Public

Ref: FOI/26/048

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Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by NESO on 19 May 2026. You asked us to consider your information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The exemption at Section 39 of the FOIA covers information that a public body is obliged to consider under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) and has the effect of routing all requests for environmental information via the EIR rather than the FOIA. Your request has therefore been considered under the EIR because the requested information meets the definition of 'environmental information' at Regulation 2(1)(c) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

The Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register, maintained by NESO, records active and terminated transmission connection agreements for generating stations. We understand that following the TEC Amnesty exercise conducted by National Grid ESO (now NESO), significant volumes of generation capacity — including solar — applied for termination or reduction of their grid connections. We believe the solar-specific data within the TEC Register is of significant public interest for understanding decommissioning trends and end-of-life solar fleet activity.

Under the ***Freedom of Information Act 2000 [requester name redacted]*** *kindly requests the following information:*

1. *From the TEC Register, how many **solar PV generating stations** have had their transmission connection agreements **terminated** since records began? Please provide a breakdown by year and by country (England, Wales, Scotland).*
2. *What is the total **solar PV capacity (in MW)** for which TEC agreements have been terminated? Please provide a breakdown by year.*
3. *How many solar PV generating stations applied for **TEC reduction** (partial reduction in connected capacity) since records began? Please provide a breakdown by year.*
4. *Specifically in relation to the **TEC Amnesty** exercise: how many solar PV projects applied for termination or reduction, and what was the total solar capacity (in MW) involved?*
5. *How many solar PV generating stations currently on the TEC Register have a **TEC of zero or near-zero**, suggesting they may be inactive or decommissioned in practice?*
6. *Please provide the **underlying dataset** for all terminated solar TEC agreements, including station name, capacity, location, and date of termination where held and not commercially confidential.*

Our response

We can confirm that we hold information in scope of your request. We have responded to each of your questions in turn below:

Questions 1, 2 and 6

- *From the TEC Register, how many **solar PV generating stations** have had their transmission connection agreements **terminated** since records began? Please provide a breakdown by year and by country (England, Wales, Scotland).*
- *What is the total **solar PV capacity (in MW)** for which TEC agreements have been terminated? Please provide a breakdown by year.*
- *Please provide the **underlying dataset** for all terminated solar TEC agreements, including station name, capacity, location, and date of termination where held and not commercially confidential.*

In response to questions 1, 2 and 6 of your requests, please see the enclosed information.

All projects on the accompanying list were previously on the TEC Register but are not on the current TEC Register. Termination or discontinuation of an agreement may be led by the Customer or by NESO (e.g., where construction or conditional progression milestones are not met). 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 TEC Register is published twice weekly, and is updated when contracts are signed, changed or terminated, and when contractual milestones are met.

Questions 3 and 4

- *How many solar PV generating stations applied for **TEC reduction** (partial reduction in connected capacity) since records began? Please provide a breakdown by year.*
- *Specifically in relation to the **TEC Amnesty** exercise: how many solar PV projects applied for termination or reduction, and what was the total solar capacity (in MW) involved?*

We can confirm that NESO holds information in scope of questions 3 and 4. Whilst we are in no way suggesting that it was your intention to submit an unreasonable request, we estimate that identifying recorded information in order to respond to these parts of your request would require a significant amount of employee resource.

We cannot run a report for this information in the same way that we have done for other parts of your request and identifying both the number of solar projects that have applied for TEC reduction overall and confirming how many solar PV projects applied for termination or reduction through the TEC Amnesty would require manual review of records.

There is no central record, categorisation or classification of the reasons why a Mod App has been submitted within our operational datasets. Not all Mod Apps will include a request for TEC reduction. It would be necessary to identify those solar projects for which Mod Apps have been submitted and then manually review the detail of those Mod Apps for each project.

In relation to your request for information on applications for TEC reduction submitted through the TEC Amnesty, we have been advised that the centralised information held on applications submitted for the TEC Amnesty does not specify the technology of the projects. This is because the technology type was not the specific focus of the Amnesty. Projects requesting TEC reduction through the TEC Amnesty were required to submit a formal letter, to confirm the number of these that were submitted by solar projects, or in relation to the solar part of a project with multiple technologies, would require manual review of those letters to ensure the information we provide is accurate.

We are therefore refusing this part of your request under Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR which allows a public authority to refuse a request for information to the extent that it is manifestly unreasonable to respond, i.e., to respond to the request would represent an undue burden on the organisation.

NESO endeavours to consider all elements of the FOIA and EIR when responding to a request for information. Unlike the Freedom of Information Act, where Section 12 allows for refusal of a request where compliance would exceed 18 hours of staff time, the EIR have no appropriate cost limit.

It may be helpful to understand that there are over 600 projects currently on the TEC Register that include 'PV Array' within the 'Plant Type' column. In this response we have confirmed that a further 19 solar projects have previously had an entry on the TEC Register. Not of all these projects will have submitted a Mod App, but others may have submitted more than one. Due to the complexity of the technical appendices, subject matter experts within NESO's Connections teams have advised that it would likely take a member of staff up to 20 minutes to review a single Mod App and identify the detail of the modification. Should it take 20 minutes per Mod App we estimate that staff time of 18 hours would enable a review of 54 Mod Apps, and a complete review could exceed 200 hours of staff time (almost 30 working days). This clearly represents a significant burden on the organisation in terms of staff time and resultant costs.

For information, the TEC Amnesty finished in April 2023. To confirm which projects submitted an application to the Amnesty relating to a solar element of a project it would be necessary to locate and review the original submission letters for approximately 50 projects. At the same estimate of 20 minutes to review each letter it would require over 16 hours of staff time to complete this task alone, without consideration of the time required to locate the original application letters.

When engaging Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR, burden can be thought of in terms of cost and can also take account of the distraction of resources, i.e., the disruption to the delivery of other services caused by staff having to spend time dealing with the request. We acknowledge that we are normally expected to exceed the FOIA appropriate cost limit for EIRs, but complying with this request would require significant resource from specialist teams who are currently continuing to deliver a transformational change to the Connections process, making it fit for the future and supporting the delivery of Clean Power by 2030.

The ICO encourages public authorities to consider extending the EIR deadline as a preference to refusing a request and we do look at this option where it is feasible. In this case, it is not the 20-working day deadline that would be the issue, but the onerous burden that managing the request would place on NESO. This is particularly the case for connections related requests given that the employees involved in the extracting and collating the data in question would be diverted from key tasks relating to the connections reform process.

The exception provided at Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR is subject to the public interest test.

There is a general public interest in public organisations being accountable and transparent and NESO ensures that it upholds as far as possible the presumption of disclosure under EIR. The disclosure of information in many circumstances may increase public understanding of decision making, facilitate effective public participation and, in this case, increase the public's knowledge of how the electricity network and the connections process is managed.

Public authorities must however be protected from any disproportionate burden caused by requests for information. It is not in the public interest for NESO's resources to be diverted away from its key functions.

Despite the presumption in favour of disclosure, the excessive burden of responding to your request means that we conclude that the public interest lies in maintaining the exception in Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR. This is because we believe that to respond to this part of your request would represent a disproportionate burden on the organisation and its staff and we do not believe that the value or purpose of the request would justify the burden. The ICO guidance is clear that the burden to be considered under this exception includes the diversion of resource away from other priorities and activities. NESO is funded by consumers, and it is in the public interest to use resources to deliver licensed activities and services in cost-effective way.

Regulation 9 of the EIR requires that "A public authority shall provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to applicants and prospective applicants." We have provided advice and assistance regarding your full request in the 'advice and assistance' section at the end of this response.

Question 5

- *How many solar PV generating stations currently on the TEC Register have a **TEC of zero or near-zero**, suggesting they may be inactive or decommissioned in practice?*

The current TEC Register is available on the NESO website: Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) register | National Energy System Operator. The information in the TEC Register confirms where there is a project covered by an agreement. As explained previously, the TEC Register is published twice weekly, and is updated when contracts are signed, changed or terminated, and when contractual milestones are met. You can filter the Register by 'Plant Type' (e.g., 'PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)'), 'Project Status' and by 'MW Connected', 'MW Increase / Decrease' and 'Cumulative MW'.

For information, the TEC Register includes (since November 2025) a column titled "Gate". This column will be populated once agreements have been countersigned and will indicate whether

an agreement is classified as Gate 1 or Gate 2. Where the Gate column confirms that a Gate 1 offer has been signed, the MW value attached to the project is indicative only and reliant on the Customer applying for and receiving a Gate 2 Offer in a later Application Window.

Information on Connections Reform and the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process is available here: About Connections Reform | National Energy System Operator

Advice and assistance

When refusing a request on the grounds that it is manifestly unreasonable, public authorities are expected to advise requesters how they might refine their requests to a more appropriate level.

We are however finding it difficult to provide advice on narrowing down the scope of questions 3 and 4 of your request in such a way that we would be able to provide a response without it being overly burdensome and diverting employee resource from key activities. You are not required to explain why you are requesting particular information under the EIR but, should you wish to submit a refined request for information, any further explanation you can provide may help us to understand your data requirements.

We can advise that the TEC Register is published twice weekly, and is updated when contracts are signed or terminated, or where there is a change to an agreement. By reviewing historic TEC Registers, it would be possible to identify projects with a 'Plant Type' of 'Solar PV' that have had a change to their TEC, or that are no longer on the Register. However, the TEC Register does not provide information on the reason for any changes. We have previously provided historic copies of the TEC Register in response to information requests:

- FOI-24-0040(a) - archive TEC registers 2014-2020
- FOI-24-0031 - archive TEC registers 2021 - 2025

You may also be interested in our response to a previous request that related to Mod Apps in which we also advised that Regulation 12(4)(b) was engaged as to respond would be manifestly unreasonable. We were asked to review our response and have also published our internal review of the initial response:

- FOI-25-294
- FOI-25-294 (Internal Review)

Further information on the 2022/23 TEC Amnesty is available here: Our five-point plan | National Energy System Operator.

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)

Connections Project: Project Name	Year	Country	Connection Site	Plant Type	Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) - MW
East Ballochy Solar Farm	2017	Scotland	Bridge of Dun GSP	PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	19.2
Chickerell	2020	England	Chickerell 400kV Substation	PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	54.5
Westfield	2021	Scotland	Westfield 132/33kV	PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar); Waste	55
One Planet Solar Farm	2023	England	Eaton Socon 400kV Substation	PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	500
Ironbridge - New Connection	2023	England	Ironbridge 400kV Substation	Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	120
Middel Energy Park	2024	England	Melksham 400kV Substation	Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	100
Astral Park	2024	England	Dunstable 400kV Substation	Demand; Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar); Wind Onshore	95
Ratcliffe-On-Soar PV & BESS	2024	England	Kegworth B 400kV Substation	Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	249.9
North Wales Hybrid	2024	Wales	Bodelwyddan 400kV Substation	Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	53
Lessnessock Solar Farm	2024	Scotland	Coylton 275/132kV	PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	150
Bird Grove/Rownall	2024	England	Cellarhead 400kV Substation	PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	57
Glebe Energy Park	2024	England	Yaxley 400kV Substation	Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	800
Paxton Dal Energy Park	2024	Scotland	Paxton Dal Energy Park 400kV Substation	Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	600
Millfield Lane BESS & Solar	2024	England	Sundon 400kV Substation	Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	600
Red Hill Energy Park	2024	England	Monk Fryston 400kV Substation	Demand; Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	800
East Quantoxhead PV & BESS Station	2024	England	West Country Connection Node D 400kV Substation	Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	240
HIGH MARNHAM	2025	England	High Marnham GSP	Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	240
Shropshire Energy Park	2025	England	Shrewsbury 400kV Substation	Energy Storage System; PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	500
Summerston PV 50MW	2025	Scotland	Killermont 132/33kV	PV Array (Photo Voltaic/solar)	50