

Public

Ref: FOI/25/295

National Energy System Operator
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20 March 2026

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by NESO on 19 February.

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

Request

You asked us:

the data I am after is the MW rating of the B6 boundary in half hourly intervals. This would align with data you already have for constraints on the data portal. The only difference being that what I am asking for would show the actual change in the boundary limit post the Western Link faulting. The time period would from a day before the fault to a day after the fault has been fixed and the circuit restored. I don't need to know where the fault occurred or the type of fault.

This was a refined request, following an earlier request of 19 January 2026, in which you asked for:

Timestamped data showing how the Western Link fault results in a 2.2GW capacity impact on B6.

Our response

We confirm that we do not hold the information that you requested.

We would like to provide some further detail and context to help your understanding of the reasons why NESO does not hold the information that you have requested.

Although you have not specified exact dates, we believe that your request is referring to the fault on the Western Link HVDC (WL HVDC) between 17/12/25 and 13/01/2026 and you are therefore interested in the period 16/12/25 to 14/01/26.

To clarify, the constraint limits published on our Data Portal for B6 would have been lower because the WL HVDC was unavailable. We wouldn't know what the limits would have been with WL HVDC if it was on fault since the constraints would only be handed over with 0MW on the link. It's not a simple 1:1 ratio calculation – rather, it would be determined by the outage pattern in both Scotland and England & Wales, including what the highest achievable value would be. These numbers can only be determined through power factory assessments. The only day where you would have the 2250MW WL limit would be on the day of the fault, but not for the remaining duration.

Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR states that a public authority may refuse to disclose information if it does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received. All EIR exceptions are subject to public interest test (PIT), however the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) recognises that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful PIT where information is not held.

This concludes our response to your request.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with our handling of your request, 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. You can find our procedure here: [Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations | National Energy System Operator](#). The ICO's website also provides guidance on the internal review process: [What to do if you are dissatisfied with the response | ICO](#).

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.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the National Energy System Operator (NESO).

Regards,

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