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## Code Administrator Consultation Response Proforma

### CMP471: Interim Contract Variation Process Ahead of CMP434 Gated Application Window

Industry parties are invited to respond to this consultation expressing their views and supplying the rationale for those views, particularly in respect of any specific questions detailed below.

Please send your responses to [cusc.team@neso.energy](mailto:cusc.team@neso.energy) by **5pm** on **25 September 2026**.

Please note that any responses received after the deadline or sent to a different email address may not receive due consideration.

If you have any queries on the content of this consultation, please contact [cusc.team@neso.energy](mailto:cusc.team@neso.energy)

| Respondent details                             | Please enter your details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Respondent name:</b>                        | Isabelle Vasko                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Company name:</b>                           | National Grid Electricity Transmission                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Email address:</b>                          | Isabelle.vasko@nationalgrid.com                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Phone number:</b>                           | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Which best describes your organisation?</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer body<br><input type="checkbox"/> Demand<br><input type="checkbox"/> Distribution Network Operator<br><input type="checkbox"/> Generator<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industry body<br><input type="checkbox"/> Interconnector | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage<br><input type="checkbox"/> Supplier<br><input type="checkbox"/> System Operator<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transmission Owner<br><input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Lead Party<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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**I wish my response to be:**

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Please mark the relevant box) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Confidential</b> ( <i>this <u>will be shared</u> with industry and the Panel for further consideration</i> )                                                           |
|                                | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Confidential</b> ( <i>this will be disclosed to the Authority in full but, unless specified, <u>will not be shared</u> with the Panel or the industry for further consideration</i> ) |

**For reference the Applicable CUSC (non-charging) Objectives are:**

- i. *The efficient discharge by the Licensee of the obligations imposed on it by the Act and by this licence\*;*
- ii. *Facilitating effective competition in the generation and supply of electricity, and (so far as consistent therewith) facilitating such competition in the sale, distribution and purchase of electricity;*
- iii. *Compliance with the Electricity Regulation and any relevant legally binding decision of the European Commission and/or the Agency \*\*; and*
- iv. *Promoting efficiency in the implementation and administration of the CUSC arrangements.*

\* See Electricity System Operator Licence

\*\*The Electricity Regulation referred to in objective (iii) is Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity (recast) as it has effect immediately before IP completion day as read with the modifications set out in the SI 2020/1006.

**For reference, (for consultation questions 5) the Electricity Balancing Regulation (EBR) Article 3 Objectives and regulatory aspects are:**

- a) *fostering effective competition, non-discrimination and transparency in balancing markets;*

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- b) enhancing efficiency of balancing as well as efficiency of national balancing markets;*
- c) integrating balancing markets and promoting the possibilities for exchanges of balancing services while contributing to operational security;*
- d) contributing to the efficient long-term operation and development of the electricity transmission system and electricity sector while facilitating the efficient and consistent functioning of day-ahead, intraday and balancing markets;*
- e) ensuring that the procurement of balancing services is fair, objective, transparent and market-based, avoids undue barriers to entry for new entrants, fosters the liquidity of balancing markets while preventing undue market distortions;*
- f) facilitating the participation of demand response including aggregation facilities and energy storage while ensuring they compete with other balancing services at a level playing field and, where necessary, act independently when serving a single demand facility;*
- g) facilitating the participation of renewable energy sources and supporting the achievement of any target specified in an enactment for the share of energy from renewable sources.*

### What is the EBR?

The Electricity Balancing Regulation (EBR) is a European Network Code introduced by the Third Energy Package European legislation in late 2017.

The EBR regulation lays down the rules for the integration of balancing markets in Europe, with the objectives of enhancing Europe's security of supply. The EBR aims to do this through harmonisation of electricity balancing rules and facilitating the exchange of balancing resources between European Transmission System Operators (TSOs). Article 18 of the EBR states that TSOs such as the NESO should have terms and conditions developed for balancing services, which are submitted and approved by Ofgem.

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**Please express your views in the right-hand side of the table below, including your rationale.**

| Standard Code Administrator Consultation questions |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                  | Please provide your assessment for the proposed solution(s) against the Applicable Objectives against the current baseline. | Mark the Objectives which you believe the proposed solution(s) better facilitates than the current baseline:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                    |                                                                                                                             | Original <input type="checkbox"/> i <input type="checkbox"/> ii <input type="checkbox"/> iii <input type="checkbox"/> iv <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                    |                                                                                                                             | WACM1 <input type="checkbox"/> i <input type="checkbox"/> ii <input type="checkbox"/> iii <input type="checkbox"/> iv <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                    |                                                                                                                             | WACM2 <input type="checkbox"/> i <input type="checkbox"/> ii <input type="checkbox"/> iii <input type="checkbox"/> iv <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                    |                                                                                                                             | WACM3 <input type="checkbox"/> i <input type="checkbox"/> ii <input type="checkbox"/> iii <input type="checkbox"/> iv <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                    |                                                                                                                             | <p>While we sympathise with the rationale behind the original proposal, and the intent of WACM2 to rationalise the volume and nature of Connection Date Delay Requests, we do not believe that the impact that approving this modification would have on Connections Reform delivery is justified.</p> <p>Introducing additional requirements at this late stage of 'Gate 2 to Whole Queue' would materially increase the complexity and workload for both NESO and transmission network licensees, with significant consequences for the timings of delivering the wider Connections Reform Programme.</p> <p>These impacts can be summarised into the following points.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Impacts to Phase 2 offers</b><br/>According to NESO's Mod App request for input, <b>156 responses</b> for connection date delays were received. The relevant portion of those in NGET's</li> </ol> |

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|  |  | <p>TO region was <b>87 (55.8%)</b>. From Mid-September onwards, NGET's resource will be dedicated to undertaking studies and producing revised offers for <b>circa 500 Phase 2</b> projects, both directly connected and embedded.</p> <p>If the standard timelines proposed under CMP471 are implemented, the earliest this modification might be approved is mid-October, with Connection Date Delay Requests beginning to be submitted after a 10-day implementation period.</p> <p>This would drive a direct conflict with our delivery of the Phase 2 offers we are expected to deliver in the remainder of this year (in accordance with NESO's published Reform timetable), diverting key resource onto reassessment of customer requested date changes and the potential for this to directly conflict with the economic/efficient Phase 1 study outcomes already studied for.</p> <p>Additionally, Phase 1 customers amending their dates back beyond 2030 may place increased pressure on the commissioning and supply chain resource associated with Phase 2 connections.</p> <p><b>2. Extended uncertainty on the contracted background</b></p> <p>Even if, as is proposed within the original proposal via CUSC section 19.4.3, that timelines for execution of the Connection Date Delay Request Window are adjustable, there will remain additional potential impacts to the time taken to gain stability on the contracted background and move forwards post Reform.</p> <p>As outlined in the proposed CUSC section 19.4.6: <i>'Where <b>The Company</b> and the relevant <b>Transmission</b></i></p> |
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|  |  | <p><b>Owner determine that a <i>Completion Date Delay Request</i> cannot reasonably be accommodated, The Company shall...</b></p> <p><i>Provide the <b>User</b> with justification against the <b>Assessment Principles</b> for not approving the <b>Completion Date Delay Request</b>; and</i></p> <p><i>Where possible, reissue...using the nearest available <b>Completion Date</b> to the <b>Completion Date</b> in the <b>Completion Date Delay Request</b>. In this scenario the date should be agreed with the <b>User</b> before a reissued <b>Gate 2 Modification Offer</b> or <b>CDDR Agreement to Vary</b> is issued.'</i></p> <p>Whether a CDDR request is approved for a differing date, or not approved at all, these points open the potential for lengthy negotiations post decision- without a mandated end date- further delaying certainty on the contracted background. This will directly impact the opportunities available for new connecting applicants - as well as delaying the implementation of proposed oversubscription measures, such as those within Ofgem's Curate consultation and CMP470. Additional contractual volatility will also delay key visibility of potential routes for strategic project acceleration.</p> <p><b>3. Impacts to the CMP434 process</b></p> <p>Both delays to the Phase 2 timeline, or an extended process held beyond Phase 2, would impact on the ability of NESO and the TOs to prepare for and facilitate a new window under CMP434. This in turn, would prevent the resumption of wider Gated Modification applications and the application of new projects- meaning a continued pause on the growth of new investment within the connections landscape. In essence, CMP471 will perpetuate the Reform process, extending investor uncertainty in the GB connections market, as well</p> |
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|  |  | <p>as preventing the new reformed arrangements becoming established as business as usual. In turn, these delays may hamper activity to support alignment with longer-term energy plans, such as SSEP in the future.</p> <p>Ultimately, we believe that the requirements for an additional formal contract change process under CMP471 are excessive and would drive extensive rework to an already ambitious and challenging Reform delivery programme.</p> <p>NGET has worked to engage with our customers proactively ahead of studying and issuing all Reform offers. Where customers have indicated that they may need to delay their connection, NGET has taken these requests into reasonable consideration. These requests are assessed individually but with consideration to other connecting parties.</p> <p>However, these requests act as a supporting input to a wider restudy process conducted in line with the Connections Network Design Methodology, which determines any changes to works required, driving the resulting date of connection.</p> <p>Ultimately, the results of the studies and deliverability assessments – considered in conjunction with customer requests – drive a set of detailed governance processes, which ensures the provided date is achievable and validated in the final Reform offer.</p> <p><b>Whilst this process is not equivalent to the formal CMP471 proposal, we believe that it supports the overarching aims of the modification without impacting the timetable for Phase 2 offers, or the opening of a new window.</b></p> <p>In reference to the applicable objectives, and in line with our previous workgroup consultation response, we believe that objective (i) and (iv) would be negatively</p> |
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|   |                                            | <p>impacted as the implementation of this modification imposes a new process on NESO (and by extension all transmission network licensees) which will limit our ability to deliver Connections Reform in a timely manner, as well as impacting the timing of a new application window under CMP434.</p> <p>The other objectives we assess as having neutral impact.</p> <p>If Ofgem were to approve this modification, or any of the proposed WACM's for implementation within Phase 2, this would drive a formal re-baselining of the Connections Reform delivery timescales. If Ofgem were to approve it with implementation timescales post Phase 2, NESO would need to account for the delay to any proposed new window under CMP434.</p>             |
| 2 | Do you have a preferred proposed solution? | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please indicate below which one.</p> <p>In line with our above response, we do not believe any of the proposed solutions better facilitate the applicable objectives and therefore advocate for the baseline.</p> <p>We consider that the proposed updates to the Queue Management Guidance for WACMs 1 and 3 exceed the scope of the original CMP471 proposal, which did not propose any amendments to the QM exceptions process outside of NESOs existing processes- and should therefore not be considered in the CMP471 assessment.</p> <p>We also believe that WACM 1 will have a significant detriment to the principles of Connections Reform. It</p> |

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|   |                                                      | <p>proposes extension to Queue Management milestones for approved Delay Requests, which NESO would be obliged to apply- automatically and without limit for all milestones.</p> <p>This proposal is not in line with the principles under which Queue Management was implemented. Queue Management was designed to <i>'enable full use of network capacity, to support more robust network investment decisions, and to allow projects which are progressing the best chance to connect'</i>.</p> <p>The standard QM exceptions process ensures that the user supplies robust evidence to demonstrate circumstances delaying them beyond their control.</p> <p>By automatically extending these milestones and removing the burden of proof, the proposed WACM would undermine QMs stated intent, as well as undermining the wider principles of TM04+, which sought to prioritise those projects which were both ready and needed.</p> |
| 3 | Do you support the proposed implementation approach? | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>In accordance with our previous answer, we do not believe that the proposed implementation approach is viable without material impacts on the Reform implementation timetable published by NESO.</p> <p>With the volumes of Phase 2 offers already so significant, additional resource to reopen and reassess previous offers across Protected and Phase 1 tranches would inevitably divert significant resource from the</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|   |                                 | <p>issuance of Phase 2 offers – making the current JIP timescales unachievable, or, if timelines were amended – cause ongoing impacts to the commencement of the next application window.</p> <p>Furthermore, to implement this CUSC modification, due consideration is required on amendments to the STC Procedures. We would expect all necessary support from NESO and Ofgem to enable this to happen in time for implementation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 4 | Do you have any other comments? | <p>It is worth noting the interaction that CMP471 or any of the WACMs will have with the Connections Incentive Target Date mechanism. In the latest drafting, Ofgem has considered formal requests from a customer to change their connection date:</p> <p><i>Part C: Changes to Connections Incentive Target Date</i></p> <p><i>4.4.10 The Authority may direct a change to the Connections Incentive Target Date in Appendix 1 for a Connection Project for the purposes of calculating the formula in Part A if the licensee receives notification from the ISOP that the connections customer has requested, in writing, a delay to its Connection Project Completion Date, that request is agreed to and the licensee and ISOP agree to an amended Connection Project Completion Date which is on or before 31 March 2031.</i></p> <p>Additional consideration is therefore required on how information from the proposed Connections Date Delay Request would be shared from NESO with Ofgem to update the incentive mechanism.</p> |

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| 5 | Do you agree with the Workgroup's assessment that the modification does not impact the Electricity Balancing Regulation (EBR) Article 18 terms and conditions held within the Code? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
|   |                                                                                                                                                                                     | Click or tap here to enter text.                                           |