Electricity Distribution

# Connections Reform – Frequently Asked Questions (July 2025)

# NGED Frequently Asked Questions

## NESO update on the Connections Reform Process

NESO has provided an important update on its Connections Portal. NESO will extend the evidence submission window and will give 10 working days' notice before the window closes. This notice will be issued no earlier than 11 August 2025.

To ensure equal opportunities for submission for Distribution and Transmission connected customers, DNOs have agreed to mirror NESO's arrangements for an extension.

See full update from NESO here: https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform

**Q. Why has NESO extended the submission date?**
**A.** The extension is in direct response to the challenges customers have faced with NESO's Connections Portal and NESO's response times to resolve customer queries. Daily NESO portal updates can be viewed here.

## Evidence submission to NESO for Transmission projects

**Q: NESO updated its handbook following the opening of the Transmission window on 8 July and is adding any new guidance about evidence submission.**
**A:** The NESO handbook published together with NGED's evidence submission guidance on 20 May was updated in early July following the opening of the transmission window on the 8 July. New information has been added as addenda at the end of the Handbook. See NESO handbook here.

**Q: Why don't I have a link for my 100MW+ NGED project?**
**A:** A 100MW generator connecting at distribution is classed as large embedded. Large, embedded projects should be submitted to NESO instead of NGED. The submission window opened on the 8 July, and the new window submission closure was extended on 25 July, by 10 days. The final closure date will be notified no later than 4 August with at least ten days-notice for transmission and distribution projects. NESO updates on Connections Reform process can be viewed here: https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform

**Q: How do we submit BEGA Gate 2 evidence to NESO?**
**A:** You can submit your evidence through the portal on NESO's website through this link here.

# NGED updates

**Q: How will the new evidence window extension affect NGED? Will NGED's evidence submission window also be extended?**
**A:** NGED's portal and other DNO portals remain functional and are not affected. To ensure equal opportunities for submission for Distribution and Transmission connected customers, DNOs have agreed to mirror NESO's arrangements for an extension. We encourage our customers to submit their evidence as early as possible.

**Q: What time is the submission window closing?**
**A:** This will be confirmed by NESO when the final window closure date is announced. When the window has closed, any submission after that point will be deemed for CMP434 rather than CMP435.

**Q: Will customers connecting to DNO networks also be given a resolution period following the closure of the window?**
A. To ensure equal opportunities for submission for Distribution and Transmission connected customers, DNOs have agreed to mirror NESO's arrangements for an extension.

**Q. This extension is unfair because some customers now have a longer timeframe to submit evidence.**
**A:** Whether a customer submitted evidence within the original window or submits evidence in the extended window, the criteria for assessing evidence remains the same. Customers who submitted earlier may benefit from the extension, as it allows us more time to carry out checks and contact those customers whose evidence fails our checks, to guide them on what they need to resubmit to achieve compliant evidence.

**Q: Customers expect a Gate 2 offer to benefit their project, but their date may be pushed back due to the extension. This is adding to uncertainty for customers.**
**A:** Prior to the gated process, connection offers from NGED that required a Transmission Impact Assessment were varied by modification offers form NESO which could change the location, connection date and/or overall cost of a connection. A Gate 2 offer follows this process. The aim of Connection Reform is to benefit customers as well as the overall network, so the energy sector as a whole anticipates that many customers will benefit. However, processing these changes including with this extension, may cause knock-on delays. We are anticipating this and working closely with NESO to minimise disruption and uncertainty to our customers. We will keep updating our customers on the reform programme promptly.

**Q: Will developers with a 2026-7 protection lose that protection if their connection date is pushed out by the delay?**
**A:** We are aware of this issue and are working with NESO to ensure that should a connection date of 2026/7 be pushed out because of this window extension, the protection remains in place. We will update customers whose projects may be affected when we have more information.

**Q. We have a distribution connection offer with a firm date of late 2026 that has the necessary attributes to achieve protection Clause 1 status. Should we go through Connection Reform on the basis of our 2026 contracted connection date or should we use and expected connection date in 2027 when applying? If the latter, would the project qualify for the enhanced protection Clause 2a status i.e., a protected 2027 date and POC? Also, if the latter would a ModApp be required?**
**A.** For the Connections Reform process, we will use the contracted transmission connection date to assess the relevant protection that applies to your project. You can view the date we will be using for your project on the Clearview platform here: https://connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/clear-view-clean-power-2030/

**Q. We have got a technical limits connection date for Q2-2027 and the firm connection date for 2033. Should we apply for advancement for the 2033 date? Does it affect our position in the LIFO stack if we don't't?**
**A**. In this scenario your 2027 non-firm connection date will be liable for protection. However, your firm connection date will be the basis for the strategic alignment. If you wish to advance your firm connection date you should indicate this when completing your evidence submission. During the re-ordering process, some connections will have dropped from the queue, and some will enter the queue in a higher position, giving you a new position within the LIFO stack.

**Q. If we do not receive a Gate 2 offer, but we applied for Gate 2, will we be told why? For example. the capacity pots were filled before our queue position, or we did not comply with an element of the criteria, or, our application had an error etc. Related to this is there an Appeals process?**
**A.** Yes, we will let you know why you have not received a Gate 2 offer. In terms of appeal, our usual complaints process is available and described on our website. Please be aware it is unlikely that a Gate 2 non-compliance decision will be overturned, given the rigorous process undertaken to establish Gate 2 outcomes; and because (where

customers allow us the time) we are contacting customers whose evidence has failed checks to guide them on how to resubmit successfully.

## Submitting evidence to NGED

***Please also refer to June FAQs [insert link from website] for detailed information on Gate 2 evidence submission to NGED***

**Q: What if my project has a Capacity Market contract or is already under construction?**
**A:** All projects over 5MW not connected before the new window closure date must go through Gate 2. There are specific requirements for capacity market contract projects. Please see the Gate 2 methodology and NESO handbook for more information.

**Q: Can we amend or add to our submissions on the Portal?**
**A:** Yes, if you need to update a file, or if only one small element needs to be changed, this can be done by email to .box.connectionsreformnged@nationalgrid.com If you need to make a substantial change to your submission, we will send you a new link and your previous submission will be removed. This must happen before the submission window closes.

**Q: What should we do if we haven't been contacted about our projects?**
**A:** Please let us know by emailing us at box.connectionsreformnged@nationalgrid.com

**Q. If a project is submitted early in Gate 2 application process and is deemed competent during initial assessment and it receives planning consent before the Gate 2 closure date, can the consent evidence be submitted for protection?**
**A.** Yes. You should make your submission via the portal in the first instance. If additional evidence is available prior to the submission window closing (Date TBD by NESO), please send via email to our mailbox along with details of the scheme ID. We will update your submission on your behalf.

**Q. Is NGED expecting the NESO Readiness Declaration Excel spreadsheet to be uploaded to the portal?**
**A.** We are not expecting the NESO Readiness Declaration Excel spreadsheet to be uploaded to the portal.

**Q, Do zero export G99 projects offered to connect by 2026 need to make any G2 evidence submission?**
**A.** If the projects are strictly zero export, no. If the project is using some of existing export at the site, this will need to go through gate 2 in order for the technology to be allocated strategically for CP2030.

**Q. When referring to "installed capacity" within the ORLB, what specifically does this mean? It is typical for a solar scheme to overplant by 40%-60% above the TEC on a DC basis so the cumulative installed capacity of panels and inverters across multiple parcels is likely to be significantly higher that the contracted capacity. This would then be clipped by the transformer capacity which would align with the connection capacity but this will be in one location and not split across individual parcels.**
**A.** This has been answered in the recently issued NESO addenda to its handbook. Please refer to this guidance for definition of installed capacity for each technology type. See NESO handbook here.

**Q. If we put '2026' for our confirmed connection date on a submission but then we are not actually ready to connect by 2026 will we be penalised for that? What leverage does NESO have if a programme (or different connection date) isn't formally agreed ahead of Gate 2 submissions? What tolerance milestones could we be penalised for in this instance?**
**A.** For the purposes of Connection Reform and the Gate 2 process, the assessment of your scheme will be based upon the contracted connection date. Separately, schemes which fail to meet their contracted milestones could be subject to queue management. Please refer to your connection offer or latest variation (if applicable) for details.

**Q. If a project had a relatively recent TIA outcome so has not been able to get an Option Agreement signed in time for G2TWQ how soon can we make our new application assuming we'll be given a Gate 1 offer and be expected to re-apply - or will NESO/DNOs allow 'recent' TIAs to carry over to CMP434 window?**
**A.** You will have the opportunity to reapply in CMP 434, which is expected to open before the end of 2025.

**Q. Assuming a project requests advancement under non-firm conditions, what is NESO/NGED maximum acceptable curtailment rate for the non-firm offer to be considered feasible?**
**A.** These will need to be assessed on a case by case basis.

**Q. Can you confirm that for projects that we are waiting on planning to submit the Gate 2 application that we should submit the Gate 2 application now and then NGED will accept the additional evidence, if we get it, via email to NGED prior to the Gate 2 closing?**
**A.** Yes. Please make your submission via our portal in the first instance. If additional evidence is available prior to the submission window closing, please send via email to our mailbox along with details of the scheme ID and we will update your submission on your behalf.

**Q. How does a developer navigate the Gate 2 process if it wishes to use an IDNO to facilitate a change in the redline boundary and or POS?**
**A.** Embedded IDNO distribution connections are passing their information to us in order to check the evidence submission. Please speak to your IDNO to establish their required timeframes to meet the evidence window gate closing deadline.

**Q. How to submit larger files (>15MB) to the NGED portal?**
**A.** Please send to our mailbox - box.connectionsreformnged@nationalgrid.com. You may be required to compress/zip /split the files in order to overcome any limitations on sending via email.

**Q: Will the slides from the NGED's Connections Reform Webinars be available?**
**A:** Yes, all the slides from NGED webinars are available on our webpage here NGED Connections Reform following each webinar. Please refer to our webpages for future registration details.

**Q: Will NGED continue to hold drop-in sessions? Where can I find out more information about these?**
**A:** Yes, we will hold a new series of 15-minute drop-in sessions for customers. Notifications about these will be posted on our webpages here https://connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/connections-reform/ Please submit your project references and questions in advance and let us know who your planner is, so we can ensure the appropriate people are available to answer your queries.

**Q: How can I get in touch?**
**A: For most reform queries, please use:** box.connectionsreformnged@nationalgrid.com. For technical engineering questions, Clearview or project progression, please see key contacts below:

## System Design Team

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## Statement of works / DSO mailbox

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