

Public

Ref: FOI/26/076

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

InformationRights@neso.energy
www.neso.energy

9 July 2026

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by NESO on 10 June 2026. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as the information requested falls within the definition of environmental information at Regulation 2(1)(c) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

Regarding your Clean Power 2030 Plan, published in 2024, your workbook [[NESO's Clean Power 2030 Data Workbook](#)] stats for electricity either curtailed or exported as a result of surplus generation - see CP28 and CP30 [tabs in Data Workbook].

Some of this surplus will be caused by lack of transmission capacity within the UK and some will be caused by generation in excess of demand. Please supply a breakdown of these amounts.

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. There is no obligation for an organisation to create new information to respond to a request.

In your request you have referred to a 'Clean Power 2030 Plan'. The UK Government's [Clean Power 2030 Action Plan](#) was published in December 2024. NESO's [Clean Power 2030: Advice on achieving clean power for Great Britain by 2030](#) to Government was published in November 2024. This advice was provided in response to a formal commission from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to provide practical advice on achieving clean power by 2030 for Great Britain, including developing a range of pathways that reflect the possible routes to a decarbonised power system. Our advice was intended to be an input to the development of the government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan, as above.

NESO's Clean Power 2030 Advice laid out pathways for how Great Britain could reach a clean power system by 2030. The two pathways ('*New Dispatch*' and '*Further Flex and Renewables*') offer feasible routes to Clean Power in 2030 based on our assessment of project pipelines, and stakeholder feedback. Section 5.4 'Costs' of the Clean Power 2030 Report (page 74-79) provides information on the cost analyses undertaken.

The [Clean Power 2030 Data Workbook](#) contains the graphs and associated data for NESO's Clean Power 2030 advice. Tabs 28 and 30 of the Data Workbook, as referred to in your request, relate respectively to Figures 7 (page 22) and 9 (page 23) of the [Annex 4: Costs and benefit analysis](#) to the Clean Power 2030 Report. Annex 4 details the analysis and methodology behind our findings on the costs and benefits of a clean power system for 2030, covering approach and assumptions, climate, carbon, environment, and cost analysis.

Figures 7 and 9 in Annex 4 illustrate respectively the modelled Energy Flows and net interconnector imports/exports in 2030, under each of the Clean Power 2030 pathways and the counterfactual.

In your request we understand that you are asking for information on *why* there is surplus electricity that will be:

- a) curtailed (as modelled under each pathway in figure 7 in Annex 4 / tab 28 of the Data Workbook), or
- b) exported (as modelled under each pathway in figure 9 in Annex 4 / tab 30 of the Data Workbook).

That is, how much of the electricity curtailed or exported under each pathway is due to lack of transmission capacity within the UK (constraint led curtailment) and how much is due to generation exceeding demand (economic curtailment).

For information, the electricity generated within GB is used to meet demand within GB, exported to neighbouring countries, or curtailed.

Curtailment

Information on the curtailment of electricity is available in the Clean Power 2030 Data Workbook:

- **constraint led curtailment** – in tab CP18 of the Data Workbook, total bid and offer volumes are given providing information on the volumes curtailed in 2030 due to network constraints, as modelled under the two Clean Power 2030 pathways.

Information on bids and offers is available here: [What is the Balancing Mechanism? | National Energy System Operator](#).

- **economic curtailment** – in relation to curtailment resulting from surplus electricity generation, tab CP28 (referenced in your request) provides the economic curtailment value in 2030 for each Clean Power 2030 pathway i.e., curtailment caused by generation exceeding demand nationally.

Exports

The modelled total volumes of electricity annually exported and imported from Great Britain in 2030 with and without network constraints are provided, respectively, in tabs N2 and CP30 of the Clean Power 2030 Data Workbook.

For information, electricity is delivered onto the transmission system in real-time by Generators. Once it is on the system, it is taken 'indiscriminately' by demand, i.e. generation goes where the system needs it to go. The flow over the interconnectors at any time is modelled based on the lowest system cost between Great Britain and connected electricity markets.

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)