



**Electricity  
Distribution**

# **Connections Reform Webinar**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**nationalgrid**



# Agenda

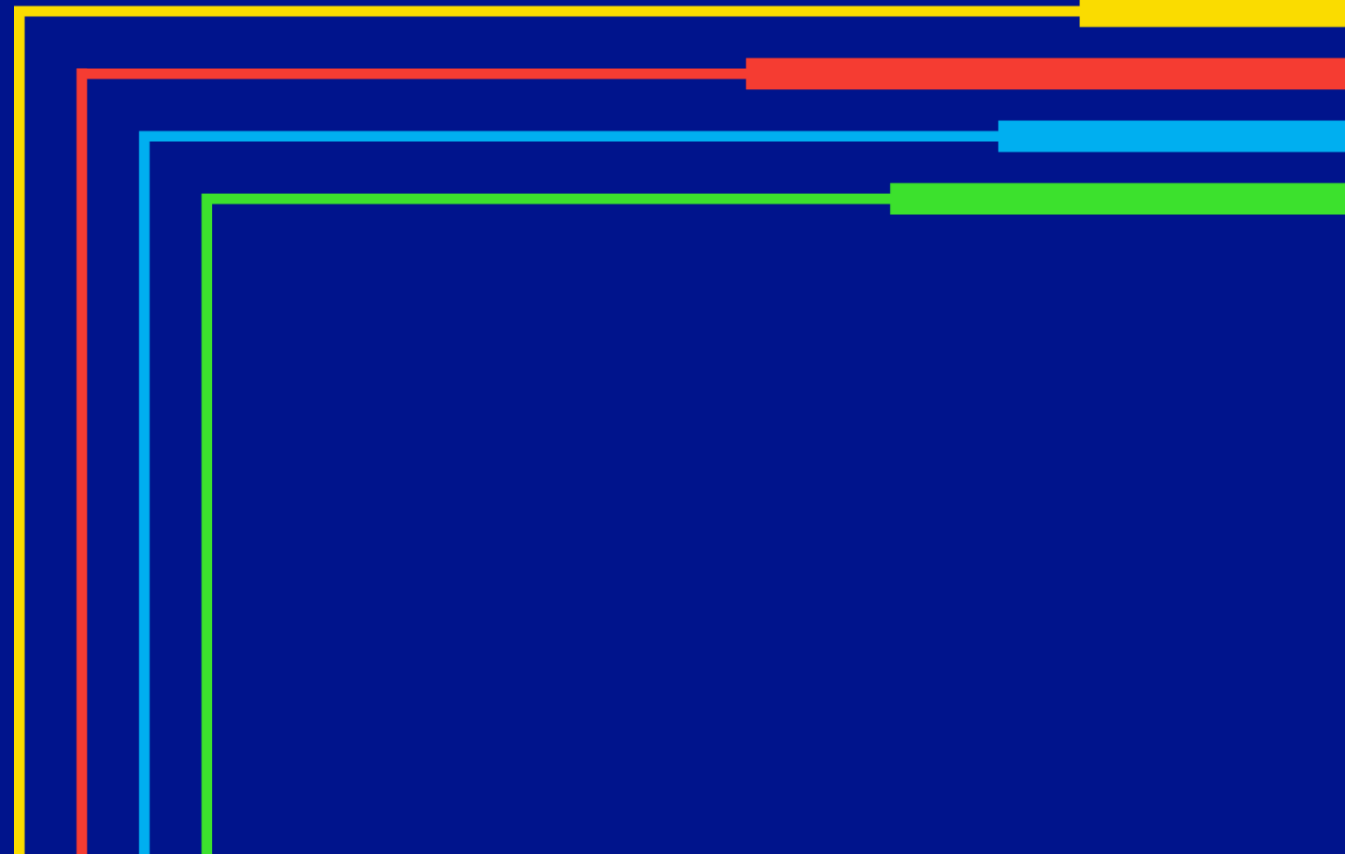
1. **Welcome**
2. **Update on Reform**
3. **Transmission Impact Assessment**
4. **Customer Engagement**
5. **Q&A**



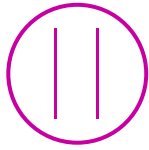
**Susana Neves e Brooks**  
Head of Connections Strategy and Reform

# Welcome

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# Connections Reform - Summary



## Pause & Freeze

NESO announced in January a *Pause* to transmission generation connection applications and a *Freeze* to Securities between April 2025 and April 2026



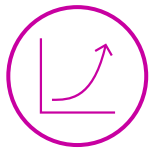
## CMP446

Increasing the lower threshold from 1MW to 5MW in England and Wales for Evaluation of Transmission Impact Assessment (implement by 2<sup>nd</sup> May 25)



## Ofgem decision for Reform Enablers

Ofgem are due to publish their *Minded to Position on CUSC Mods & Licence Stat Con* in coming days to keep to Mid March timeline



## Increase in Distribution Applications

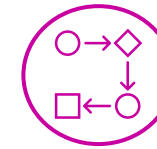
Since the announcement of *Pause* at Transmission we have observed an increase of over 100% in applications in NGED



## Connections Reform Implementation Hub

NGED Sponsoring two Hubs and co-chairing another Hub, which look to define mechanics of the Reformed process and focus on impact to Distribution

[E2E Journey Design & Programme, Distribution Engineering Hub and Evidence Checks Hubs]



## Connections Reform Implementation & Communication Plan

NGED Connections Reform are currently developing a programme and guidance that looks to provide clarity on how introduction of reform shall be managed and what customers can expect.

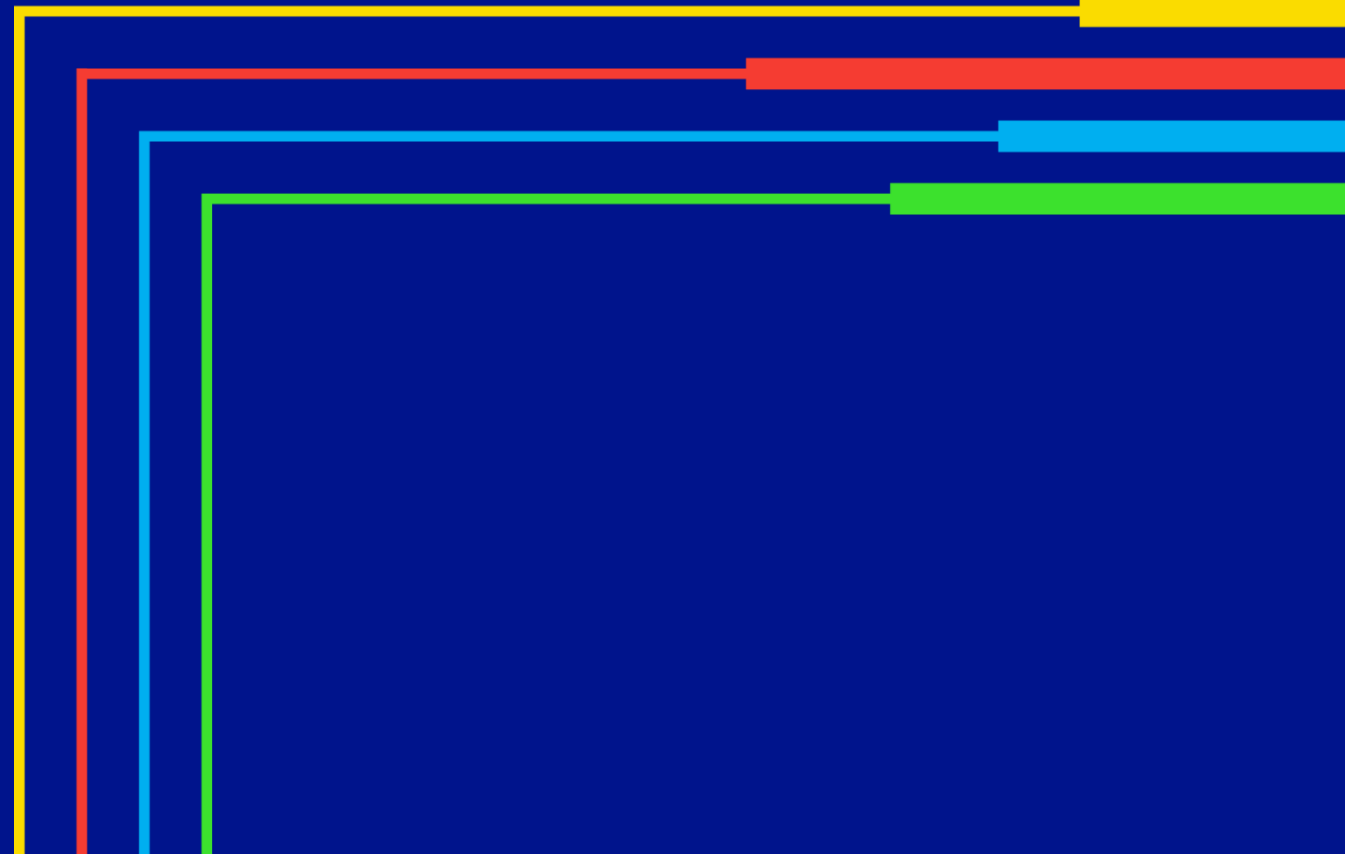
We continue to be invested on engaging with our customers via webinars, website, creation of bespoke Reform content & e-mails communication



**Laura Henry**

Senior Connections Strategy & Reform Manager

# Update on Reform



# Connections | Connections Reform



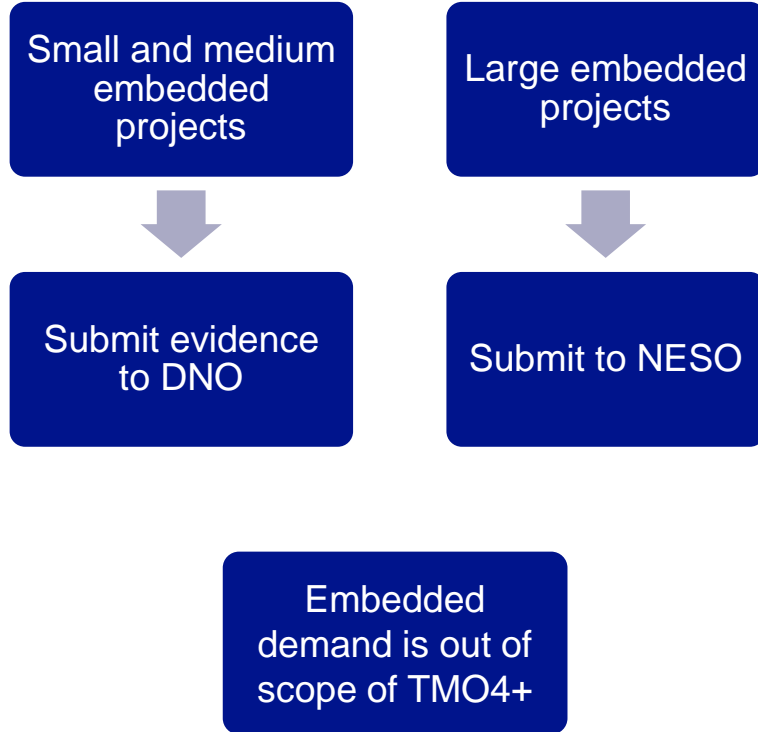
## NGED's Current Position

- Championing Gate 1 for Distribution to mirror Transmission to enable consistency of treatment for Transmission & Distribution customers
- Feeding into consultations/forums to ensure there is alignment between the Transmission and Distribution processes
- Leading Energy Network Association (ENA) Strategic Connections Group workstreams on reform to drive change at Distribution Network Owner (DNO) level: Opportunity to lead on reform for the DNO community

## Next steps

- Evidence collation
- Collaborate with National Energy System Operator (NESO) / Transmission Owners (TOs) /DNOs through the implementation hubs
- Ofgem minded to position and Statutory Consultation on proposed DNO Licence changes

# Gate 2 Methodology- DNO process



Gate 2 Evidence	Checks to be carried out by DNOs
Verification of Director(s) that signed the Readiness Declaration Letter	DNO check- Send to NESO
Secured land rights	→
<u>or</u>	DNO check
DCO planning consent	→
Red line boundary	DNO check- send to NESO
Secured Land Rights meet minimum parameters	→ DNO check
Alignment with 2030 pathway	→ DNO check- send to NESO
Designated project status	→ As set out in the Project Designation Methodology

- NESO will conduct duplication checks using the red line boundary
- NGED customers will receive a link to an online form to complete when the submission window opens

# Protected projects- Evidence

## Protected Clause

Protection Clause 1: Projects contracted to connect by end 2026 (CMP435)

Protection Clause 2a: Projects which are significantly progressed (CMP435)

Protection Clause 2b: Projects which are significantly progressed (those who reapply in CMP434 only))

Protection Clause 3: Projects which Obtain planning consent after closure of the CMP435 Gated Application Window (those who reapply in CMP434 only)



## All protected project evidence to be checked by DNOs

Meet Milestone 2 (planning consent) and Milestone 7 (FID)

Evidence of meeting Milestone M1 and M2 or hold a valid CfD/CM contract, Cap and Floor arrangement or Merchant Interconnector approval

Provide evidence of holding a “live” Contracts for Difference Contract; or “live” Capacity Market Contract; or “live” Cap and Floor arrangement or Merchant Interconnector approval

Provide evidence of meeting M1 (must show this was submitted to the Statutory Planning Authority prior to the closure of the CMP435 Gated Application Window) and Provide evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestone M2.

# How do the protections play out for tech limits?

## Technical Limits Customers – Delivering before 2027

Non-Firm Date	Firm Date	M2 by May 2025	M7 by May 2025	
■	■	✓	✓	Current Dates Protected
■	■	✓	✓	Non-firm date protected Firm date may change, 2035 position

**Tech limits** is seen as a key tool the DNOs can use to manage acceleration of connections.

**Advancement** may be able to bring projects forwards, and there may also be cases where projects move back.

We expect that in the main, owing to the benefits of a smaller queue, the case where current connection dates move back, should be minimal.



M1 = planning submitted  
M2 = Planning achieved  
M7 = Financial investment decision taken  
May = assumed to be the close of the Gate 2 evidence window (TBC)

■ Current Date Pre-2027  
■ Current Date 2027+

## Technical Limits Customers – With Planning submission by 20 Dec 2024

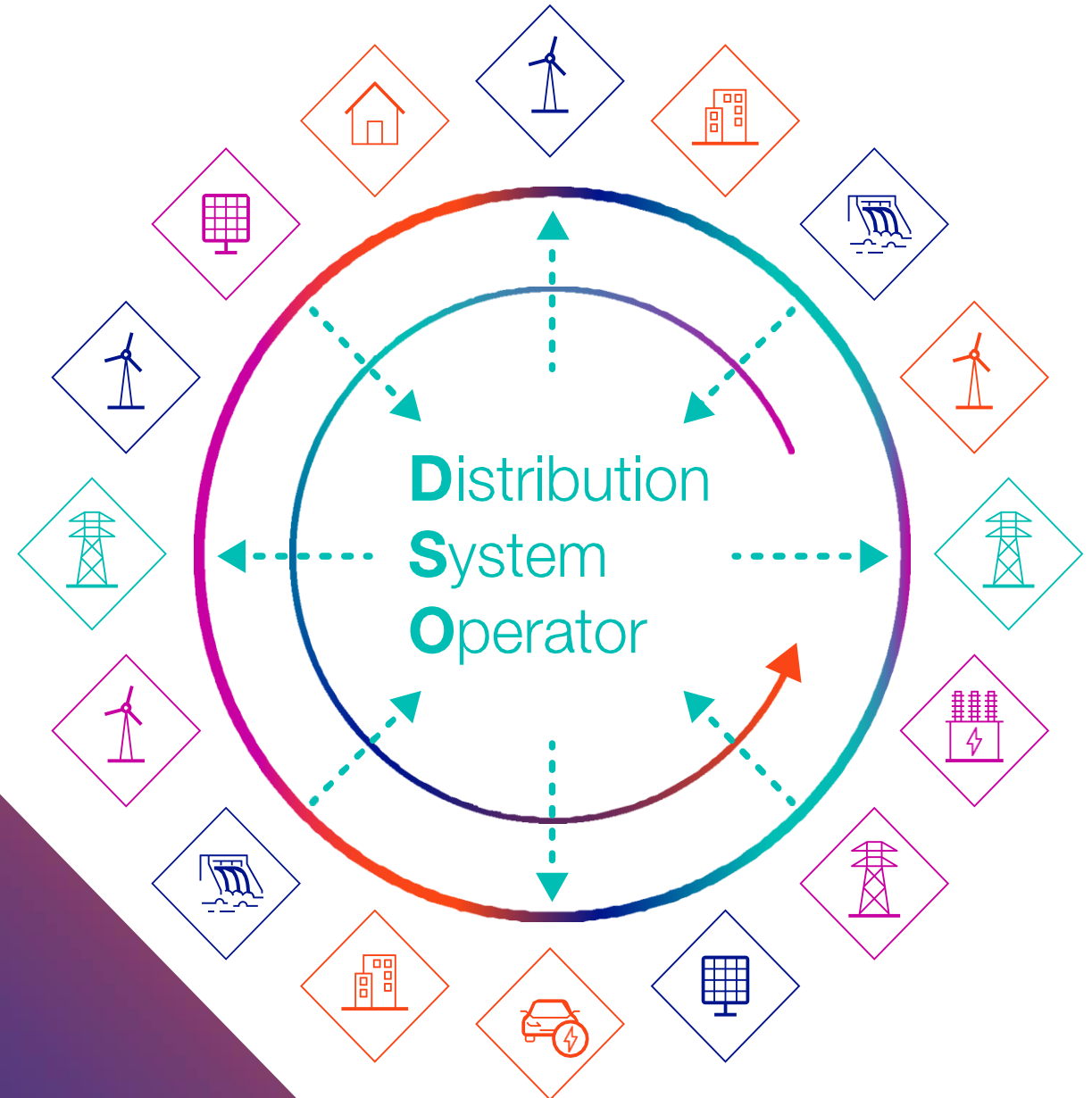
Non-Firm Date	Firm Date	M1 by 20/12/24	M2 by May 2025	
■	■	✓	✓	2035 position Firm & non-firm dates may change
■	■	✓	✗	2035 if M2 by CMP434 window, reapply – needed to be in 435 process*

\*Capacity subject to GB capacity availability

# nationalgrid DSO



**Ryan Kavanagh**  
Head of Transmission Distribution Interface

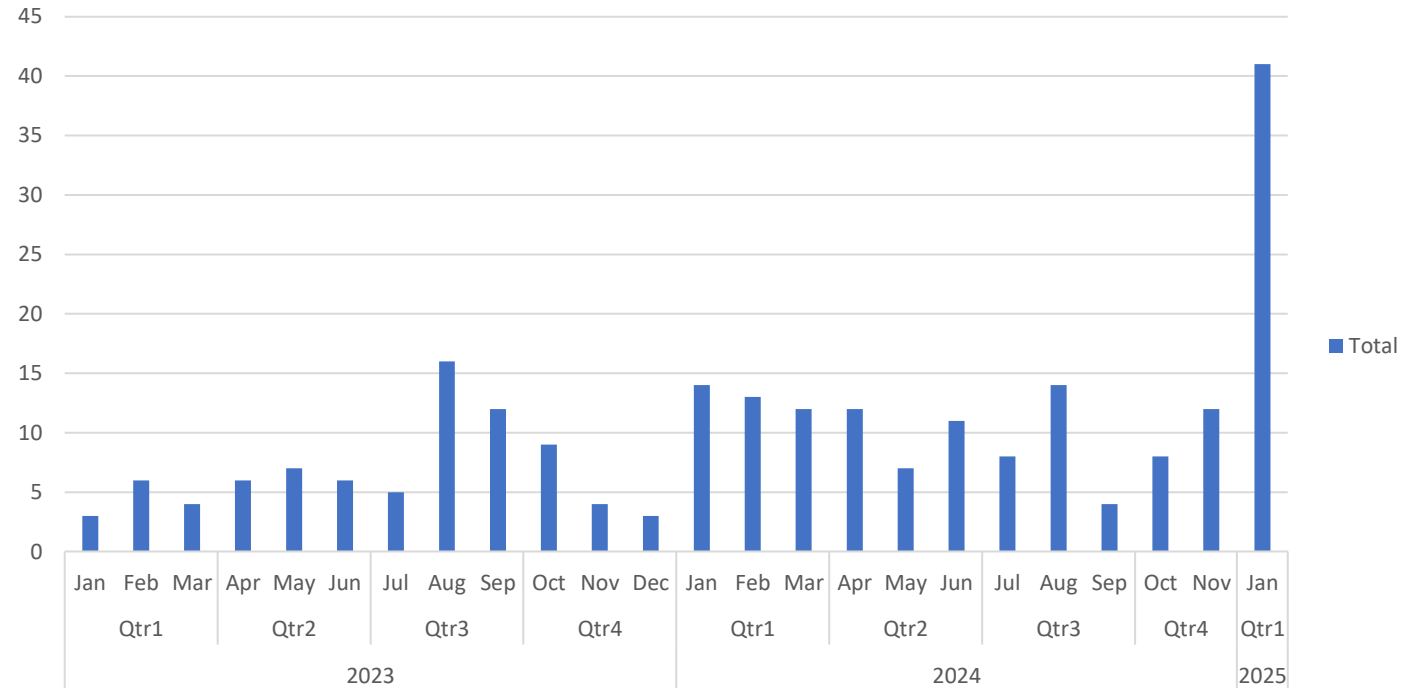


# Inclusion of Projects into Transmission Impact Assessment (TIA) ahead of the Pause

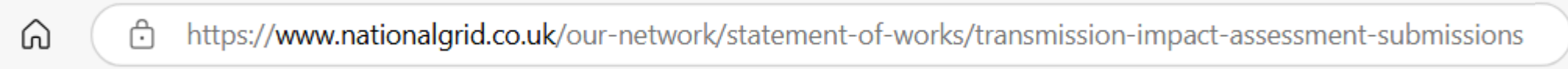
We've had a big push to get as many projects into TIA as possible, but volumes of projects acceptances have been high across our 56 Grid Supply Points (GSP)s

- In 2023 we submitted 81 GSPs for assessment into NESO
- In the past 12 months, we have submitted over 140 GSPs for assessment
- We are working with NESO to clock start all submitted in Jan 2025

Number of NGED TIAs Submitted to NESO



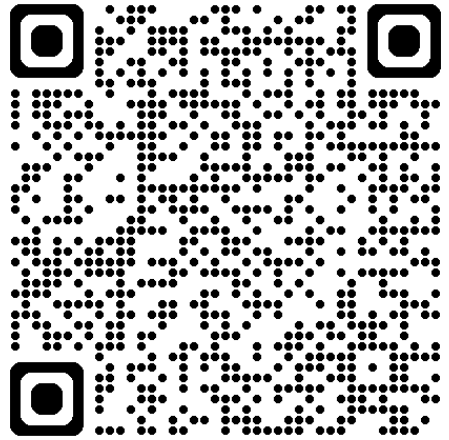
# Transparency on Cut Off dates



## Transmission Impact Assessment Submissions

We have published the latest date of accepted projects submitted under TIA and will update on a regular basis

We aim to submit Project Progressions and Modification Applications, more broadly known as Transmission Impact Assessments, to the National Energy System Operator (NESO) for all distribution customers within four months of connection offer acceptance.



### South Wales

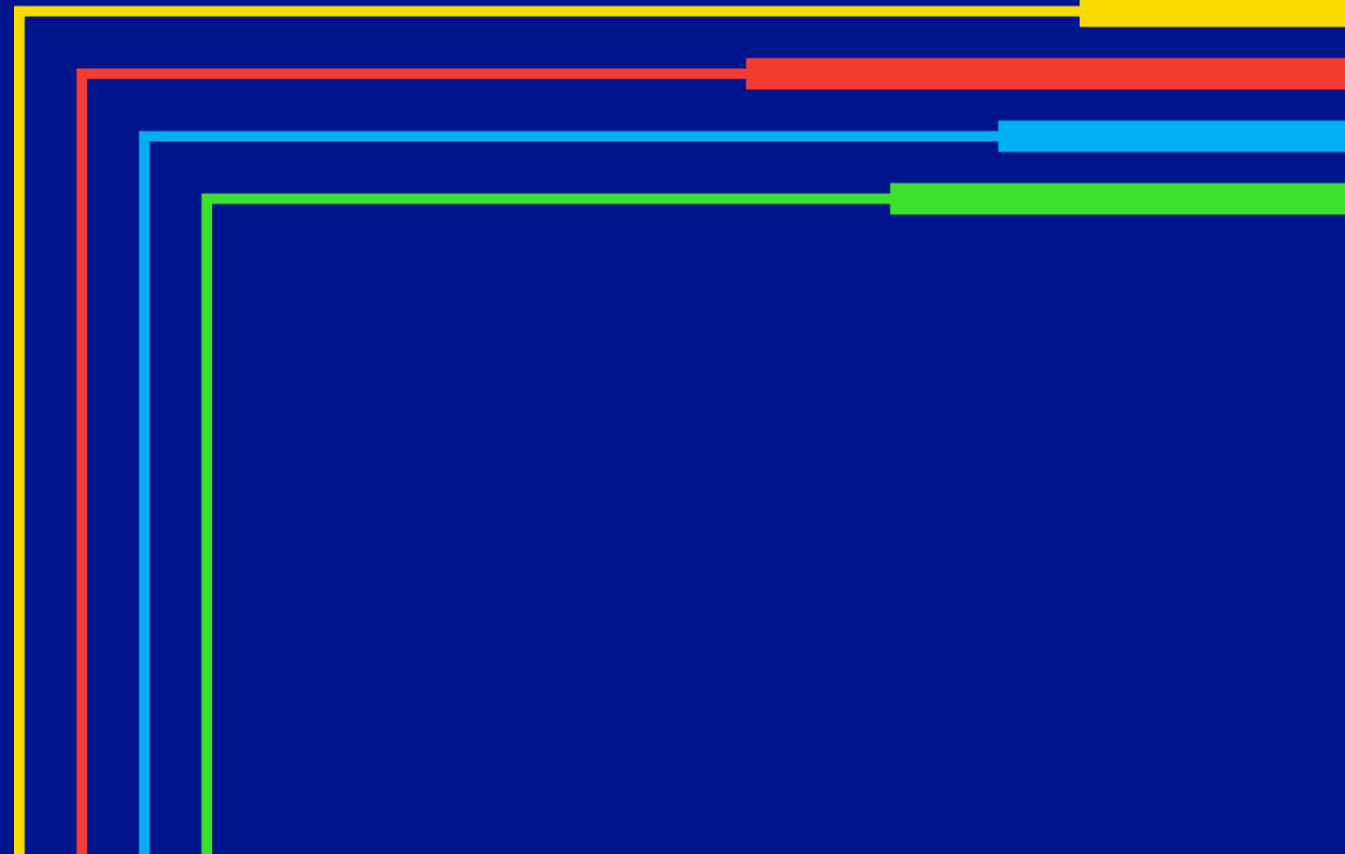
License Area	GSP	Acceptance Cut off Date
South Wales	Aberthaw 132kV	24 December 2024
South Wales	Cardiff East 132kV	10 January 2025
South Wales	Ferryside/Llandyfaelog 132kV*	10 January 2025
South Wales	Grange 66kV	03 January 2025
South Wales	Hirwaun 132kV*	03 January 2025



**Laura Henry**

Senior Connections Strategy & Reform Manager

# Customer Engagement



# Customer Engagement

**NESO Pause and Securities Freeze** – Following the announcements from NESO on the Connections Pause and Securities Freeze, NGED have communicated how these changes may impact our customers via our Connections Reform webpage, Linked In Posts and email.

**Gate 2 Evidence** – We have updated our guidance for Gate 2 evidence preparation on our Connections Reform page. Please look out for further communication via email this month.

**Please keep us informed of changes to key contacts within your organisation by contacting us as shown below .**



## Key Links

If you have any questions or would like to know more, contact us or visit our dedicated web page

### Reform Webpage

Key information on Connections Reform and industry announcements/how this may affect our customers  
[www.connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/connections-reform](http://www.connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/connections-reform)

### Contact Us

If you have question in relation to Connections Reform, please email  
[box.connectionsreformnged@nationalgrid.com](mailto:box.connectionsreformnged@nationalgrid.com)

### NESO Updates

Get the latest updates on Connections Reform via NESO  
[www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections/connections-reform](http://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections/connections-reform)



# Upcoming Events

## Connections: Reform

Online Webinar

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

[Register Here](#)

All attendees on this call will receive an email invite to NGED events or you can visit

[www.connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/engagement](http://www.connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/engagement)