

Public

Ref: FOI/26/127

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Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by NESO on 17 July 2026. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You may recall that we managed a similar information request ([FOI-25-001](#)), submitted by you, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We manage all requests on a case-by-case basis and in considering this request have determined that information relating to NESO's use of the HM Treasury Green Book falls within the definition of environmental information at Regulation 2(1)(c) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

Please could I see any reports, file notes or meeting minutes that give assurance that the SSEP and CSNP will be fully compliant with the guidance set out in the HM Treasury "Green Book"

Our response

The [HM Treasury Green Book](#) (the "Green Book") is guidance and principles rather than a prescribed 'checklist' and NESO is not mandated to follow it. The Green Book represents accepted good practice, and NESO usually seeks to follow the principles within it unless there is a reason not to, or unless other methodologies are more appropriate for the work that we are doing.

As NESO is not mandated to follow the Green Book, there is no requirement for either the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) or the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) to be '*fully compliant with the guidance set out in in the HM Treasury "Green Book"*'.

We therefore do not hold recorded information in scope of your request.

For information, within the publicly available information on both the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) and the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP), we have referenced where we are aligned with the Green Book. Please see, for example:

- [CSNP – Methodology \(April 2026\) and Appendices](#).
- [SSEP – Methodology \(May 2025\) and Appendices](#)
- [SSEP Transparency Update](#)

Engagement of the exception provided at 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). As we do not hold recorded information in scope of your request, we are engaging Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR which 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 a 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.

Further information

Ofgem, the energy regulator for Great Britain, has approved the methodologies for both the CSNP and the SSEP:

- [Approval of the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan Methodology \(May 2025\)](#)
- [Approval of NESO's CSNP Methodology | Ofgem \(April 2026\)](#)

You may also be interested in Ofgem's [Centralised Strategic Network Plan Guidance \(November 2025\)](#).

Ofgem are also subject to the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Information on how to submit requests to Ofgem is available here: [Information requests | Ofgem](#).

Further information on Strategic Energy Planning is available here: [Strategic Planning | 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)