

Public

Ref: FOI/26/067

National Energy System Operator
Faraday House
Gallows Hill
Warwick
CV34 6DA

InformationRights@neso.energy

www.neso.energy

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Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by NESO on 5 June 2026. Your request has been considered under the EIR because information relating to connections falls within the definition of 'environmental information' at Regulation 2(1)(c) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

...I would like to know if the proposed BESS [Parsonage Farm BESS proposal in East Brabourne Kent] site has any allocated Phase or Gate number please?

....

I would be very grateful for a swift response and if you could point me in the direction of the criteria for applying for this infrastructure 'queue'.

Our response

Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) we are obliged to confirm whether we hold recorded information in scope of an information request and disclose that information. The EIR provide some exceptions to the right of access which allow for information to be withheld where an exception applies, and there is no obligation for an organisation to create new information in order to respond to a request.

We can confirm that NESO holds some information in scope of your request and are responding to each of your questions in turn.

1. *I would like to know if the proposed BESS [Parsonage Farm BESS proposal in East Brabourne Kent] site has any allocated Phase or Gate number please?*

NESO does not hold recorded information on a project with the name 'Parsonage Farm BESS'.

As we do not hold recorded information, we are refusing this part of your request under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR. The EIR only apply to information held by the public authority at the time that the request for information is received (Regulation 3). Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR allows a public authority to refuse a request 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.

2. *... if you could paint me in the direction of the criteria for applying for this infrastructure 'queue'.*

NESO operates today's electricity system and designs tomorrow's energy system. NESO's Connections team is responsible for leading and facilitating the process by which customers connect to and make use of GB's transmission system - the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). You may find the information on the role of NESO and other market participants in the Connections process of interest: [NESO's role in Connections | National Energy System Operator](#).

NETS is often referred to as the 'motorway network' as it carries high voltage electricity over long distances, similar to how motorways transport vehicles. NESO only normally deals with connections to the transmission network.

The distribution network is likened to the local road network, as it distributes electricity to homes and businesses. If a project is not connecting directly to the transmission system, they would apply to one of the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) for a connection, and the connection agreement would be held with that DNO.

Currently, NESO, in collaboration with the networks, industry, government and Ofgem, is delivering a transformational change to the way that the grid connections process operates. This is known as Connections Reform and further information is available here:

- [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.

This page provides more information the G2TWQ process and the criteria: [About Connections Reform | National Energy System Operator](#).

For further information 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. The published information provides a high-level view of the reformed pipeline:

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

On 13 February 2026 NESO, Transmission Owners (TOs), Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and wider delivery partners jointly confirmed updates to the delivery timeline for Connections Reform: [Connections reform timeline | National Energy System Operator](#).

Advice and assistance

The Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) are also subject to the EIR, and you may wish to contact the relevant DNO to request further information. You can identify the DNO for a project using the map or search function provided by the Energy Networks Association (ENA): [Who is my DNO](#).

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)