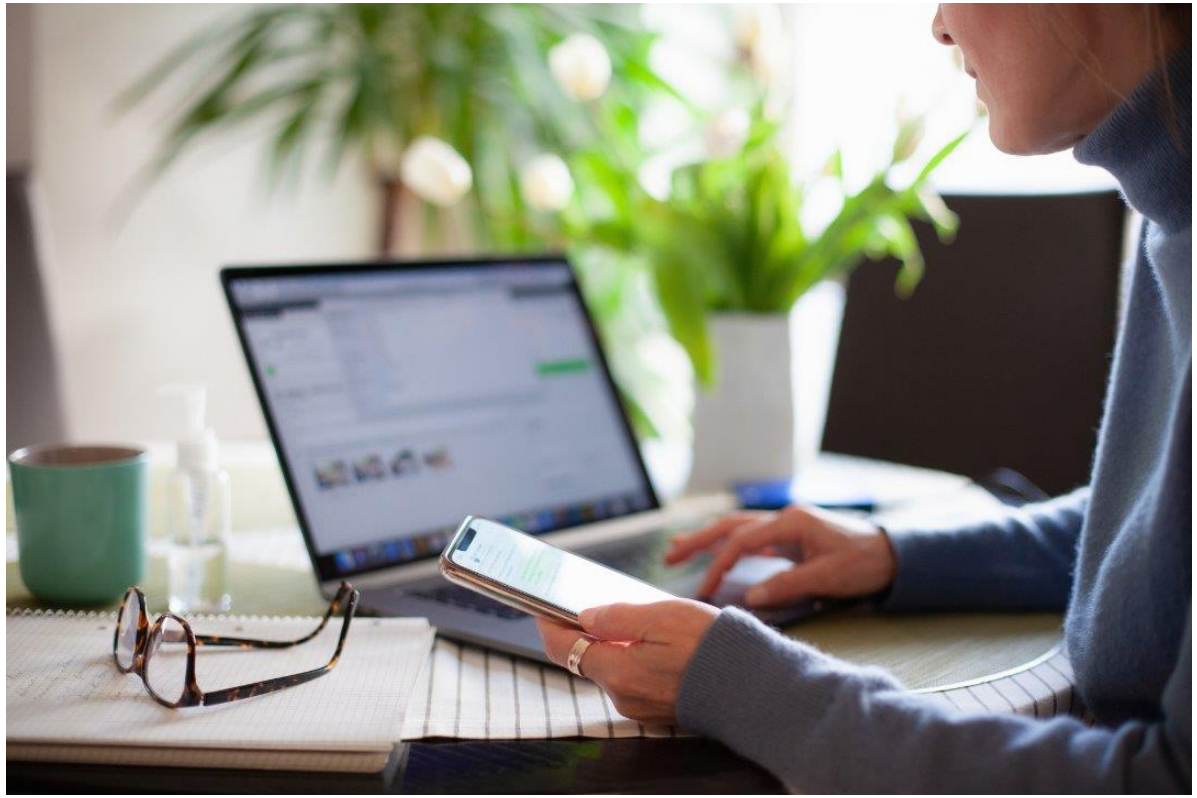
- Dependent on the Governance Route that was decided by Panel when the modification was raised

- **Standard Governance:** Ofgem makes the decision on whether or not the modification is implemented

- **Self-Governance:** Panel makes the decision on whether or not the modification is implemented
    - an appeals window is opened for 15 days following the Final Self Governance Modification Report being published

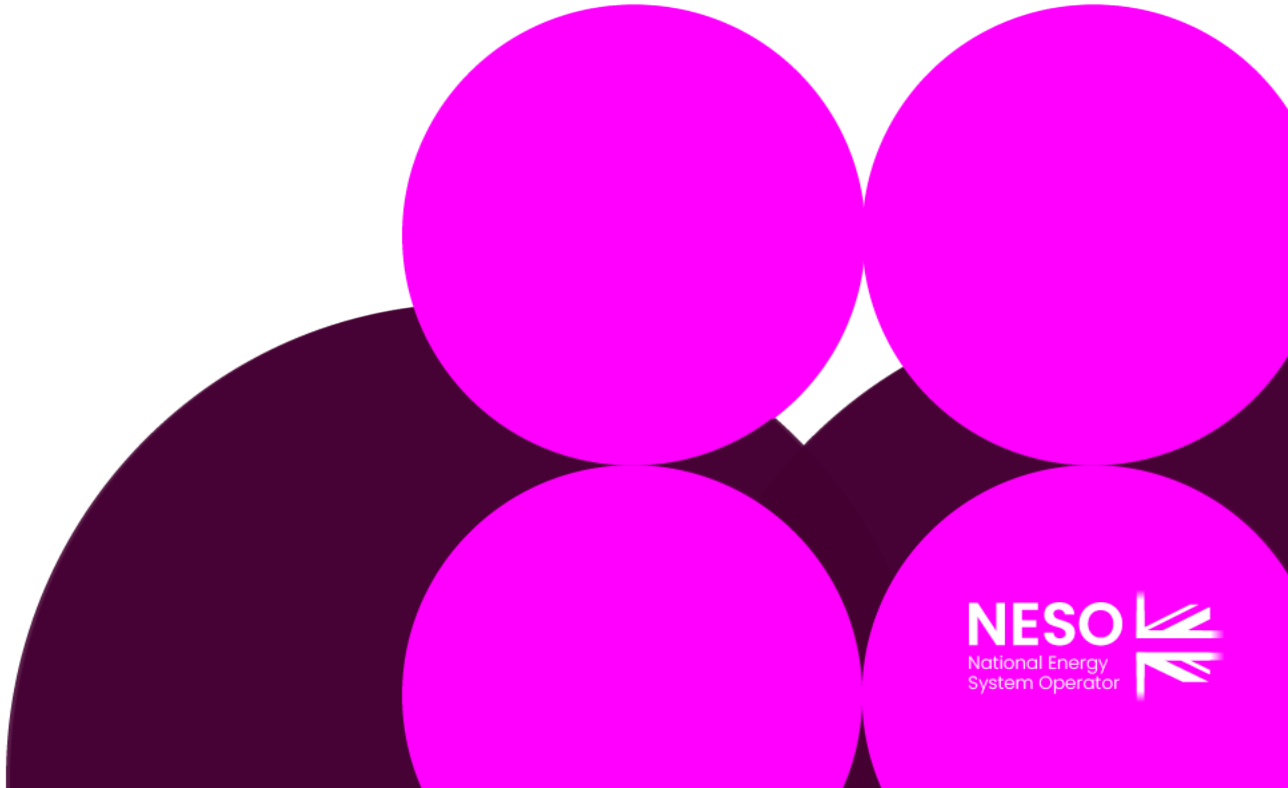
Implement

- The Code Administrator implements the final change which was decided by the Panel / Ofgem on the agreed date.



Workgroup Responsibilities and Membership

Ren Walker – NESO Code Administrator



Expectations of a Workgroup Member

- Contribute to the discussion
- Be respectful of each other's opinions
- Language and Conduct to be consistent with the values of equality and diversity
- Do not share commercially sensitive information
- Be prepared - Review Papers and Reports ahead of meetings
- Complete actions in a timely manner
- Keep to agreed scope
- Email communications to/cc'ing the .box email

Your Roles

- Help refine/develop the solution(s)
- Bring forward alternatives as early as possible
- Vote on whether or not to proceed with requests for Alternatives
- Vote on whether the solution(s) better facilitate the Code Objectives

Workgroup Membership

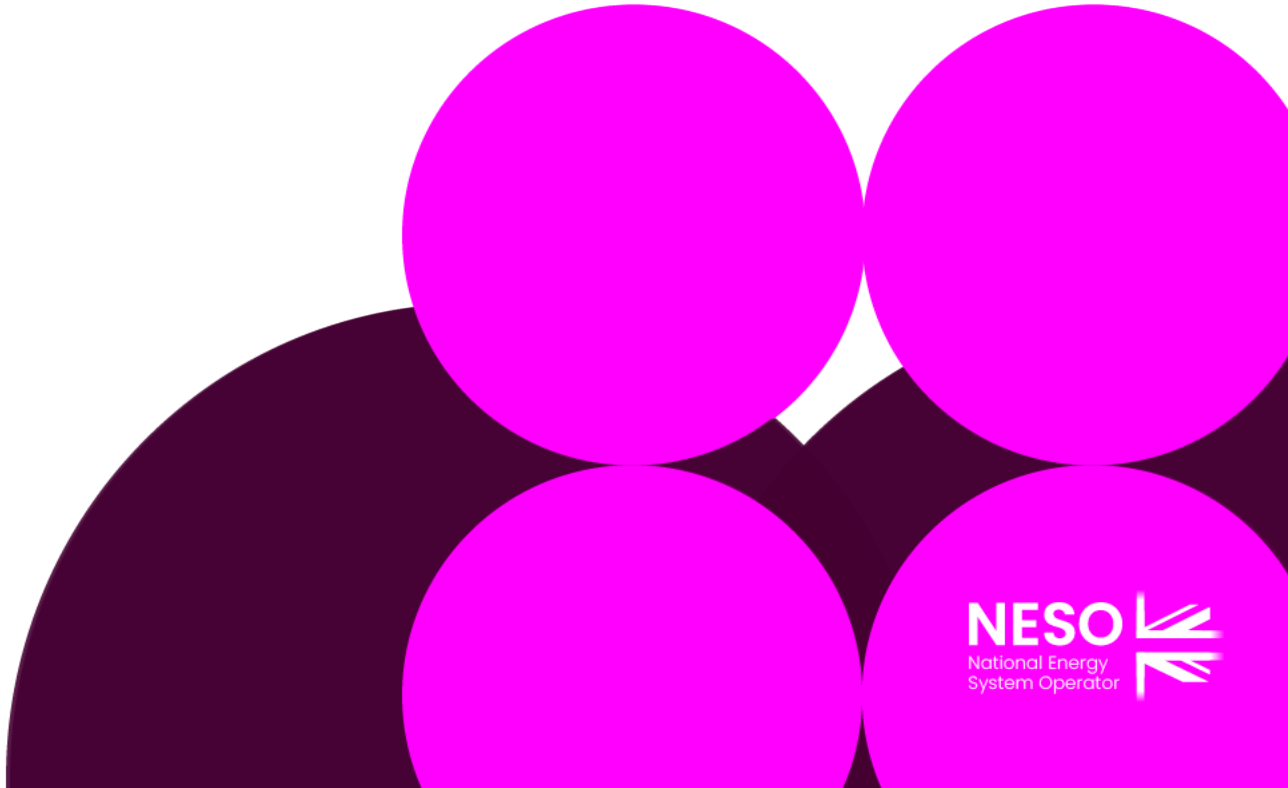
Role	Name	Company
Proposer	Dozie Nnabuife	NESO
Workgroup Member	Steve Baker	NESO
Workgroup Member	Andrew Urqhart	SSE Generation
Workgroup Member	Steve Quinn	National Grid Electricity Distribution
Workgroup Member	Martin Cammidge	SP Energy Networks
Workgroup Member	Alan Creigton	Northern Powergrid
Workgroup Member	Roddy Wilson	SSEN Transmission
Workgroup Member	Mark Bowker	National Grid plc
Workgroup Member	Bukky Daniel	EDF
Authority Representative	TBC	Ofgem
NESO SME	Shaun Pereira	NESO

Workgroup Membership

Role	Name	Company
Observer	Iwan Watkin	Jacobs
Observer	Hector Perez	Scottish Power Renewables
Observer / For Information only	Maria Lopez	NESO
Observer / For Information only	Yuankai Bian	NESO
Observer / For Information only	Daniel Auty	NESO
Observer / For Information only	Matt Chapman	NESO
Observer / For Information only	Rui Zheng	NESO
Observer / For Information only	Russell Woodman	NESO

Workgroup Vote

Ren Walker – NESO Code Administrator



Can I vote? And What is the Workgroup Vote?

To participate in any votes, Workgroup members need to have attended at least 50% of meetings. The vote shall be decided by simple majority of those present at the meeting at which the vote takes place (whether in person or by teleconference)

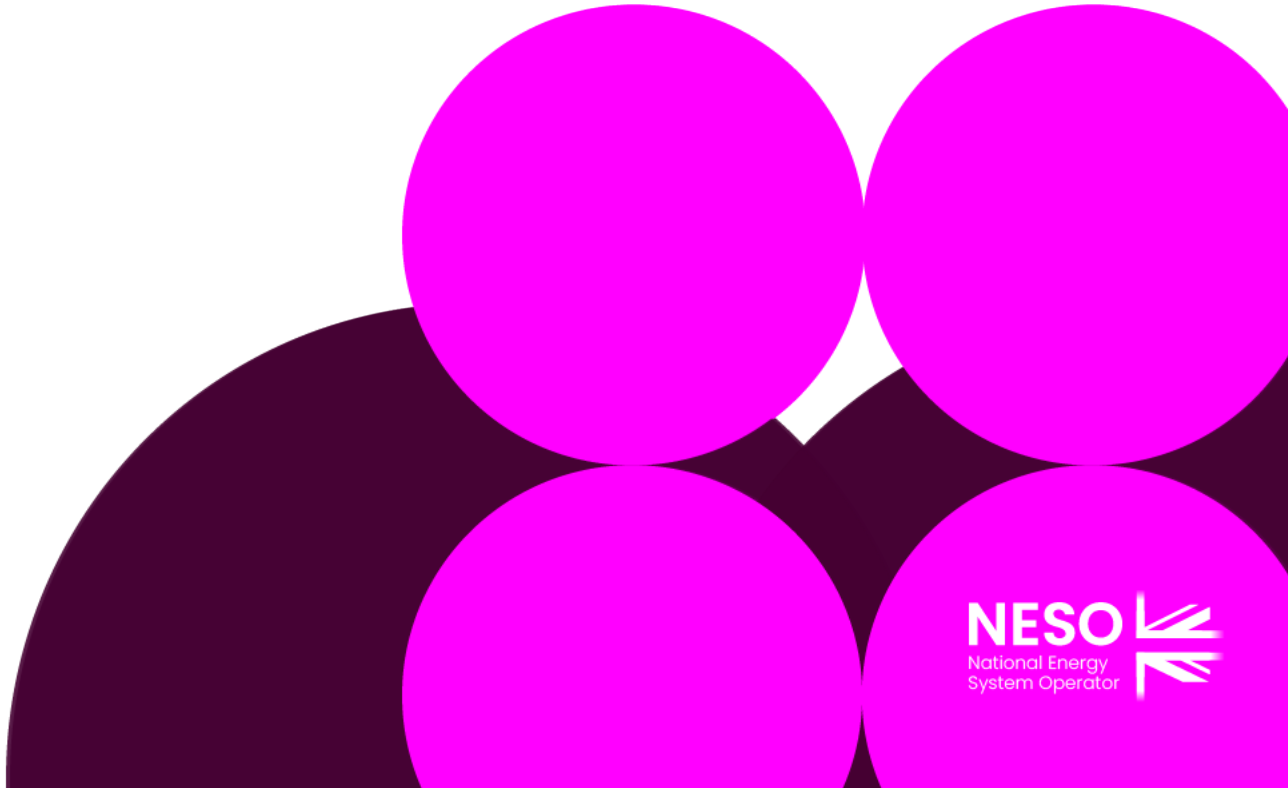
Stage 2 – Workgroup Vote

- 2a) Assess the original and Workgroup Alternative (if there are any) against the relevant Applicable Objectives compared to the baseline (the current code)
- 2b) Vote on which of the options is best.

Alternate Requests cannot be raised after the Stage 2 – Workgroup Vote

Objectives and Timeline

Ren Walker – NESO Code Administrator

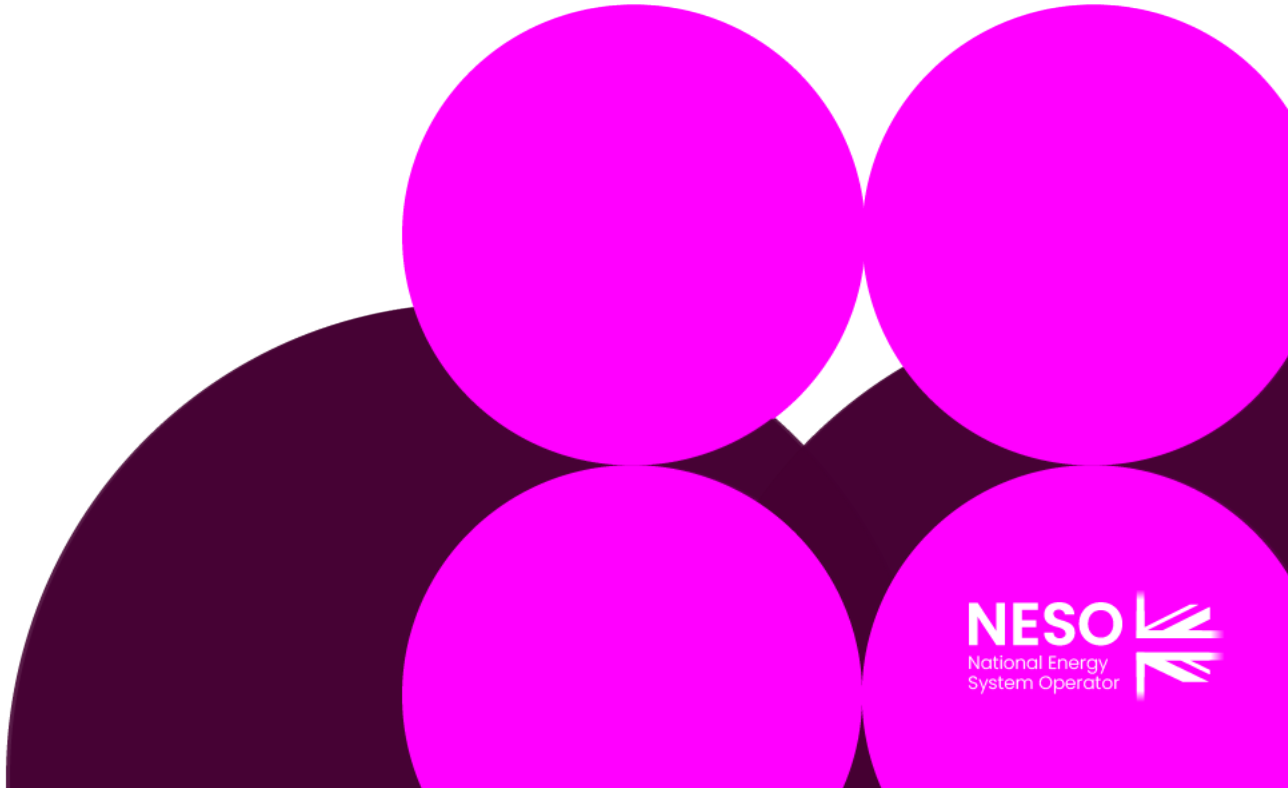


GSR035 Proposed Timeline

Milestone	Date	Milestone	Date
Modification presented to Panel	05 December 2025	Code Administrator Consultation (15 Business Days)	05 August 2026 to 27 August 2026
Workgroup Nominations (20 Business Days holiday period)	22 January 2026 – 12 February 2026	Draft Final Modification Report (DFMR) issued to Panel (5 Business Days)	15 September 2026
• Workgroup 1 – review proposal and legal text • Workgroup 2 and 3 – refine solution, build Workgroup Consultation document and legal text • Workgroup 4 – approve Workgroup Consultation document	03 March 2026 11 March 2026 30 March 2026 13 April 2026	Panel undertake DFMR recommendation vote	29 September 2026
Workgroup Consultation (15 Business Days)	22 April 2026 to 14 May 2026	Final Modification Report issued to Panel to check votes recorded correctly	29 September 2026 to 05 October 2026
Workgroup 5 – review consultation feedback ad build Workgroup Report Workgroup 6 – Review Workgroup Report and vote	29 May 2026 26 June 2026	Final Modification Report issued to Ofgem	06 October 2026
Workgroup report issued to Panel (5 Business Days)	15 July 2026	Ofgem decision	TBC
Panel sign off that Workgroup Report has met its Terms of Reference	29 July 2026	Implementation Date	10 Business Days after Authority decision

Review Terms of Reference

Ren Walker – NESO Code Administrator



Terms of Reference

Workgroup Term of Reference
a) Consider the governance arrangements for the risk based methodology as this need to be documented, open and transparent. The governance needs to be such that any affected stakeholder is able to influence the development and application of the methodology. The workgroup should explicitly consider whether the risk based methodology should form part of the SQSS.
b) Clearly state the key assumptions and principles associated with the risk based methodology.
c) Engage with all potentially affected stakeholders.
d) Explain the rationale and benefits associated with the balance between short term increase in risk to stakeholders and the longer term benefits associated with the connection of projects associated with the transition to a low carbon economy.
e) Consider whether a risk based methodology should be associated with outages other than those to facilitate the implementation of the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan e.g. normal maintenance and asset replacement outages.
f) Consider whether the risk based methodology should be applied across all four seasons or just during winter, as implied by the modification proposal.
g) Consider the most appropriate place for the methodology to be documented, so that it is open and transparent.
h) Consider the requirement for a Grid Code modification such that there is an obligation for all relevant parties to provide the required data to undertake the risk assessment, engage in the risk assessment process, share the results from application of the methodology and agree to its findings. Consideration should be given to the process where the impacted party does not agree with the outcome of the risk assessment. The party responsible for applying the methodology should also be codified.
l) Consider the number of occasions per annum when the new arrangements are expected to be applied and the relaxations implemented, to form a view of the potential benefits.
j) Consider whether the risk based approach should be applied to high impact / low probability events only, or whether a risk based approach could / should be applied to low impact / high probability events.
k) Quantify or provide examples of the change in risk to customer supplies arising from the implementation of a risk based approach compared to a deterministic approach.
l) Consider the current risk assessment process applied in Scotland and whether it, in its current or modified form could be applied in England and Wales.

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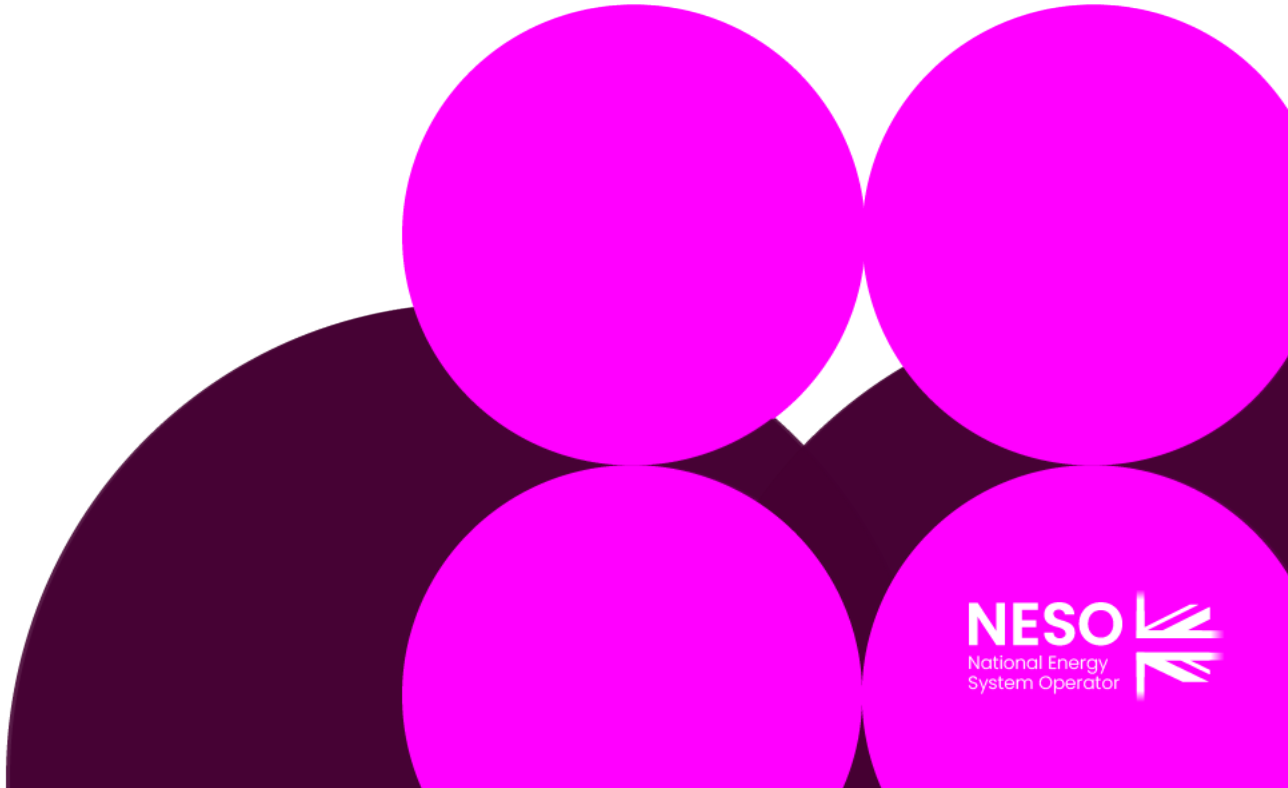
Proposer's Solution: Background; Proposed Solution; Scope; and Assessment vs Terms of Reference

Dozie Nnabuife – NESO



An introduction to System Access Planning

In System Access Planning, NESO coordinates with TOs, DNOs and other system users to manage outages of transmission assets to facilitate system access. Our aim is to enable users to safely establish connections, upgrade the network, and maintain system security while minimising cost to consumers.

Progress to Date
Transmission Acceleration (TA)

- In June 2023, the Electricity Networks Commissioner Report was published. It focused on the need to accelerate electricity transmission network build **(See full report)**
- From the report , four recommendations were made in relation to Outage Planning with NESO assigned as the action owners:
  - OP1 - Winter Emergency Return to Service (ERTS)
  - OP2 - Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS)
  - OP3 - Long Term Project Design
  - OP4 - Outage Planning Process Review
- In November of 2023, NESO initiated a project with TO's to deliver the outage planning recommendations from the Commissioner's Report
- Over the course of 2024, projects were run in parallel to determine the actions and recommendations required to deliver in these 4 outage planning areas.
- In February 2025 a public consultation was released. This consultation includes a detailed summary of each of the project workstreams and can be found on the NESO website. This consultation can be found **here**

Accelerating Need for Reform
Clean Power 2030 (CP30)

- In order to enable the UK Government's CP30 ambition we will need to work even more strategically cross-industry to provide system access at the right times and maximise the value of each outage.
- We will require greater stability and certainty in the planning process than we have today, with greater transparency in reporting, and a continued focus on reducing waste.
- To meet the Clean Power 2030 plan, **network build must proceed at more than four times the rate of the last decade**, delivering twice as much in half the time.
- Our recommendations to Government on pathways to deliver **clean power indicate that we need 210-220GW of generation and storage** by 2030. Projections from our FES24 Holistic Transition scenario indicate that **c380GW of generation, interconnection and storage may ultimately be required by 2050**.
- System access will play a major role in the deliverability of the Clean Power 2030 plan. Action is required across industry to ensure that cohesive plans are in place to provide assurance of delivery.

We are setting up the **System Access Reform Programme** to proactively mobilise industry to accelerate TA recommendation implementation and ensure CP30 targets are achieved

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Transmission Acceleration Summary

	OP1 Winter Risk	OP2 SQSS Review	OP3 Long Term Project Design	OP4 Outage Planning Review
Recommendations	Implement a risk-based approach to allow more outages during winter by assessing the Emergency Return to Service (ERTS) times and ensuring sufficient generation capacity to meet demand	Investigate opportunities to relax operational rules (e.g. network security) to allow more outages during appropriate conditions. • **Thermal Constraints**: Propose a probabilistic assessment which considers fault likelihood and risk mitigations. • **Risk Assessment**: Develop a risk assessment form with TOs, NESO to sign off on acceptable risks. • **Voltage Constraints**: Manage non-compliant voltage scenarios case-by-case using a risk assessment. • **Thermal Overload Schemes**: Explore using thermal overload schemes to simulate 'cascade tripping' in E&W	Incorporate constraint costs into the assessment of project delivery options to ensure a holistic view of project costs	Improve the timely identification and coordination of all outage requirements and reduce foreseeable changes to outage plans
Implementation	NESO and Transmission Owners (TOs) will schedule outages with longer ERTS times during winter, using a robust risk assessment process	A probabilistic risk assessment approach will be used to identify and mitigate risks, allowing certain outages to proceed where there is a significant consumer benefit. Several proposed changes are to align existing rules from the Scottish to English system	NESO will provide constraint cost calculations for different build options, and these will be included in the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) methodology	Develop a more strategic long-term system access plan, engage with affected parties, and enhance the transparency of the outage planning process
Benefits	This approach is expected to facilitate 60 additional weeks of outages during the winter period, optimizing network reinforcement and upgrade projects	This approach could unlock many millions of pounds of opportunity by allowing major construction schemes to progress and reducing constraint management costs. It will reduce the likelihood of emergency recalls assets during unplanned onerous conditions	This approach will lead to better decision-making for project build options, reduced system access requirements, and more opportunities for other essential works (e.g. offline network build)	This approach will identify and implement an enduring system access process that provides greater plan stability, reduces constraint costs, supports the delivery of a clean power system in 2030 and net zero beyond 2030. Reduced effort in managing plan changes.

Public

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Review of the operational requirements on the Onshore Systems

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Problem Statement

1. Current SQSS rules are too rigid to accommodate the changes needed, blocking essential upgrades and maintenance

2. The operational criteria in Section 5 of the NETS SQSS offer limited flexibility, when it comes to responding to occasions when the probability, cost, and means of meeting a certain criterion, is disproportionate to the risks it prevents.

Incorporation of greater flexibility within the SQSS for thermal Constraints

- The SQSS currently dictates that NESO operates the network based on ensuring system security for the worst-case scenario regardless of the likelihood of a fault occurring depending on whether 'Normal' or 'Adverse' criteria is being applied.
- This means that all faults outlined in the SQSS are secured regardless of the frequency or the likelihood of them occurring.
- It is proposed that a more flexible approach utilising a probabilistic assessment could provide benefit in certain circumstances where there is a significant consumer benefit from the outage proceeding.
- This risk-based methodology could result in allowing works to proceed that offer a substantial benefit, such as extensive new infrastructure build that could ultimately reduce system risk when completed.
- A proposed risk assessment form has been created in collaboration with all three TOs
- If the probabilistic assessment determines that the fault likelihood is low and there are sufficient risk mitigations that have been implemented by NESO, TO, DNO or DCC with their agreement, then it will be reviewed by NESO with a view to proceeding.

Proposed Solution

Route : Standard Governance modification to with assessment by a workgroup

- Update SQSS for flexible, risk-based decision-making for network outages and constraints and this is achieved by :

Changes to clauses 5.3, 5.4, 5.5

- In doing that, clauses 5.3 and 5.5 refer to a 1500MW threshold for the demand groups that must not be affected by such disturbance. Whereas the proposal does not recommend an increase to it, there may be benefit that the Workgroup considers such increase.

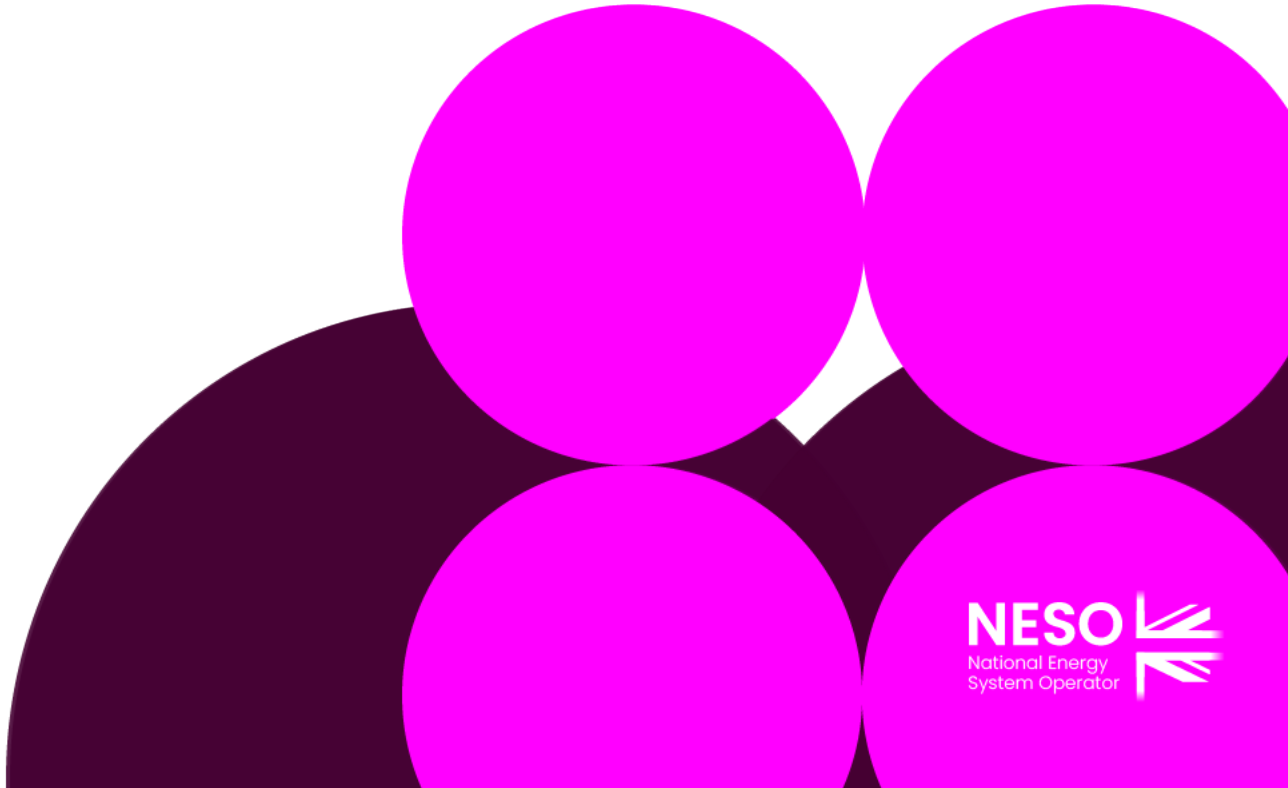
- Add clause 5.11.3 to provide relaxation for specific secured events under strictly limited conditions if these are identified through a robust process approved by the Authority

References

Transmission Acceleration Action Plan, 2025
System Access Reform – NESO Website
Electricity Networks Commissioner Companion Report, 2025
Clean Power 2030 Action Plan – GOV.UK

Agree Terms of Reference

Ren Walker – NESO Code Administrator



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Cross Code Impacts

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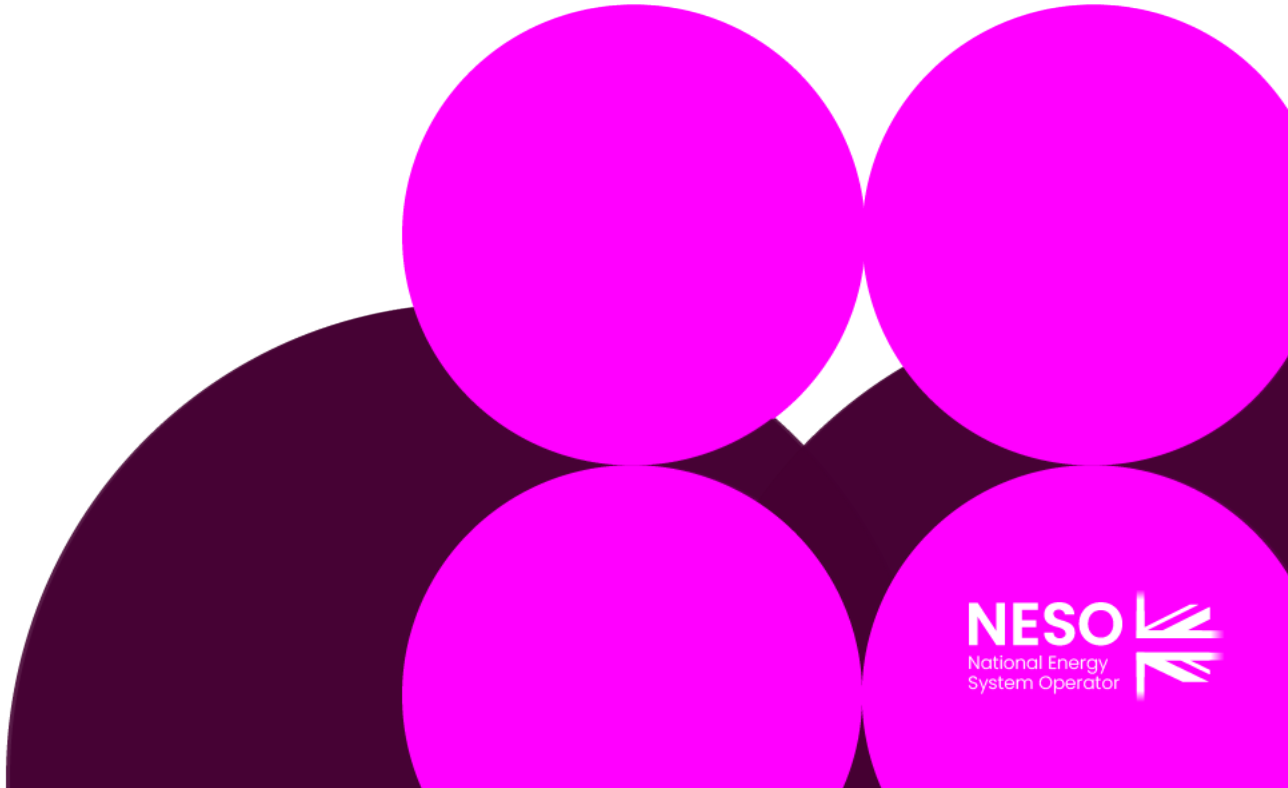
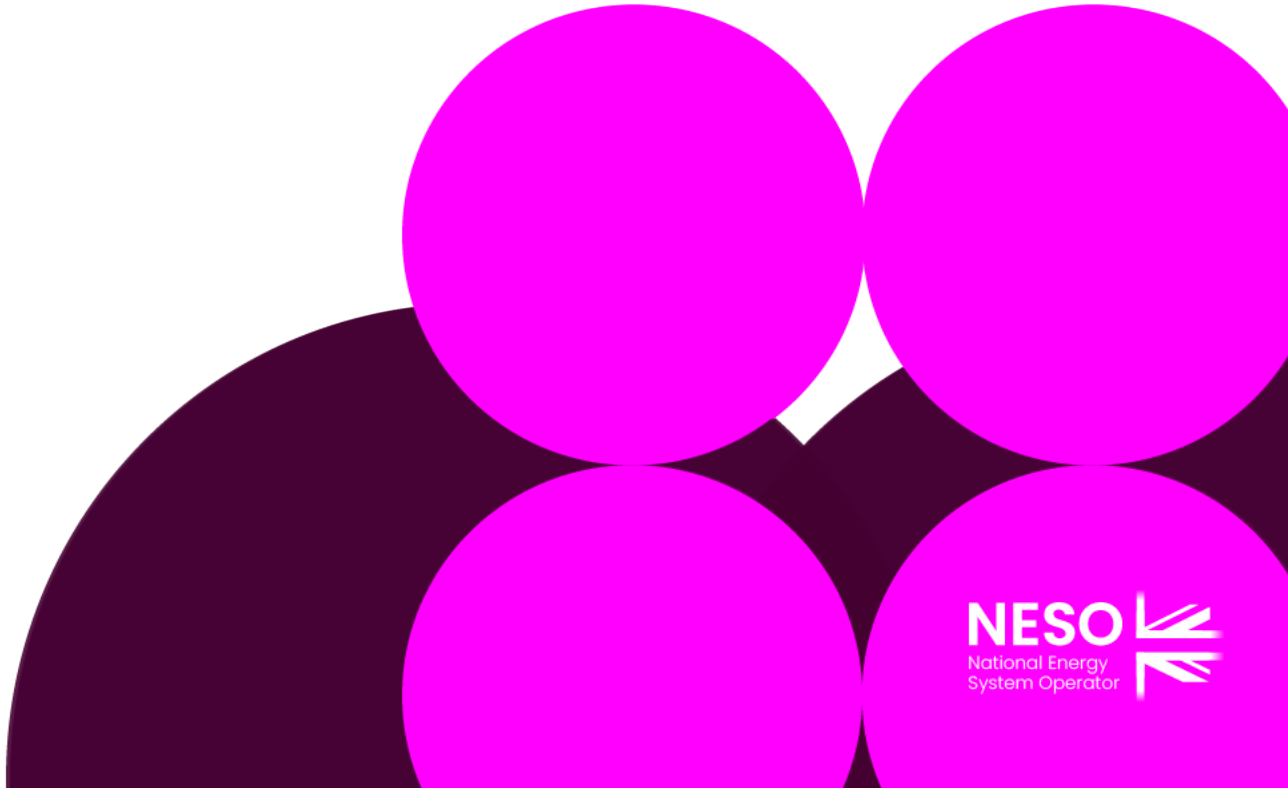


Any Other Business

Ren Walker – NESO Code Administrator



Next Steps

Ren Walker – NESO Code Administrator