

**Electricity
Distribution**

Connections Reform Webinar

Wednesday, 12 November 2025

nationalgrid

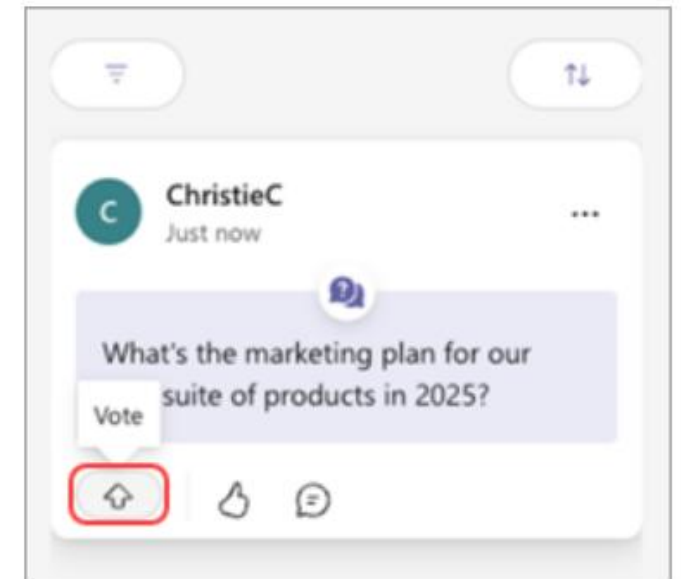


Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Programme Implementation Update
3. Policy Update
4. Legal Update
5. Q&A

To submit a question, please use the Q&A Function.

If you see a Question submitted by another attendee which you would like to hear answered, please use the **vote button** on the question



Welcome



Susana Neves e Brooks
Head of Connections Strategy, Policy and Reform

Connections Reform | Key updates and Developments



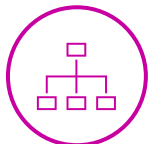
NESO updated timeline – updated timeline from NESO. <https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform>

- NESO evidence detailed checking period until December 2025
- Timeline indicates new generation queue and customer notifications in December for transmission and distribution



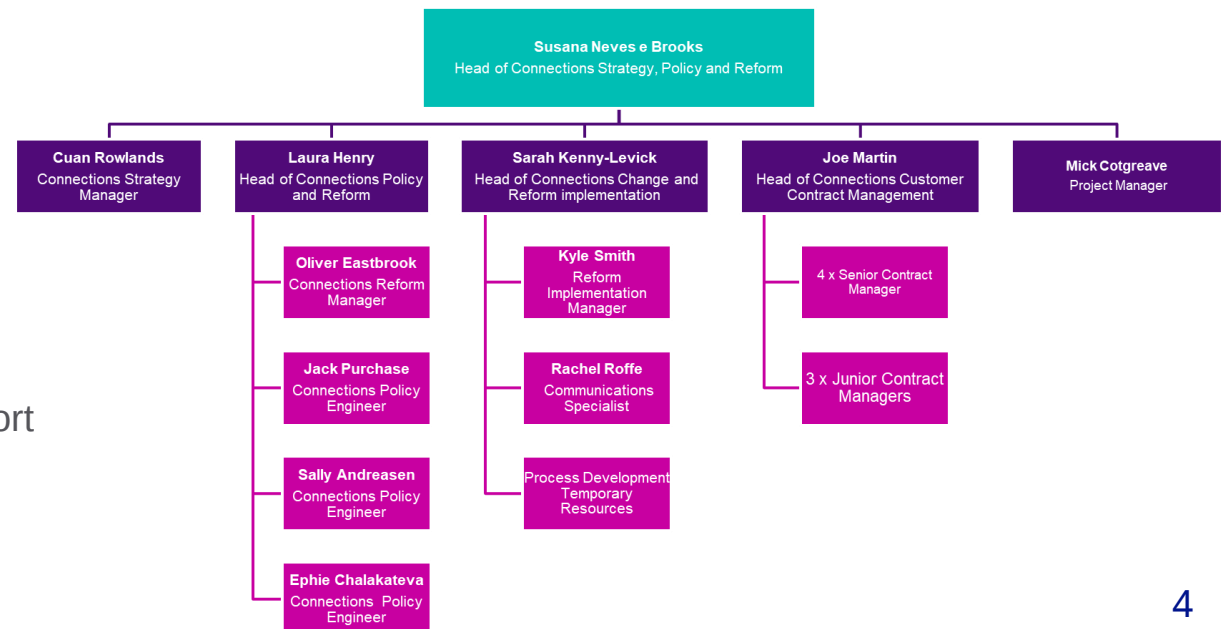
Customer Engagement Strategy

- Regular webinar series to keep customers updated
- In-person events to support customers during offer preparation and post offer stages
- Website and social media updates



Internal Connections Team Structure – Updates

- New Head of Connections Customer Contract Management
- **welcome to Joe Martin**
- Plans for future contract management and customer support



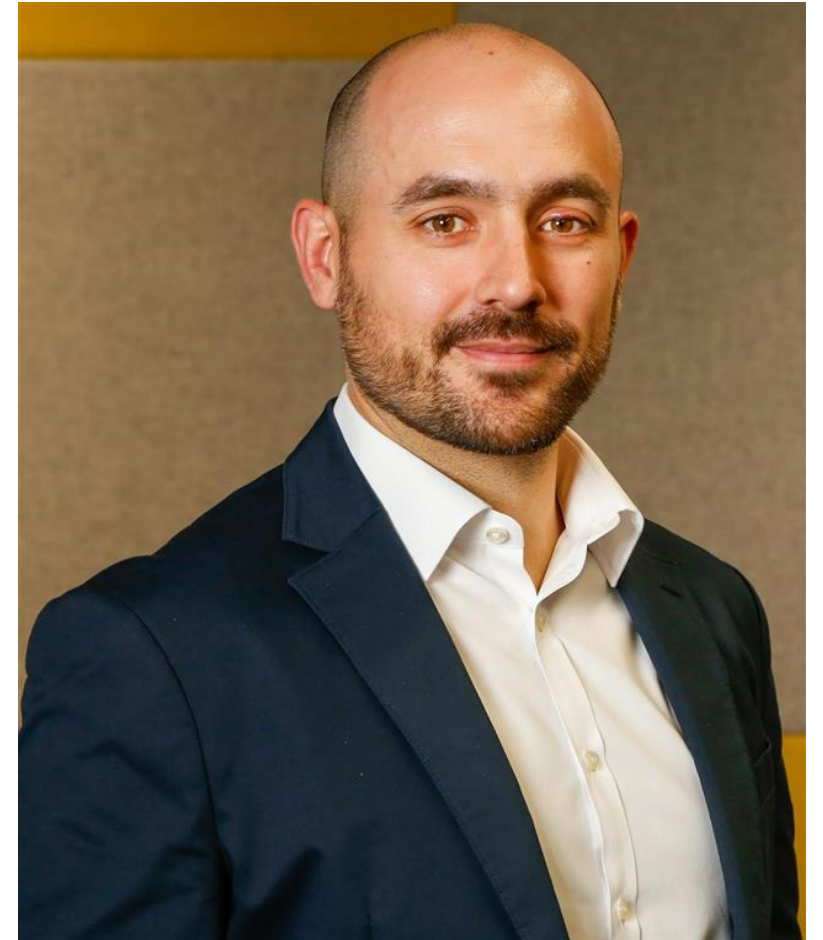
Connections Reform | Connections Reform Team Structure

We're delighted to welcome Joe Martin to the Connections Team as the lead for Contract Management.

Joe brings extensive experience from the development community, where he managed a portfolio of Solar and BESS projects across GB. Prior to that, he led the E&W Generation Connection Contract Team within NESO, so he may already be a familiar face to some of you.

Joe is keen to leverage his recent developer-side experience to enhance transparency and introduce customer-focused initiatives for management of Major Connections Contracts.

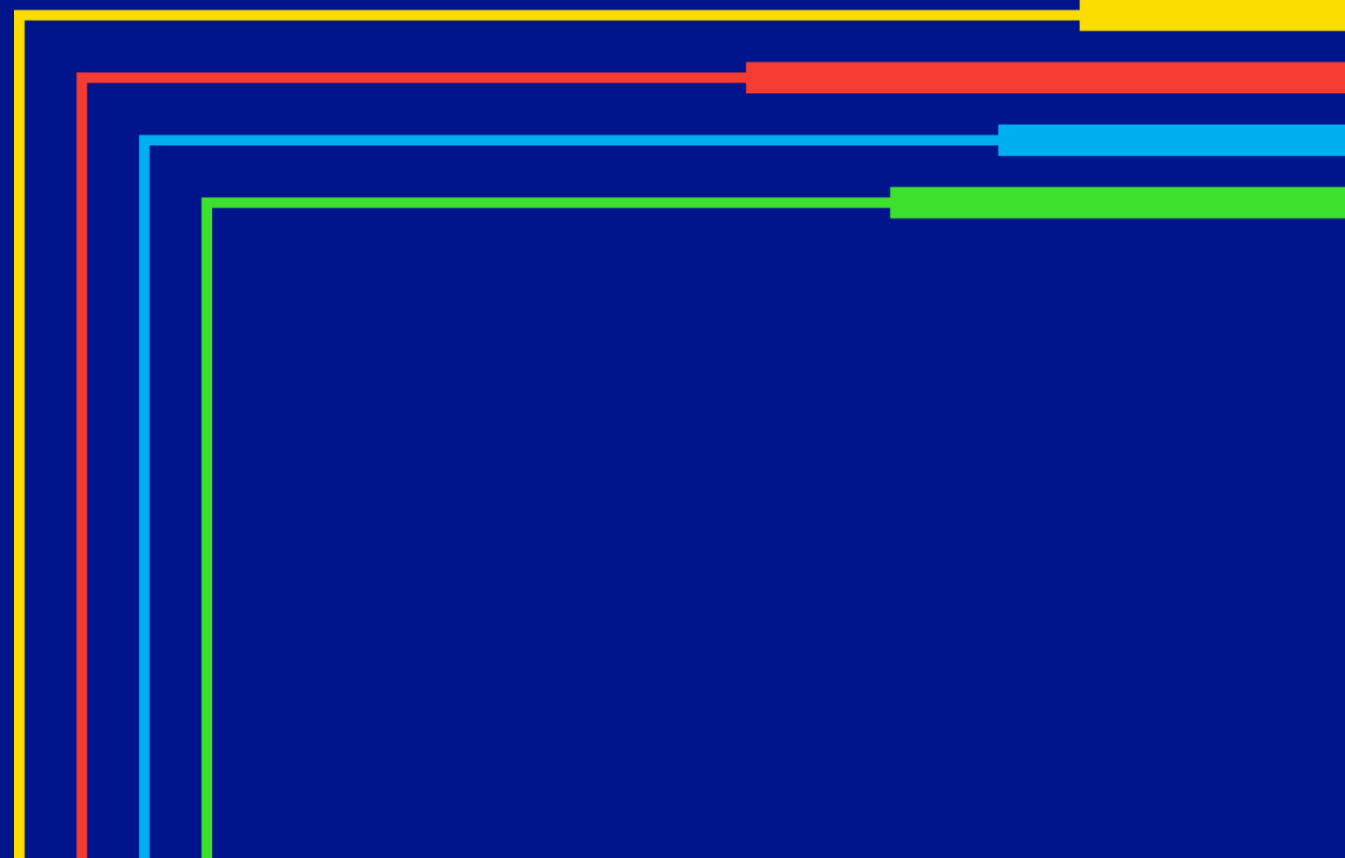
In the immediate term, Joe will concentrate on delivering Gate 1 and Gate 2 contracts to our customers, ensuring your feedback and priorities are reflected throughout the process.





Sarah Kenny-Levick
Head of Reform Implementation

Programme Implementation updates



Readiness for Gate 2 | Contracts

We are working hard behind the scenes to prepare for the next phase of connections reform

1

Contract Preparation

Build and bolster team

Strengthen the organisational capability by the creation of new contract management team.

Engage with Customers

Request feedback on their earliest viable or preferred connection dates, including any associated construction programs.

Internal Assessment

Evaluate the requested dates against NGED's proposed connection solutions, scope, and cost implications.

Contract Review

Identify potential edits and risks ahead of any contract variations to ensure alignment and manage expectations.

2

Engineering Preparation

Bolster team

Strengthen capability by contracting additional PSEs to support the atypical study volumes.

Preparing Network Models

DSO has been busy preparing power system models to carry out the technical analysis that will be used to update connection offer variations Technical.

Data Build

Creating the technical data (Data Registration Code - DRC) that needs to be sent to NESO to accompany each Gate 2 project.

Distribution Queue Ordering Methodology

Analysing options and discussing with industry the methodology for how the distribution queue merges with the newly formed transmission queue to ensure fair treatment of CMP446, demand and Gate 2 projects.

3

New Processes Implementation

Developing and Implementing internal SOPs

We have created the documented process for Gate 1 and Gate 2 offers to ensure efficiency and preparation ahead of execution.

Implementing new Governance and Assurance – to ensure we have a process for the content of the contracts

Development of standard emails and letters – ensuring that the communications and guidance are clear, aligned with industry and existing methodologies.

Preparation for the announcement of queue outcomes – industry alignment, data points, digital tools, communications preparation.

Detailed Gantt of NGED Programme – across all workstreams we have been creating an integrated and detailed project plan to ensure build of resources, data exchanges, key milestones and activities are planned for with a fit-for-purpose tactical plan.

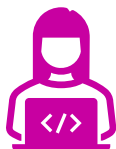
Analysis of protected 26/27 construction plans shows most customers now want a later date



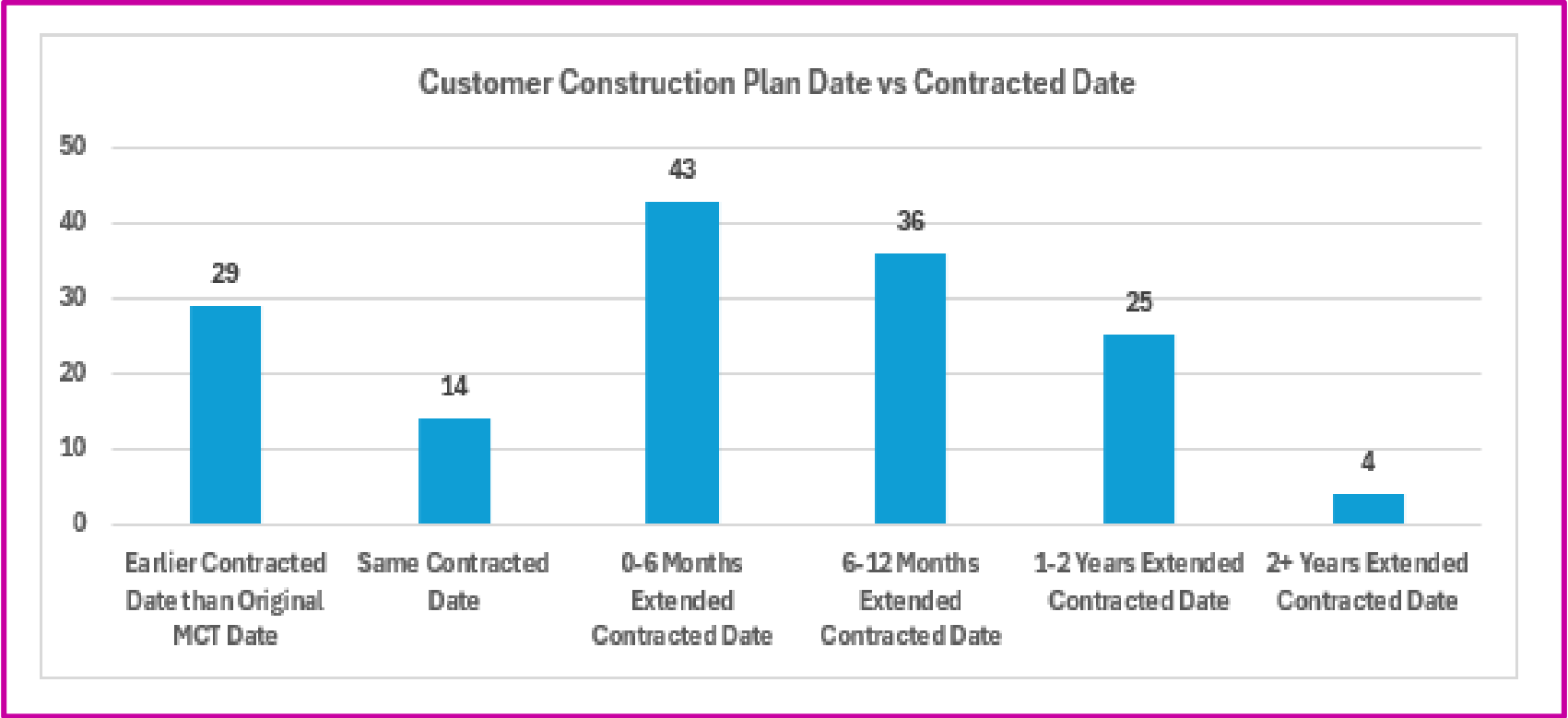
We have completed an exercise to compare the new aspirational connection dates for our 2026/27 protected customers against their existing contracted dates.



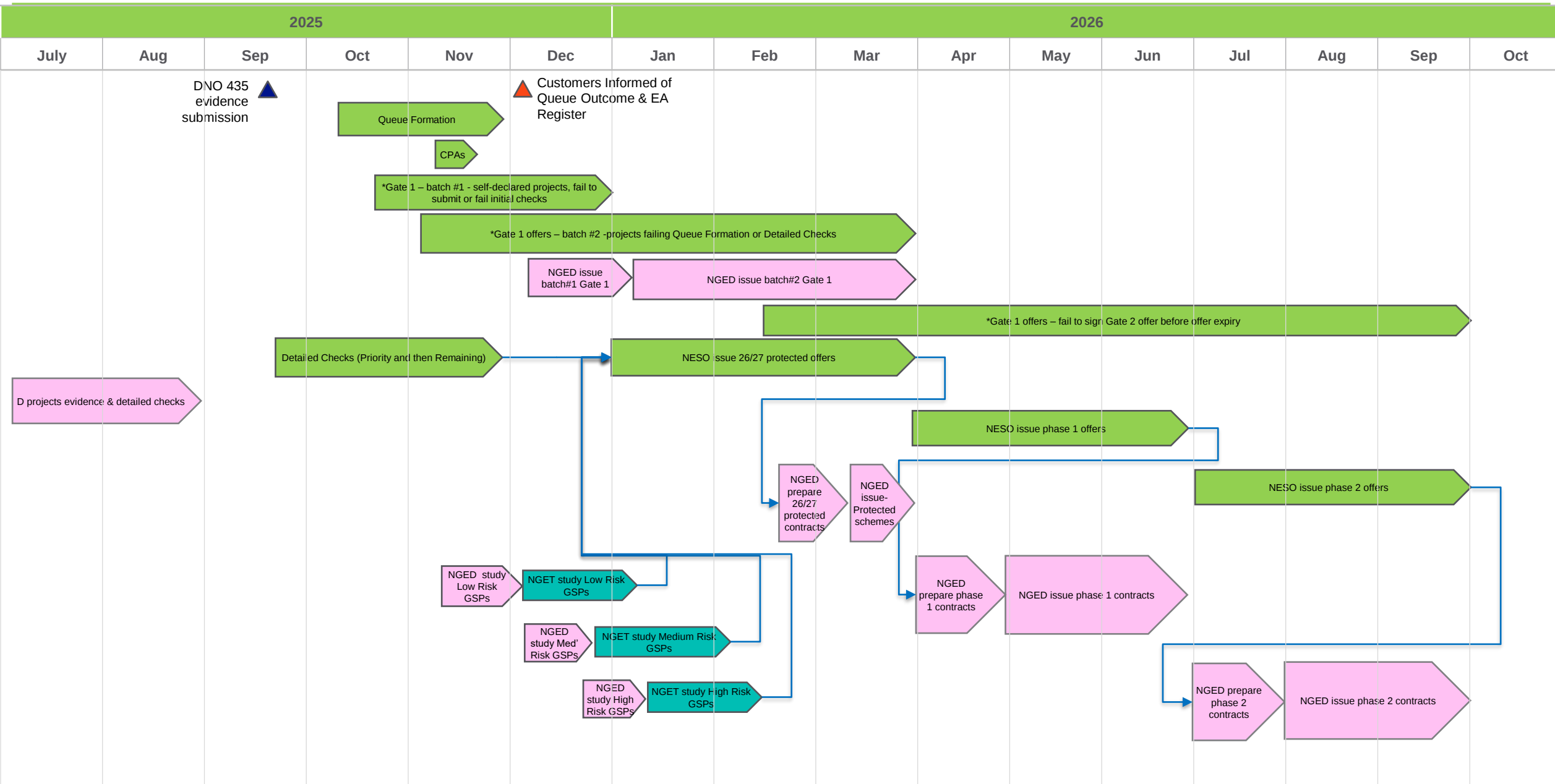
Over 70% of customers want to move their date back, with >50% being 6-12 months.



This will be used as input to engineering assessments and date analysis, aiming to optimise the outputs to the best holistic fit.

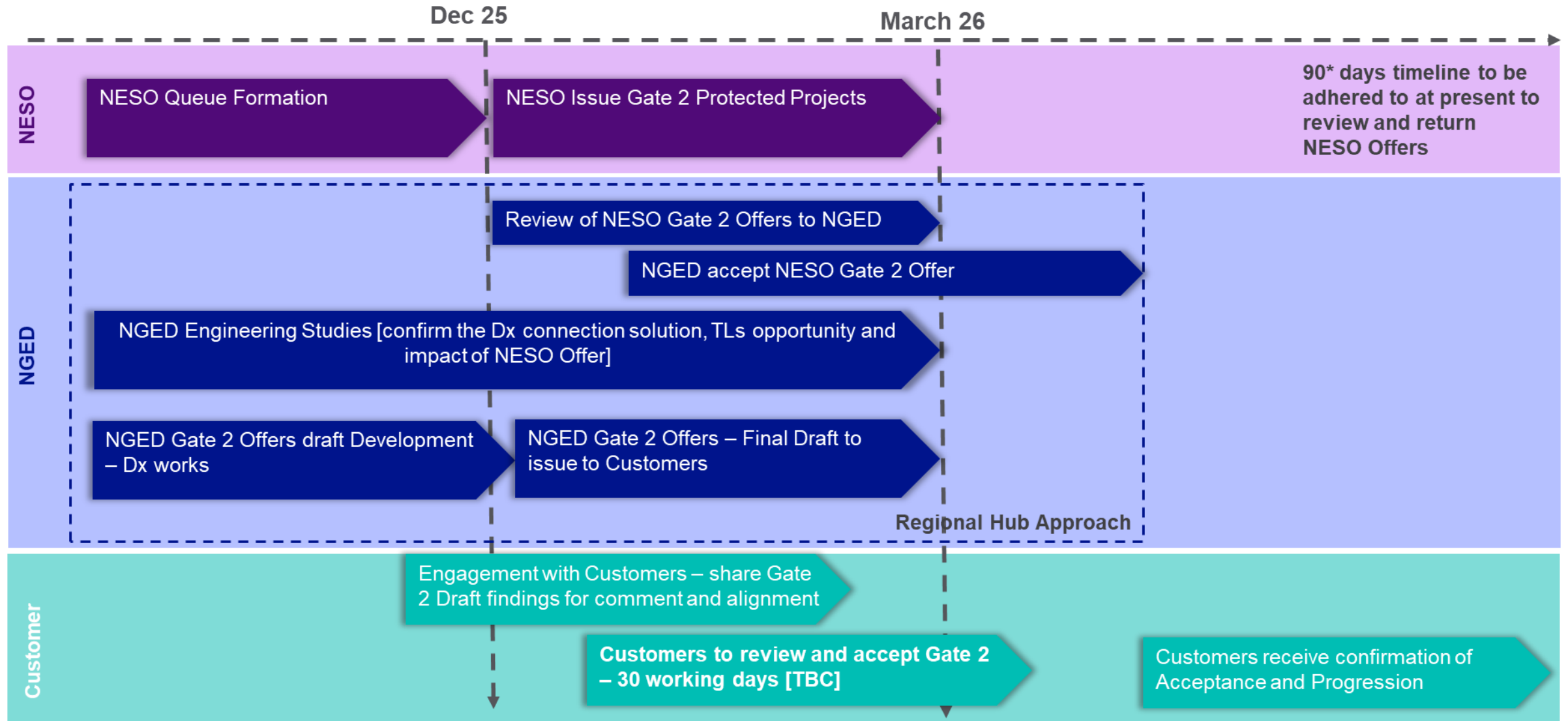


	Industry Millstones	
	Connections Reform Millstones	
	Dependencies	
	Dependencies at risk	



What does the Gate 2 Offer Journey looks like

*90-day period
TBC with NESO



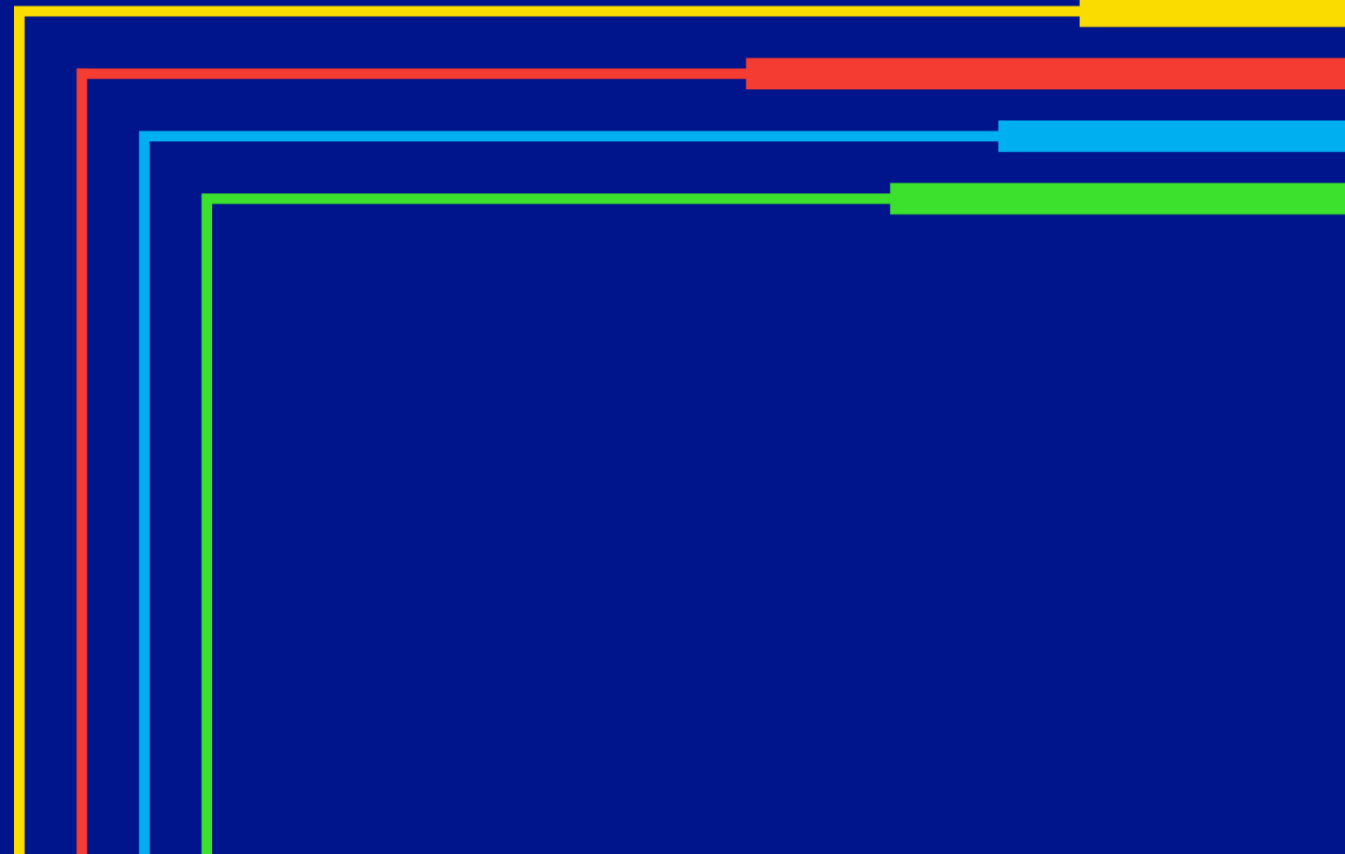
Connections Reform Programme | Engineering Offers GSP Categorisation

	East Midlands	South Wales	West Midlands	South West	
1) GSP Complexity Categorisation Low complexity Connection site + No BEGAs	Berkswell Chesterfield Enderby Stoke Bardolph Staythorpe	Rassau Pyle Upper Boat 132 Upper Boat 33 Grange/Margam Swansea North Cardiff East	Bustleholm Feckenham Ironbridge Kitwell Lea Marston Nechells Oldbury Port Ham Rugeley Willenhall	Seabank Sandford Exeter Axminster Melksham	Note on categories As part of our preparation for the DNO Engineering review following queue formation, we batched our high number of GSPs (c.54) into 3 groups to outline the sequence of submitting the relevant technical data to NESO for NGET (TO) review. We grouped the GSPs to indicate the order we will work through them: Batch A are connection sites (NGED only GSPs), Batch B are infrastructure sites, shared with other 3rd parties (DNOs or Transmission customers), Batch C are infrastructure or connection sites which are meshed with other GSPs.
	Grendon Lea Marston West Burton Willington Walpole	Pembroke Aberthaw Uskmouth	Bushbury Cellarhead Ocker Hill Penn	Bridgwater Taunton Iron Acton Abham Landulph	
	Bicker Fen Coventry Drakelow East Claydon	Llandyfaelog* Banwen*	Bishops Wood Iron Acton Shrewsbury	Alverdiscott Indian Queens	
	* Future Strategic GSP				



Laura Henry
Head of Connections Policy

Policy Update



Connections Reform Programme | Policy & Code Update



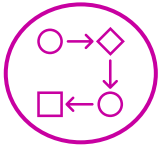
Gate 1

Guidance now approved and published through the ENA. ENA reform webinar talking through Gate 1, Milestones and demand on 12 November at 2:30pm.



Gate 1 and 2 Letters

Letters have been drafted/revised in a format to guide customers through their new Offers.



Strategic Demand

NGED continues to work closely with DESNZ, Ofgem, DNOs, TOs and NESO to develop a strategy for strategic demand.



CMP 448 (Progression Commitment Fee)

Ofgem published its minded-to position at the end of October, NGED maintained its position.

Gate 1 proposal for DNOs | DNOs have agreed on the following options for projects that wish to go from a Gate 1 to a Gate 2 offer as documented in the ENA guidance

A

- Project requests a full distribution offer before going through the next Gate 2 window
- Offer will be fully studied where a point of connection, date, works and costs will be determined for Distribution Works
- Queue position will be determined by the date the customer asks for the distribution offer variation
- Project will still be subject to the outcome of the NESO Offer

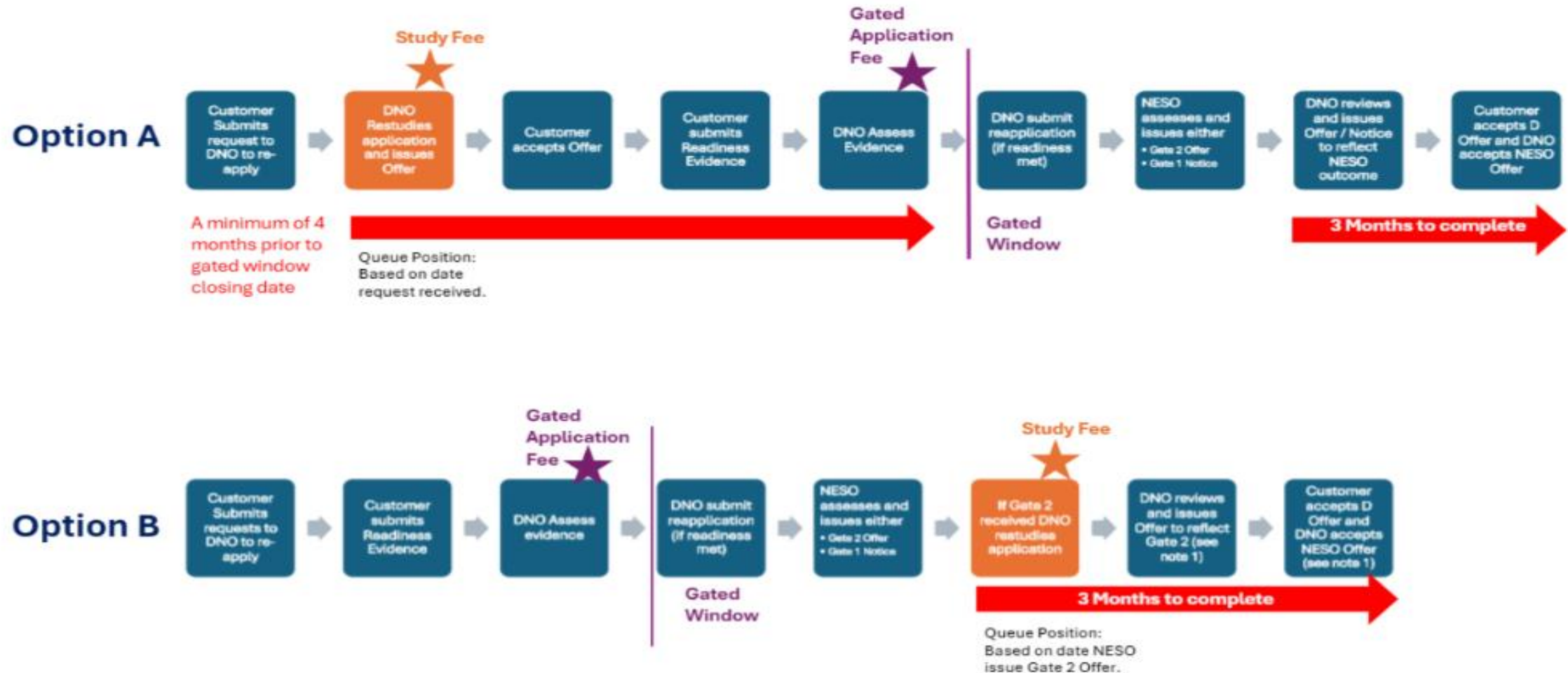
B

- Project goes through the next Gate 2 window with no updated distribution offer
- Project does not know the point of connection, date, works or costs from the distribution perspective
- Queue position is granted from the date the offer comes back from NESO
- Project **may** find out both the distribution and the transmission aspects of the offer at the same time and may have less time to sign

Outside of Allowable Changes

- Project changes outside of the allowable changes process
- A brand new application will be required
- The Gate 1 Offer will terminate

Connections Reform | Gate 1



Note: 1) Option B DNO re-assessment and NESO contract acceptance are not linked and could run to separate timescales

Demand | Key Updates

The amount of contracted capacity across transmission and distribution now exceeds 125GW, prompting the need for swift action to ensure grid does not become a blocker to strategically important projects getting access to the power they need.

Demand connections update

Ofgem has published a Demand connections update on 6th November.

This sets out a range of options that are being considered to enable timely connections.

Queue entry /management requirements

Enable faster connections – e.g. greater use of non-firm/ramped

Consideration for demand-type specific requirements

Securities – PCF for demand and CMP417

Improving data and analytical understanding of the queue (e.g. NESO CFI and E2E review data sharing requirements)

Industrial Strategy Implementation (CAS/PiB powers)



Tessa McInnes

Senior Lawyer – Electricity Distribution

Legal Update

Connections Reform Programme | Legal Update

Gate 2 to Whole Queue: Complaints and Disputes

- We have created a complaints process specific to G2TWQ which is available online
- The G2TWQ complaints process follows our standard process

Ofgem Determinations:

- Ofgem has issued guidance on which G2TWQ disputes it will agree to determine
- Ofgem will determine only where there is evidence of error or failure by a DNO to follow the approved G2TWQ process
- Ofgem will not accept determinations for DNO disputes that concern NESO decisions (Gate 1 / Gate 2 outcomes)
- Customers must complete the DNO/NESO complaints processes first before referring to Ofgem

Q&A

Scan the QR
code or visit
[menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and
enter code
4106 9819



Share your feedback with us

Q&A

For further information and useful materials please visit our reform website:
<https://connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/connections-reform/>



Susana Neves e Brooks
Head of Connections
Strategy, Policy and
Reform



Sarah Kenny-Levick
Head of Reform
Implementation



Laura Henry
Head of
Connections Policy



Ryan Kavanagh,
Head of T/D
interface, DSO



Tessa McInnes ,
Senior Lawyer
Electricity Distribution



We'll be answering pre-submitted Questions then moving onto live questions.

If you see a Question submitted by another attendee which you would like to hear answered, please use the **vote button** on the question

NESO handles customer queries through its [Connections Portal](#) | [National Energy System Operator](#) and the dedicated mailbox box.connectionsreform@neso.energy

If you cannot find what you need, please email:
box.connectionsreformnged@nationalgrid.com

Pre-submitted Questions

Pre-submitted questions – November Webinar	
1	Will notification in early December confirm phase 1 or phase 2 connection? NGED: Yes – but phase 1 and 2 does not guarantee dates by 2030 and 2035 respectively. This assigns the project to a capacity bucket only.
2	For a Gate 2 project with grid offer and land rights only, will we have 90 days to accept any new DNO offer post-G2TWQ and therefore up to ~7 months to evidence planning initiation (90 days offer acceptance + 2 months M4–M1 + 60-day remedy), assuming the connection date is within 5 years? NGED: A project will have the acceptance period, the milestone period and the remedy period to meet a milestone.
3	Please can you clarify whether securities will be payable in April 2026 on projects that have not received a Gate 2 offer by then? NGED: No – the NESO proposal is that securities will be due once the new Gate 2 offer is signed.
4	Please can you confirm whether customers will be asked whether they would like a cheaper connection or to stick with their current offer in order to avoid the additional Project Progression (and therefore further delay) as revealed on the 8th October webinar. NGED: We are not sure what is being asked here – an alternative connection will not be offered but all customers have the option to reject the offer, and as per the methodologies, some customers have the option to request reverting to the original date. This will however need a re-study and the original may not be possible.

Pre-submitted Questions

Pre-submitted questions – November Webinar	
5	Don't really understand why we are being asked to confirm our connection date and program by your new contract management team for projects where NGED are doing all of the connection works? NGED: some customers have experienced uncertainty and therefore delays due to the NESO portal delays and therefore we believe it is important to re-confirm the status with our customers.
6	Can connection dates be notified ahead of the Gate 2 offer? Will completion of Milestone M4 now be when Gate 2 offers have been accepted? NGED: The new M4 milestone will be completed when G2 offers are accepted.
7	In the previous webinar you highlighted Option A & B for projects that received a Gate 1 offer. Can you explain more about the Study Fee & Gated Application Fee and are these deductible from the acceptance and A&D fee we've already paid? NGED: If a project chooses to go back through the process from a Gate 1 to a Gate 2 then fees will be applicable to cover the cost of the re-study. The timings of these studies differ depending on whether option 1 or option 2 is picked.
8	Is the timeline of G2 offers based on actual connection dates or firm connection dates? NGED: Firm connection dates, these are the contracted dates and all issuing will align with that.
9	When is the CMP434 window? NGED: TBD – not expected until spring.

We invite you to share your feedback with us

**Let us know your thoughts and help us
shape future events.**

**Scan the QR code or visit [menti.com](https://connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/connections-reform/) and
enter code 106 9819**

<https://connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/connections-reform/>

**Our next webinar will be on Monday 8
December. Registration details are
available [here](#)**



nationalgrid