

## Ofgem Connections Delivery Board

### January 2026 Meeting Minutes

Thursday 22 January 2026 – 13:00 – 15:00

MS Teams Meeting

#### Attendees

Role Category	Representative	Organisation
Chair	Jack Pressley Abbott	Ofgem
	David Boyer	Energy Networks Association
	Avi Aithal	Energy Networks Association
	Marcus Marshall	Energy Networks Association
	Natasha Sardinha	Energy Networks Association
National Energy System Operator (NESO)	Gavin Lochhead	National Energy System Operator
	James Whitford	National Energy System Operator
	Robyn Jenkins	National Energy System Operator
Distribution and Transmission Network Operators	Mark Adolphus	UK Power Networks
	Neil Madgwick	UK Power Networks
	Mark Askew	SSE Distribution
	Luke Scott	Northern Powergrid
	Gareth Hislop	SP Energy Networks
	Annette Sloan	SSE Transmission
	Steffan Jones	ENWL
	Laura Henry	National Grid Electricity Distribution
	Richard Woodward	National Grid Electricity Transmission
UK Government	Paul Hawker	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
	Benedict Eyre-White	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
	Daniel Boorman	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
	Joe Braithwaite	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
CPAG Chair	Joe Colebrook	Innova
	Charles Wood	Energy UK
	Barnaby Wharton	Renewable UK
	Kara Davies	Solar Energy UK
National Governments	Jennifer Pride	Welsh Government
	Claire Jones	Scottish Government
Energy Regulator	Alasdair MacMillan	Ofgem
	Liam King	Ofgem
	Louisa Hardwick	Ofgem
	Megan Thomas	Ofgem
	Shabana Aktar	Ofgem
	Neal McLaughlin	Ofgem
	Klaudia Starzyk	Ofgem
	Eddie Proffitt	Major Energy Users Council

#### Apologies

Representative	Organisation
Andrew Scott	SSE Distribution
Paul Glendinning	Northern Powergrid
Merlin Hyman	Independent Chair of Connections Process Advisory Group (CPAG)

## Strategic Connections Group

Matt Magill	National Energy System Operator
Christiana Logan	SSE Transmission

## Key Summary

### Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and update from Chair

- The Chair provided an overview of the agenda and mentioned the intention to review the group's membership on the demand side which remains a focus moving forward.

### Agenda Item 2 – Action area's detailed update and POAP

- CAP Action Areas and POAP – ENA stated there is some interaction between the demand work and TMO4+. The Chair highlighted there will be a new set of actions which will come out of the End-to-End Review which will be discussed at the CDB.

### Agenda Item 3 – Specific Updates from the 6 CAP areas (papers)

#### Agenda Item 3 – End to End Review - Ofgem

Ofgem shared the new End-to-End Review tracker and explained its purpose to ensure it's shared in advance in the papers of each CDB.

#### Agenda Item 3 General Update - NESO

NESO shared a detailed verbal update on the connection reform revised timeline.

#### Agenda Item 3 Embedded Demand Update – NESO/DNOs

SSEN provided an update on the SCG's work on Embedded Demand projects and the process of how challenges with these projects will be dealt with as part of the reform process.

#### Agenda Item 3 – Third Party Works - NGED

NGED shared an update on current status of DNOs which have projects with Third Party Works (TPWs).

#### Agenda Item 3 – Demand Connections - (Ofgem / Gov / Strategic Connections Group (SCG))

DESNZ walked everyone through the Demand Connections Update slides which included a recap of the demand issue which is the presence of a demand queue across transmission and distribution.

### Agenda Item 3 - Decision made on CAP 3.3.3 - NESO

No decision provided, rolled to CDB in March 2026.

### Agenda Item 4 – Review of Core KPIs and Development

ENA highlighted the data was captured up to July 8, 2025; when the TM04+ G2tWQ evidence portal was opened. There will be further updates to the datasets and the dashboard following the formal issue of offers.

### Agenda Item 5 – Outstanding actions from previous meeting

Outstanding actions from previous meeting were reviewed, all but one action 3.3. were complete.

### Agenda Item 6 – AOB & CDB schedule

Renewable UK raised a concern from their members and developers around the prioritised projects with 2026/2027 offers which will most probably be pushed back as TOs view is those dates can't be met.

The date and time of the next CDB meeting was confirmed to be on 26<sup>th</sup> March at 13.00.

## 1. Welcome & Update from Chair

JPA

Ofgem opened the call by outlining the agenda, welcoming old and new attendees.

The agenda would cover an update from NESO, DESNZ on Demand Connections, Embedded Demand, Third Party Works and finally the End-to-End Tracker from Ofgem.

The agenda was discussed, with no objections.

## 2. CAP Action Area Summary Update and POAP

JPA, Board

The summary of each CAP area was given, noting that full detailed reports were shared in the meeting pack.

Summary information included:

- Status updates
- Plan on Page
- Initiatives in design, implementation, and benefit stages
- KPIs and tracking
- Any major decisions required.

Summaries were provided, with detailed status reports taken as read.

**2. CAP Action Area Summary Update and POAP**

JPA, Board

Connections Reform – “TMO4+”

- No comments or questions.

CAP 3.1 – Raise Entry Requirements

- No comments or questions.

CAP 3.2 – Removing Stalled Projects

- No comments or questions.

CAP 3.3 – Better Utilise Existing Network

- Written update to be provided at March 2026 CDB

CAP 3.4 - Better Allocate Available Network Capacity

- No comments or questions.

CAP 3.5 – Improve Data & Processes; Sharpen Obligations & Incentives

- No comments or questions

CAP 3.6 – Longer-term models; align with strategic planning.

- No comments or questions.

**New Actions**

<b>1</b>	Provide a written update at the March CDB on the decision made on CAP 3.3.3.	March 2026 CDB	NESO
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**3. Specific Updates from the 6 CAP areas (papers)**

NESO, SCG,  
Board, ENA

**End to End Review Tracker- Ofgem**

Ofgem shared the new End to End Review Tracker and explained its purpose. Every 2 months Ofgem will bring updates against each of the actions with accountability from the action owner to deliver. Majority of the actions are with Ofgem and some with industry as well. Hence industry will be expected to provide updates on their actions at each CDB as well.

Ofgem highlighted that majority of their actions relate to licence changes and GSOP amendments. An indicative backstop timeline to move these items forward within the End to End Review has been shared.

### 3. Specific Updates from the 6 CAP areas (papers)

NESO, SCG,  
Board, ENA

Ofgem clarified all actions in the tracker are dependent on the consultation responses. Topics that are not impacted by the consultations are being progressed in the meantime. The attendees were encouraged to bring forward other ideas or proposals which could be considered.

Energy UK suggested an update at the next CDB on topics like quality of connection, Ofgem approach to bringing connecting parties to those discussions, logistics of the engagement, timeline of engagement so they can be prepared. Ofgem confirmed they would add more information to the next steps on the actions so that industry and other stakeholders are aware how and when their support will be needed.

NESO echoed Energy UK and requested clarity on expectations, timelines in relation to the actions.

#### **General Update - NESO**

NESO shared a verbal update on the connection reform's updated timeline. They mentioned that since issuing out offers, there have been a large volume of queries and complaints from customers which they expected. There have been complex queries from organisations that related to data validation which has resulted in NESO making data changes and communicating this to customers.

As a result of the time taken for data validation has had an impact on the broader timeline for the queue formation. NESO have been working on a revised timeline to re-baseline the plan with continued engagement from network companies. The outcome of this have been sharing with TOs, DNOs and Ofgem.

NESO gave an update on the next application window and possible changes to the methodology or policy incorporating key learning/outcomes from G2tWQ exercise.

Innova raised concerns on the revision of NESO timeline which wouldn't go down well with Regen members as they are already struggling because of delays to previous timelines.

Renewable UK echoed Innova's concerns and requested an early update on revised timelines and what it means.

#### **Embedded Demand Update – NESO / DNOs**

SSEN, on behalf of SCG's Embedded Demand working group, provided an update on the Embedded Demand projects and the process of how challenges with these projects could be dealt with as part of the reform process.

Networks are keen to understand where there are any opportunities from embedded demand to move forward and how that can be done within the current rule set so they can be moved forward.

The networks now have an agreement in principle to move forward embedded demand where there's any obvious opportunity to move forward and there's no detriment to T connected projects as a result of moving forward; this will be explored further during

### 3. Specific Updates from the 6 CAP areas (papers)

NESO, SCG,  
Board, ENA

queue formation and G2tWQ. Furthermore, once the whole queue process is complete, following offers issue and acceptance; there will be another pass to see if there are any further opportunities for embedded demand to progress at that stage.

#### **Third Party Works - NGED**

All three DNOs (NGED, UKPN and SSEN) have provided list of projects to NGET which have TPWs through NGET.

NGET will inform networks if any of the project have a change in the location or date. DNOs will then work with those projects by revisiting the TPWs agreements.

As NGET studies the projects, DNOs will get the information on a rolling basis, and they will then revisit the TPW agreements if needed.

#### **Demand Connections Update – Ofgem / DESNZ / NESO**

DESNZ walked through the Demand Connections Update slides which included a recap of the demand issue; existing demand queue across transmission and distribution is closer to the forecast projected in the NESO FES for 2050 which has resulted in a huge demand queue and consequential issues.

Ofgem, DESNZ and NESO are working collectively to find solutions to manage an effective queue and drive economic growth to ensure projects connect as quickly as possible.

Innova queried what DESNZ meant by non-viable projects and whether there was something more to it than just showing they have land for those connections. In Innova's view the focus should be how its worded publicly as it should be ensuring that those that are ready to connect can connect. Projects that have land is a viable project and has the potential, keeping in mind there are lots of other binary risks it needs to go through to get to the point of connecting.

DESNZ acknowledged that there may be a need to review the existing requirements to ensure that projects are properly incentivised. DESNZ are also reviewing the adequacy of existing milestones readiness requirements to enable effective and realistic management of current queue.

Ofgem noted that the industry shares the onus of delivering value, by ensuring the incentivised projects progress towards connection rather than block other viable projects in the queue.

Renewable UK asked if an exercise was undertaken to reflect on how the process went the first time for the generation including lessons learned, the procedure and policy challenges associated with their connection. It was their view that if things don't change there will be a strong push back from industry and political front.

DESNZ emphasised their support high quality AI growth and data centres, however the aim to have a proper and orderly queue makes Clean Power 2023 less likely. Hence the aim is to try and increase the number for AI and data centres and in doing so they are

3. Specific Updates from the 6 CAP areas (papers)	NESO, SCG, Board, ENA
<p>looking at is having a fundamentally accurate queue that has people that are most genuine and most ready to connect at the front of it.</p> <p>Responding to Major Energy Users Council query, DESNZ confirmed that the 125GW figures represents the data collated from DNOs as the transmission part of the queue has paused since the process is underway. DNOs noted continued interest at distribution and their processes haven't paused to the extent that transmission has. This suggests there is possibly more volumes of demand looing to connect to the energy system.</p> <p><b><u>Decision made on CAP 3.3.3 - NESO</u></b></p> <p>No decision provided, rolled to CDB in March 2026.</p>	
<p><b>New Actions</b></p>	

4. Review of KPI development and monitoring	DB				
<p>The discussion on KPI development and monitoring comprised a run through of the SCG developed joint T&amp;D dashboard highlighting key data trends.</p> <p><b>SCG T&amp;D Dashboard Summary:</b></p> <p>ENA highlighted the data presented was as of the portal opening and there isn't any data since then. There will be further updates, and the dashboard will be reviewed when the contract positions are clear.</p>					
<p><b>Actions</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="191 1346 1508 1415"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					

5. Outstanding actions from the previous meeting	DB
<p>There was one outstanding action which was rolled forward to the March 20206 CDB, all others were marked complete.</p> <p>Meeting minutes will continue to be published, and the actions list will be updated regularly based on future discussions.</p>	

6. AOB, CDB Schedule, and date of next meeting	JPA,
<p>Renewable UK raised a concern from their members and developers around the prioritised projects with 2026/2027 offers, which could be pushed back, noting TOs stance that those dates can't be met. This is causing a high level of concern and uncertainty as</p>	

**Strategic Connections Group**

these “protections” offered will be null and void as they can’t be delivered despite having the protection. They requested clarity on the scale of the challenge/delays and clear consistent communication going forward.

- The meeting Schedule and Agenda for next meeting – There was confirmation that next CDB would be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 13.00.

The Chair thanked the board for attendance and closed the meeting.

7. Appendix A

Plan on a Page - 2025													Owner		SCG, NESO, DESNZ, Ofgem			
Action Area	Owner	Initiative	2024	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec			
CAP 3.1 - Raise Entry Requirements	NESO	3.1.1 - Introduce letter of authority at transmission (LoA)		Implementation and Benefits														
	NESO	3.1.2 - Identify, assess, bring forward proposals to strengthen entry requirements		Included in TMO4+														
	SCG	3.1.2 - Identify, assess and bring forward proposals to strengthen entry requirements		Benefits														
CAP 3.2 - Remove Stalled Projects	NESO	3.2.1 - CMP376 implementation - transmission queue management		Benefits														
	SCG	3.2.2 - Monitor application of queue management at distribution		Benefits														
	NESO	3.2.3 - Bring forward recommendations to improve certainty and progression of customers holding capacity		Included in TMO4+														
CAP 3.3 - Better Utilise Existing Network	NESO	3.3.1 - Forward recommendations to optimise existing network capacity		Benefits														
	SCG	3.3.1 - Forward recommendations to optimise existing network capacity		Benefits														
	NESO	3.3.2 - Review scope for improvements in CPAs for optimised planning		Detailed design / prepare to implement from January 2025														
	NESO	3.3.3 - Review the scope of enabling works		Detailed design / prepare to implement from January 2025														
CAP 3.4 - Better allocate available network	NESO	3.4.1 - Effectively allocate capacity released in short-term		Included in TMO4+														
	SCG	3.4.1 - Effectively allocate capacity released in short-term		Design														
	NESO	3.4.2 - Approach to allocate capacity with strategic planning		Included in TMO4+														
CAP 3.5 - Improve Data and Processes	SCG	3.5.1 - A single digital view of network data for connection customers		Benefits														
	SCG	3.5.2 - Process for T impacts of D connections		Being picked up within Grid Code modification														
	SCG	3.5.3 - Agreed 'technical limits' across identified GSPs		Benefits & Further implementation for Phase 2 and Scotland.														
	SCG	3.5.4 - Identify and resolve inconsistencies		Implementation and further design on additional areas														
	Ofgem	3.5.5 - Review incentives, obligations and requirements																
CAP 3.6	NESO / DESNZ / Ofgem	Develop Longer-term Connection Process to align with strategic planning, transmission build acceleration and future market reforms including REMA		Ongoing														
TMO4+ - first ready, first connected process reform	NESO	TMO4+ proposal development and implementation																
	NESO	CUSC and STC code modifications for TMO4+ (re-baselined)		Ofgem consideration			Decision & Notice period			Implement								
	NESO	Transitional offers (renamed from 'ligh-touch')																

