

national**grid**

# Connections Reform Webinar

April 2026

# Housekeeping



## Microphones

Microphones have been set to 'mute' for this session. This is to minimise background noise for all attendees.

## Have a question or piece of feedback?

Please use the Q&A button, located at the top of your screen, to send questions to our panel.

You can also upvote presubmitted questions by clicking the 'vote' icon.

We will answer as many as we can during the session.



## Session Recording

We are recording our presentations and responses to the pre-submitted Q&A for sharing with our customers.



## Session follow up

We will share the presentation, including Q&A, as soon as possible after this session. You will receive it by email and be able to download it from our website:

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



## Next webinar

Our next webinar will be held on **Thursday 21 May 2026**. You will be able to register for it shortly through our website

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



# Agenda

01/ **Welcome**

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David Tuffery

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02/ **Joint Industry Plan (JIP)**

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David Tuffery

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03/ **Contract Progress Update**

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Joseph Martin

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04/ **Consultation & Policy Update**

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Ollie Easterbrook

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05/ **Q&A Session**

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Panel

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**Webinar Date: 23 April 2026**

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 thumbs up button on the question

# Welcome

## David Tuffery

Head of System Access Reforms

# Connections Reform | Key updates and Developments



## Key milestones

- We received all 333 pre strategic alignment Gate 1s and have processed 273, remaining ones will be completed this week
- We are updating contracts for schemes that are now below the Transmission Entry Assessment (TEA) threshold
- We are starting to issue our Gate 2 protected offers to customers



## How have we been preparing and what happens next?

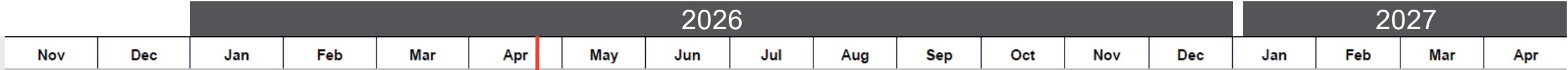
- Our self-serve curtailment estimator is now live, and we will continue to develop this
- We are continuing to improve and update our online datasets and resources
- Continuing to engage with NESO on the enduring CMP434 process



## How are we improving our communications?

- Collaborating across industry to improve clarity of messaging between partners
- Developing a refreshed version of our website, aiming to make it easier to find key information and updates
- Preparing to update our email database list, making sure we have the right information to continue sending you updates, invitations and important news.

Today



**2026/2027 Protected distribution offers - Revised**  
Early March 2026 - end of May 2026

**Gate 2 Phase 1 (2030) distribution offers - Revised**  
Early July 2026 - mid November 2026

**Gate 2 Phase 2 (2035) distribution offers - Revised**  
Mid October 2026 - mid March 2027

**Gate 1 - Self declared, failed to submit, failed initial checks/ detailed checks/queue formation**

**Gate 1 - Failed to sign Gate 2 offer before offer expiry**

# **Contract Progress Update**

**Joseph Martin**

Head of Connections Customer Contract  
Management

# Connections Reform | Contract Progress Update

## **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

## **Gate 1 Notifications**

- Tranche 1 Gate 1 notifications for Self Terminations, Failed Initial Checks or No Evidence Provided have been complete.
- Tranche 2 Gate 1 notifications for Failed Strategic Alignment are pending – NGED awaiting Bilateral Connection Agreement (BCA) from NESO.

## **Gate 2 Variations – Protected 2027**

- The first customers will receive their G2 Variation by COP today
- NGED received a significant volume of BCAs in a short period of time and are progressing these at pace
- Agreed internal run rates will result in a marked increase in the delivery of G2 variations over the coming weeks
- NGED remains on track to deliver in accordance with the Joint Industry Plan timelines
- Projects will have 30 days to accept their variations (issued via DocuSign). If a Gate 2 variation is not accepted within this period, the Gate 2 variation will be revoked and a Gate 1 notice issued

## **Technical Limits**

- Technical Limits for projects <31 December 2027 are being progressed in alignment
- A firm Gate 2 variation will be issued in line with each customer's firm connection date phasing
- NGED continues to engage NESO on Technical Limits solutions

## **Advancement Fee**

- In alignment with the 9<sup>th</sup> April NESO announcement NGED can confirm that advancement fees will not be charged.

# Policy and Consultation Update

**Ollie Easterbrook**

Connection Policy Manager

# Connections Reform Programme | Policy and Consultation Update



## Ofgem Demand Connections Reform Call-for-input

- Ofgem 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 closed on the 13 March 2026, with specific actions to tackle datacentre growth being considered



## Demand

- Minimum Information requirements for demand connections will change from ~1 June 2026. Regulatory Instructions and Guidance (RIGs) have now been updated to reflect these.
- DESNZ released a consultation looking at how to accelerate strategic demand connections – we responded by the deadline of 15 April 2026. We will continue to advocate for development of mechanisms that support DNO connected customers



## Connections Accelerator Service (CAS)

- Announced as part of the Industrial Strategy in June 2025, CAS is a Government service to support strategically important project with unblocking barriers to connection.
- NGED have worked with other DNOs, TOs, Government and Ofgem to create a process. A pilot was ran in November with the full CAS expected to be rolled out in May 2026.

# DESNZ Demand Consultation Response

NG Group submitted a joint group response as is the process for government consultations.

1. **National Grid Group supports accelerating strategic demand connections**, recognising that a large share of new demand (including data centres and industrial loads) will connect at distribution level, not just transmission.
2. **Current arrangements may leave behind large distribution-connected demand**: These projects sit outside Gate 2 to Whole Queue and are seeing connection dates in the late 2030s. We've called for urgent mechanisms to allow credible distribution demand to advance and be prioritised.
3. **Earlier planning of distribution networks is critical**: Strategic demand locations and volumes should be reflected in Strategic Spatial Energy Plans (SSEP) and Regional Energy System Plans (RESPs) so reinforcement can be planned sooner and more efficiently.
4. **Flexible and phased connections can enable earlier connections**: Wider use of ramped, flexible and grid-responsive demand connections could unlock earlier access to capacity, provided there is clear and consistent regulatory support across transmission and distribution.
5. **Prioritisation must remain balanced**: Any acceleration of large strategic demand must not crowd out local growth, such as housing and smaller demand connections.

# Connections Reform Programme | Policy and Consultation Update



## 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.



## CMP434

- NESO Methodology consultation concluded on 21st April.
- NGED are working with NESO, other DNOs and TOs on the timing of the CMP434 Window



## Code Modifications

- **CMP 417** - Extending principles of CUSC Section 15 to all Users
- **DCP 461**- Reducing the Impact of Transmission Distribution Charges
- **CMP 460**- Improving Transmission Connection Asset Charging- currently in workgroup stage
- **DCP 464**- IDNO Connection Applications: Treatment of Existing Assets
- **CMP 470** - Introducing an Oversubscribed Technologies Commitment Fee

# Q&A Session

# Q&A



**David Tuffery**  
Head of System  
Access Reforms



**Joe Martin**  
Head of Connections  
Customer Contract  
Management



**Kyle Smith**  
Connections Reform  
Implementation Manager



**Mike Kaveney**  
Primary Network Design  
Manager (South Wales)



**Ollie Easterbrook**  
Connections Policy  
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 arrow icon on the question**

# How did we do today?

## Your Feedback is important to us

How did we do on today's webinar?

You will see a Poll appear in the chat for this meeting.

Please take a moment to let us know how you've found the session today.

Voting is anonymous and will help us to continually improve the experience for you.

# More information



**See you on 21 May 2026.**

**Please follow this link to register**

**For further information, useful materials or support:**

**nationalgrid** <https://connections.nationalgrid.co.uk/connections-reform/>  
[box.ConnectionsReformNged@nationalgrid.com](mailto:box.ConnectionsReformNged@nationalgrid.com)



<https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections/connections-portal>  
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**Thank You**