

Public

Ref: FOI/25/314

National Energy System Operator
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15 April 2026

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by NESO on 15 March 2026.

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

Request

You asked us:

Please provide the total annual cost of frequency response services procured by NESO for each calendar year 2018 to 2025 inclusive.

If held, please include all frequency response service types procured by NESO during the period, such as dynamic or static response services.

Please provide the aggregate annual expenditure in pounds (£) for each year.

Our response

We confirm that we hold information in scope of your request.

The requested information is publicly available and can be accessed from the Balancing Costs page of the NESO website: [Balancing costs | National Energy System Operator](#).

- The tab titled 'MBSS' on the left-hand side towards the bottom of the webpage provides access to the Monthly Balancing Services Summary Dashboard' (MS Power BI).
- Slide 3 of the Power BI provides the annual costs by Category including Response.
- The arrows in the top right of the slide allow you to drill down i.e., to costs by quarter, by month, by day.
- The drop-down list under 'Month' at the top of the slide allows you to select a specific month from April 2017 to February 2026.
- Below the Summary Dashboard, the supporting data is published monthly in csv format.

Information on the cost of Response services is also publicly available in our Annual Balancing Cost spend reports:

- [Annual Balancing Services Spend Report 2024/2025](#) (see pages 37-47).
- The 2023/2024 and 2022/2023 reports can be accessed via the spend reports tab on this page [C9 statements and consultations | National Energy System Operator](#).
- The 2021/2022 report can be accessed via the [National Archives' webarchive](#).

These reports provide the total spent on Response services in the regulatory year and break this down for specific services by month.

Advice and assistance

Where the information you requested is publicly available, we will provide you with links to the relevant pages on our website. However, in considering any future requests, you may want to check if the information is already available before submitting a request.

Whilst we aim to respond to requests as soon as possible, FOI/EIR requests can take up to 20 working days to answer, and you may be able to access the information more quickly yourself if it's on our website.

The following guidance may be helpful:

- [How to access information from a public authority | ICO](#)
- [Writing effective requests - WhatDoTheyKnow](#).

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)