

Public

Ref: FOI/26/183

National Energy System Operator
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Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by NESO on 24 August 2026. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as the requested information falls within the definition of environmental information at Regulation 2(1)(c) of the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

Ofgem's July 2026 consultation, "Proposed data centre connection reforms", states that approximately 315 data-centre projects, representing approximately 73 GW, are currently in the Great Britain electricity connections queue.

I understand that information supplied or held by NESO contributed to this analysis.

Please provide the project-level dataset held by NESO from which the number, capacity or geographic distribution of these data-centre projects can be identified.

For every relevant project, please provide the following recorded fields where held:

- An anonymous project identifier;*
- Proposed connection capacity in MW;*
- Named connection substation, grid supply point or bulk supply point;*

- *Local authority area;*
- *Postcode district, approximate grid reference or other recorded geographic area;*
- *Relevant transmission owner or distribution network operator;*
- *Current queue, Gate 1, Gate 2 or connection status;*
- *Proposed connection or energisation year;*
- *Date the connection application was received;*
- *Whether the project appears in the Existing Agreements Register;*
- *Whether the project was included in the approximately 315 projects and 73 GW cited by Ofgem.*

I am not requesting personal information. Developer and landowner names may be removed if necessary. Please use anonymous project identifiers so that the remaining environmental and infrastructure information can be disclosed. Please supply the information in its existing electronic format, preferably CSV or Excel. I am not asking NESO to create a new dataset or conduct additional analysis. If disclosure of exact connection points is considered sensitive, please provide the nearest less-specific information already held, such as local authority, postcode district, transmission area, distribution network region or nation.

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If project-level geographic information is withheld, please alternatively provide:

- *The number and combined MW capacity of projects by local authority;*
- *If that is not held, totals by connection substation, network region or nation;*
- *The snapshot date of the dataset;*
- *The methodology or technology codes used to identify a project as a data centre;*
- *The number of projects for which NESO does not hold a sufficiently precise location;*
- *Any recorded assessment of whether the projects are speculative, duplicative or unlikely to proceed.*

Our response

Unfortunately, we are unable to progress your request any further without clarification of your request. We have provided advice and assistance below to help you to submit a clarified request should you wish to do so.

Regulation 12(4)(c) of the EIR allows for a public authority to refuse a request for environmental information where it is formulated in too general a manner. This exception applies where a

request is unclear or open to more than one interpretation and the public authority has provided advice and assistance to help the requester to provide clarification.

The exception provided at Regulation 12(4)(c) is subject to the public interest test however the Information Commissioner recognises that it is difficult to conduct a public interest test when a public authority is unsure about what the requester is after. The Commissioner therefore takes the position that the public interest in maintaining the exception will outweigh the public interest in disclosing what may be the wrong information.

This concludes our response to your request.

Advice and assistance

We are required under the EIR to confirm whether we hold recorded information in scope of a request and disclose that information (unless an exception provided by the legislation legitimately applies). However, without clarification on the specific scope of your request, we are unable to provide you with an accurate response to your request.

We are uncertain whether you intended in your request to ask NESO for recorded information we hold in scope of:

- project level information on all the ‘around 315 data centre projects’ referenced in paragraph 2.7 of Ofgem’s [Curate – Demand Connections Reform](#) consultation document, which states:

‘Our [Ofgem’s] analysis shows that approximately 73 GW of the total demand queue are data centres, comprising around 315 data centre projects with total contracted capacity ranging from 1 MW to 1,500 MW’.

OR

- project level information on data centre projects provided by NESO to Ofgem in the datasets referred to in the first three bullet points of paragraph 2.3 of Ofgem’s [Curate – Demand Connections Reform](#) consultation document, which states:

‘Our [Ofgem’s] understanding of the current demand queue is based on the following evidential basis:

- *data and insights from NESO’s voluntary call for input of the demand queue issued in November 2025, a summary of which was published by NESO in March 2026, project-level data from NESO’s mandatory information request notice (IRN) to demand projects in the transmission queue, issued on 13 March 2026.*

- *project-level data collected by distribution network operators from a voluntary call for input of their demand queues in March 2026. This requested similar data and information to NESO's mandatory request and was aggregated by NESO*
- *aggregated transmission connection queue data provided by NESO following queue formation, and at various times over the course of policy development*
- *aggregated distribution queue data collected from distribution network operators and aggregated by the Energy Networks Association of data centres in the distribution queues*
- *insights from wider stakeholder engagement, including via our Curate Advisory Group and other stakeholder engagement*
- *data and insight generated by comparing information collected from the above sources and comparing this to publicly available Companies House data'*

OR

- any project level information currently held by NESO on data centre projects in the connection pipeline.

We can advise that we have previously responded to a request for project-level data shared by NESO to Ofgem as referenced in the first two bullet points of paragraph 2.3. of the Ofgem consultation. Our response to that request is available on our disclosure log – the full disclosure log can be accessed here [Disclosure log | National Energy System Operator](#) and a direct link to that response is available here [FOI-26-165](#).

Ofgem are also subject to both the EIR and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). You may therefore wish to contact them to request project level information they hold on the 'around 315 data centre projects' they have referred to in the consultation document. Information on how you can make an information request to Ofgem is available on their website – [Information requests | Ofgem](#).

Although we consider all information requests on a case-by-case basis, we do engage exceptions provided by the EIR where it is appropriate to do so, and this includes withholding information that is confidential and commercially sensitive. You will see from our disclosure log that we do engage the exception provided at Regulation 12(5)(e) in response to requests for information on individual energy projects, whether they are generation, storage or demand projects.

Next steps

Should you wish to submit a new information request we will consider it under the EIR (or FOIA if appropriate) and respond within the required 20 working day response time.

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)