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Grid Code Development Forum (GCDF)

Date: 08/07/2026 **Location:** MS Teams

Start: 09:00 **End:** 10:25

Participants

Attendee	Company	Attendee	Company
Claire Newton	NESO (Chair)	Nicola Barberis Negra	Orsted
Thomas Goss	NESO (Tech Sec)	Stephen Somerville	Aurora Power
Andrew Henderson	NESO (Presenter)	Bukky Daniel	EDF
Ian Larsson	NESO (Presenter)	Paul Youngman	Drax
Dozie Nnabuife	NESO (Presenter)	Suart Kerr	Scottish power
Amanda Rooney	NESO (Presenter)	Ruth Kemsley	Our Footprints
Frank Kasibante	NESO	Chanura Wijeratne	RES Group
Maria Lopez	NESO	Mohit Prajapati	EDF
Nnaemeka Anyiam	NESO	Harry Burns	EDF
Ola Atef	NESO	Nina Harrington	NGED
Pritesh Patel	NESO	Xiaogang Wang	Sungrow Emea
Sarah Williams	NESO	Nina Harrington	NGED
Jamie Morgan-Wormald	NESO	Claire Hynes	RWE
Isaac Gutierrez	Scottish Power	Andrew Urquhart	SSE
Lisa Waters	Waters Wye Associates	Garth Graham	SSE
Chris Smith	Natural Power	Alan Creighton	NPG
Graeme Vincent	SPEN	Garry Cotter	Orsted

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Agenda

Topics to be discussed	Presenter
1. Introductions and review of previous actions	Claire Newton, NESO
2. Code Administrator Update	Amanda Rooney
3. Problem Statement 1 for GC OC2 review SAR OP4 workstream A proposal to update System Access in the Grid Code to make it work for all users under modern conditions. The aims are to reduce admin requirements for all parties, improve the process of assessing outages, improve clarity and confidence in the outage plan and be consistent in the application of the process. Also, improvements in proactive communication of the plan are a part of this.	Andrew Henderson, NESO
4. System Access Reform Grid Code Modification (GC0XXX – OC2) GCDF Engagement pre-raising modification System Access Reform through GSR035 and GSR036 introduces a more coordinated and flexible approach to system access. These changes are not currently reflected within OC2, risking potential misalignment between SQSS policy and Grid Code processes This is intended to be a consequential alignment modification, not a policy setting one. Policy sits with GSR035 and GSR036	Dozie Nnabuife, NESO
5. AOB and Meeting Close AOB1: NESO Event AOB2: GCDF Change of July meeting date AOB3: Question on RfG 2.0 and relevance for GB AOB4: Changes to GCDF Summary AOB5: Guidance Document consultation period	

A link to the slides and recording from the June GCDF can be found [here](#).

Summary of meeting

Please note: This summary is an accompaniment to the forum recording and slide pack presented. It provides an overview of discussion themes and possible next steps.

Meeting Opening – Claire Newton (GCDF Chair), NESO

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The meeting was opened, with an overview of the agenda items that will be covered.

Presentation: Code Administrator Update

1. New Mods: GC0184. Revising Minimum Reactive Capability Requirements within European Connection Conditions, ECC6.3
2. Decisions: GC0164. Simplification of Operating Code No.2 – On 25 June 2026 the Authority approved the original solution
3. Implementations: GC0187. Grid Code Legal Text Corrections 2026 – Implementation date 05 June 2026
4. Appeals Window: Updated EDL Reason Codes Document open for review 15 June 2026 – 13 July 2026

Presentation: System Access Reform, Grid Code OC2 Review – Andrew Henderson and Ian Larsson, NESO

- System access is the process to safely plan and deliver outages on assets on the network.
- Some of the current complexities are Constraint costs, security of network operations, and the increasingly large volumes of outages every year of around 7,500.
- Outage delays are a significant source of pressure impacting on CP30 ambitions as the number of users on the network has increased dramatically in recent years. Any delays have knock-on effects on multiple users.
- The proposal aims to address actions from the document: [NESO response to the Electricity Networks Commissioner's Report on accelerating electricity transmission network build](#)
- Several case studies looked at including scenarios of cancelled or rejected outages at short notice and the effects thereof on other parties. England and Wales have some specific issues such as a Sular user rejecting a summer outage because of reduced revenue, a user remaining unaware of an outage when contacted by the ENCC and another user claiming to have no information on outages ahead of operational timescales.
- Scotland had some different case studies to offer: a user rejecting all outage requests on grounds of impacting revenue despite having a BELLA contract, another claiming wind turbines are at risk of damage in winter if shut down and a further user ignoring email notification and comms in planning timescales.
- Gaps in the process were highlighted: This issue includes several matters, such as there being no process for dealing with outage requests after 10am on Friday and before 10am the next Friday, and when a user does not respond by the deadline. This latter point means there is uncertainty around whether approval should be assumed, works re-planned, contact made with the user or if more serious action taken such as a breach of the Grid Code considered.

Questions / Feedback

Forum members posited that there was more understanding needed from the point of view of the Users, especially in Scotland, as there are multiple factors in play regarding Outage cancellations such as their suppliers, contractors, other networks.

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The Proposers agreed and confirmed that these aspects of the problem needed articulating. They welcomed feedback from Users to take on board, as well as case studies for examination.

Do we have any data on how many outages NESO has moved?

The Proposers advised they did not have data but this could be collated as part of the solution development and/or workgroup discussions, and agreed that most changes, at least 75%, affect users on the system.

Communications issues: short-notice changes being made without considering the costs to users, there is a feeling that NESO is doing what is convenient for NESO only. Messaging is not always compliant i.e. not being sent to the right people.

The proposers agreed that there has not always been the coordination needed, and this is something NESO needs to gather more data on to understand the true impact on Users. Changes in ownership/personnel are common, and NESO often lack sight of this.

What is 'Fail to Fly'?

This is a metric that describes a process failure where an outage has been accepted into the plan incorrectly and must be cancelled by the control room. NESO reports this to Ofgem.

User costs are significant when things are changed at short notice as they have maintenance plans built around them as well as contractors etc. We need to work together in a more coordinated way rather than unilaterally, between the user, NESO, TOs. Changing this needs to be at the heart of any proposal.

System Access Reform is looking into longer-term visibility and the overall process of outage planning. The Strategic Network Access project aims to build a comprehensive 6-year plan providing Users a longer view which can forecast the impact to businesses, and end-to-end outage planning. The presenter agreed these plans need to be communicated better.

Outages being extended are also causing pain for Users: the contact process for NESO is not fit for purpose, only a form with a poor selection of options and a check is done only annually.

The proposers agreed that there are unnecessary pain points to our processes, we have an opportunity to improve our contact procedures along with the rest of the feedback.

Firm vs non-Firm connections agreements: users may have gone in with a firm connection but find it is turned into a non-firm one. It is a user choice to go for a non-firm connection, but there are situations where they are then given an 18-month/2 year outage, if they had known about it they would have chosen a different option.

NESO acknowledged these issues whilst stressing that some construction outages can go on for longer than Users might expect, and there are incorrect assumptions which we need to be better at clearing up. However, it is quite clear that there is room for improvement concerning connections agreements and outages.

Presentation: System Access Reform, Engagement pre-raising new Modifications – Dozie Nnabuife, NESO

- GSR036 – System Access Reform: Review of the operational requirement in England and Wales: Workgroup stage progressing; recent WG held and moving toward report/consultation stages

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- GSR036 – System Access Reform: Review of the voltage limits: CAC progressing with ongoing engagement and refinement of position
- PM0153 – System Access Reform. Emergency Return to Service (ERTS): Profiling Review: Implemented in STCP 11-1 (deemed material and approval by Authority)
- PM0154 – System Access Reform. Investment Planning Process – Data on Constraint Costs: Implemented in STCP 16-1 following Panel decision (deemed not material)
- GC0XXX OC2 Mod: Raise proposal summer 2026; drafting and early engagement underway ahead of formal submission
- Purpose of the OC2 Mod is to address consequential changes to outage planning and coordination, the defect being that the SQSS changes going through via GSR035 and GSR036 are not currently reflected within OC2 and risk a potential misalignment between SQSS and Grid Code.
- Plan to submit the modification this summer to the Grid Code Review Panel after addressing any feedback, and target aligned implementation with the wider System Access Reform (SAR) programme.

Questions / Feedback

Can we clarify where changes are being made in SQSS, changes to GC are in addition to or instead of the access arrangement discussed earlier?

Both presentations are concerning SAR work, the first was at much earlier stages, and came to GCDF to get ideas for development. This one is consequential to make sure the GC is aligned with SAR SQSS modifications already in flight and is being done as part of the work on risk assessment.

Some Forum members feel that something is missing, concerning information to market. It will be helpful if we are changing, updating the way Users are getting information on these plans rather than just the general gist of the effort.

The proposer confirms that we publish information to the wider market on when new connections are expected, and whilst we also publish information on outages this is something expected from the TOs.

Is now the time, as we are doing this work, to embrace transparency and bring GC/SQSS up to date and ensure there is publication of this sort of information to markets?

We are working towards raising this in July/August and welcome any comments.

AOB

AOB1: Update on timeline and impacts of alignment with the EU

AOB2: Update on Energy Code Reform

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AOB3: Aurora raised compliance challenges with low system strength networks

AOB4: Changes to GCDF Summary

AOB5: Amanda Rooney: Guidance Document consultation period

Questions / Feedback

AOB1:

DESNZ are ready to move forward quickly to work towards negotiating the UK's participation in the Internal Electricity Market (IEM). If stakeholders would like to know more on the UK-EU reset there is a forum we encourage them to join – JESG.

AOB2:

NESO strongly supports the objectives of Energy Code Reform (ECR). Though we did not submit an Expression of Interest for the Phase 2 Commercial Codes Code Manager, NESO will work with RECCo to support a successful transition of the CUSC. NESO intends to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Phase 3 Technical Codes Code Manager, subject to final internal approval. Ofgem plan to join the September GCDF meeting to present a more detailed overview of Energy Code Reform.

AOB3:

Stephen Sommerville (Aurora) raised compliance challenges with low system strength networks and studies. NESO teams (Technical Codes and Compliance) held a discussion with Aurora. While we do not think a GC change is required, NESO will hold further discussion internally on how to capture and address the issue. NESO can provide updates at future GCDF meetings on this.

AOB4:

NESO is revising the format of the GCDF summary note, including a proposal to remove the list of attendees and their organisations. Seeking feedback on whether there is any benefit of keeping this.

Forum members broadly support that this list of attendees should remain in the GCDF summary document, as it is useful to know who attended and what their affiliations are. It is useful in case someone misses a meeting, they know who they can ask for an update.

AOB5:

Guidance Note update

Guidance Document consultation period for the revised PPM Guidance Note will be closing in August; we welcome comments and feedback on the document.

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Meeting Close

Attendees are reminded that the GCDF can be used by any industry party to present potential Grid Code changes and future agenda items are welcomed.

The dates for the 2026 GCDF sessions are available on the [GCDF webpage](#).

The Chair thanked the attendees and presenters for their contributions and closed the meeting.

The next GCDF will be held on the 5th of August 2026 with the 24th of July 2026 being the deadline for agenda items and presentations.
