

Workgroup Terms of Reference and Membership

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

Responsibilities

The Workgroup is responsible for assisting the SQSS Modification Panel in the evaluation of SQSS Modification Proposal **GSR035: System Access Reform – Changes to Enable Beneficial Outages Without Compromising System Security** raised by **NESO** at the Modifications Panel meeting on **05 December 2025**. The proposal must be evaluated to consider whether it better facilitates achievement of the Applicable SQSS Objectives.

SQSS Objectives

- a) Facilitate the planning, development and maintenance of an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission, and the operation of that system in an efficient, economic and coordinated manner;
- b) Ensure an appropriate level of security and quality of supply and safe operation of the National Electricity Transmission System;
- c) Facilitate effective competition in the generation and supply of electricity, and (so far as consistent therewith) facilitating such competition in the distribution of electricity; and
- d) Facilitate Licensees to comply with any relevant obligations under Assimilated law.

Scope of work

1. The Workgroup must consider the issues raised by the Modification Proposal and consider if the proposal identified better facilitates achievement of the Applicable SQSS Objectives.



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2. In addition, the Workgroup shall consider and report on the following specific issues:

Workgroup Term of Reference	Location in Workgroup Report (to be completed at Workgroup Report stage)
<p>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.</p>	
<p>b) Clearly state the key assumptions and principles associated with the risk-based methodology.</p>	
<p>c) Consider 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.</p>	
<p>d) 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.</p>	
<p>e) Consider whether the risk-based methodology should be applied across all four seasons or just during winter, as implied by the modification proposal.</p>	
<p>f) Consider the most appropriate place for the methodology to be documented, so that it is open and transparent.</p>	



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<p>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.</p>	
<p>i) 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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

- g) The Workgroup is to submit its final Workgroup Report to the Modifications Panel Secretary on **15 July 2026** for circulation to Panel Members. The final Workgroup Report conclusions will be presented to the SQSS Modification Panel meeting on **28 July 2026**.

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Membership

h) It is recommended that the Workgroup has the following members:

Role	Name	Representing
Chair		
Technical Secretary		
Proposer		
Workgroup Member		
Workgroup Member (Alternate)		
Workgroup Member		
Workgroup Member		
Workgroup Member (Alternate)		
Authority Representative		

NB: A Workgroup must comprise at least 5 members (who may be Panel Members). The roles identified with an asterisk (*) in the table above contribute toward the required quorum, determined in accordance with paragraph 14 below.

- The Chairperson of the Workgroup and the Modifications Panel Chairperson must agree a number that will be quorum for each Workgroup meeting. The agreed figure for this modification is that at least 5 Workgroup members must participate in a meeting for quorum to be met.



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15. A vote is to take place by all eligible Workgroup members on the Modification Proposal. 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). The Workgroup chairperson shall not have a vote, casting or otherwise.

- Vote: whether the proposal better facilitates the Applicable SQSS Objectives;

The results from the vote and the reasons for such voting shall be recorded in the Workgroup report in as much detail as practicable.

16. It is expected that Workgroup members would only abstain from voting under limited circumstances, for example where a member feels that a proposal has been insufficiently developed. Where a member has such concerns, they should raise these with the Workgroup chairperson at the earliest possible opportunity and certainly before the Workgroup vote takes place. Where abstention occurs, the reason should be recorded in the Workgroup report.

17. Workgroup members or their appointed alternate are required to attend a minimum of 50% of the Workgroup meetings to be eligible to participate in the Workgroup vote.

18. The Technical Secretary shall keep an Attendance Record for the Workgroup meetings and circulate the Attendance Record with the Workgroup Minutes and Action Log after each meeting. This will be attached to the final Workgroup report.

Terms of Reference Version Control

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Issue	Date	Summary of Changes / Reasons	Panel Approval Date
1	xx/xx/20xx	Panel approved Terms of Reference ahead of nominations	xx/xx/20xx