

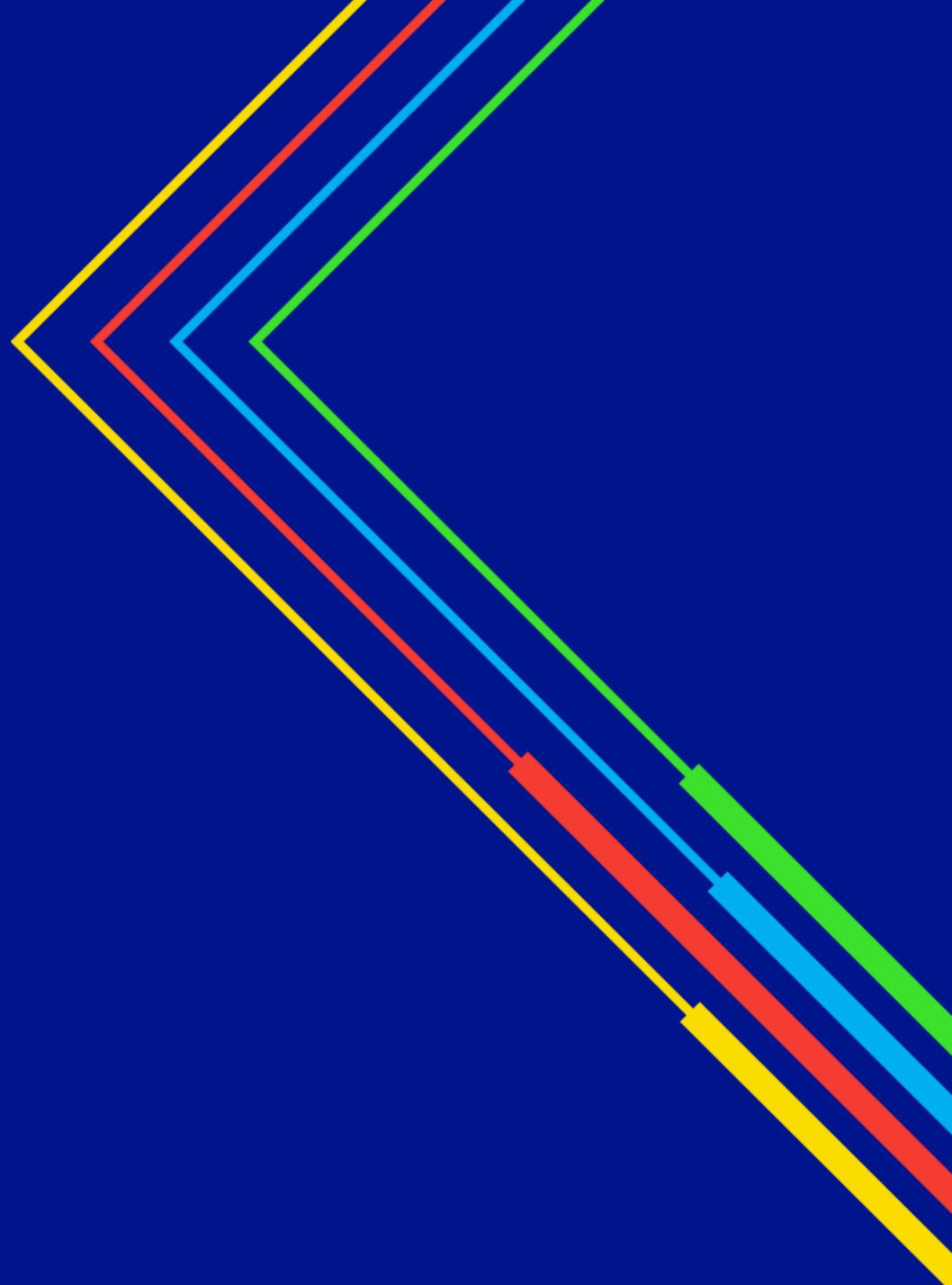


Electricity
Distribution

Connections Reform Webinar

February 2026

nationalgrid



Agenda

1. **Welcome – David Tuffery**
2. **Contracts Update – Joseph Martin**
3. **Policy Update – Laura Henry**
4. **DSO Update – David Tuffery**
5. **Q&A**

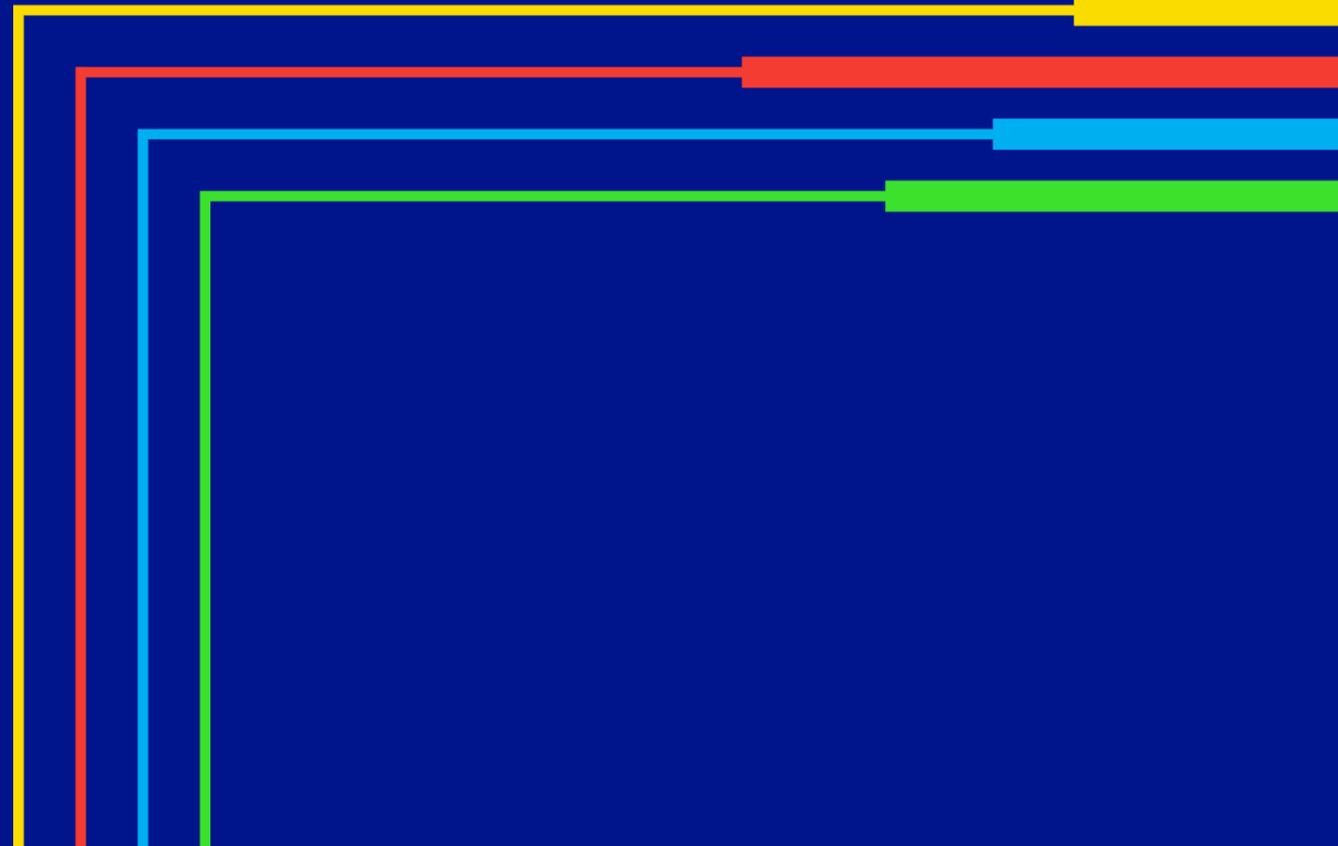
To submit a question, please use the Q&A Function.

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



David Tuffery
Head of System Access Reforms

Welcome



System Access Reform Team

- NGED's Connection Directorate has been integrated into the business
- DSO have taken on responsibility for implementation of Connections Reform
- System Access Reform team coordinating Connection Reform and forward looking system access



David Tuffery
Head of System Access Reforms



Joseph Martin
Head of Connections Customer Contract Management

Focus on Connection Reform (CMP435) Gate 1 and Gate 2 offers



Kyle Smith
Senior Connections Strategy and Reform Manager

Focus on implementation of enduring CMP434 process



Sarah Kenny-Levick
Head of Connections Change & Reform Implementation

Focus on forward looking system access strategy initially focussing on Demand Reform

Connections Reform | Key updates and Developments



Connections Reform timeline changes

- NESO have confirmed delays to the Connection Reform timeline
- NGED remain ready to issue offers once we receive the Gate 2 transmission offers



Key milestones

- NGED submitted all our CMP435 technical data to NESO in-line with the industry timeline
- Received initial Protected scheme data and awaiting full Agreement to Vary (ATV)



How have we been preparing and what happens next?

- We have focused on ensuring readiness to deliver remainder of the programme, i.e. reviewing all our Customer contract data, ensuring readiness of new contract format, embedding new internal processes and continued development of detailed activity programmes
- Proactively reviewing distribution works as part of the recent data submission to reduce time to go from transmission offers to issuing Gate 2 outcomes to customers

NESO Statement

NESO, Transmission Owners (TOs), Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and our wider delivery partners are jointly confirming updates to the delivery timeline for Connections Reform. We recognise that to date there has been considerable uncertainty for customers on the programme and, in particular, when offers should be expected, and we are committed to improving how we communicate and coordinate across the industry.

As set out in the January joint statement, technical and engineering matters had been identified post-queue formation which required time to review. This review has meant the overall timeline needs to be updated. Following joint review, TOs, DNOs and NESO have agreed a revised timeline, set out below.

The following timeframes for offers being sent out are as follows:

- **2026/2027 Protected transmission and large embedded offers:** between 13 February 2026 and mid-April 2026
- **2026/2027 Protected distribution offers:** between early March 2026 and end May 2026
- **Gate 2 Phase 1 transmission and large embedded offers:** between mid-May 2026 and mid-September 2026
- **Gate 2 Phase 1 distribution offers:** between early July 2026 and mid-November 2026
- **Gate 2 Phase 2 transmission and large embedded offers:** between early September 2026 and mid-January 2027
- **Gate 2 Phase 2 distribution offers:** between mid-October 2026 and mid-March 2027

Changes in sequencing will mean that some locations may issue offers earlier than others, based on engineering complexity and the scale of reassessment required. This will allow more customers to receive certainty sooner while maintaining whole system coordination.

Why has the timeline been revised?

Two main factors have led to the need for a revised timeline:

- 1. **Updated background assumptions** have been needed in some locations where the volume of projects at Gate 2 are higher than forecast. NESO has needed time to set up these new assumptions, and the network companies will now need time to rerun their studies going into the engineering phase of the programme.*
- 2. **Offers development** in some areas require additional time to ensure that construction planning assumptions are accurate.*

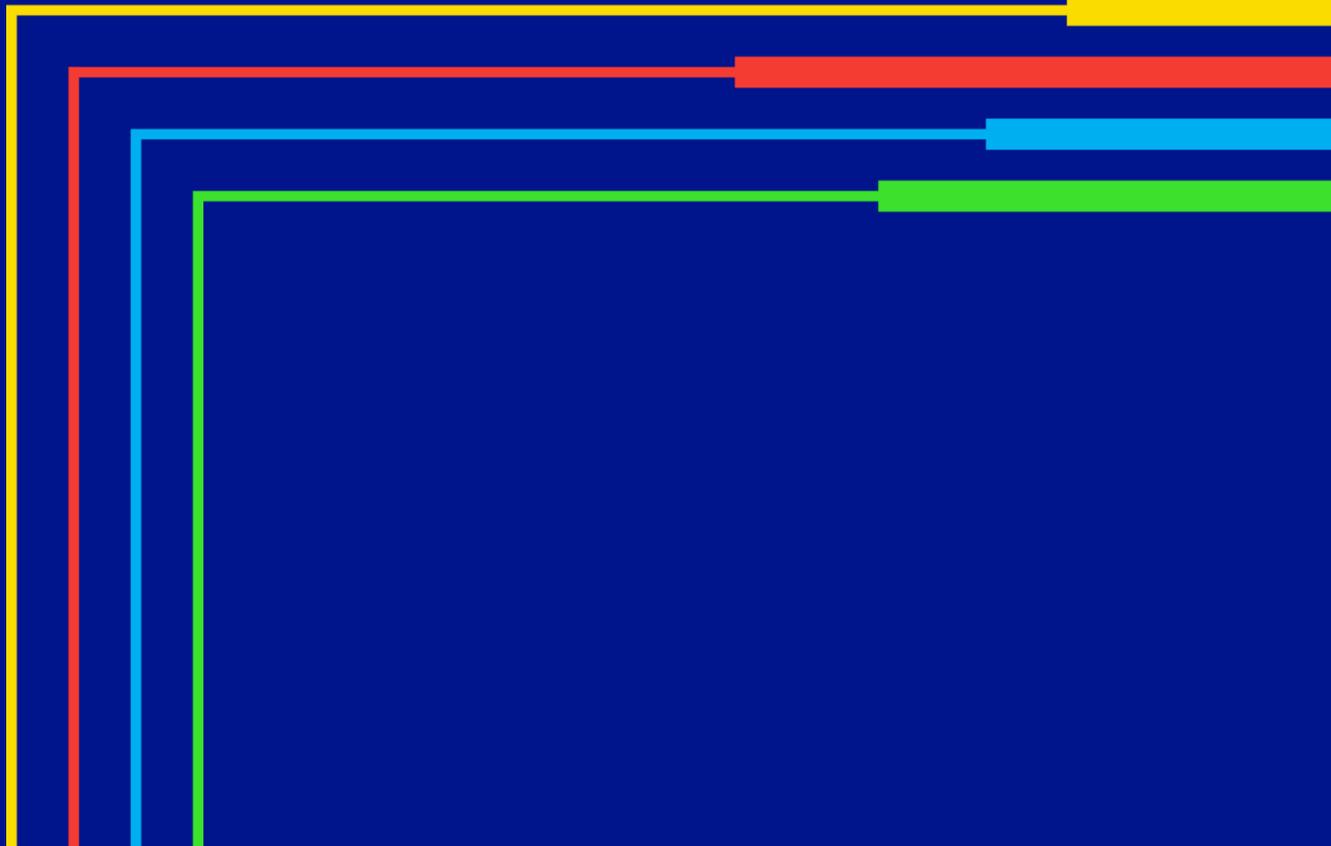
Additional work related to these matters will take longer than planned. This is not a wholesale timeline change: all parties remain focused on maintaining momentum, issuing as many offers as early as possible.



Joe Martin

Head of Connections Customer Contract Management

Contracts Update



Connections Reform | Contracts Updates

Contract Timeline

2026/2027 Protected Projects

Timeline: **Early March 2026 to end May 2026**

NGED & NESO are finalising the information required for the production of Gate 2 variations. As a result, delivery may fall towards the later part of the agreed timeframe

Gate 1 Projects

Timeline: **mid-March 2026 to end May 2026**

NGED will send Gate 1 variations via email to customer, with a hard copy to the companies registered address

Phase 1 & 2 Projects

- Gate 2 Phase 1 projects: **Early July 2026 to mid-November 2026**
- Gate 2 Phase 2 projects: **Mid-October 2026 to mid-March 2027**

Gate 2 to Gate 1 Non-Acceptance Projects

Timeline: **mid-March 2026 to mid-March 2027**

Connections Reform | Contracts Updates

CMP434 Window (Enduring)

- The dates for the first CMP434 window have not yet been confirmed. NGED is proactively engaging with NESO to open the window as soon as reasonably practicable

Securities for the Period 1 April to 30 September

- NESO has confirmed that the security freeze will continue to apply during the forthcoming period from **1 April to 30 September 2026**
- If securities are provided by letter of credit expiring in 2026, a re-issued version will be required, ensuring validity extends to **at least the end of December 2026**
- G2 projects must place the relevant securities **upon acceptance**
- **As a reminder – upon signature of the agreement a project is liable for the full cancellation charge and non placement of securities will result in a termination and the liabilities being invoiced**

Signing Period

Projects will have 30 days to accept their variations. If a Gate 2 variation is not accepted within this period, the Gate 2 variation will be revoked and a Gate 1 notice issued

Connections Reform | Contracts Updates

CMP435 Technical Limits Projects

- Only customers with a live Technical Limits contract **and** a Gate 2 notification are eligible
- Gate 1 projects are **not eligible** for Technical Limits
- Contracts will be delivered in accordance with the phasing dates outlined above. Timelines are determined by the **firm connection date**, rather than the technical-limits *non-firm* connection date, in line with the CMP435 methodology
- Projects with a Technical Limits contract may connect ahead of the delivery of their Gate 2 variation at their own risk
- NGED is exploring options to accelerate the issuance of technical-limits offers to provide clarity to customers at the earliest opportunity
- NGED will open a new Technical Limits application window **after the Connections Reform Programme has concluded**. This will allow any unaccepted Gate 2 offers to be included in the engineering assessment to understand advancement potential
- We are working with NESO to confirm that all Gate 2 projects connecting to an existing GSP not subject to fault level constraints will be eligible

Connections Reform | Contracts Updates

Milestones

- NGED recognise the delays have caused a period of uncertainty for developers and seek to provide reassurances on the next steps
- For the 2026/27 period, NGED will use the **Q3 2025 RFI**, **ENA guidance**, and **NGED delivery programmes** to inform connection dates which, where possible, are aligned with customers' development programmes
- Delays to the CMP435 timeline since completion of the RFI and will be factored in where appropriate
- Any request to amend milestones beyond those established will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the overall delay, previous customer commitment and project deliverability. NGED will assess available options to agree a pragmatic forward position

CMP446 (1MW to <5MW Transmission Impact Assessment Threshold)

- NGED are progressing through updating the contracts of projects which now fall below the TIA threshold

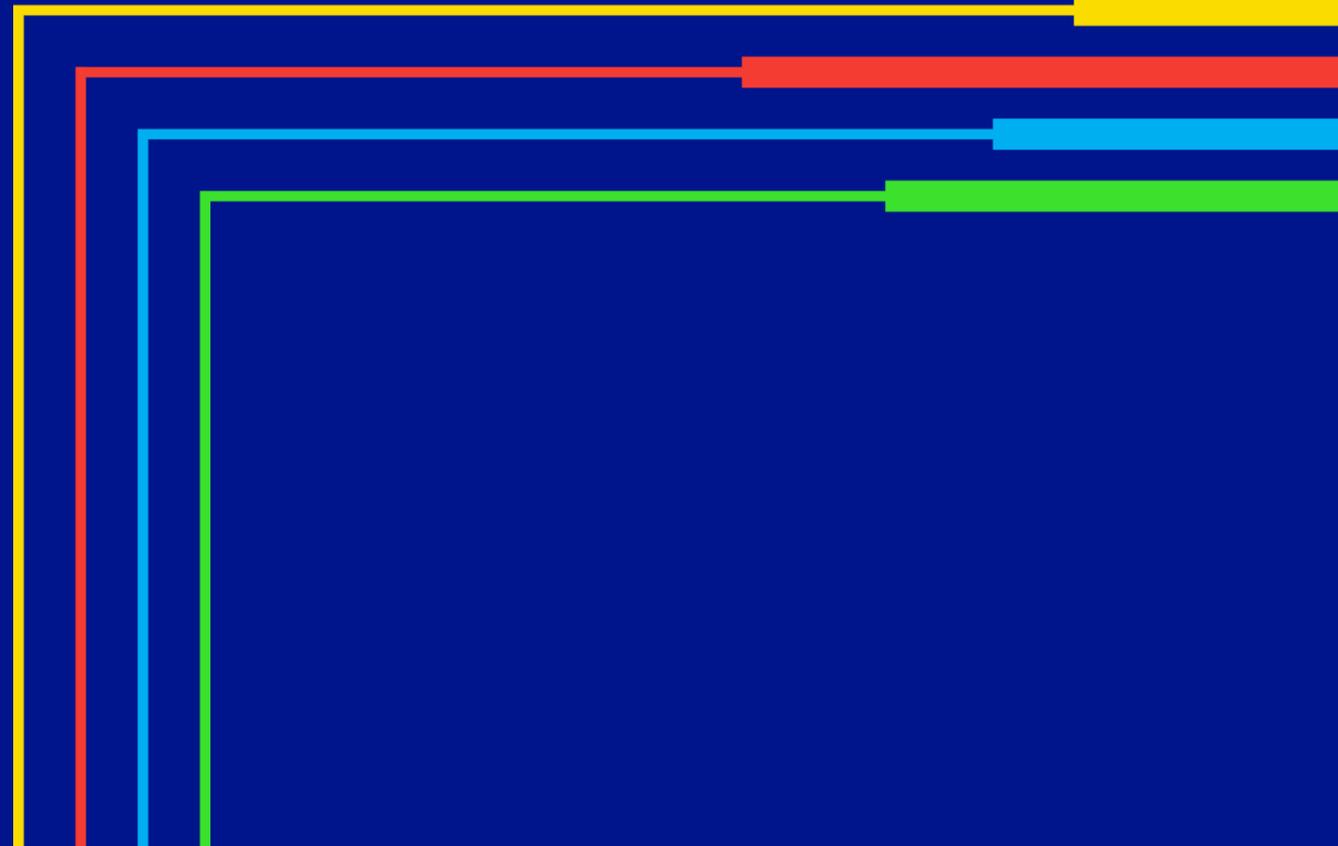
Queries

- Please direct all your Connections Reform queries to box.ConnectionsReformNGED@nationalgrid.com



Laura Henry
Head of Connections Policy

Policy Update



Connections Reform Programme | Policy & Code Update



Ofgem Demand Connections Reform Call-for-input

Ofgem has launched a Call for Input to reform the demand connections queue, addressing the challenges posed by the unprecedented surge in demand connections. Call for input closes on the 13th March. .



Strategic Demand

We expect further developments from Ofgem/DESNZ on prioritisation mechanisms to support strategic demand connections. We will continue to support the development of these mechanisms to ensure they support DNO connected customers.



Code Modifications

DCP 461- Reducing the Impact of Transmission Distribution Charges- NGED led, consultation closed on 28th November

CMP 460- Improving Transmission Connection Asset Charging- currently in workgroup stage

DCP 464- IDNO Connection Applications: Treatment of Existing Assets



Third Party Works

NGED continuing to work with NGET, NESO and the other DNOs to ensure Third Party Works projects are updated in a timely manner throughout the reform offer period.

nationalgrid ▶ **DSO**

**Supporting customers
through Connections
Reform with Data**



David Tuffery
Head of System Access Reforms



Connections Reform | Data exchange with NESO

CMP 435 technical data submissions

- We have submitted all the required technical data for our 56 GSPs to NESO in line with the agreed 8 weeks from queue formation being finalised.
- NESO has now transferred this data to NGET, which will enable them to complete engineering study work.
- This will then feed into renewed GSP contracts from NESO to NGED, allowing us to release Gate 2 Phase 1 offers first, with further GSP contracts enabling Gate 2 Phase 2 offers to be released
- We are actively engaging with NGET and NESO to get alignment on the necessary works at each GSP, including establishing whether there is a continuing need for previously identified new GSPs. We are keen to share early visibility of this to our customers as site strategies are agreed.

Protected projects data

- NESO has provided some information for protected projects due to be energised in 2026/7 and we are awaiting revised GSP contractual information which will provide certainty on costs, timescales and liabilities for inclusion in Protected Offers.
- This data includes projects connecting in 2026/7 under Technical Limits

Q&A

Scan the QR
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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/>



David Tuffery
Head of System
Access Reforms



Sarah Kenny-Levick
Head of Reform
Implementation



Laura Henry
Head of Connections
Policy



Joe Martin
Head of Connections
Customer and
Contract Management



Andrew Akani
Primary Network
Design Manager



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

Connections Reform | Pre-submitted questions

Pre-submitted questions	Answers
<p>Due to delay in getting Offer Letter with updated costs and date of connection, our project has been delayed. What tolerance has NGED for project which are protected 26/27 and for phase 1?</p>	<p>Any request to amend milestones beyond those established will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the overall delay, previous customer commitment and project deliverability. NGED will assess available options to agree a pragmatic forward position.</p>
<p>For project that received a Gate 1, will any unspent DNO stage payments be refunded?</p>	<p>Yes, we will refund any Gate 1 schemes any unspent DNO stage payments</p>
<p>When can we expect Connection offers for projects with Technical limits - non-firm date in 2026, firm date 2034? will our curtailment report change? And who will receive a Technical limits offer?</p>	<p>Tech limits offers will be issued to customers who previously held tech limits offers. A new TL window will be re-opened once the G2TWQ process is concluded. The offers will be released in line with phase 2 timescales, aligned with the firm connections date. The curtailment report will change as the queue has changed and therefore LIFO stack. These reports will be reissued with the updated offers.</p>
<p>I am yet to receive confirmation from NGED as to the current status of our projects. We elected to reduce our export capacity to 4.9MW in order to fall under CMP446 but have yet to receive any acknowledgement or confirmation from NGED.</p>	<p>We are working hard to process these internally. Please can any scheme that has any questions please contact box.ConnectionsReformNGED@nationalgrid.com</p>
<p>I'd be keen to understand the timelines for the next gate 2 application window.</p>	<p>The dates for the first CMP434 window have not yet been confirmed. NGED is proactively engaging with NESO to open the window as soon as reasonably practicable.</p>
<p>Can you list all the GSPs that have fault level issues on them and therefore a connection of below 5MW is subject to the TIA process?</p>	<p>Aberthaw, Melksham, Abham, Pembroke, Alverdiscott, Rugeley, Cellarhead Shrewsbury, East Claydon (WMID and EMID), Walpole, West Burton, Ironbridge and Willington</p> <p>This can also be found on NESO's website on the submission guidance addendum - https://www.neso.energy/document/361056/download</p>

We invite you to share your feedback with us

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

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Link: <https://www.menti.com/alpkdwt4uiuj>

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