

Public

Ref: FOI/25/272

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27 March 2026

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 30 January 2026.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as the information requested meets the definition of environmental information as set out in Regulation 2(1) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

I am seeking aggregated, non-personal information held by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) relating to the Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) exercise under CMP435 (Connections Reform).

Cohort / time period

- *Submissions made in the evidence submission window that closed at 23:59 on 26 August 2025 (the "Aug 2025 cohort"), and subsequent processing outcomes for that cohort.*

Scope notes

- *This request is for aggregated counts and the labels/definitions of any outcome/reason categories used internally for reporting. I am not requesting any project identifiers, personal data, or case file content.*
- *Where outcomes are held by DNOs / iDNOs rather than NESO (for example for certain embedded customer archetypes), please confirm what is held by NESO and, if possible, advise who holds the remainder.*

Please provide the following recorded information:

1. Stage 2 – Initial checks outcomes (counts + any recorded failure categories)

For the Aug 2025 cohort, please provide aggregated counts of:

- a) Total number of submissions received by/available to NESO for the cohort (and, if already held, split by customer archetype: Transmission connected; Large Embedded; Small/Medium Embedded).
- b) Number that passed “initial checks” and proceeded to Strategic alignment assessment.
- c) Number that failed “initial checks” and were notified of an outcome as Gate 1 at/after Stage 2. If NESO records “initial checks failure reasons” in categorical form (picklists, outcome codes, or management reporting groupings), please provide:
 - d) the list of those category labels (and short definitions if held), and
 - e) a frequency table of category → count for initial-check failures.

2. Stage 2 – Strategic alignment outcomes (counts by criterion)

For submissions that reached Strategic alignment assessment (i.e., passed initial checks), please provide aggregated counts of outcomes recorded, including:

- a) Count meeting Strategic alignment Criteria A (Protections); and, if already held, split by Protection type/sub-type used in reporting.
- b) Count meeting Strategic alignment Criteria B (Clean Power 2030 / permitted capacity alignment, as recorded).
- c) Count meeting Strategic alignment Criteria C (Designated).
- d) Count meeting Strategic alignment Criteria D (eligible technology list / out of scope of Clean Power 2030, as recorded).
- e) Count failing Strategic alignment and therefore issued Gate 1.

If any of the above is already held split by technology type or other standard reporting dimensions, please include those splits only where already held (no new analysis required).

3. Stage 4 – Detailed checks outcomes (counts + failure categories)

For the subset of the Aug 2025 cohort that reached “detailed checks” (including duplication checks), please provide aggregated counts of:

- a) Number that passed detailed checks (and proceeded to the next recorded downstream step, e.g., studies/offers, as recorded).
- b) Number that failed one or more detailed checks.

If NESO records detailed-check failures in categorical form, please provide:

- c) the list of category labels used in reporting for detailed-check failures; and
- d) a frequency table of category → count for detailed-check failures.

If helpful, the categories may be aligned to the detailed checks described in NESO’s published clarification guidance (e.g., director verification; duplication; minimum acreage; land rights; planning/DCO), but please use whatever categories are actually recorded in NESO reporting.

4. Resubmission / clarification outcomes (detailed checks resubmission process)

For those that failed detailed checks and were invited to resubmit clarification evidence, please provide aggregated counts of:

- a) Count invited to resubmit.
- b) Count that resubmitted within the deadline.
- c) Count that passed after resubmission.
- d) Count that failed after resubmission (and were therefore issued Gate 1).

If the above is already held split by detailed-check failure category (e.g., land rights vs duplication vs minimum acreage), please include it only if already held.

5. Minimal definitions / data dictionary (only as held)

To interpret the aggregated tables above, please provide any recorded definitions (or equivalent data dictionary notes) for:

- a) "initial checks", "strategic alignment assessment", and "detailed checks" outcomes as recorded in NESO reporting; and
- b) the meaning of each outcome code/category label provided under items (1)(d) and (3)(c), if such definitions are held.

Our response

We wrote to you on 27 February 2026 confirming that we held information in scope of your request. We also informed you that we were extending the time for a response under Regulation 7(1) of the EIR to 30 March 2026. We explained that extracting the data is a complex task and to provide the information in the format requested would require a considerable amount of effort from specialist staff and subject matter experts to extract the data and quality check it prior to release.

Thank you for your patience whilst we completed this exercise. Please find the data in Excel format as requested attached with this response.

Please note - to ensure accuracy and avoid any misinterpretation, we have provided the information at a 'queue item' level rather than 'project level' as Gate 1 and 2 allocations and phasing decisions are applied to individual queue items, each of which represents a distinct contracted position. Many projects contain multiple 'queue-items' with different dates, technologies and/or outcomes. Presenting the data at a 'queue item' level therefore ensures outcomes directly reflect the formal connection positions. This approach provides a clearer, more reliable representation of the Gate 2 offer set and data that you have requested.

Further information – Connections Reform

NESO, in collaboration with the networks, industry, government and Ofgem has delivered a transformational change to the way that the grid connections process operates.

Information on Connections Reform is available here:

- [Connections Reform | National Energy System Operator.](#)
- [About Connections Reform | National Energy System Operator](#)

A key part of this reform is the introduction of the new Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) process, which ensures that only projects that are ready to go and are aligned to the [UK Government's Clean Power Action Plan](#) progress through to the new connections delivery pipeline.

The Gate 2 Criteria Methodology and Connections Network Design Methodology can be found here:

- [Connections Reform design documents and methodologies.](#)

On 8 December 2025 NESO began informing Customers of the outcome of their applications and published the results of the new connections delivery pipeline. Further detailed results data was published in January 2026:

- [Connections Reform Results | National Energy System Operator.](#)
- [Connections Reform: Detailed Results Data](#)

The published information provides a high-level view of the reformed pipeline. NESO will not be disclosing information on the status of individual projects at this time. Further aggregated information on the new connections pipeline will be made available over the coming weeks and months.

The TEC Register is a publicly available list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with NESO. These include existing and future connection projects and projects that can be directly connected to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) or make use of it. The current [TEC register](#) shows the contracted position at the date published and does not yet show the outcome of the G2TWQ process. The TEC Register is published twice weekly, and is updated when contracts are signed or terminated, and when contractual milestones are met. If a project has been made a Gate 1 or Gate 2 offer this will be updated on the TEC Register once the Gate 1 or Gate 2 agreement has been countersigned by NESO. Until that point, the field specifying Gate 1 or Gate 2 will remain blank.

Next steps

Please be assured that the Information Rights Team continue to prioritise your request. We will provide a full response to your request for information as soon as possible. You can ask us to

review our response. If you want us to carry out a review, please let us know within 40 working days and quote the reference number at the top of this letter.

If you are still dissatisfied after our internal review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints. Alternatively, they can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Regards,

The Information Rights Team, National Energy System Operator (NESO)