Public

NESO Operational Transparency Forum

22 April 2026

Welcome to the Operational Transparency Forum!

You are in listen-only mode with your camera turned off.

Live Captioning Available. To enable live captions in Microsoft Teams:

- Click on the 3 dots icon / ‘More’
- Click ‘Turn on live captions’

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Key Points

Slido code #OTF

- **Ask Questions and give feedback:** Use **Sli.do event code #OTF.**
- **Submit early:** Ask questions early to give our experts time to answer.
- **No Edits:** Don't edit questions after submission; submit a new question, if needed.
- **Identify Yourself:** Provide your name or organization. Anonymous questions won't be answered live**.** If you have reasons to remain anonymous to the wider forum, please use the advance question or email options below.
- **Report Concerns:** Report concerns to the Market Monitoring team at **marketreporting@neso.energy.**
- **Question Order:** Questions are answered in upvoted order. Some may be taken away or answered later.
- **Sli.do Open:** Sli.do remains open **until 12:00** for maximum question opportunities. After that please use the advance questions or email options below.
- **Q&A:** All questions are recorded & published. Unanswered questions will be included in the next slide pack.
- **Ask questions anytime** whether for inclusion in the forum or individual response through our Advance Questions form or at: box.nc.customer@neso.energy.
- **Stay Updated:** Visit our webpage at: https://www.neso.energy/what-we-do/systems-operations/operational-transparency-forum for updates and previous OTF material.

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

Deep dive sessions

Slido code #OTF

Today

- March Balancing Costs

Future

- 29th April –
  Summer Order of Actions
  BSUoS Tariff Reset Process
- 6th May –
  Slow Reserve day-ahead procurement via EAC auctions
  Introduction to the OSR and MR

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

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Network Access Planning (NAP) strategies for managing high voltage during low summer demand

This presentation from the recent Network Access Planning (NAP) OC2 Forum offers an overview of NAP's preparations for the upcoming summer months.

It covers the following key points:

- Increasing challenges in managing high voltage, particularly during the summer when demand is low and solar generation is high.
- Difficulties arising from changes in electricity usage, generation methods, and reactive power flows.
- Voltage control is critical for safety and regulatory compliance.
- Real-time monitoring and management are essential.
- Certain regions in Great Britain are particularly affected.

It outlines the strategies NAP is implementing to address these challenges:

- Operational measures, such as participation in reactive power markets.
- Establishment of a Voltage Task Force to manage risks in the short, medium, and long term.
- Immediate and medium-term actions, including real-time monitoring, minimum plant operation, voltage checks, and increased resources within the Balancing Mechanism.

View the Voltage Management slides here.
View all NAP OC2 Forum slides here.

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CMP470 Workgroup Consultation

Slido code #OTF

CMP470: Introducing an Oversubscribed Technologies Commitment Fee

This modification seeks to introduce a floor on securities through an Oversubscribed Technologies Commitment Fee for all technologies which are oversubscribed relative to Clean Power 2030 capacity targets.

High impact: on generation developers

Medium Impact: on Transmission Owners

This modification was granted Urgency by Ofgem on 02 April 2026.

The Workgroup Consultation will open on 24 April 2026 and close on 30 April 2026 (4 Business Days) to seek industry views.

Workgroup members requested that the consultation dates be highlighted here due to the limited timeframe.

Any questions please contact Claire.goult@neso.energy

Future Event Summary

Slido code #OTF

Event	Date & Time	Link
Response Reform webinar	22 Apr (15:00-16:00)	Register here
CMP470 Workgroup Consultation	24 Apr to 30 Apr (17:00)	Link
Online Markets Forum	28 Apr (15:00-17:00)	Register here
DER/CER Visibility and Access Roadmap consultation closes	30 Apr (00:00)	Response Form
Operability Strategy Report and Electricity Market Roadmap survey closes	15 May (17:00)	Response Form
Short-term Stability Market feedback survey closes	30 May (23:00)	Response Form

Check out the NESO Events Calendar for more...

Public

Monthly Balancing Cost Update

March 2026

Cost and Operational Insights Team
Harsh Kapil

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Public

Monthly Cost Summary

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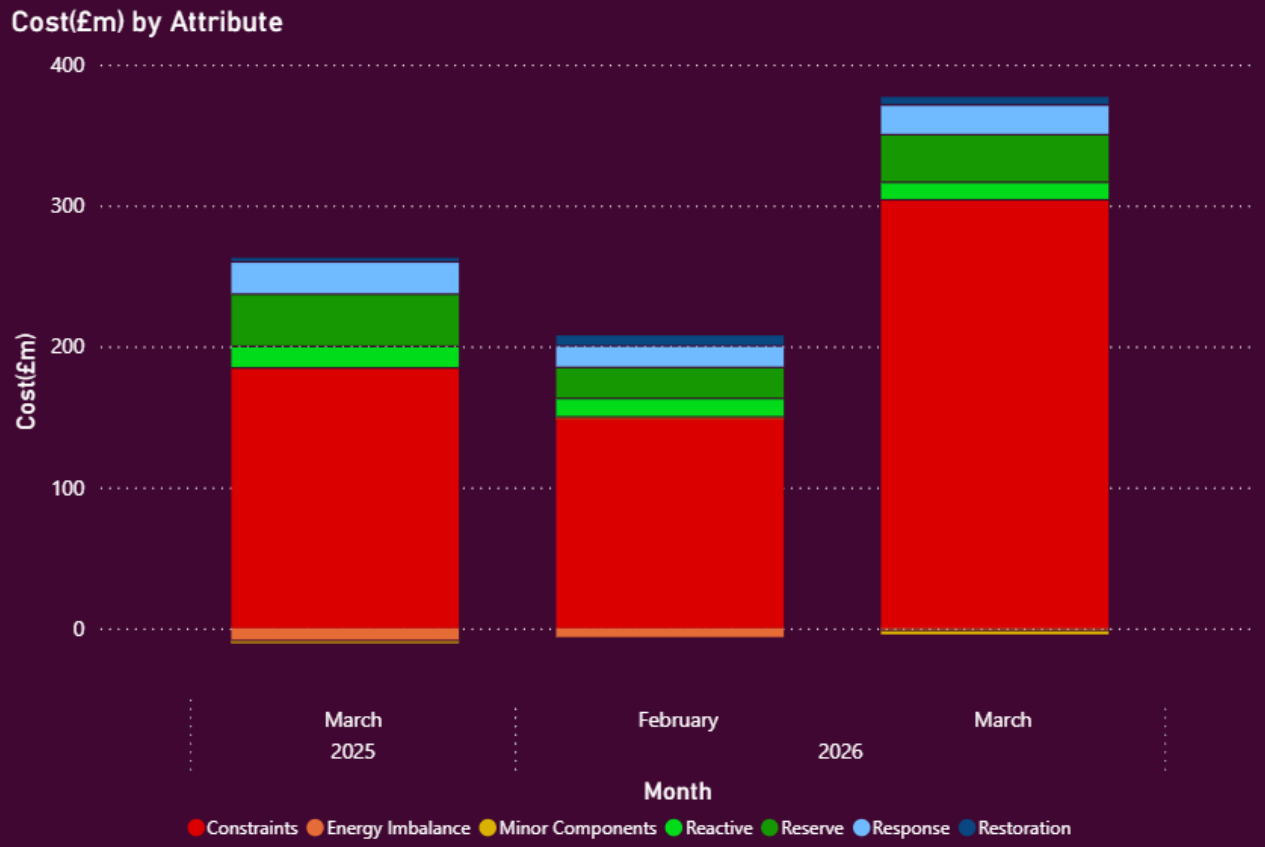
Balancing costs in March 2026 were £373m.

This was an increase of £171m on last month and an increase of £120m from March last year.

Increased wind outturn in Scotland and an increase in temperatures, alongside higher power prices has led to an increase in balancing costs from last month.

With lower demand levels and therefore less self-dispatch in the wholesale market, voltage costs have increased from February. There was a slight increase in inertia costs reflecting a small increase in the volume of inertia-related actions compared to last month.

Non-constraint costs have increased by £16.5m with an increase in clearing prices for all frequency response services and a higher wholesale price in March.



Voltage: £15.3m↑ **Thermal: £287.5m↑** **Inertia: £0.4m↑**

The figures represent the monthly costs; the arrows indicate the change compared to the previous month.

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System Conditions

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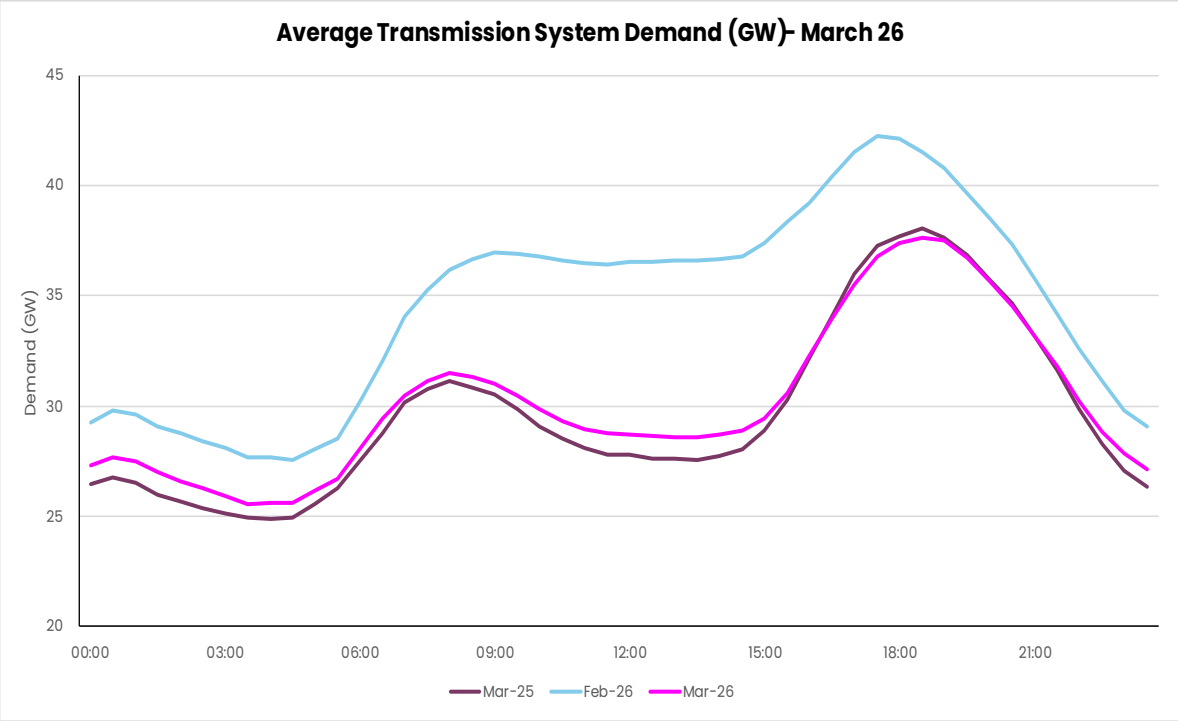

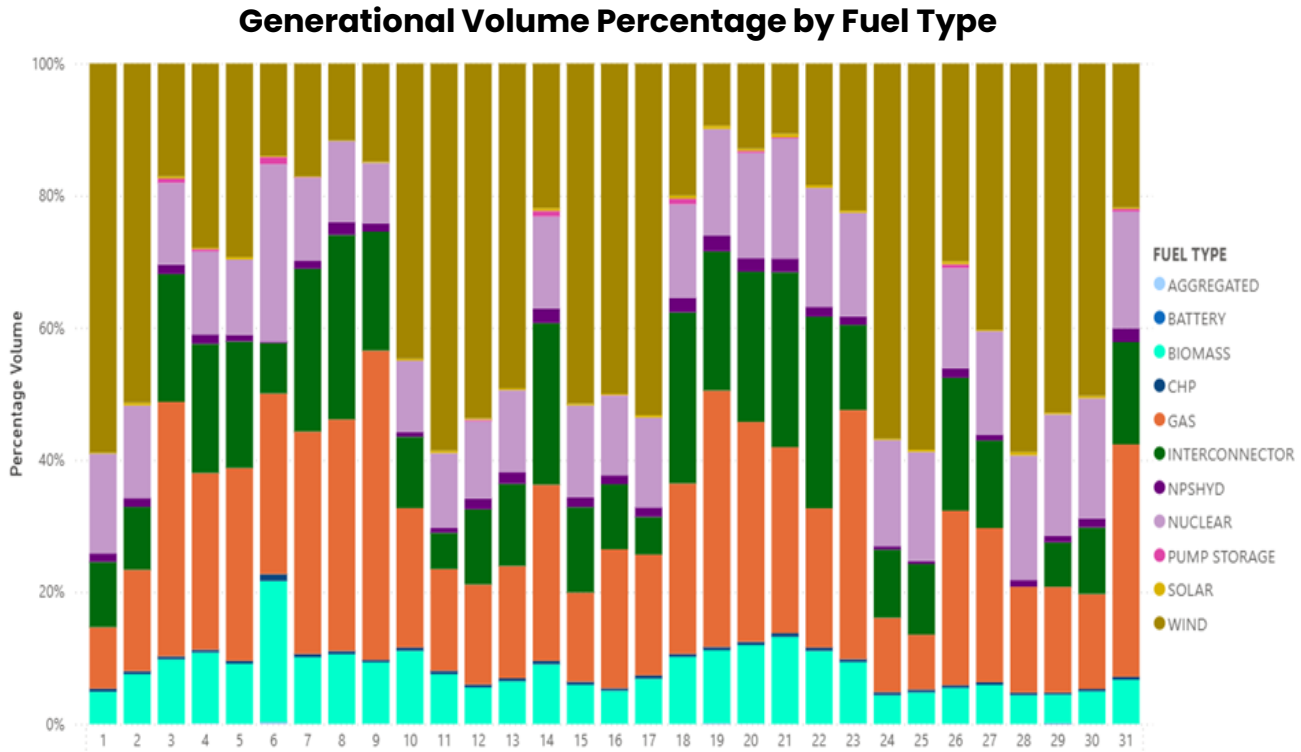

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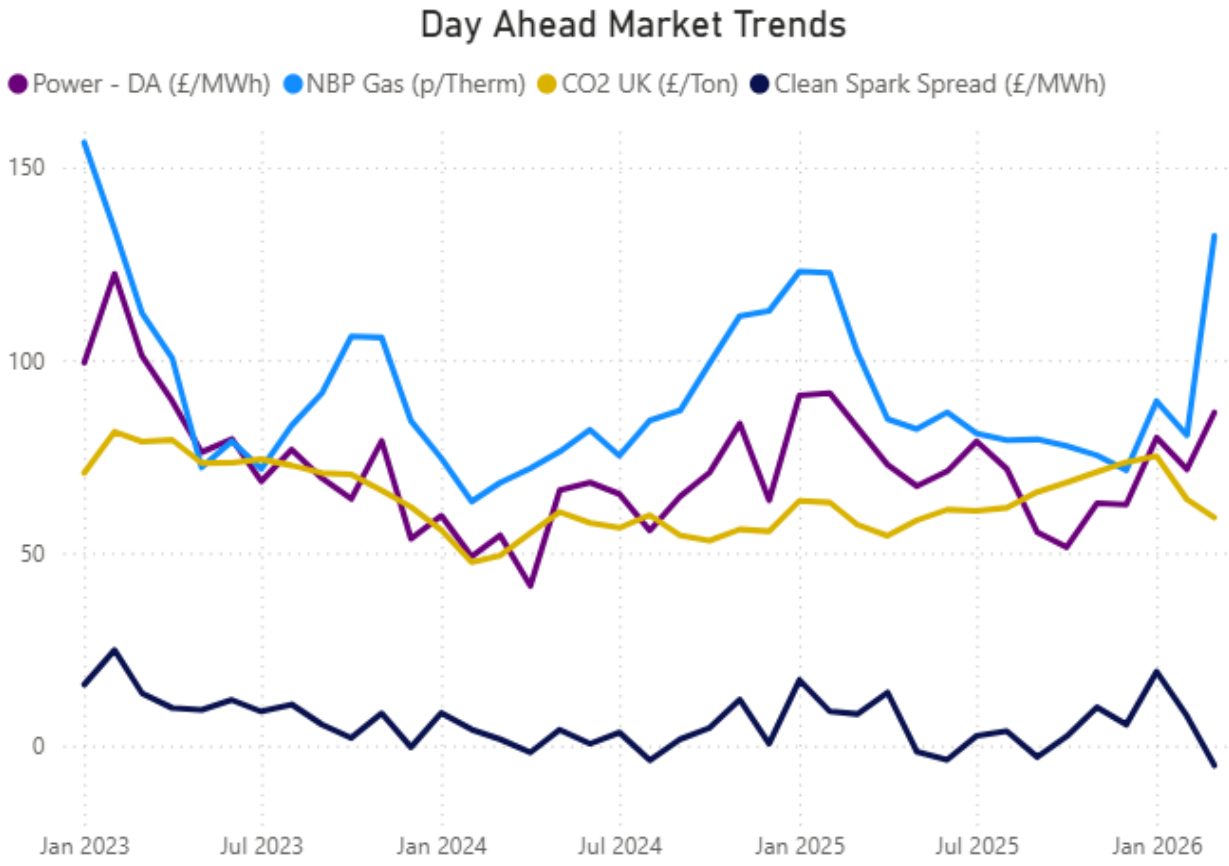
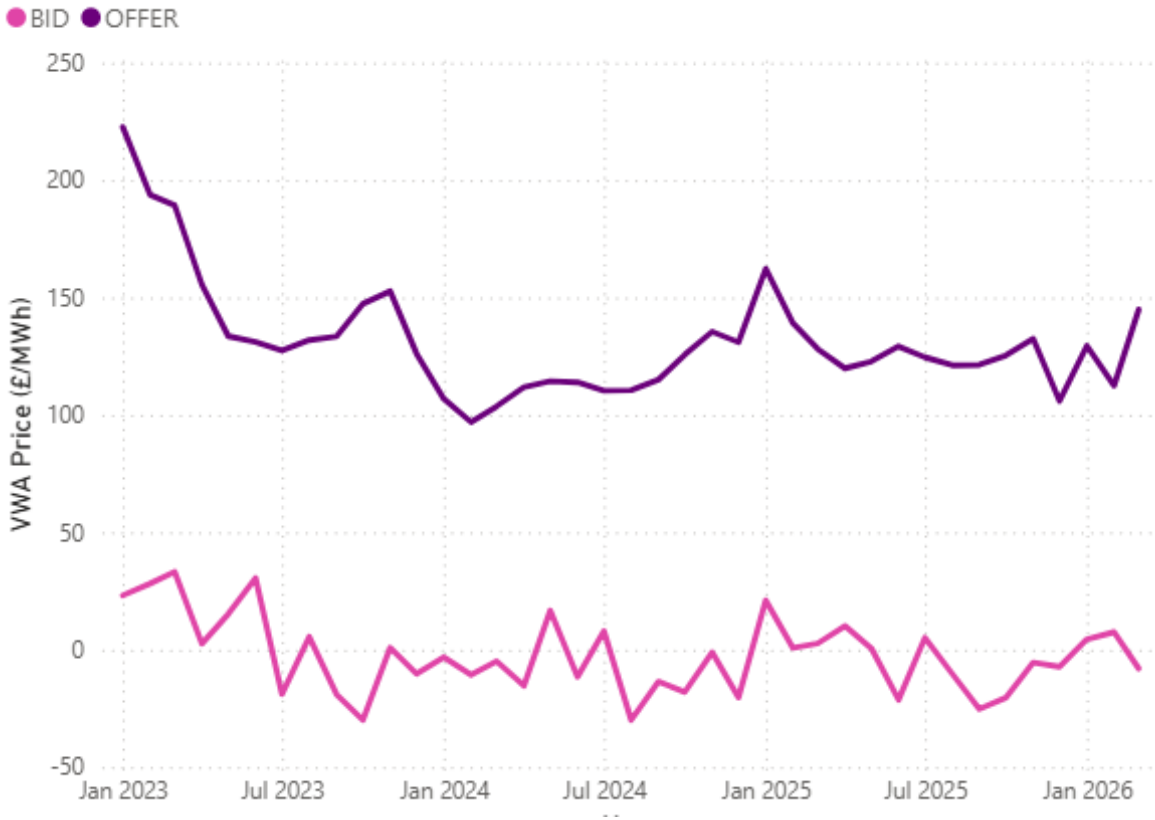
Market Conditions

	DA Power Price	VWA offer price	VWA bid price
M-o-m change	↑ +£18/MWh	↑ +£32/MWh	↓ -£15/MWh
Y-o-y	↑ +£7/MWh	↑ +£17/MWh	↓ -£11/MWh





Daily Costs and Volumes

Daily average cost:

£12m

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The highest cost day was 12th March at £24.8m, the most expensive day of the 2025–26 financial year.

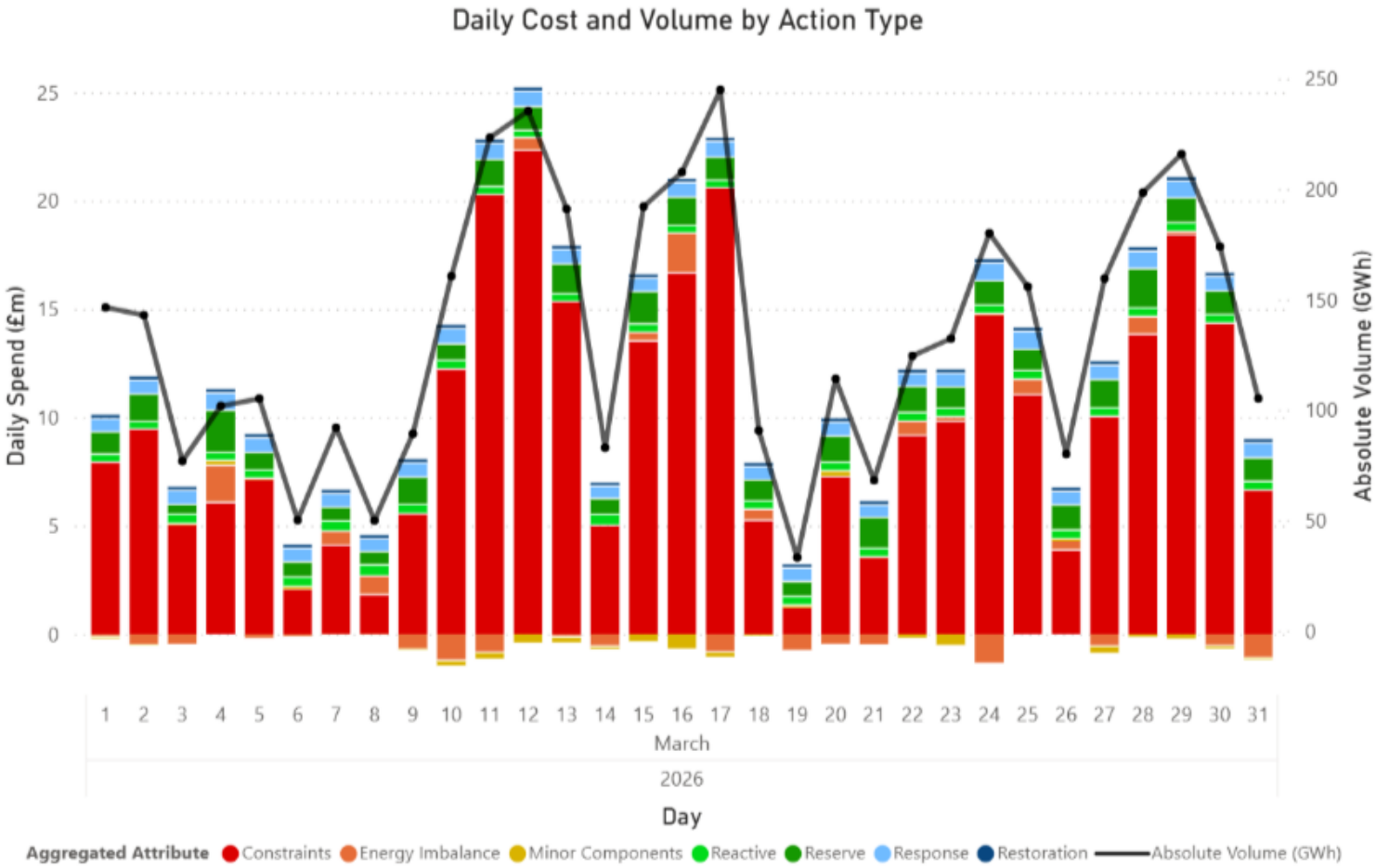
The day was driven by the highest unconstrained wind outturn of the month and recorded the second-highest level of wind curtailment in March.

The month saw a high frequency of expensive days, with five days exceeding £20m. Therefore, March represents a significant increment in daily cost volatility.

Daily average cost was £12m, approximately a £4.8m increase on the previous month.

Key trends from previous month:

	Constraint	Non-constraint
Cost	↑ +104%	↑ +31%
Volume	↑ +48%	↓ -3%



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Wind Outturn

Monthly wind curtailment %:

20.6%

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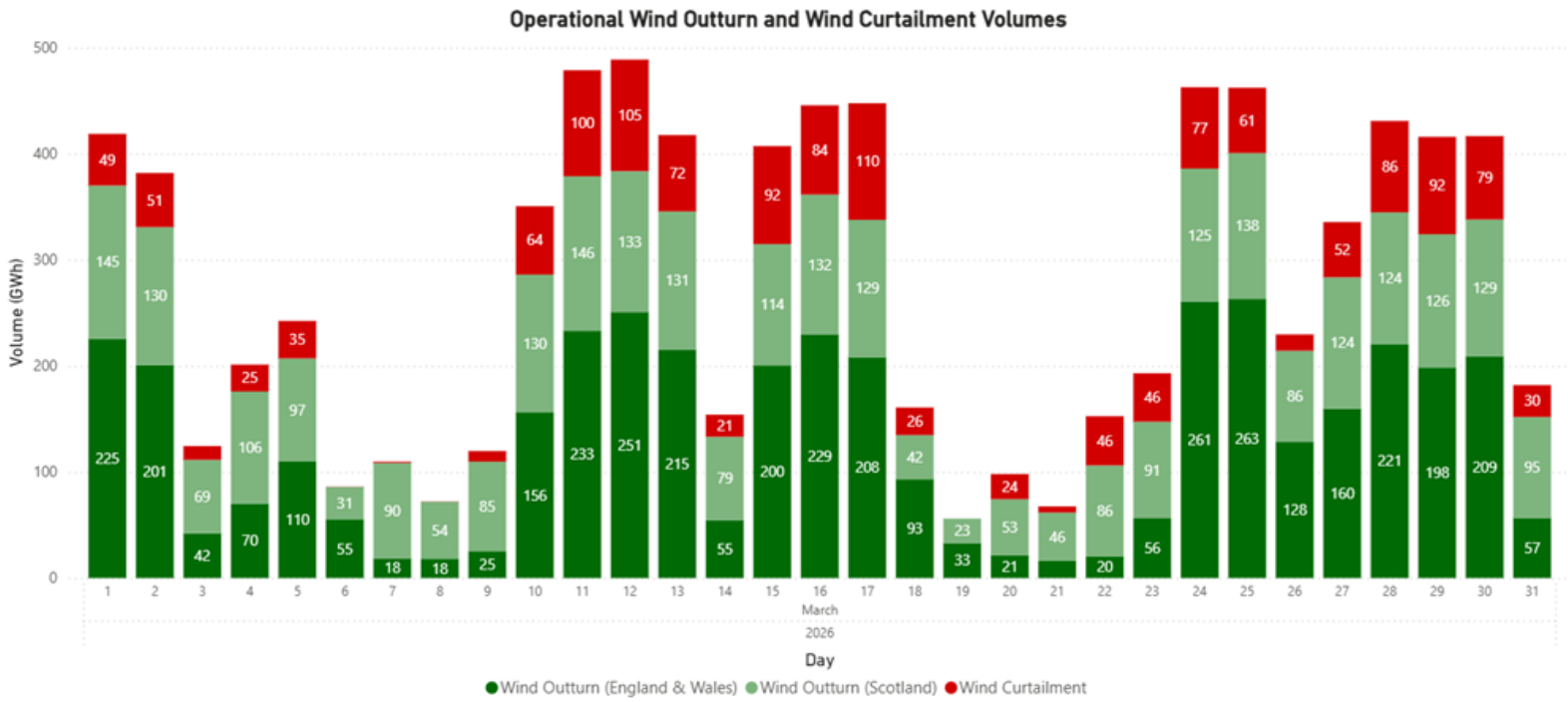
Overall wind outturn dropped from 7.6 TWh in February to 7.1 TWh in March.

There was a 608GWh increase in the amount of wind curtailment compared to February and a 477GWh increase from March 2025.

The highest volume wind curtailment days were seen at the middle of the month:
- 12th March (105GWh) - highest cost day
- 17td March (110GWh) - second highest cost day
- 11th March (100GWh) – third highest cost day

	Total	England & Wales	Scotland
Wind Outturn (GWh)	**7,135**	**4,048**	**3,087**
Wind Curtailment (GWh)	**1473**	**20**	**1453**



Demand | Last week demand out-turn

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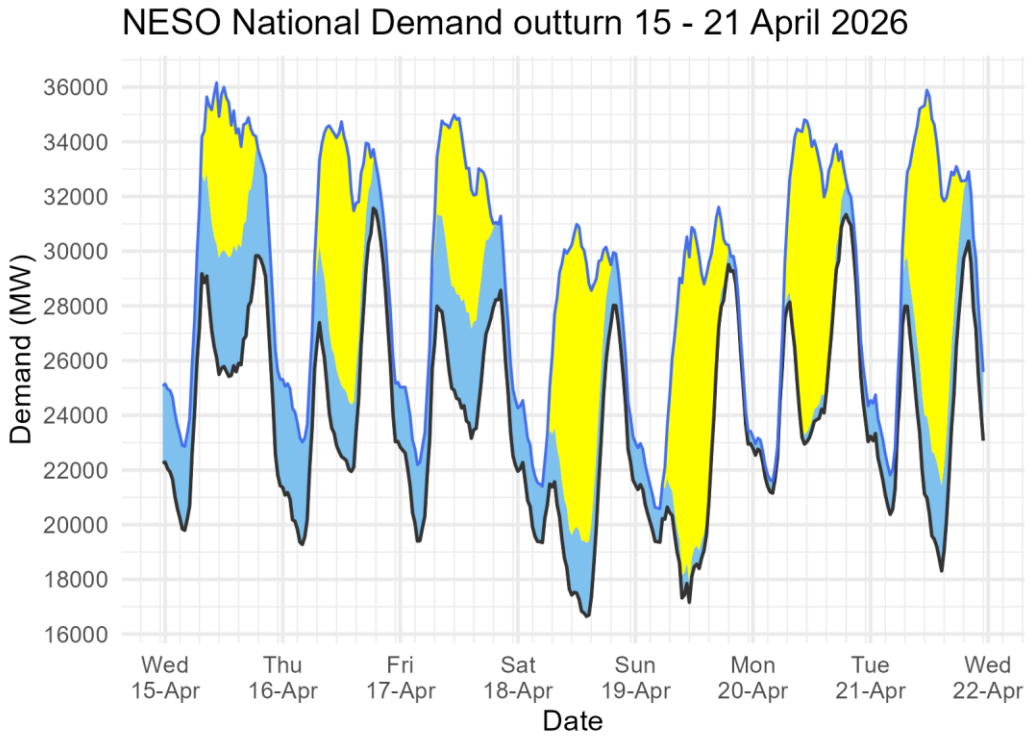

Distributed generation

Peak values by day

Date	OUTTURN	
	Daily Max Dist. PV (GW)	Daily Max Dist. Wind (GW)
15 Apr 2026	5.9	4.4
16 Apr 2026	9.7	4.1
17 Apr 2026	6.4	4.0
18 Apr 2026	11.1	2.7
19 Apr 2026	12.1	1.6
20 Apr 2026	11.5	1.3
21 Apr 2026	12.2	3.1

National Demand

Minimum Demands

Date	Forecasting Point	FORECAST (Wed 15 Apr)			OUTTURN		
		National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)	Dist. PV (GW)	National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)	Dist. PV (GW)
15 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	24.0	4.3	6.8	25.4	4.4	5.6
16 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	19.2	4.0	0.0	19.3	3.7	0.0
16 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	22.7	2.9	8.0	21.9	2.4	7.8
17 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	20.3	2.0	0.0	19.4	2.8	0.0
17 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	21.3	3.4	6.9	23.2	4.0	5.1
18 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	19.4	1.6	0.0	19.3	2.1	0.0
18 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	16.9	1.8	9.2	16.6	2.7	10.2
19 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	19.1	0.9	0.2	19.4	1.2	0.0
19 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	17.4	0.7	9.1	17.2	0.7	11.9
20 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	20.3	1.1	0.0	21.2	0.4	0.0
20 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	22.4	1.4	9.0	22.9	0.3	11.5
21 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	21.0	1.3	0.0	20.4	1.4	0.0
21 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	23.7	1.4	8.8	18.3	3.1	10.6

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

From March to October, the table will display overnight minimum (between 00:00 and 07:30) and daytime minimum (between 07:30 and 16:30) as well as an additional column: distributed PV.

Demand | Week Ahead

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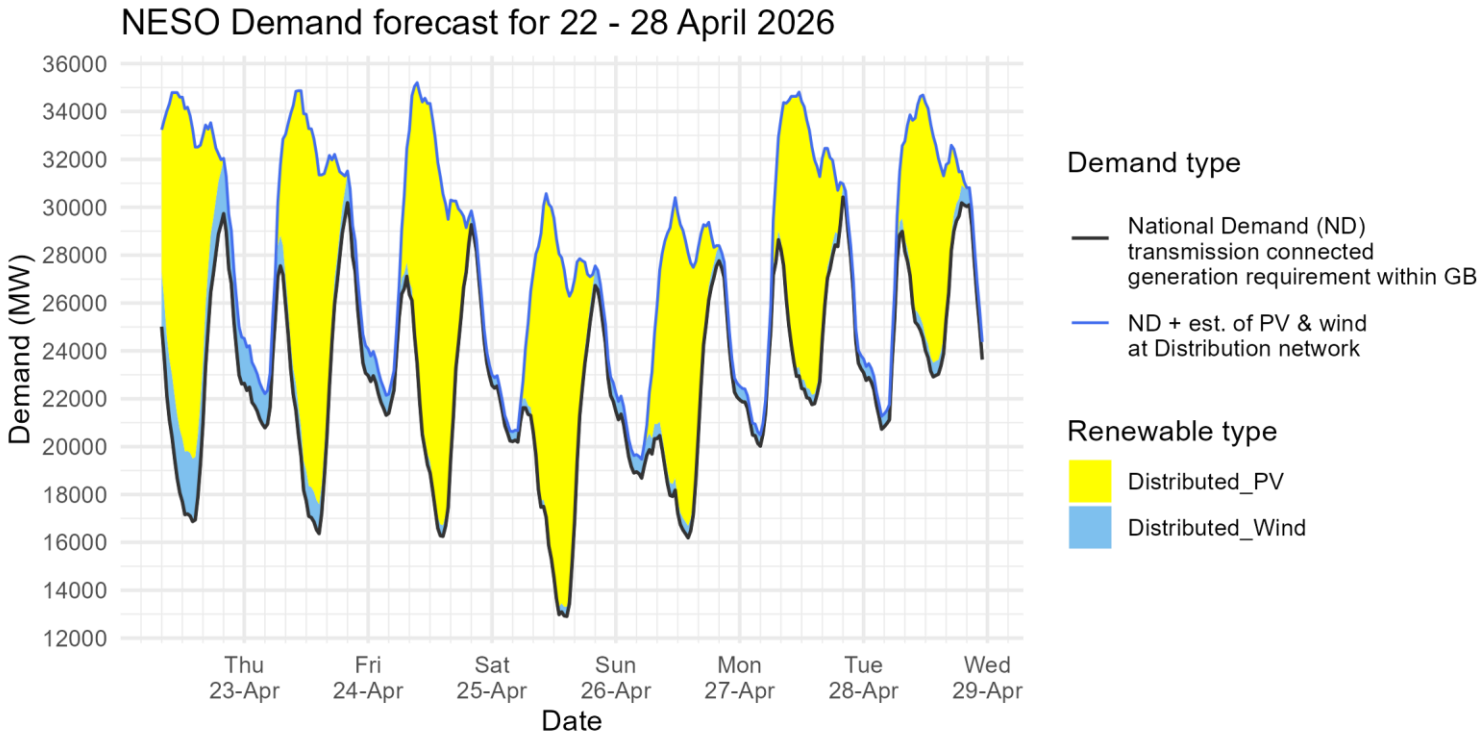

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From March to October, the table will display overnight minimum (between 00:00 and 07:30) and daytime minimum (between 07:30 and 16:30) as well as an additional column: distributed PV.

National Demand

Minimum Demands

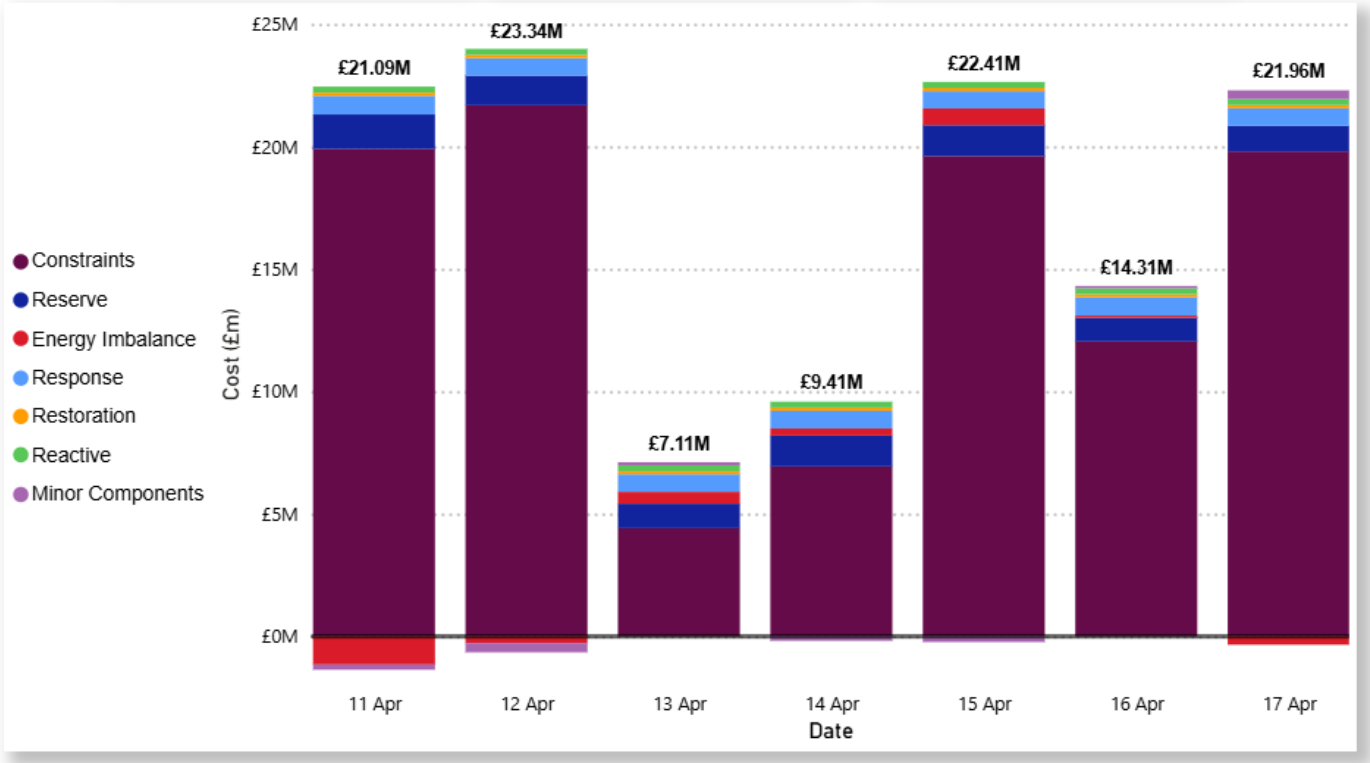
		FORECAST (Wed 22 Apr)		
Date	Forecasting Point	National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)	Dist. PV (GW)
22 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	16.9	2.6	13.7
23 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	20.8	1.4	0.0
23 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	16.4	1.2	13.8
24 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	21.3	0.8	0.0
24 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	16.3	0.5	13.8
25 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	20.2	0.4	0.1
25 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	12.9	0.4	13.3
26 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	18.7	0.7	0.1
26 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	16.2	0.5	11.4
27 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	20.0	0.5	0.0
27 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	21.8	0.4	10.3
28 Apr 2026	Overnight Min	20.7	0.5	0.0
28 Apr 2026	Daytime Min	22.9	0.6	9.5

NESO Actions | Category Cost Breakdown

Slido code #OTF

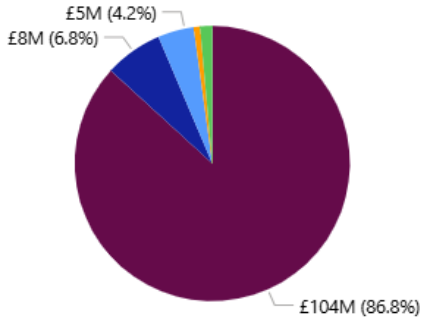
Date
11/04/2026 17/04/2026

Weekly Total Costs (£)	Last Week Total Costs (£)	Past 30-Day Average Costs (£)
119.6M	72.5M	11.3M



Date	Total Costs
11 April 2026	£21,091,424
12 April 2026	£23,340,134
13 April 2026	£7,114,826
14 April 2026	£9,406,072
15 April 2026	£22,413,849
16 April 2026	£14,312,028
17 April 2026	£21,959,996
Total	**£119,638,329**

Weekly Cost (£) and Share (%)



For more info on constraint costs, and the steps NESO is taking with industry partners to address them, please see our Balancing Costs website.

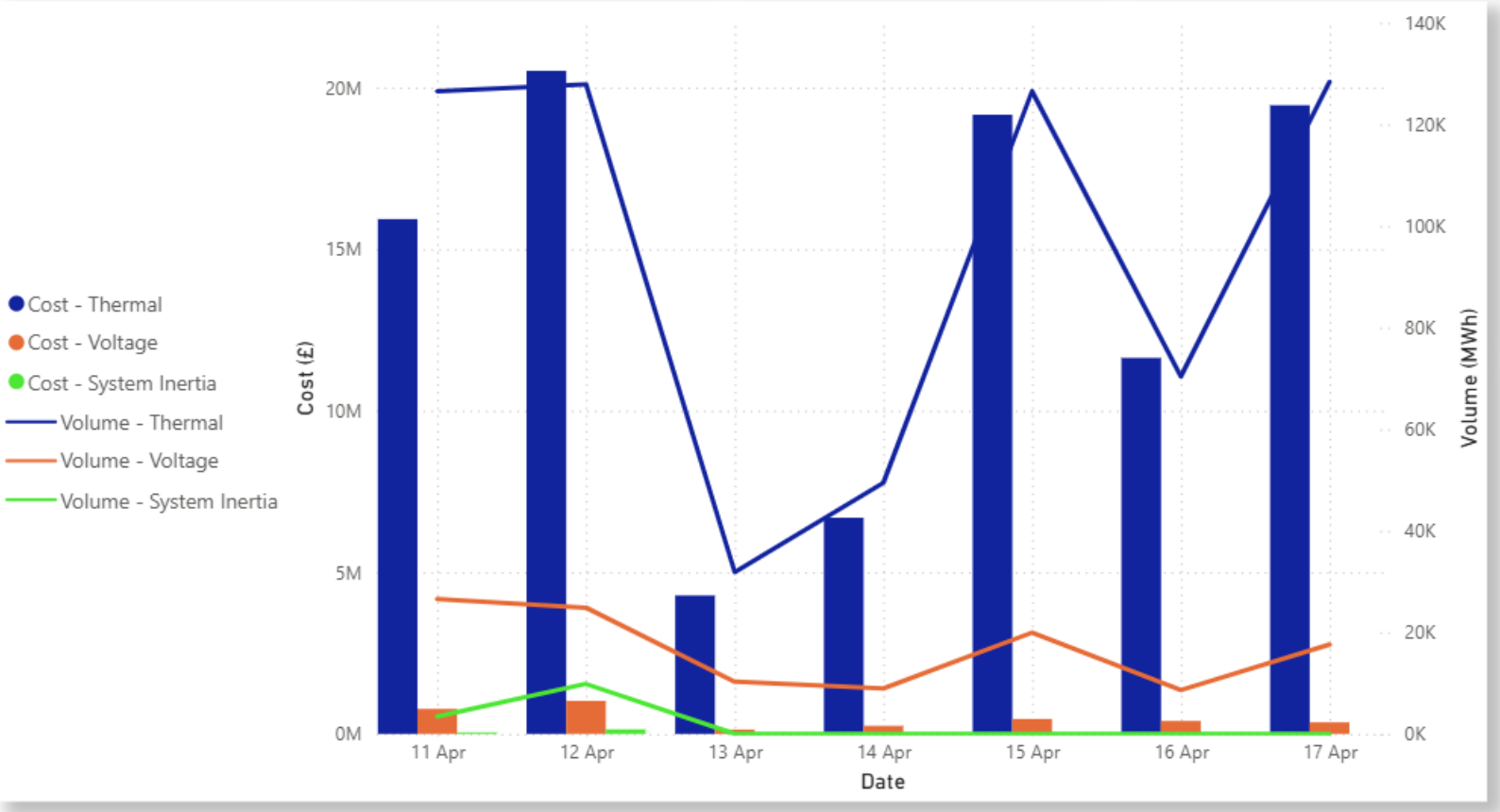
We will be providing an update on NESO's activities to manage constraints following publication of DESNZ' Reformed National Pricing Delivery Plan.

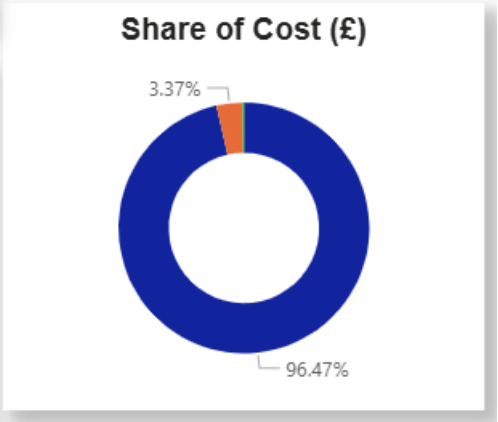
NESO Actions | Constraint Cost Breakdown

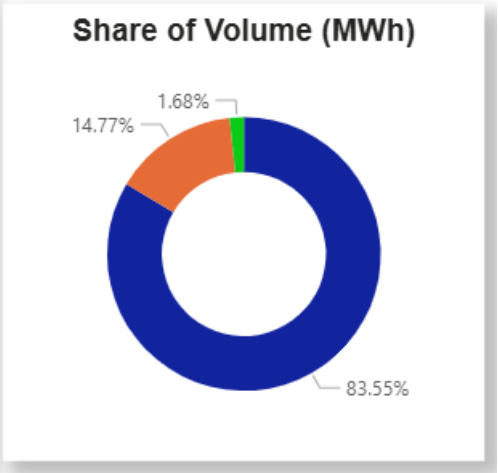
Slido code #OTF

Date
11/04/2026 17/04/2026

Thermal Constraints		Voltage Constraints		System Inertia	
Costs (£)	Vol (MWh)	Costs (£)	Vol (MWh)	Costs (£)	Vol (MWh)
97.67M	661.06K	3.41M	116.86K	165.42K	13.26K







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

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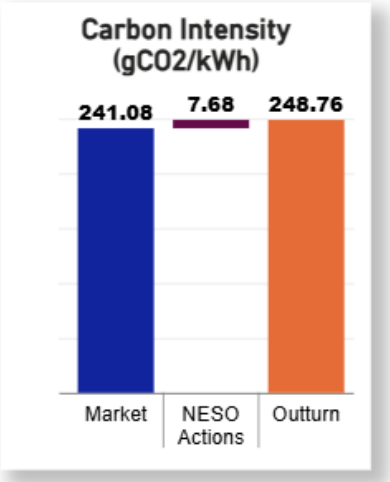
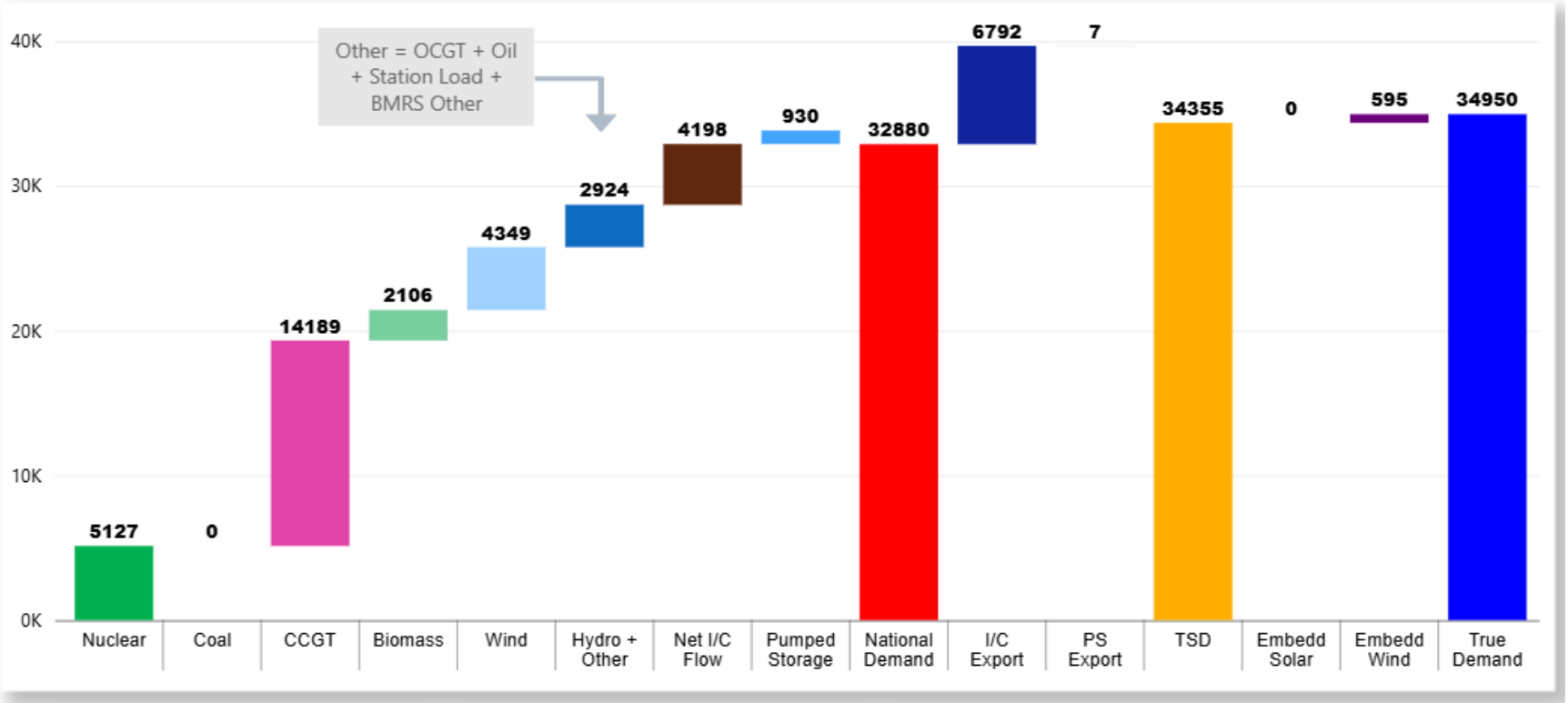
NESO Actions | Peak Demand – Settlement Period (SP) spend ~£60k

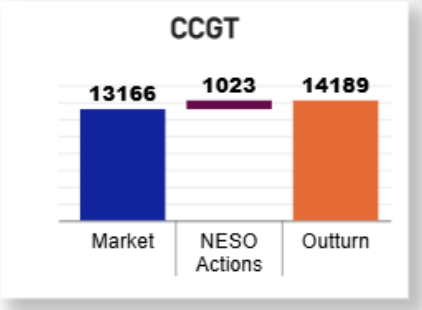
Slido code #OTF

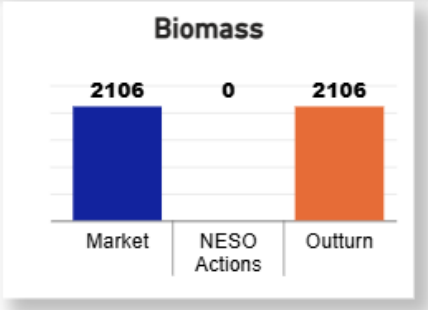
Date: 13 April 2026 | SP: 39

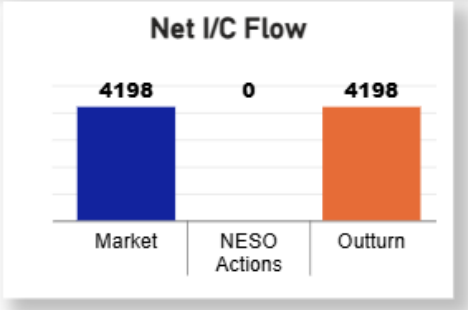
Half-hour preceding
19:30

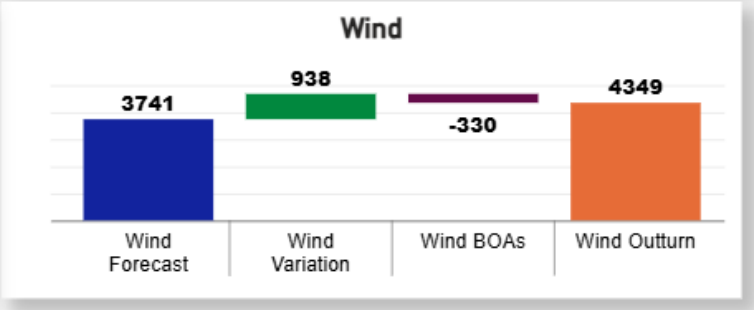












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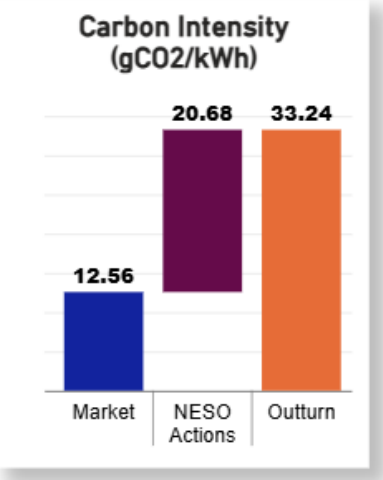
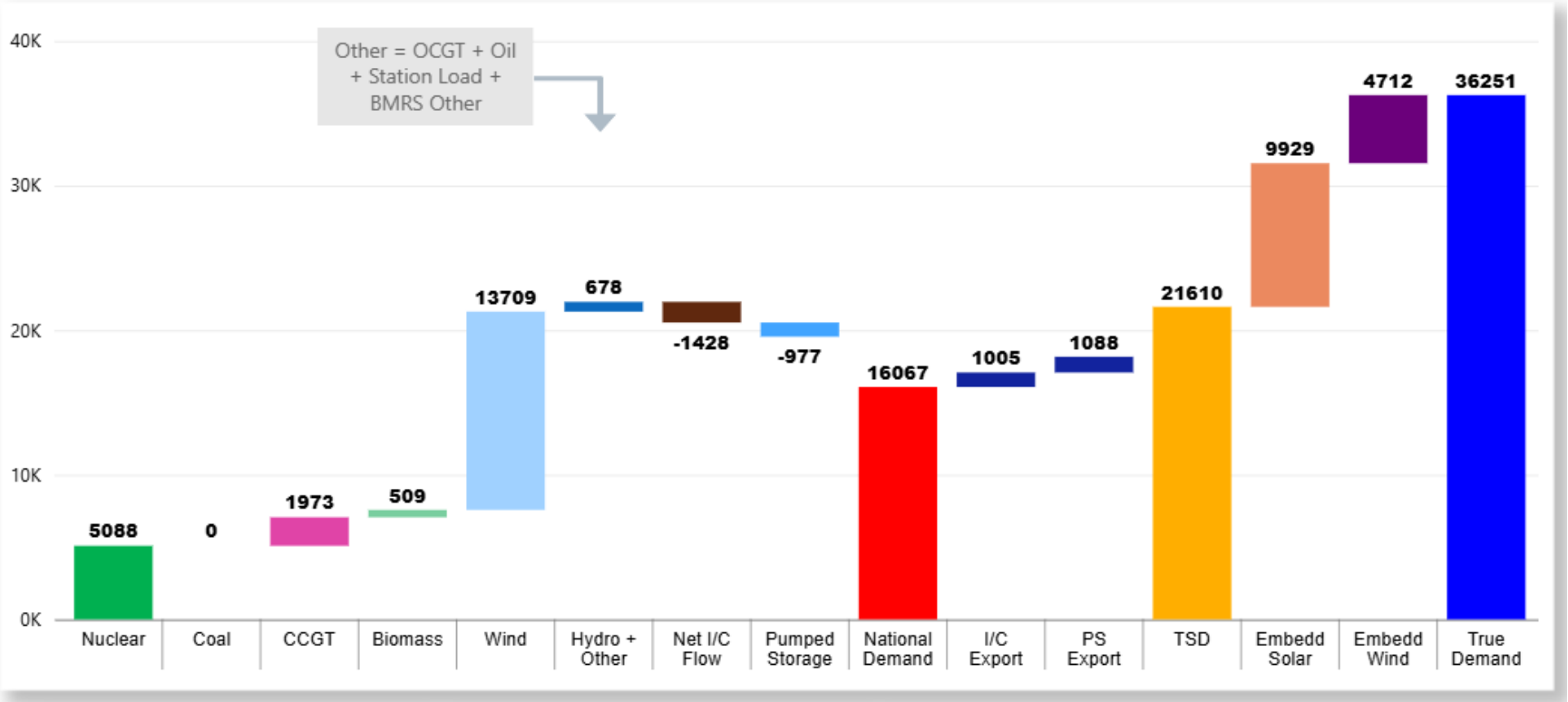
NESO Actions | Minimum Demand – SP spend ~£272k

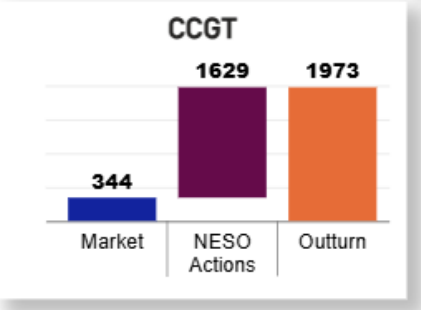
Slido code #OTF

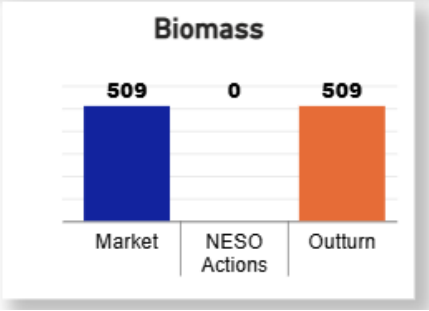
Date: 11 April 2026 | SP: 28

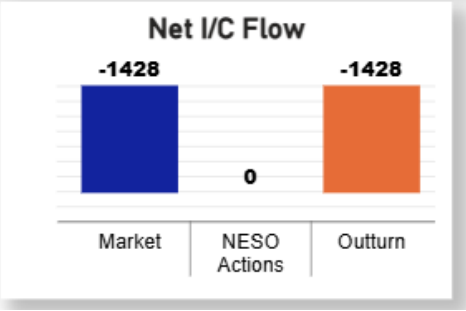
Half-hour preceding
14:00

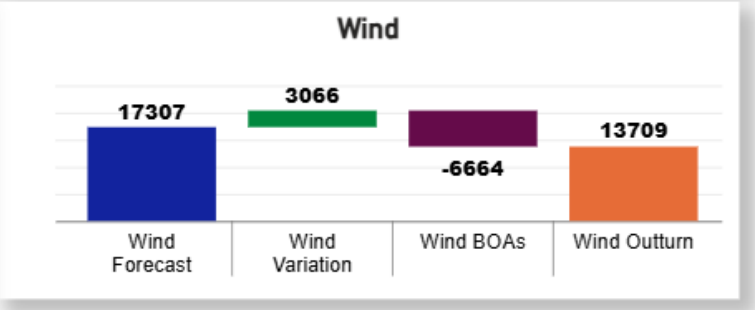












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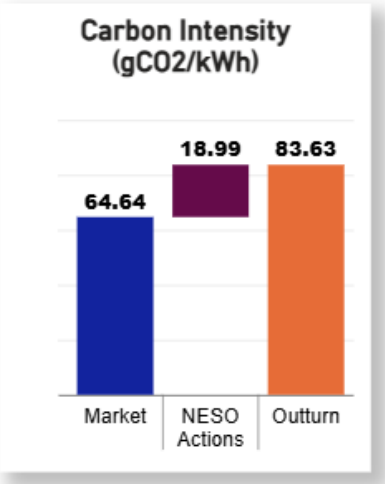
NESO Actions | Highest SP spend ~£959k

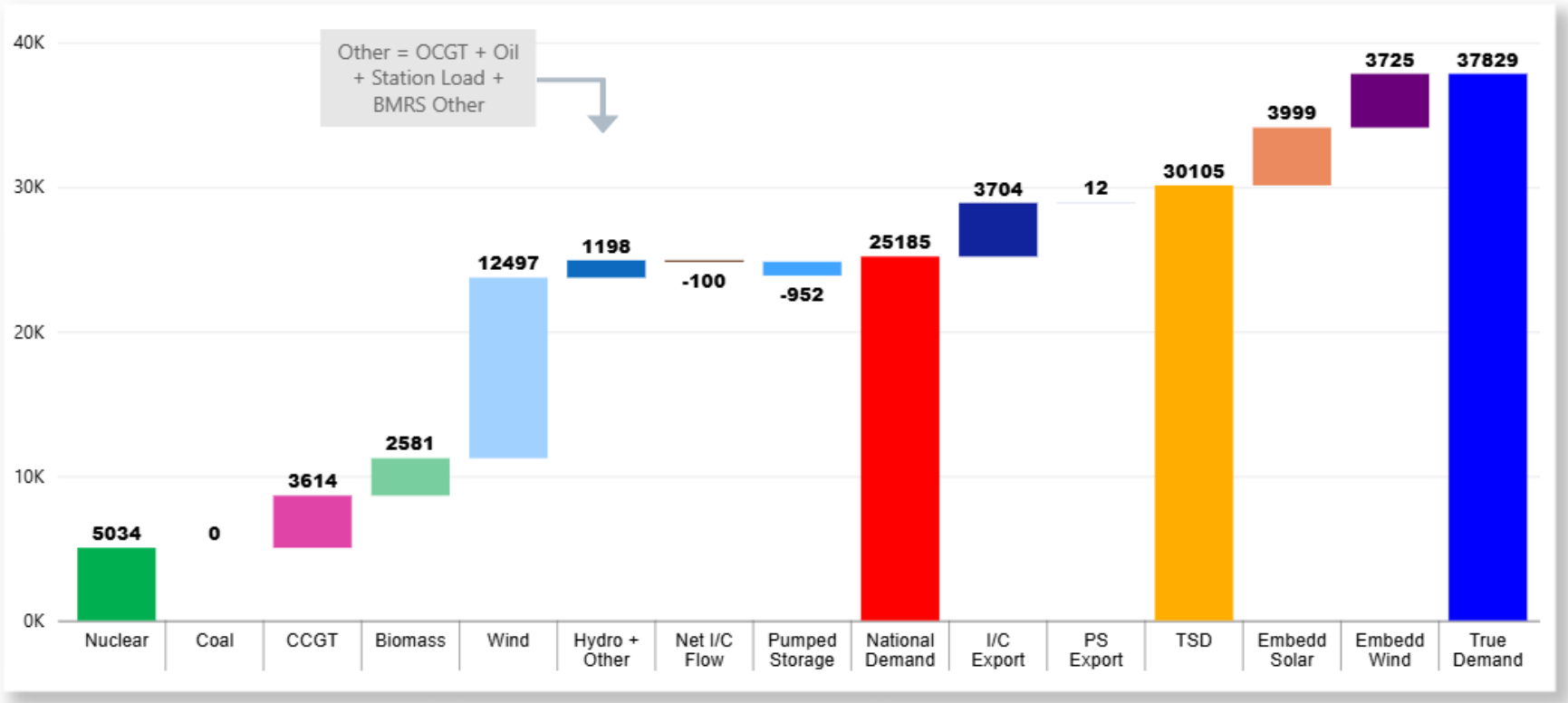
Slido code #OTF

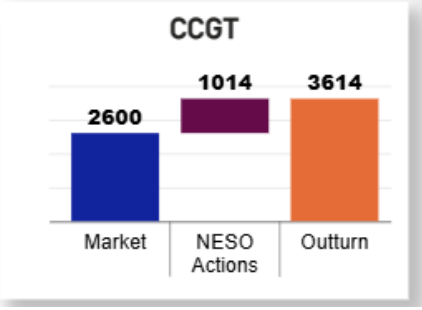
Date: 17 April 2026

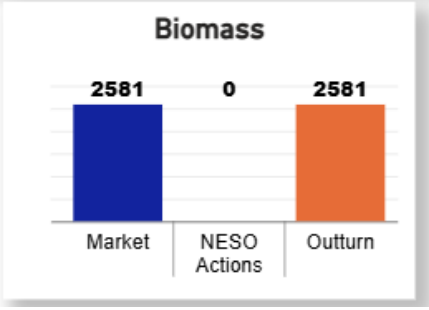
SP: 33

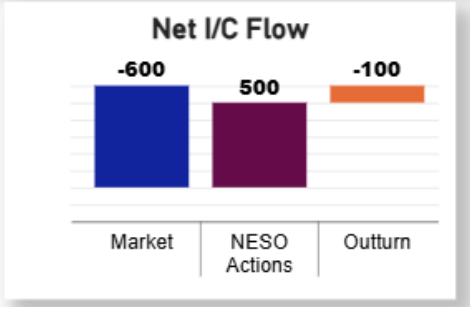
Half-hour preceding
16:30

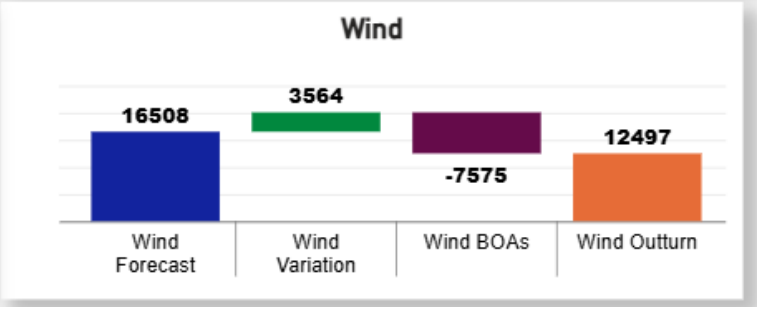












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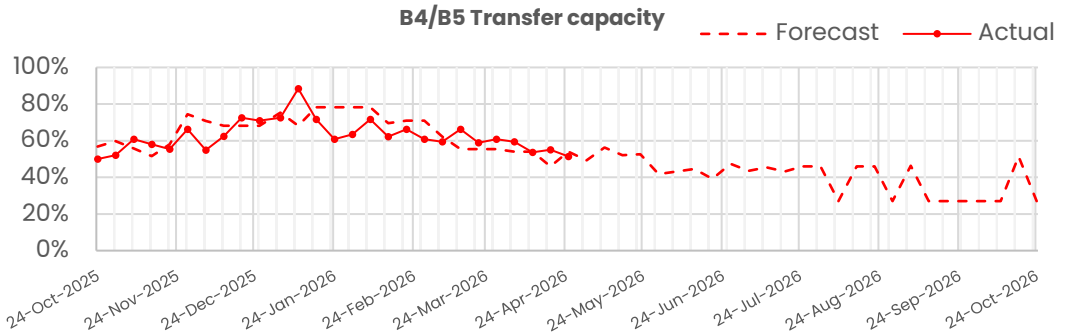
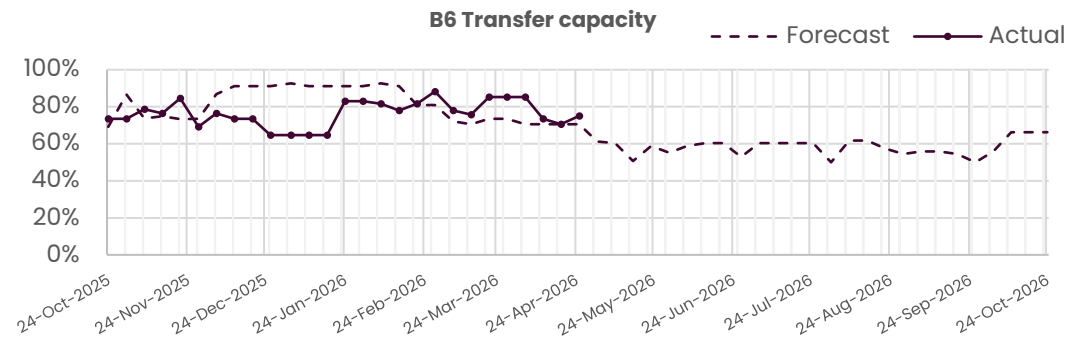
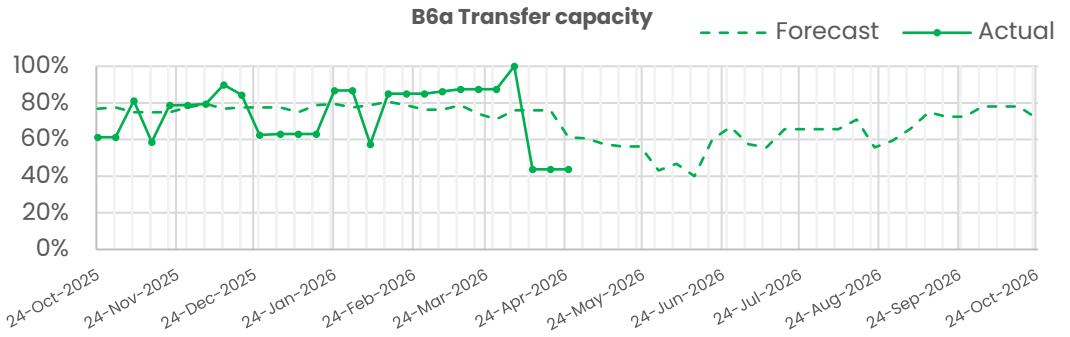
Slido code #OTF







Boundary	Max. Capacity (MW)	Current Capacity (%)
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B6a	8000	44
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GMSNOW	5800	33
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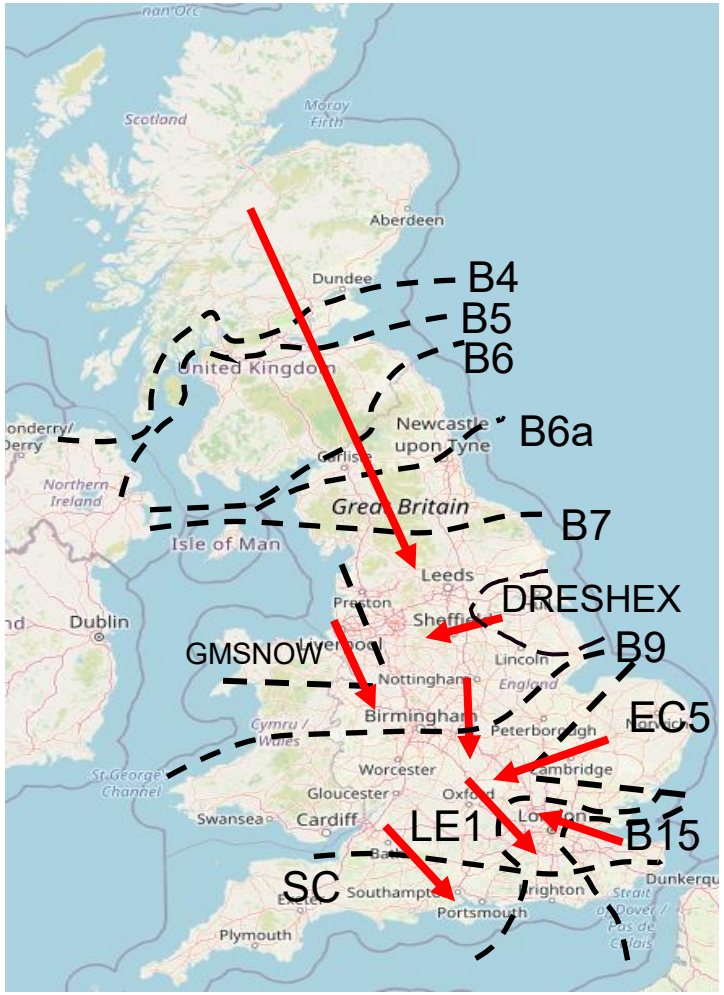
DRESHEX	9675	76
EC5	5000	100
LE1 (SEIMP)	8750	72
B15 (ESTEX)	7500	79
SC1	7300	100



The forecast line is updated with the 12-week ahead view, and this happens each week. So, everything up to 12 weeks ahead is the forecast from 12-week ahead view, and everything after that is the fixed long-term forecast view.

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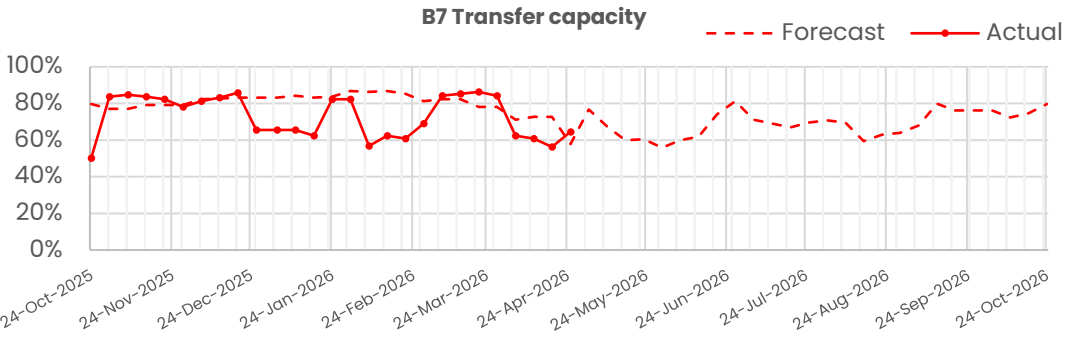

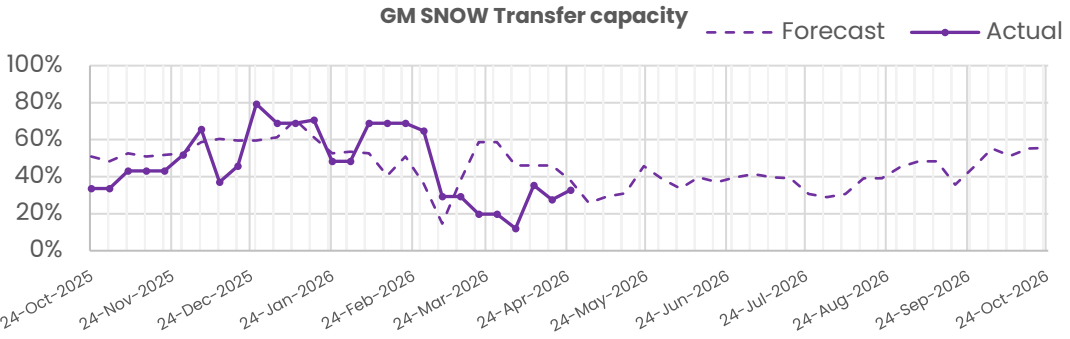

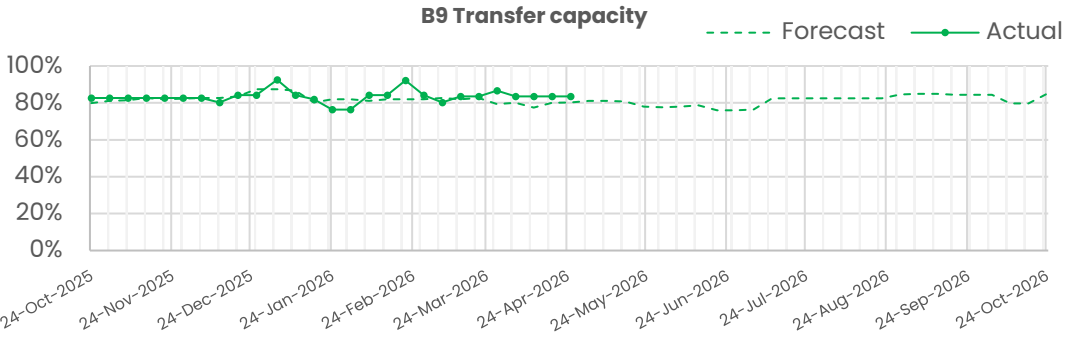

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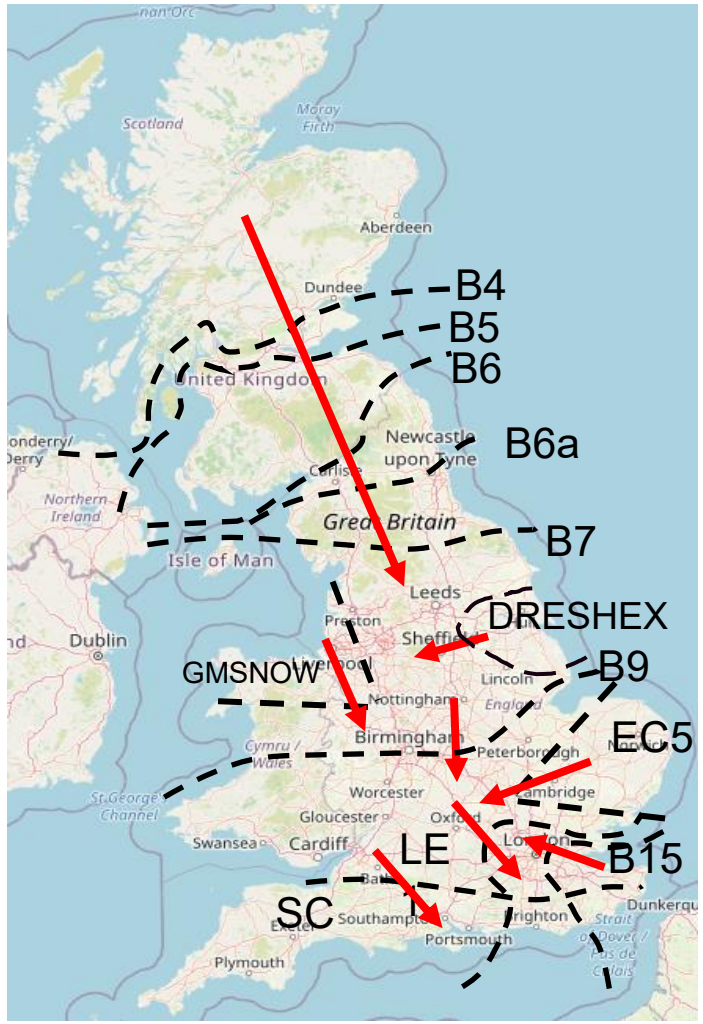

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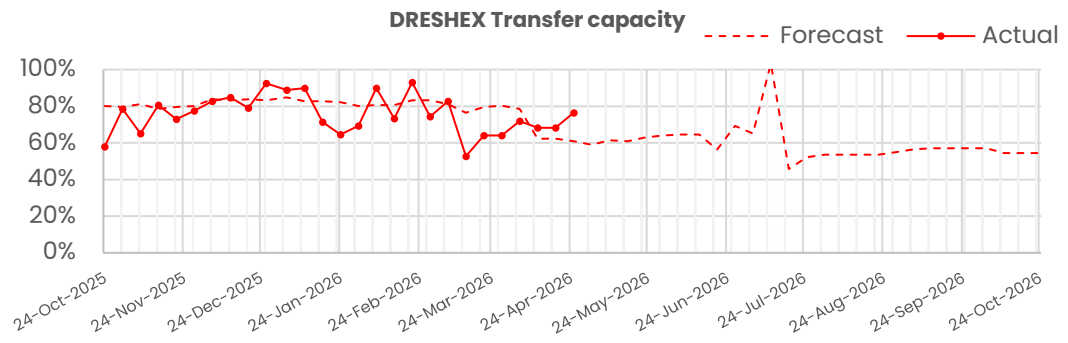

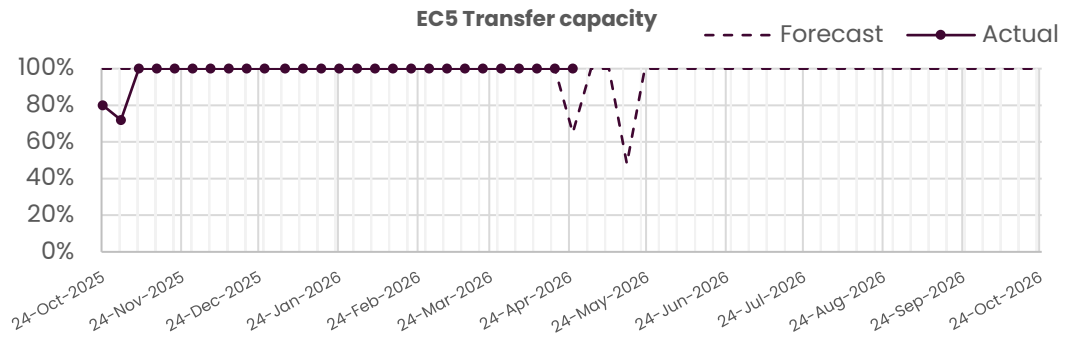

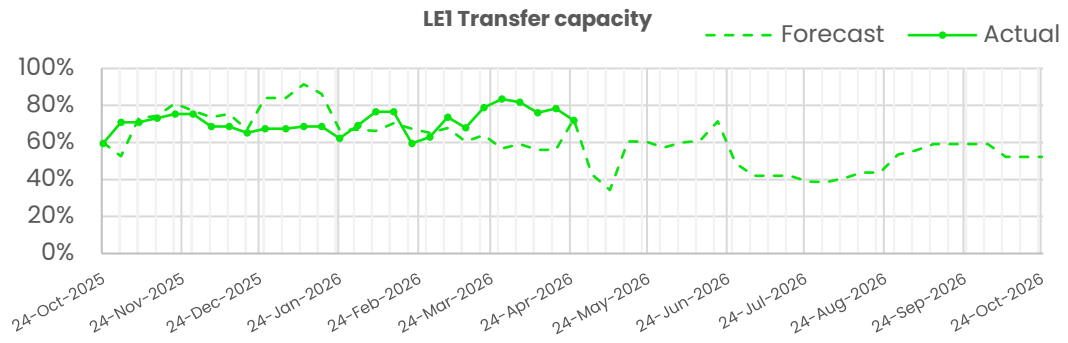

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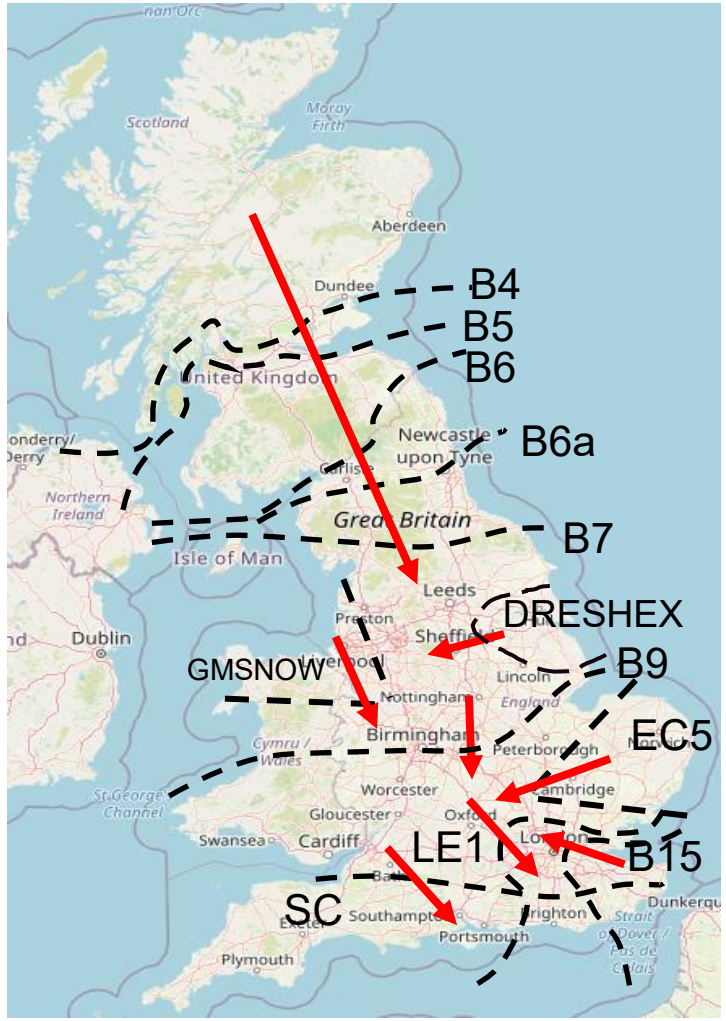

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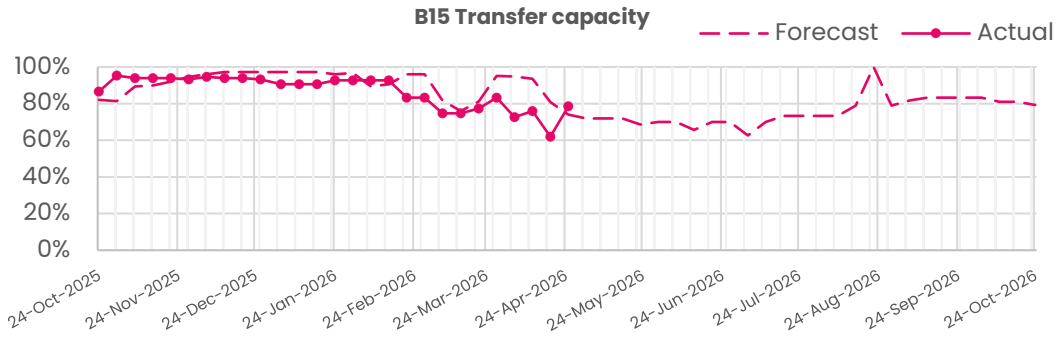

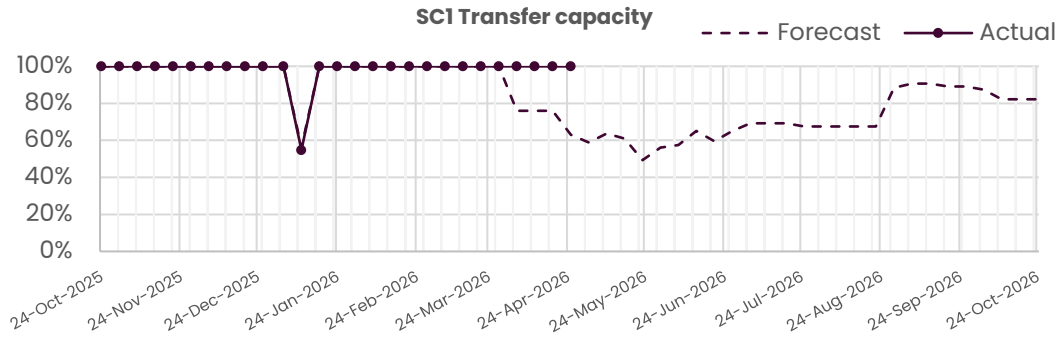

The forecast line is updated with the 12-week ahead view, and this happens each week. So, everything up to 12 weeks ahead is the forecast from 12-week ahead view, and everything after that is the fixed long-term forecast view.

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	51
B6 (SCOTEX)	6800	75
B6a	8000	44
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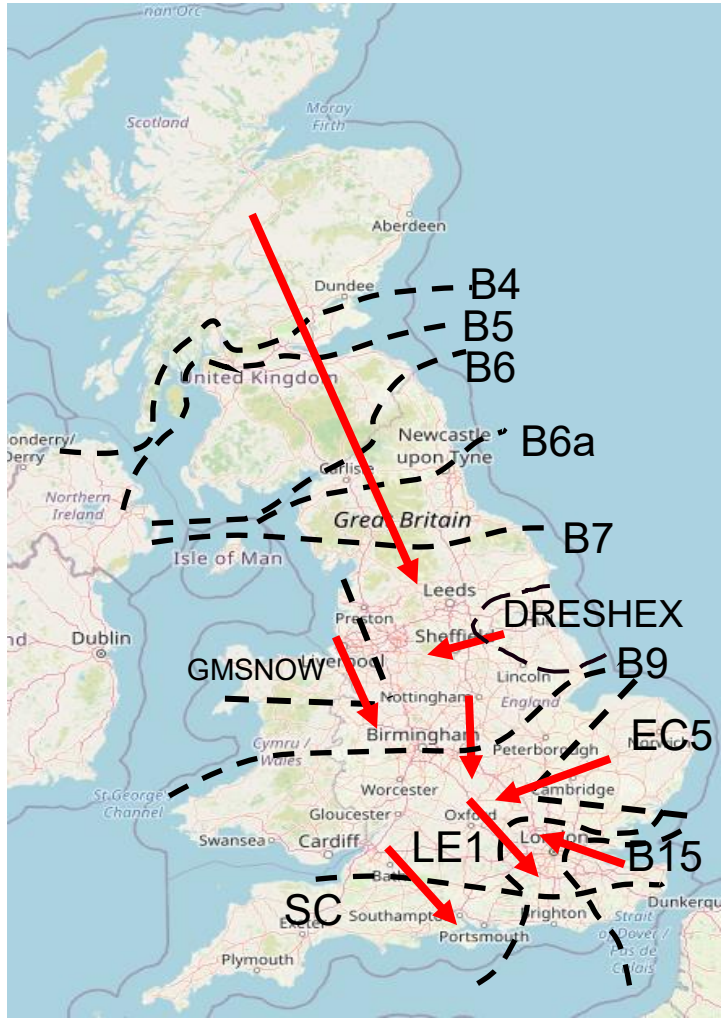


PSA Skip Rates – bids & offers combined

Slido code #OTF

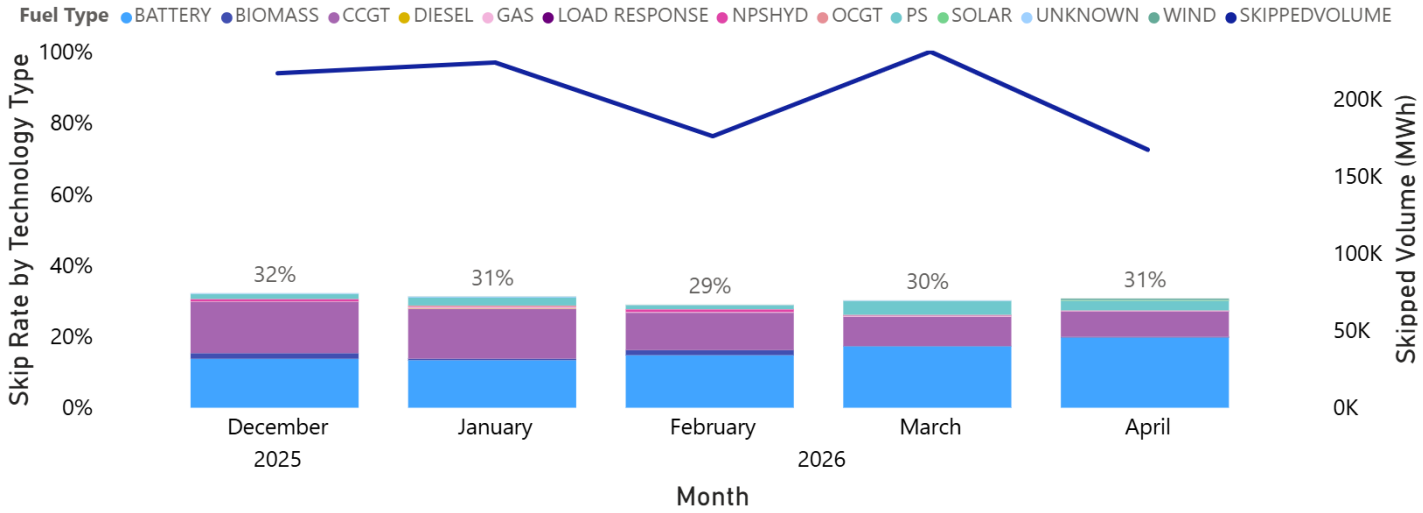
The current skip rate methodology only considers energy actions within the BM

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

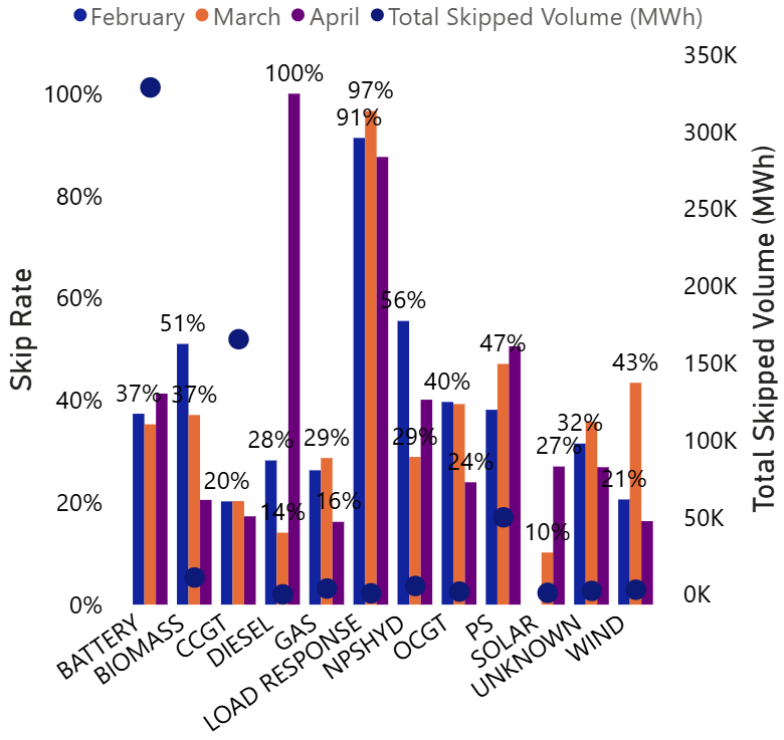
These graphs are based on stage 5 of the Post System Action definition.

Weekly Average w/e	PSA Skip Rate (%)
29/03	35%
05/04	31%
12/04	29%
19/04	31%

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

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Previously Asked Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (15/04/2026) Is NESO aware there is a list of information that the DNOs have agreed to work with Ofgem to publish? It includes much of this - I can give you the list.

A: Yes , we're aware that DNOs are working with Ofgem on a defined list of information to be published, and that work is an important input into this space. What the NESO DER/CER Visibility and Access roadmap and TIDE Programme initiatives are focused on is how that information is made consistent, accessible and usable at system level for operational and planning purposes, rather than simply where it is published. We'd welcome sight of the list, as it would be helpful in ensuring alignment between the existing Ofgem led publications and the future NESO–DSO data and interface requirements we're developing.

Q: (15/04/2026) CER and DER. Why is this not managed through the DSOs with full Operational and Planning Interfaces at GSP level? TIDE Project?

A: We are doing this through the TIDE Programme, specifically through Phase 1 of the DER/CER Visibility and Access Roadmap, which is designed to generate practical learning before locking in an enduring model. Phase 1 includes initiatives such as Operational Data Sharing, Fractal Flow, CASCADE and real time metering MVPs, all of which are actively testing how DSO led operational and planning interfaces – including at GSP level – work in practice. The purpose is to use these Phase 1 learnings to inform proportionate, scalable and aligned NESO–DSO solutions, rather than mandate a single design prematurely.Implementation of these changes has been delayed due to requirements around testing and formal sign-off. This testing has now been completed; however, some further preparatory work is required before implementation can proceed. A finalised implementation plan is expected to be agreed shortly, after which NESO will engage with Elexon and provide the required four weeks' notice. Our current target for implementation is late May to mid-June.

Previously Asked Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (15/04/2026) Is NESO able to share its latest guidance on how it expects Grid Forming BESS (or GBGF-I) technology to provide grid-forming capability and inertia services? I believe an event was organised on this, standards seem to have evolved since prior Grid Forming BESS connected and was contracted.

A: Last week NESO held a Grid Forming Technology Overview Webinar, the slides and recording have been uploaded on the System Operability Framework report webpage: https://www.neso.energy/publications/system-operability-framework-sof

Please use this link to access a copy of the slides: https://www.neso.energy/document/380216/download

We will soon be publishing the Q and A on the same webpage.

Q: (15/04/2026) When is NESO going to show us the value of the Skips (missed genco revenue?) and the cost to consumers (impact on cash-out)?

A: We presented cost of skips at our in-person forum in January. Slides and recording can be found on our website:

Slides: https://www.neso.energy/document/376551/download

Recording: https://youtu.be/-ghA-tCvnwY

Cost of energy balancing skips for 2025 were an average of £2.9m per month which is equivalent to 3.5% of energy balancing costs in the BM. Most technology types currently receive more revenue from acceptances out of merit than they would receive if skips were zero.

Previously Asked Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (15/04/2026) Why is the SQSS Panel meetings not open like all the other Panel meetings? What are they up to in secret?

A: If you wish to attend the SQSS Panel as an observer, please contact the Code Administrator who would be happy to facilitate your attendance. Meeting minutes are also produced for transparency.

Q: (15/04/2026) When your team has put links in the chat can you leave the chat open, so we have time to copy them?

A: Thank you for your feedback. We keep OTF chat and Slido open until 12:00 on the day, which should allow all participants to copy all the links they need. We also try to typically post all the links at the beginning of the webinar and include them in the deck too which is available on OTF webpage: Operational Transparency Forum | National Energy System Operator

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Advanced Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (15/04/2026) Is the average £/MVAr per settlement period by BMU and for the whole of UK currently being published by NESO? Or would that information be available to industry upon request?

A: We already publish the £/MVAr for reactive power support. https://www.neso.energy/data-portal/obligatory-reactive-power-service-orps-utilisation

Q: (17/04/2026) In the system incidents report (https://www.neso.energy/document/375966/download) which was published in the last month (even though NESO erroneously state a publication date of 15 January 2026) there are 13 "GC0105" incidents reported as per Grid Code OC3.4. On visual examination of each event in the Excel charts, it is evident that there is a 0.5Hz oscillation before and after the event on 05/01/2026 at 17:51:01. There are significant oscillations of some degree at different frequencies on 12 out of 13 events reported. There are unusual trip patterns in this report with: 3 Keadby trips in 2 days; 2 West Burton trips in 3 days; 3 Staythorpe trips in 2 days. Probability analysis can demonstrate that these cannot be random events. Can NESO provide a report analysing these events?"

A: Thank you for your feedback. NESO will review this and we will contact you if any additional detail from your side would be helpful.

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Advanced Questions

Slido code #OTF

Q: (20/04/2026) For the DA flows and limits dataset on the data portal -- what is the underlying network model? GB Reduced Model (28 zones)? What is the input data -- PNs immediately after the DA auction? Or PNs at some other arbitrary snapshot during the day? Any other inputs besides PNs? Thanks

A: Underlying network model: The network is based on the GB master model, which is a Transmission focus model. This model includes only a limited and equivalent representation of the distribution network. Therefore, the GB Reduced Model (28 zones) is not used for this data publication.

Input data: The inputs consist of Physical Notifications (PNs), date, time, and constraint limits based on boundaries (including boundary names). We aim to publish this information daily around 4:30 pm, except on Saturdays and Sundays, we target to make the publication right after our Day Ahead operational plans are completed. This enables us to include any last-minute changes in the dataset.

Post-publication adjustments: Once published, the data may be adjusted by the ENCC closer to real time, but such changes fall outside the scope of the published dataset.

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NESO OTF Q&A Guidelines

Slido code #OTF

- **Anonymous Questions:** We won't answer questions from unidentified parties live. If you need to stay anonymous, use the advance question or email options.
- **Challenge Concerns:** The OTF isn't the place to challenge actions of individual parties (except NESO). Report such concerns to the Market Monitoring team at: mailto:box.nc.customer@neso.energy.
- **Question Order:** We'll answer questions in the order they are upvoted. If we can't answer a question right away, we'll take it away or address it later.
- **Slido Availability:** Slido will stay open until 12:00, even if the call ends earlier, to give you more time to ask questions.
- **Q&A:** All questions asked through Slido will be recorded and published with answers in the Operational Transparency Forum Q&A on our webpage: https://www.neso.energy/what-we-do/systems-operations/operational-transparency-forum
- **Takeaway Questions:** These will be included in the next OTF pack. We might ask you to email us to clarify details
- **Out of Scope Questions:** These will be forwarded to the right NESO expert or team for a direct response. We might ask you to email us to ensure we have the correct contact details. For more information about the OTF's purpose and scope, check the appendix of this slide pack.

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slido

Slido code #OTF

Audience Q&As

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

Send us your feedback..

Slido code #OTF

Using the poll in Sli.do after the event.

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

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Appendix

Slido code #OTF

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

The OTF covers:

- Regular updates, deep dives, and focus topics
- NESO's operational strategies and challenges
- Data published by NESO
- Data and processes from other parties (e.g., BMRS by Elexon, consultations by Elexon, Ofgem, DESNZ)
- Industry questions (answers live or taken away for answering later)

Out of Scope

The OTF does not cover:

- Data owned by other parties
- Specific actions and decisions of the NESO Control Room
- Activities and operations of individual market participants
- NESO's policy and strategic decisions
- Formal consultations (e.g., Code Changes, Business Planning, Market Development)

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Skip Rates – 'In Merit' datasets

Slido code #OTF

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).

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