

## Public

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### **Statement to the Authority Following Review of Electricity Connections Methodologies**

Dear Neil,

We are submitting this statement to the Authority pursuant to Licence Conditions E15.6 (Requirement to produce and update the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology), E16.6 (Requirement to produce and update the Connections Network Design Methodology) and E17.12 (Requirement to produce and update Project Designation Methodology) of the Electricity System Operator Licence.

We have now undertaken a review of all three connections methodologies as required under E15.5, E16.5 and E17.11, to assess whether each continues to enable the objectives set out in Licence Conditions E15.2(b), E16.3 and E17.10 to be achieved.

As part of this review process, we considered the interactions and alignment of the connections methodologies, along with the wider enduring connections framework introduced under CMP434 (Implementing Connections Reform). Our conclusion is that updates would be beneficial to the achievement of the objectives outlined in the Licence Conditions, to reflect evolving needs, and to maintain coherence across the reformed connections and queue management framework.

Following this review, we are confirming that an update to the three connection methodologies is desirable and that we intend to shortly undertake a formal consultation.

In our view, the proposed updates would strengthen the connections methodologies' achievement of the Licence Condition objectives i.e. E15.2(b) and E15.3 for the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology, E16.2 and E16.3 for the Connections Network Design Methodology, and E17.9 and E17.10 for the Project Designation Methodology.

We set out the proposed change areas, at a high-level, and why we feel that these changes better achieve these licence conditions in Appendix 1.

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The consultation will run for a period of at least 28 calendar days in line with Licence Conditions E15.10, E16.10 and E17.16. Our current planned consultation period is 12 March 2026 – 9 April 2026 although this may be adjusted in the run up to its launch. We will then appropriately consider stakeholder feedback.

Subject to Authority approval of our subsequent submission, we will then implement the revised connections methodologies as soon as reasonably practicable.

Our intention is to align implementation, where feasible, with the next Application Window.

We would be happy to discuss the above, if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

James Norman

Head of Connections Strategy

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Project Designation Methodology**

We are proposing limited updates to the Project Designation Methodology as in our view the existing methodology remains broadly effective in achieving its objectives. It therefore only requires refinement to support particularly innovative projects whose maturity may be evidenced through alternative indicators, rather than only Technology Readiness Level (TRL) classification. The proposed revisions are related to the definition and interpretation of TRLs, and a clarification within the criteria for new technologies and highly innovative projects.

This therefore improves performance against E17.9(b)–E17.9(d), and E17.10(e).

### **Gate 2 Criteria Methodology**

The majority of our proposed changes to Gate 2 Criteria Methodology are minor and clarificatory changes as a consequence of the experience in running the Gate 2 evidence submission and checking process for the first time within the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process. The vast majority of these proposed changes are simply to provide clearer wording and clarity on the requirements to better reflect policy intent or given interactions with customers during the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process.

There are also proposed changes that we are more specifically consulting upon, which represent a greater proposed change. Again, in most cases we are including these proposed changes to simply improve customers understanding and the evidence submission and checking process based on our experience within the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process.

However, there are also a few areas where we are proposing more significant changes for other reasons, such as in relation to targeted changes to both Protection 2b and Roles and Responsibilities, where developments since the three connections methodologies were first consulted upon and approved have meant that a small number of targeted changes may be beneficial.

Details of the specific changes will be included within our consultation process, but primarily and cumulatively we feel that the various changes we are to propose will improve performance against E15.3(b), E15.3(c) and E15.2(b)(i) and E15.2(b)(iv).

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### **Connections Network Design Methodology**

The majority of our proposed changes to the Connections Network Design Methodology are minor and clarificatory changes to enhance clarity and understanding based on our experience of the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process. Whilst there are different steps to queue formation in the enduring process to the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process, our experience in the latter has helped us to identify where such steps in the enduring process could be clearer and more effective.

There are also proposed changes that we are more specifically consulting upon, which represent a more significant proposed change. Again, in most cases we are including these proposed changes based on our experience within the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process e.g. to better explain the capacity allocation process and capacity reallocation process.

However, there are a few areas where we are proposing changes for other reasons, such as in relation to targeted changes to both Protection 2b and Roles and Responsibilities, where developments since the three connections methodologies were first consulted upon and approved have meant that a small number of targeted changes may be beneficial. Additionally, we propose to make some changes to the capacity reallocation process, and some targeted interventions within the capacity allocation process e.g. in relation to projects with successful appeals. However, we feel that all such proposed changes are targeted and the core queue formation process previously consulted upon and approved remains unchanged.

Details of the specific changes will be included within our consultation process, but primarily and cumulatively we feel that the various changes we are to propose will improve performance against E16.2(a) and E16.2(c), and E16.3(i), E16.3(iii) and E16.3(v).