

nationalgrid

Connections Reform Webinar

Live Q&A Session

March 2026

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Question Theme	Question	Answer
CMP434 Windows	When will the first CMP434 Gated Application Window be? (2) When will be the earliest that the availability of any spare headroom capacity for different technologies following CMP435 process will be confirmed?	NESO will announce the date for the first CMP434 connection applications window on their website. The future windows haven't yet been confirmed by NESO but are planned to be biannual. (2) If a T Zone is undersupplied, capacity may be available for customers to apply for during the CMP434 window. NESO publishes the latest timeline on its website.
Programme Overview	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What's happening with Advancement Fees? 2. When are G1 offers being issued? 3. When do NGED think the next NESO application window will open? 4. Are you able to share what an NGED G2 Variation document will look like? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advancement Fees: Where a customer has advanced the fee will be due. NESO is reviewing whether fees should apply with acceleration within phase. 2. G1 Offers: We are currently in the process of issuing G1 notifications. Noting they are notifications so an acceptance isn't required. 3. NESO Application Window: Future windows are planned to be biannual; NESO will announce dates on their website. 4. G2 Variation Document: The G2 Variation replaces specific sections of your original agreement (Section 6/8 replaced with Section C, Section 3 replaced with Section A, Payment clauses replaced with Section B).
Programme Overview	Any update on timeline for embedded assets @132 kV of 280 MW?	Large embedded generation projects (100MW+) are assessed directly by NESO and will receive their outcomes from NESO. These projects follow NESO's assessment process. Contact NESO for specific timeline updates.
Technical Limits	Can you confirm that projects connecting under technical limits in 2026/2027, but who may now not receive their Gate 2 offer until after their contracted connection date, will still be able to connect at their contracted date? e.g., project due to connect under tech-limits in Q2 2027, but Gate 2 offer not due until Q2 2027 as firm date is 2034.	Yes. Projects with a Technical Limits offer may continue to build and connect on a non-firm basis under their existing contract while awaiting an updated Gate 2 offer. Where construction is already underway, connection dates are expected to be honoured. However, customers should review their business case and proceed at their own risk as there are small risks including changes to POC, higher network costs, and changes to curtailment.

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Technical Limits	Could you kindly elaborate on the Technical Limit connection if the energisation date delay?	For projects with Technical Limits offers where construction is already underway, connection dates are expected to be honoured. For other projects, milestones may be adjusted to reflect engineering deliverability. If delays are outside your control, NGED may treat these as exceptional issues where supported by evidence.
Gate 2 Offers	D-Projects with 2028-30 non-firm dates but 2031+ firms date means their Gate 2 variation offers come in really late(Q4 2026/Q1 2027). This is a significant issue as these project must go through FiD before the Gate 2 offer being ready. We appreciate this is a known issue and you are working on it. But it is really important that something formalised to progress these projects.	This concern is acknowledged. Phase 2 offers are expected by mid-March 2027. Customers can request earlier connection dates via a mod app once offers are issued. Additionally, if capacity becomes available due to Gate 2 projects withdrawing, projects could be re-allocated capacity subject to the CNDM criteria. For queries, contact box.ConnectionsReformNGED@nationalgrid.com
Gate 2 Offers	Have NGED issued any Phase 1 Offers yet?	NGED have only issued Gate 1 offers to date. NESO's programme indicates: All 2026/2027 protected offers are expected by end of May 2026. All Phase 1 offers are expected by mid-November 2026. These timelines align with NESO's Connections Reform Timeline and may change. Check NESO's website for the latest timeline.
Gate 1	If i have a Gate 1 project and now want to change my RLB from that which was submitted in the CMP435 window, is this possible? To clarify, the RLB submitted was inside the ORLB, and the revised RLB for the CMP434 window when capacity is next available will also be inside the ORLB submitted. Also, how do we submit for a revised connection agreement prior to the CMP434 window to get costs updated?	Per the allowable changes policy, after signing a G2 offer, you can request changes through the CMP434 window. For G1 projects, per G1 FAQ Section 3, you have Option (a): DNO re-assessment prior to NESO Evaluation, or Option (b): NESO Evaluation prior to DNO re-assessment. Refer to the ENA Gate 1 Guidance Document for the process of converting G1 to G2. Once back on a G2 your contract can be varied alongwith the allowable changes policy. Contact box.ConnectionsReformNGED@nationalgrid.com for specific guidance.

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Gate 2 Offers	Have NGED been able to offer any projects an improved POC following G2TWQ?	<p>Yes, in some specific cases we do expect to issue Gate 2 offers with an improved Point of Connection (PoC). Typically, this will be as a result of other projects being issued a Gate 1 Offer which will release capacity on the distribution network either in terms of thermal headroom or other design considerations such as Engineering Recommendation P18 - Complexity of Circuits.</p> <p>For example, one Gate 2 Phase 1 project in South Wales currently requires the installation of a dedicated 33kV circuit to the closest Bulk Supply Point (BSP) substation located several kilometres away from the Customer's Premises. However, on the basis that another project that had secured a tee-off from a nearby 33kV overhead line is to be issued a Gate 1 Offer, we now expect to reallocate this Point of Connection (PoC) to the Gate 2 project. This will result in a significant reduction to the Customer's Connection Charge and also allow the Connection Works to be completed in a shorter timescale.</p> <p>Another example is in the South West where following the issue of a Gate 1 Offer to another project, we expect to optimise a Gate 2 project by changing the connection arrangement from a 132kV Loop-in to a Single Circuit Tee-off. While strictly speaking the Point of Connection (PoC) is the same point on the distribution network, the change to a single circuit tee-off will reduce the Connection Charge and land footprint associated with the Connection Point Substation.</p> <p>In general, for 26/27 protected projects NGED does not expect the PoC to change as these projects are likely to be at an advanced stage in terms of design and consenting. For the majority of Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects we expect the changes to be a reduction in the need for a previously identified new GSP rather than proposing a new PoC under the existing GSP.</p>

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Gate 2 Offers	When will NGED be providing updates on GSPs no longer triggered and whether non-firm enduring connections at the original GSPs are going to be a viable outcome for Phase 2 projects?	A new ENA Technical Limits working group has been established to agree an enduring, cross-industry approach to non-firm access. While we expect minimal changes that require new GSPs, this cannot be finally confirmed until the transmission studies are complete.
Reporting Schedules	Will NGED be able to share a listing of how many offers for each of the categories (2026/27 protected, Gate 2 Phase 1, Gate 2 Phase 2 and Gate 1) that need to be issued in total and update how many from each have actually been issued on a regular basis. This would provide a degree of comfort on the progress that is being made as we start to move through the phase of having new offers being issued.	The ENA have agreed a set of KPI data and we will be reporting against this. We are working with industry to align on the external publication of this data.
Gate 2 Offers	When can we expect Gate 2 offers for projects with technical limits (non-firm) connecting in 2027, but firm connection date is post 2030?	Phase 2 offers (which would include projects with firm dates post-2030) are expected by mid-March 2027. Projects with Technical Limits offers may continue to build and connect on a non-firm basis under existing contracts while awaiting G2 offers. Where construction is underway, connection dates are expected to be honoured. Per FAQ 10.1, customers with existing Technical Limits will receive an update with a new curtailment report alongside their new firm Gate 2 variation.

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Gate 2 Offers	I see NESO have said 40% of 'protected projects' offers have been issued. No details on what exactly this means. Have NGED issued any Gate 2 Offers yet?	We have not yet issued any Gate 2 protected offers as we are still waiting on final Agreements to Vary (AtVs) from NESO
Gate 2 Offers	What is NGED going to do if they receive an incorrect or inaccurate Gate 2 offer? We've seen numerous errors ranging from basic issues to high level technical mistakes in the Gate 2 offer we received at the T-level.	This is a really important point - we are highlighting to NESO and the TOs the importance of rapid SLAs and a process for error & query correction/response. We will update on that process as soon as we can.
Gate 2 Offers	Could the MW Export Limit applied to Technical Limits GSPs change following the G2TWQ assessment?	There is an ENA working group that is looking at how Technical Limits will work as part of the enduring CMP434 window. We are expecting that as part of the CMP435 our Technical Limits will remain the same.
Application Fees	Are you guys planning to increase your generation connection application fees (EHV) and offer acceptance fees any time soon?	There are no imminent plans to significantly increase our Assessment & Design (A&D) or Acceptance Fees although we do expect to review this area in the future.
Gate 2 Offers	wasn't supposed to be 90 days since gate 2 variations is received? why 30 now?	NGED has 90 days to sign the NESO transmission offer on your behalf and the distribution process needs to take place within that - leaving Dx generators 30 days to review and sign.
Gate 2 Offers	A lot of Gate 2 Phase 1 offers that are transmission connected have contained errors, some of which make the offer un-signable. If there are errors in the distribution offers made by NGED, will the 30 day signing period be extended?	If there is a material error in the offer which prevents a customer making a business decision then we will need to be pragmatic about the signing period.

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Gate 2 Offers	UKPN have committed to an "early sight" email to give headlines details to customers in advance of the variation offers being issued (within a week of them receiving the Gate 2 offer from NESO). This is extremely helpful given the short timeframe we have to accept offers. Will NGED be doing the same thing?	We are having internal conversations to be as transparent with customers as early as possible so that we can give you as much time as we can with the offer information. We are also conscious of giving data that hasn't been through governance meaning business decisions could be made from data that changes. The balance is important in our view.
Charging	Do NGED have a preferred solution to DCP461 & CMP460?	Our minded-to position for DCP461 is for capital contributions at Connection GSPs to be apportionment based on scheme capacity with a 5MW min threshold. Removing the risk that if schemes withdraw that they become liable for all the works and are only liable for their apportioned (MW) cost of the capacity released for the works.
Third Party Works	Could you provide a brief explanation as to what "Third Party Works" are? And how they could effect your connection customers?	Third Party Works are project connecting at Transmission and have an impact on the Distribution Network, as such they require a Third Party Works offer from the DNO. If you have a project connecting at Transmission which needs to go through a Third Party Work assessment this should be clear in the offer from NESO.
Gate 2 Offers	Could you clarify how PCF will function in future CMP343 windows? In the event that the trigger is reached, will its application be restricted to projects submitted in earlier windows, or will it extend to all current and forthcoming project submissions?	Yes, we are looking at where this could be appropriate. Thanks for your questions on this topic.

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Technical Limits	Will NGED be considering enduring non -firm connections to existing GSPs for projects which have triggered new GSPs as part of TL? I have been told by NGED that this is something that will be considered	Enduring non-firm Technical Limits arrangements isn't something that is currently allowable under Technical Limits. There is an ENA working group that will be reviewing how Technical Limits may change, so consideration will be given to enduring Technical Limits.
Technical Limits	Will the Technical Limits initiative happening after 435 conclude before 434 window closes?	This does depend on the timing of the window. If it is this year it may happen before new TL offers can be made.
Curtailment Estimator	Question for Will – Historically, the issue with the accuracy of curtailment estimates from DNOs has been that generation/demand factors were not incorporated into the calculation. For example, a gas peak-opping plant with a generation factor of 0.07% would be modelled as always on.	We still have gas modelled as always on. However, we have carried out a review of how BESS is modelled and now use a profile with an export capacity factor of 46%. For details on this please see the data usage guidance document available here: https://dso.nationalgrid.co.uk/curtailment-analysis?web=1 We will be working on a feature on the Curtailment Estimator to allow a user to upload their own operating profile but we will look to review the profile we have for gas.
Curtailment Estimator	Do you know if other DNOs are doing the same with their curtailment modelling?	UKPN have a similar tool but we're not aware of the other DNOs' plans on curtailment modelling
Gate 2 Offers	Recognising that Protected offers are on schedule and due to complete by end of May and that there is a gap in time before G2 Phase 1 begin early July (as opposed to Phase 2 start which overlaps with Phase 1 offer period), is there a chance that Phase 1 offers may begin in advance of the "early July" date?	There is a chance yes, however the gap is likely the offers going to transmission customers during that time.

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Technical Limits	<p>There are several GSPs with negative import technical limits. I recognise that this is derived from the methodology published on the ENA website. However, in my view, representing import technical limits as negative values is not appropriate. A GSP should be capable of operating across the full import range from 0 MW up to its maximum import capability rather than being implicitly constrained to operate continuously in import mode say minimum of -63MW .</p>	<p>As you have stated in your question, the methodology for calculating Technical Limit import and export limits is set out in the ENA guidance. The reason that there are some GSPs that have a 'negative' (net demand) export limit is that this is the edge case that has been assessed as part of the transmission assessment. This is generally where a GSP either has a large minimum demand or smaller volumes of distribution generation that could be included in the Technical Limit calculation, so the export Technical Limit is actual a net import value. If the export Technical Limit was set to 0 this would cause transmission constraints for the cardinal assessment points as it was beyond what was studied.</p>
Industry Update	<p>The ENA dashboard commits to a monthly update, but the most recent data published is July 2025. Is there a more up to date resource: https://www.energynetworks.org/industry/connecting-to-the-networks/connections-data</p>	<p>The reform offers dashboard with the ENA has not yet been finalised - although the metrics have been agreed between networks.</p>
External Content	<p>Where and when will NGED publish this recording for those who couldn't attend the webinar?</p>	<p>We plan to publish this webinar recording on our website - https://connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/connections-reform/</p>
External Content	<p>Would you be able to share the link to the homepage where you share these webinars? or what we need to search on google or on NGED website for in order to land on this webinar?</p>	<p>These webinars are published to our Connections Reform website. This can be found here: https://connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/connections-reform/</p>
Gate 2 Offers	<p>Has NGED received any information from NESO or NGET regarding the 62% of protected projects? Last I heard, you were still awaiting information from NGET/NESO. I understand this issue mainly impacts T projects.</p>	<p>We are starting to receive Gate 2 Protected offers from NESO.</p>

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Gate 2 Offers	Question for Michael – where we have a scheme with a ‘protected’ position but the phase 2 of the scheme, using the same POC and extension of the ‘phase 1’ capacity, has been given a much later position (gate 1), is there a view to attempt to align both schemes to the same early connection date?	It may be possible to advance a Gate 2 Phase 2 into Phase 1 via the use of a Technical Limits Offer but it will only be possible to consider this once a new TL ‘window’ is opened after CMP435.
Gate 2 Offers	Have you heard of any delays to the NGED 2026/27 protected schemes due to transmission delays?	We have a very small number of protected projects that are delayed within our 186 protected projects.
Gate 2 Offers	Please could you kindly highlight schemes that has submitted planning application after 20th December 2024 and consent before the closure of the CMP435, what type of protection clauses they will be determined?	Schemes which applied within CMP435 and had submitted planning after 20th December 2024, which then proceed to achieve planning will be able to submit in a future CMP434 window under protection clause 3b. For more information on this please see the NESO Gate 2 Criteria methodology.