

# Connections Delivery Board

26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

# Agenda for March and Discussion Points

26<sup>th</sup> March CDB 2026; 13:00 – 15:00

Agenda No.	Item	Lead	Purpose	Timing
01	<b>Welcome</b> and <b>update</b> from Chair	Ofgem	Welcome	13:00 – 13:05
02	<b>Action area's detailed update, close out as required</b> and <b>POAP</b>	Ofgem / ENA	For Update	13:05 – 13:10
03	<p><b>1) End to End Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Action Tracker – Ofgem</li> <li>Emerging findings from Consultation responses - Ofgem</li> </ul> <p><b>2) Connections Reform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update - NESO</li> </ul> <p><b>3) Demand Connections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates (Ofgem / Gov)</li> </ul> <p><b>4) Oversubscription of batteries relative to CP30 caps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update (Gov)</li> </ul> <p><b>5) Other</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written update on the decision made on CAP 3.3.3 - Review the scope of enabling works (NESO)</li> </ul>	Ofgem / DESNZ/NESO/DNOs/ NGED	For Information and Discussion	13:10 – 14:30
04	Review of Core <b>KPIs</b> and Development – <i>No update will be given</i>	ENA	For Discussion	0
05	<b>Outstanding actions</b> from previous meeting	ENA	For Review and Update	14:30 – 14:45
06	<b>AOB, CDB Schedule (Ofgem)</b> , and date of next meeting - Update on CAS (DESNZ)	All, Ofgem	For Discussion and Close	14:45 – 15:00

# 01 Welcome and update on CDB

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# 02 Action Area Summary Update

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For Update

**Bold text – Date as listed in the CAP***Italicised Text – Outcome metric from the CAP / ENA / NESO*[CAP X.Y.Z](#) – Hyperlink to detailed slide

# Open CAP Actions

**RAG 1 – Against Timeline****RED** RAG Status – Blocker to action**AMBER** RAG Status – Action delayed against timeline**GREEN** RAG Status – Action in progress against timeline**BLUE** RAG Status – Action complete**RAG 2 – Against Initial Impact****RED** RAG Status – Impact will deliver/ is delivering no benefit or little benefit**AMBER** RAG Status – Impact will deliver/ is delivering some benefit but not as much as initially profiled**GREEN** RAG Status – Impact is progressing on target

Action ID	Action Title (Abbr.)	RAG 1	RAG 2	Key Dates	Delivery Vehicle	Core Metric Update	Decisions Required
<b>CAP 3.2 – Remove Stalled Projects</b> <a href="#">CAP 3.2.1</a>	CMP376 implementation			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects yet to commence compliance process to be contacted to provide evidence of progression for external consultancy to review.</li> </ul>	NESO 5-Point Plan (point 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of contracts with milestones - <b>2000</b></li> <li>Projects terminated – <b>0</b></li> <li>Projects in remedy - <b>15</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No decision required at this stage</li> </ul>
<b>CAP 3.3 – Better Utilise Existing Network</b> <a href="#">CAP 3.3.1</a>	Bring forward recommendations to optimise existing network capacity			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transmission Works Review and adoption of revised modelling assumptions – SPT and SSENT have confirmed that no customers submitting Eols can be accelerated. NGET reporting directly.</li> <li>Non-firm storage offers in SSEN-T's region - 1.5GW has signed. RAG 1 and RAG 2 status has moved to blue because work has now been completed.</li> </ul>	NESO Connections Reform (package 1) & NESO 5 Point Plan (points 2, 3 and 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change this period</li> <li>Projects connecting sooner</li> <li>(NESO) Non-firm storage offers: Projects being accelerated in first phase sites for England &amp; Wales – <b>10 GW offered, 5.1 GW signed, accelerating by average of 5 years.</b></li> <li><b>Projects being accelerated in SSEN-T's region – 3.3 GW offered with 1.5GW signed</b></li> <li>Reduction in works to be expected</li> <li>Reinforcement works removed from contracts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No decision required at this stage</li> </ul>
<b>CAP 3.5 – Improve Data &amp; Processes; Sharpen Obligations &amp; Incentives</b> <a href="#">CAP 3.5.2</a>	Improve existing processes at the transmission /distribution interface			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial work beginning on guidance of T or D applications.</li> </ul>	SCG (Networks) Lead ENA Add. 3,4,5 NESO Add. 1,2,3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Action postponed until post CMP435, due to the change TMO4+ will bring and the inclusion of CP30. Action to be re-investigated by networks post 435 implementation.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No decision required at this stage</li> </ul>
<b>CAP 3.6 – Longer term Models; Align With Strategic Planning</b> <a href="#">CAP 3.6.1</a> <a href="#">CAP 3.6.2</a> <a href="#">CAP 3.6.3</a>	<p>Ensure connection process is integrated with strategic planning</p> <p>Ensure collaborative approach between the Transmission Acceleration and Connections Action Plans</p> <p>Ensure coordination with future market reforms under REMA</p>		N/A		Ofgem & DESNZ Lead, NESO Connections Reform,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A vision for long-term (beyond 2026) connections model</li> <li>Implementation metrics (tbc) that demonstrate interaction with strategic network plans</li> <li>Agreement on the end-state Goal for the long-term connections model</li> <li>Effective engagement between connections and networks delivery</li> <li>Effective engagement between connections and REMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No decision required</li> </ul>

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# Open CAP Actions (Included within the scope of TMO4+)

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Action ID	Action Title (Abbr.)	RAG 1	RAG 2	Key Dates	Delivery Vehicle	Core Metric Update	Decisions Required
<a href="#">CAP 3.3.2</a>	Review scope for improvements in CPAs for optimised planning	NESO				Included within scope of TMO4+ reporting (within Reform's alignment with CAP 3.3)	
<a href="#">CAP 3.3.3</a>	Review the scope of enabling works	NESO				Included within scope of TMO4+ reporting (within Reform's alignment with CAP 3.3)	
<a href="#">CAP 3.4.1</a>	Effectively allocate network capacity released in short-term	NESO				Included within scope of TMO4+ Proposals (NESO connections reform, package 1)	
<a href="#">CAP 3.4.2</a>	Decide longer term approach to allocate capacity complementing strategic network planning	NESO				Included within scope of 3.6	

# 03 Specific Updates

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# Summary Page

<b>Title</b>	End to End Review	<b>Author/ Presenter</b>	Ofgem	<b>Date</b>	March 26
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<b>Purpose</b>	
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<b>Paper summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on Action Tracker</li><li>• Emerging findings from Consultation responses</li></ul>
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<b>The ask</b>	
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# 1a) E2E Review Action Tracker (Ofgem)

# Theme 1: Improving visibility and accuracy across connections data

**Desired outcome:** Greater alignment and standardisation of how all useful data is made available transparently to connecting customers and other interested parties, including third parties providing connection services.

Key – Action ID (as per E2E Review document)

D = Decision  
P = Proposal

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## PROGRESS UPDATE:

Ofgem, NESO and ENA met in January to discuss the detail of these actions and proposals.

First Ofgem-led Demand Capacity Register workshop was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Further Theme 1 workshops scheduled for April.

Consultation responses received and analysis is underway.

Action ID	Action Title	Owner	RAG	Timeframe	Delivery Vehicle	Core Metric Update	Decisions Required
D.1.1a	Agree a comprehensive list of useful connections data for network companies to publish	Ofgem / ENA / NESO	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ofgem-led workshops to be underway before the March CDB</li> <li>Agreed list should be finalised for next E2E publication – Summer 2026</li> </ul>	Industry guidance + requirement in licence or codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysing consultation responses to create first draft of data schema</li> <li>First two half-day workshops scheduled will be held in April</li> </ul>	N/A
D.1.1b	Agree a suitable home for the requirement for network companies to publish a minimum list of useful connections data	Ofgem / ENA / NESO	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For next E2E publication – Summer 2026</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring options of new licence condition, update to the LTDS, and code modification</li> </ul>	N/A
D.1.1c	Agree the metrics to be included in data reporting from network companies to Ofgem	ENA / NESO / Ofgem	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May CDB</li> </ul>	Industry guidance + requirement in licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal discussions are happening within Ofgem re. metrics needed for the post-TMO4+ landscape</li> </ul>	N/A
D.1.1d	Agree a suitable format for reporting of connections data from network companies to Ofgem, and a suitable home for the requirement for network companies to provide Ofgem with this data	Ofgem / ENA / NESO	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For next E2E publication – Summer 2026</li> </ul>	Via email to Ofgem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ofgem’s understanding is that work is already underway at ENA / NESO on a new Dashboard – <b>is that correct?</b></li> <li>Ofgem is exploring whether a new licence condition is required</li> </ul>	N/A
D1.2a	Liaise with industry stakeholders to agree the data fields for inclusion in the Demand Capacity Register	Ofgem / ENA / NESO	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ofgem-led workshops to be underway before the March CDB</li> <li>Agreed list should be finalised by May CDB</li> </ul>	Industry guidance + requirement in licence or codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First half-day workshop went ahead on March 12<sup>th</sup></li> <li>A second half-day workshop will be held in April</li> </ul>	N/A

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Ofgem, NESO and ENA met in January to discuss the detail of these actions and proposals.

First Ofgem-led Demand Capacity Register workshop was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Further workshops scheduled for April.

Consultation responses received and analysis is underway.

Action ID	Action Title	Owner	RAG	Timeframe	Delivery Vehicle	Core Metric Update	Decisions Required
D.1.2b	Agree a suitable home for the requirement for network companies to produce a Demand Capacity Register	Ofgem / ENA / NESO	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May CDB</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop on 12<sup>th</sup> March discussed the options of an amendment to the LTDS or a new licence requirement</li> </ul>	N/A
D.1.3a	Provide a timeline for interoperability of existing network company data visualisation tools	ENA / NESO	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May CDB</li> </ul>	Via email to Ofgem		N/A
D.1.3b	Undertake a Five Case Business Case for the single digital view	NESO	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC – await further scope from Ofgem before progressing</li> </ul>	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ofgem are reading and analysing policy consultation responses</li> </ul>	N/A
D.1.4	Agree data triage processes for connections, with the intention of developing a consistent, robust, security-minded process that can be used across transmission and distribution. Set out this process in industry guidance.	Ofgem / ENA / NESO	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on elements specific to connections data to be provided by May CDB</li> </ul>	Industry guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work is progressing on the ENA Data Triage and Metadata Management Playbook with input from the security services</li> </ul>	N/A

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## PROGRESS UPDATE:

Ofgem, NESO and ENA met in January to discuss the detail of these actions and proposals.

First Ofgem-led Demand Capacity Register workshop was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Further workshops scheduled for April.

Consultation responses received and analysis is underway.

Action ID	Action Title	Owner	RAG	Timeframe	Delivery Vehicle	Core Metric Update	Decisions Required
P 1.1	Undertake a statutory consultation on the specific wording of the new licence condition relating to accuracy, completeness and minimum update frequency of connections data	Ofgem	GREEN	Licence changes enter into force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer 2027 – ED2 / T3</li> <li>• April 2028 – ED3 / T3</li> </ul>	T and D licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ofgem are reading and analysing policy consultation responses</li> </ul>	N/A
P1.2	Undertake a statutory consultation on the specific wording of a new licence condition relating to open and sensitive data	Ofgem	GREEN	Licence changes enter into force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer 2027 – ED2 / T3</li> <li>• April 2028 – ED3 / T3</li> </ul>	T and D licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ofgem are reading and analysing policy consultation responses</li> </ul>	N/A

## Theme 2: Improved standards service across the customer journey (not including “smaller connections”)

**Desired outcome:** Ensure standards of service requirements across all stages of the connections customer journey are fit for purpose in driving the right behaviours and outcomes, and that the different levels of the regulatory framework work in harmony.

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### PROGRESS UPDATE:

Most progress this month has focused on furthering ED3 proposals and establishing ED3/E2E alignment for theme 2 issues, especially minimum standards and maintaining standards across the customer journey. Workshops on milestones likely to have invites sent out beginning in April.

Action ID	Action Title		Owner	RAG	Timeframe	Delivery Vehicle	Update	Decisions Required
D 2.1	Prescriptive LCs – milestones/ minimum standards	(D 2.1.1) Engagement with stakeholders to develop milestones	Ofgem	GREEN	• Follows the licence change timeline	T and D licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing policy con responses</li> <li>Developing ED3 incentives for SSMD – outcome of ED3 SSMD will inform next steps.</li> </ul>	N/A
P 2.1		(D 2.1.2) Statutory consultation process		GREEN			N/A	N/A
D 2.2	Principle-based LCs	(D 2.2.1) Licence change development	Ofgem	GREEN	• Follows the licence change timeline	T and D licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing policy con responses</li> </ul>	N/A
		(D 2.2.2) Statutory consultation process		GREEN			N/A	N/A

## Theme 3: Requirements on networks to meet connection dates in connection agreements

**Desired outcome:** A regulatory framework that ensures there are proportionate requirements on network companies to meet agreed customer connection dates in connection agreements, and commensurate with those on developers to meet development milestones.

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### PROGRESS UPDATE:

We have been aligning ED3 incentives with the E2E review to ensure price control levers focus on timely and reliable connections. Following the completion of the feasibility assessment, we will be internally discussing possible GSoPs design and scope and initiating a legal review. Workshops on possible design and scope of GSoPs to follow.

Action ID	Action Title		Owner	RAG	Timeframe	Delivery Vehicle	Update	Decisions Required
D 3.1	Explore strengthened GSoPs	(D 3.1.1) Develop plan to review existing GSoP framework	Ofgem/ DESNZ	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q1 2026 framework design and evidence gathering</li> <li>Follows the licence change/ GSoP timeline</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility study is nearing completion</li> <li>Qualitative consumer research carried out for smaller new connections GSoP, to be published May 2026</li> <li>Consultation closed and currently reviewing consultation responses – stakeholder engagement to be arranged</li> </ul>	N/A
		(D 3.1.2) Develop GSoP modification proposals & deliver			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows the licence change/ GSoP timeline</li> <li>Ofgem decision expected summer 26</li> <li>Implementation timeline TBC</li> </ul>	Legislation	N/A	N/A
D 3.2	GSoP reporting: identify reporting requirements and a suitable delivery vehicle		Ofgem	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows the licence change timeline</li> </ul>	Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation closed and currently reviewing consultation responses – stakeholder engagement to be arranged</li> </ul>	N/A
P 3.1	Explore liquidated damages		Ofgem	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC – Awaiting analysis of consultation responses</li> </ul>	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation closed and currently reviewing consultation responses – stakeholder engagement to be arranged</li> </ul>	N/A

# Theme 4: Quality of connection offers and associated documentation

**Desired outcome:** A regulatory framework that drives the creation of high-quality offers and associated documents/information provided, which are clear, transparent and detailed enough to provide certainty to the customers and investors.

**Key – Action ID (as per E2E Review document)**

D = Decision  
P = Proposal  
G = Industry Guidance

**RAG 1 – Against Timeline**

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## PROGRESS UPDATE

Consultation responses and industry engagement will inform licence and guidance drafting. ED3 work progressing – focus on alignment of objectives. Ofgem have taken ownership of all Theme 4 actions from networks to ensure pace of delivery - Ofgem will own and produce the guidance for industry to use, with primary objective to improve and standardise offers. First workshop to discuss the scope of the guidance document will be held late March.

Action ID	Action Title		Owner	RAG	Timeframe	Delivery Vehicle	Update	Decisions Required
D 4.1	Prescriptive LC introducing minimum standards	(D 4.1.1) Engagement with stakeholders to develop conditions based on G 4.1	Ofgem	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows the licence change timeline</li> </ul>	T, D and NESO licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation closed;</li> <li>Ofgem reviewing responses</li> <li>First workshop to be held on 30th March – to discuss the role of the guidance vs licences</li> <li>Quality of offers and information will be tested by the ED3 satisfaction survey and reporting</li> </ul>	N/A
		(D 4.1.2) Statutory consultation process		GREEN			Ofgem reviewing responses	N/A
D 4.2	Principles-based LC to mandate quality communication re offers	(D 4.2.1) Licence change development	Ofgem	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows the licence change timeline</li> </ul>	T, D and NESO licence	Ofgem reviewing responses	N/A
		(D 4.2.2) Statutory consultation process		GREEN			Ofgem reviewing responses	N/A
G 4.1	Guidance setting out processes and minimum offer content standards		Ofgem	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry working groups running March-May</li> <li>First draft guidance published June 26</li> </ul>	Guidance document tied to licence	See D4.1	N/A

## Theme 5: Ambition of connection offers

**Desired outcome:** A regulatory framework that suitably incentivises / requires network companies to offer customers ambitious but achievable connection dates, and, where possible, innovative connection offers should a viable connection date be unachievable.

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D = Decision  
P = Proposal

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**RED** RAG Status – Blocker to action

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**BLUE** RAG Status – Action complete

### PROGRESS UPDATE

We have been aligning ED3 incentives with the E2E review to ensure price control levers encourage ambitious connection offers, and test this against customer experience. We plan to arrange workshops to discuss proposals following completion of our review of consultation responses in the coming weeks.

Action ID	Action Title		Owner	RAG	Timeframe	Delivery Vehicle	Update	Decisions Required
D 5.1	Principle-based LC on ambition	(D 5.1.1) Licence change development	Ofgem	GREEN	• Follows the licence change timeline	T, D and NESO licence	N/A	N/A
		(D 5.1.2) Statutory consultation process					N/A	N/A
P 5.1	Energisation window development		Ofgem	GREEN	• TBC – awaiting consultation responses	Licences	Currently reviewing consultation responses – stakeholder engagement to be arranged	N/A
P 5.2	Opt-in mechanism development		Ofgem	GREEN	• TBC – awaiting consultation responses	Licences	Currently reviewing consultation responses – stakeholder engagement to be arranged	N/A

# Theme 6: Minor / Smaller connections

**Desired outcome:** Requirements on regulated parties are uniform, clear and unambiguous, ensure smaller connections customers receive a prompt and consistent high standard of service, and ensures smaller connections are proactively made and facilitated to a high standard in a timely manner.

Key – Action ID (as per E2E Review document)

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P = Proposal

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**BLUE** RAG Status – Action complete

## PROGRESS UPDATE

Theme 6 is advancing steadily with key milestones being met including ED3 SSMD. Setting up workshops are taking longer than expected but hope to benefit from doing this in collaboration with government under their Warm Homes Plan and with support from the ENA.

Action ID	Action Title		Owner	RAG	Timeframe	Delivery Vehicle	Update	Decisions Required
D 6.1	Minimum standards for smaller connection requests.		Ofgem / DESNZ		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows the GSoP timeline</li> <li>Ofgem decision expected summer 26</li> <li>Implementation timeline TBC</li> </ul>	Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Near decision on a new ED3 'connection upgrades' ODI-F incentive – will have targets</li> <li>GSoP Review to be scoped Q1/2</li> <li>See D 3.1.1 for fuller update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSMD (but targets not set until later)</li> <li>Scoping</li> </ul>
D 6.2	Align and standardise connection processes		Ofgem		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshops early 2026</li> <li>Guidance published in ED2 period</li> <li>If licence change deemed necessary – Follows the licence change timeline</li> </ul>	Industry process changes; Guidance; Potential licence change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with govt and ENA to set up workshops.</li> </ul>	None yet
D 6.3	Reporting requirements		Ofgem		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ED2 implementation</li> </ul>	Regulatory reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data table out for consultation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ofgem RRP 25/26</li> </ul>
D 6.4	Routes to recourse	Connections GSoP Review	Ofgem / DESNZ		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows the GSoP timeline</li> <li>Ofgem decision expected summer 26</li> <li>Implementation timeline TBC</li> </ul>	Legislation; other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See D 6.1 and D 3.1.1 update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scoping</li> </ul>
		Better signposting			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EO website changes.</li> </ul>	None yet
D 6.5	G98 Review		Ofgem		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review terms Q1 26/27</li> <li>Grid code mod dependent on review</li> </ul>	Potential code mod, Industry governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFI ready. Want to test questions before issue. Awaiting ENA update</li> </ul>	None yet
D 6.6	Installer notification		DESNZ		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dependant on UKG wider installer framework development</li> </ul>	Gov led policy framework	N/A	N/A

# Theme 7: Provisions and guidance for determinations

**Desired outcome:** Greater clarity and transparency for all parties on the determination process, the available redress to parties involved (noting this can only be indicative), and on Ofgem’s role in managing complaints and issuing determinations.

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**PROGRESS UPDATE:**

G2tWQ supplementary guidance published. Case management system is live.  
 Policy consultation responses received and analysis completed.  
 Current network company dispute resolution processes mapped out and compared.

Action ID	Action Title	Owner	RAG	Timeframe	Delivery Vehicle	Core Metric Update	Decisions Required
D 7.1a	Consult on supplementary guidance that reflects the G2tWQ process, clarifying the determination process and Ofgem’s role within it	Ofgem	Blue		Ofgem guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation closed 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025</li> <li>New supplementary guidance was published on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025</li> </ul>	N/A
D 7.1b	A full review of the 2017 guidance for determinations	Ofgem	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before next E2E publication – Summer 2026</li> </ul>	Ofgem guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not yet started</li> </ul>	N/A
D 7.2	Utilise case management system with reporting functionality to identify trends in determination requests	Ofgem	Blue		Industry guidance + requirement in licence or codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case management system is in place and weekly reports are being reviewed and utilised to identify systemic issues and inform policy</li> </ul>	N/A
P 7.1	Network companies to explore standardising dispute resolution processes	Ofgem / ENA / NESO	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshops to be underway before May CDB</li> <li>Standardisation to be agreed before next E2E publication – Summer 2026</li> </ul>	Industry guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ofgem have mapped out current network company dispute resolution processes for comparison. Findings presented to the ENA.</li> <li>Strong consensus in consultation responses for there to be some standardisation.</li> </ul>	Is the ENA happy to organise these workshops? Ofgem are willing to take ownership, if required.



## **1b) Emerging findings from E2E Consultation responses (Ofgem)**

**Slides to be presented at the meeting**

## 2) Connections Reform update (NESO)

# Summary Page

<b>Title</b>	Update	<b>Author/ Presenter</b>	NESO	<b>Date</b>	March 26
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<b>Purpose</b>	
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<b>Paper summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the 13<sup>th</sup> Feb a Joint Industry statement was released by NESO, TOs and DNOs, which included a timeline update for Protected Offers, Gate 2 Phase 1 and Gate 2 Phase 2 - <a href="https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connections-reform-timeline">https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connections-reform-timeline</a></li> <li>It was agreed in SteerCo that the joint Governance Model should evolve to support the transition from programme delivery to operational run and deliver offers to the updated timeline. The Gold, Silver &amp; Bronze Command Model has been co-designed, meetings established or in transition.</li> <li>CPAs for 2030 and 2035 issued to TOs</li> <li>Offers issued for Gate 2 Pre-28 Protected and Gate 1 with Daily Bi/Tri-lateral meetings established to align on project lists and Offer delivery. Initial view of reporting Dashboard share in Silver Command</li> </ul>
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<b>The ask</b>	
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### **3) Demand Connections Reform – Overview (Ofgem)**

# Demand Connections Reform – Three Pillars

Phase 1 – CURATE NOW  Phase 2 - PLAN NEXT

## CURATE

For data centres:

- Financial mechanism, alongside updated securities regime
- Increased readiness requirements

Demand-wide reforms, if considered necessary:

- Progression Commitment Fee
- Increased readiness requirements

Ofgem & NESO

## PLAN

- Prioritisation mechanisms to reserve, reallocate, or accelerate strategic projects

- Data centre strategy, and strategically aligned connections process, with regional infrastructure targets

HMG & NESO

## CONNECT

- Enable greater self build and ownership of high voltage infrastructure
- Update technical requirements for large loads and data centres
- Enable greater use of flexible, non-firm connections as part of managing a system of increasingly large loads

Ofgem, NESO & HMG

# Consultation(s) summary - snapshot

Consultation: 13-February -14th March, ~115 responses. Wide range of stakeholders (Industry reps., network operators, developers, Welsh Gov. Table below captures **initial** findings (snapshot in time) - **not final!**

Area of interest	Initial responses
Financial mechanism	Largely supported. Objection to option 3 raising concerns around competition if too high, or ineffectiveness if too low.
Readiness (entry and progression)	Largely support. Helpful input provided a range of additional options, and flagging some risks (e.g Scotland vs England planning consent)
Self-built and own/transfer	Generally supportive of self-build and ownership with more limited support for self-build and transfer- noting that supply chain and reinforcement issues will still need to be addressed.
Demand led flexibility	High level of support for voluntary flexibility.
Non-firm agreements	Varied – most stressed should be on a voluntary basis
Ramped connection	Could be a good fit for data centres
Update technical standard	Those responded strongly support.
Other/Plan	Some suggested to prioritise co-located projects (DC and BESS, or DC with renewable generation), potentially using the FM or readiness to apply prioritisation

**Next steps:** We aim to finalise review and analysis in following week/two. Outcome to be discussed in respective WGs and Adv. Groups. Membership of Advisory Group may be expanded following input from stakeholders.

**Note: AGs materials to date appended.**

## DESNZ consultation

**Consultation period:** 11 March – 15 April.

**Content:** Builds on Ofgem's Call for Input (closed 14 March), seeking views on using Planning and Infrastructure Act powers to implement proposals under the 'Plan' pillar:

- Introduce mechanisms to prioritise demand projects Government has identified as strategic through reservation and reallocation
- Strategically align DCs to a 'future data centre strategy'.
- Signposts early thinking on flexibility requirements for data centres to protect system stability and security of supply, the role of auctions in allocating capacity, and measures to enable direct-voltage connections and self-build/self-own connection models.

**Next steps:** We welcome stakeholder views by responding directly through the consultation. We will then provide official government response after the consultation closes, ahead of the implementation of Phase 1 reforms over summer .

## **4) Oversubscription of batteries relative to CP30 caps (Gov)**

**Slides to be presented on the day**

## 5) Other

# Summary Page

<b>Title</b>	Decision made on CAP 3.3.3	<b>Author/ Presenter</b>	NESO	<b>Date</b>	March 26
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<b>Purpose</b>	
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<b>Paper summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to resource constraints across organisations and the primary focus on connections reform, the working group couldn't reconvene during the last period.</li> <li>- The intention is to revive the working group once resource is available after G2tWQ.</li> </ul>
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<b>The ask</b>	
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# **04 Review of KPI development and monitoring**

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## **For Discussion**

**No update**

**Note: data capture period includes until July 8, to run until the opening of the TM04+ G2tWQ evidence submission window.**

- Overall, the contracted queue continues to increase and the rate of new applications and acceptances continuing to be high, with 889GW currently in the queue; 125GW being demand and 764GW from export and storage. Notably:
  - There was an overall increase of 25GW in June, including at transmission applications made before the “pause” now flowing through to acceptances.
  - In June 39.4GW of new connections offers were accepted,
  - Contracted demand connections increased by c.19GW
  - The rate of new applications at Distribution continues to be high with nearly 10GW being applied for month on month.
- Networks are connecting customers at pace with 0.4GW being connected in June and c. 1.7 GW of connections delivered in the first quarter of the regulatory year
- As we implement connections reform through Gate 2 to whole queue, there remains significant capacity that networks can accommodate without delay, which will play a significant part in meeting the strategic requirements set out within Clean Power 2030.

**Further data dashboards to be reviewed and evolved recognising TM04+ reset of contracted position**

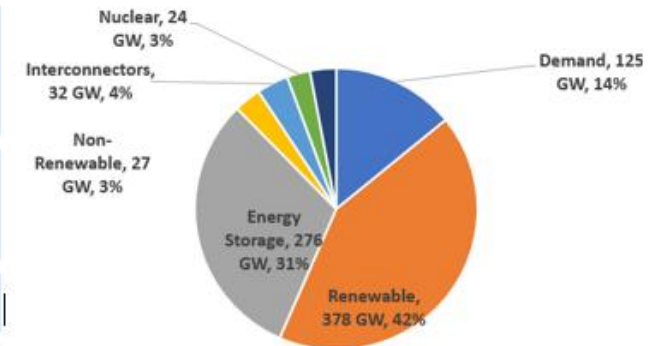
Connections queue summary – June 2025

	June	Transmission	Distribution	May
Total Contracted Connections Offer (GW)	889 GW	716 GW	173 GW	864 GW
Total Contracted Connections Offer (GW) - (Export & Storage)	764 GW	619 GW	145 GW	758 GW
Total Contracted Connections Offer (GW) - Demand	125 GW	97 GW	29 GW	106 GW
New Applications Received	9.4 GW	0.0 GW	9.4 GW	10.4 GW
New Connections Offers Accepted	39.4 GW	36.4 GW	3.0 GW	48.3 GW
Total Connections Delivered	0.40 GW	0.19 GW	0.21 GW	0.94 GW

Distribution queue by network works

	June	June % of total
No Reinforcement Dependencies & Distribution Reinforcement only (No Transmission Reinforcement)	60 GW	34%
Transmission Reinforcement only & Distribution and Transmission Reinforcement	79 GW	46%
Pending Decision on Reinforcement Dependency	35 GW	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>173 GW</b>	<b>100%</b>

T&D queue by customer/ technology type



# 05 Outstanding actions from previous meeting

For Review and Update

## Actions & minutes from previous meeting

1. Confirmation, January CDB minutes have been published on ENA website.
2. Actions to be captured for each CDB and displayed below (actions shown as complete will be removed from next meeting pack)

Action ID	Date Raised	Action Area	Action	Owner (Organisation)	Deadline	Status
102	24/09/25	CAP action 3.3.3	Provide a written update at the November CDB on the decision made on CAP 3.3.3.	NESO	November CDB	Complete
103	24/09/25	DCUSA code mod 461	Provide a progress update on the DCUSA mod 461 and CMP460 for the CUSC.	NGET/NGED	November CDB	Complete
104	24/09/25	Queue Formation Process	Check if industry can engage with NESO in any areas in the queue formation process.	NESO	November CDB	Complete
105	24/09/25	NESO Queue Publication	Provide an update on the progress of the date for the next window when the queue is published.	NESO	November CDB	Complete
106	24/09/25	Third Party Works	Provide an overall progress update on Third Party Works.	NGED	November CDB	Complete
107	24/09/25	Embedded Demand	Provide an update on Embedded Demand.	NESO/DNOs	November CDB	Complete

# 06 AOB and Date of Next Meeting, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May

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For Discussion and Close

# Proposed Agenda for May and Discussion Points

28<sup>th</sup> May CDB 2026; 13:00 – 15:00

To be updated

Agenda No.	Item	Lead	Purpose	Timing
01	<b>Welcome</b> and <b>update</b> from Chair	Ofgem	Welcome	13:00 – 13:05
02	<b>Action area's detailed update, close out as required</b> and <b>POAP</b>	Ofgem / ENA	For Update	13:05 – 13:15
03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TMO4+ Implementation Update</b> – NESO</li> <li>• <b>End to End Review</b> – Ofgem</li> </ul>	Ofgem / NESO / ENA / DESNZ	For Information and Discussion	13:15 – 14:15
04	Review of Core <b>KPIs</b> and Development	ENA	For Discussion	14:15 – 14:20
05	<b>Outstanding actions</b> from previous meeting	ENA	For Review and Update	14:20 – 14:25
06	<b>AOB, CDB Schedule (Ofgem)</b> , and date of next meeting	All, Ofgem	For Discussion and Close	14:25 – 15:00

# Thank You

# A1 CDB Action Level Reporting

# CAP 3.2 Action level reporting – Remove stalled projects

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<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>NESO 5-Point Plan</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Sonia Poonian

## CAP 3.2 - Remove stalled projects

### CAP 3.2.1 - Queue management milestones

RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE

#### KEY INSIGHTS

- Queue management Guidance updated in Dec 2025 to mitigate the impact that G2tWQ delays have had on the process.

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required	
<b>CAP 3.2.1</b> Introduction of queue management milestones into transmission connection contracts (CMP376)  <i>Including:</i> <b>NESO 5 Point Plan Action 4</b> Develop new terms for connection contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 2025, NESO worked with Ofgem to agree an update to the QM guidance to mitigate the impact that the G2tWQ delays have had on the process.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QM guidance will updated further to reflect planning changes as part of the new CMP434 checks.</li> </ul>	Proportion of contracts with milestones		None	
		Reduction in projects seeking to change connection date (after initial implementation)		Not applicable	<b>Justification for RAG Status</b>		
					RAG 1	RAG 2	
		Projects terminated		0			
Projects in remediation							

## Connections Reform “TMO4+”

### CAP 3.2 – Remove stalled projects

<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>NESO</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Mike Oxenham

[RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE](#)

#### KEY INSIGHTS

TMO4+ Decision published by Ofgem and Implementation planning activities ongoing e.g. development and publication of supporting guidance

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required	
						Justification for RAG Status	
						RAG 1	RAG 2
<b>CR 3.2</b> Remove stalled projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applying queue management milestones and delivering G2TWQ</li> <li>Published methodology consultation</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise methodologies</li> <li>Deliver G2TWQ</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	None	
		RAG 2					TMO4+ re-baselined

# CAP 3.3 Action level reporting – Better utilise existing network

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## CAP 3.3 - Better utilise existing network

### CAP 3.3.1 – Review approaches to optimise use of existing network

<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>NESO Connections Reform</b>
<b>Owner</b>	W Kirk-Wilson / F Popoola

#### KEY INSIGHTS

Transmission Works Review and adoption of revised modelling assumptions – SPT and SSENT have confirmed that no customers submitting Eols can be accelerated. NGET updated directly. Accelerated Non-firm offers for storage: review of all EOIs has been completed because of the decision has been made to not go ahead with tranche 2 for the remaining England & Wales expression of interest customers. Eligible SSEN-T customers to benefit from the policy have now signed. Any further roll out of the policy is on hold because of G2WQ.

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required		
<b>CAP 3.3.1</b>  Bring forward recommendations to optimise existing network capacity  <i>Including:</i> <i>Revised modelling and TWR (5PP. 2 and 3)</i> <i>Non-firm storage offers (5PP 5)</i>	Transmission Works Review and adoption of revised modelling assumptions – SPT and SSENT have confirmed that no customers submitting Eols can be accelerated.		Complete	<b>Non-firm storage : 10 GW offered accelerated connection date and 5.1 GW signed (Oct) with average advancement of five years.</b> <b>And 11 projects of 3.3 GW offered in SSENT area with 5 projects of 1.5GW signed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>		
	Interim non-firm offers for storage in England & Wales: the tranche 1 offers have passed the deadline to sign their contracts. This has resulted in 14 signed offers with capacity of 5.1 GW.				Reduction in works expected to be required	N/A	<b>Justification for RAG Status</b>	
	SSENT have identified which customers (who have submitted an expression of interest), can benefit from this policy – 11 projects of 3.3 GW has been identified. 1 project was eligible for TWR and accelerated storage so has chosen TWR offer. 5 projects of 1.5GW signed up to the accelerated storage policy.	RAG 2			Reinforcement works removed from contracts	N/A	RAG 1	RAG 2
	RAG status is set to blue as project has been completed with any further roll out of the policy is on hold because of G2WQ.					Any further roll out of the policy is on hold because of G2WQ.	Any further roll out of the policy is on hold because of G2WQ.	

<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>SCG (Networks)</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Malcolm Bebbington

**CAP 3.3 - Better utilise existing network**

**CAP 3.3.1 – Review approaches to optimise use of existing network**

**RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE**

**KEY INSIGHTS**

- Phase 1: completed and implemented.
- Phase 2: technical/socioeconomic analysis nearly complete; confirms that TS1 network access rights are the most beneficial.
- Phase 2: reviewing the application of diversity factors at the T/D interface to release capacity, and the distribution ES information shared with NESO/TOs.

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update	Decisions Required	
<b>CAP 3.3.1</b> Bring forward recommendations to optimise existing network capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>T/D interface:</b> Approach agreed, circulated to TOs for final comments.</li> <li>• <b>EREC P2/9:</b> DNOs largely completed changes required on the EREP 130 guidance.</li> <li>• <b>Phase 2</b> Socio-economic report finalised and issued. It supports the continuation of TS1 for new distribution ES.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Activates complete, work progressing as BAU</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (SCG) New capacity for ES customers with access rights <math>\leq</math> TS1:   <b>~5GW offered per month (65GW cumulative);</b>   <b>~1.5GW accepted per month (35GW cumulative)</b></li> <li>• (SCG) One-off capacity benefit of TS2 diversity on existing contracted ES 2-3GW.</li> </ul>	• No decision required at this stage	
		<b>RAG 2</b>			<b>Justification for RAG Status</b>	
					RAG 1	RAG 2
					Tactical solutions delivered on time and now implemented. Phase 2 nearing completion. Slight delay due to complexity of Socioeconomic work.	Socioeconomic analysis indicating that Tactical Solution 1 was right choice.

<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>NESO (Additional)</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Atia Adrees

## CAP 3.3 - Better utilise existing network

### CAP 3.3.2 – Review the scope for beneficial revisions to CPAs

RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE

#### KEY INSIGHTS

Electrolysers and battery models are integrated in POUYA to improve the accuracy of CPAs. We have worked closely with TOs to agree on base assumptions for CPAs.

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required	
<b>CAP 3.3.2</b> Review scope for improvements in CPAs for optimised planning	Phase 1 and Phase 2 CPAs have been provided to TOs		NESO will continue to work closely with TOs to provide additional CPAs for connection studies and promptly address their queries.  <b>Fault level assumptions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document the approach within the revised CPA methodology.</li> <li>Continue engagement with NGET led Innovation project to explore possible code modification to efficiently control large fault seen in the network</li> </ul>	Projects connecting sooner		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	
		<b>RAG 2</b>		Reduction in works to be expected		<b>Justification for RAG Status</b>	
				Reinforcement works removed from contracts		TMO4+ revised plan agreed	Impact is progressing on target.

<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>NESO (Additional)</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Atia Adrees

## CAP 3.3 - Better utilise existing network

### CAP 3.3.3 – Review the scope of enabling works

RETURN TO SUMMARY  
SLIDE

#### KEY INSIGHTS

- NESO has been continuing weekly discussions with TOs to develop the updating C&M Guidance with principles / methodology to determine whether works are classified as Enabling or Wider within a customer's connections contract; A CUSC code change to the MITS Substation definition has been de-prioritised at present
- Proposal that all works *up to* the MITS Substation are considered Enabling by default (potentially with a Special Review), and all works *beyond* the MITS Substation are subject to (1) an effectiveness test and (2) an economic test of pre-fault overloads to determine whether they are included as Enabling Works

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required	
<b>CAP 3.3.3</b> Review the scope of enabling works	Unfortunately, no progress has been made as all efforts have been focused on connections reform activities.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The intention is to revive the working group once resource is available after G2tWQ.</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	
				N/A	N/A	<b>Justification for RAG Status</b>	
						RAG 1	RAG 2
				N/A	N/A		

# Connections Reform "TMO4+"

## CAP 3.3 – Better utilise existing network

<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>NESO</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Sonia Poonian

[RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE](#)

**KEY INSIGHTS**

**Bay sharing** - Bay sharing policy to be updated to align to CMP434

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required	
		RAG 2				RAG 1	RAG 2
<b>CR 3.3</b> Better utilise existing network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bay Sharing policy to be updated to align to CMP434</li> </ul>			N/A	N/A	None	
						<b>Justification for RAG Status</b>	
						Action on going	

# Connections Reform “TMO4+”

## CAP 3.3 – Better utilise existing network

<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>NESO</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Sonia Poonian

[RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE](#)

**KEY INSIGHTS**

**Bay standardisation** – not currently being pursued – updates to Bay Sharing policy

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required	
		RAG 2				RAG 1	RAG 2
<b>CR 3.3</b> Better utilise existing network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updating Bay Sharing policy to align to next window</li> </ul>			N/A	N/A	None	
						<b>Justification for RAG Status</b>	
		N/A					

# CAP 3.4 Action level reporting – Better allocate available network

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<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>SCG (Networks)</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Paul Glendinning

**CAP 3.4 - Better allocate available network capacity**

**CAP 3.4.1 – Confirm approach to allocating capacity released through near term actions**

RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE

**KEY INSIGHTS**

- The activities for Cap 3.4.1 have yet to be scoped, as the Integrated Queue Management Group continues to focus on the delivery of the queue management and milestone initiatives.

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required	
<b>CAP 3.4.1</b> Confirm the approach to allocating capacity released through near term actions (5-Point Plan and any additional short-term actions) and explore further measures to maximise the benefits for producing timely connection dates within offers, aligned with net zero pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review undertaken and changes to be made to existing queue management milestones</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry Webinar to be held to express changes due to be made and make industry aware of alterations to milestones.</li> </ul>	<i>Integrated Queue Management:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to be developed following solution design</li> </ul>	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	
		<b>RAG 2</b>		<i>Distribution Queue Entry:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to be developed following solution design</li> </ul>	TBC	Justification for RAG Status	
						RAG 1	RAG 2
						Green as ongoing in line with TMO4+	Defaulted to green - impact not yet measurable as timescales not yet scoped.





<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>NESO</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Mike Oxenham

## Connections Reform “TMO4+”

### CAP 3.4 – Better allocate available network capacity

[RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE](#)

**KEY INSIGHTS**  
 G2TWQ submission window opened and submissions process closed  
 TIA code mod approved by Ofgem  
 Progression Commitment Fee code mod in progress – FMR submitted to Ofgem in June 2026, Decision expected Nov 2026

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required	
<b>CR 3.4</b> Better allocate available network capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>G2TWQ queue formation completes and engineering and offers starts</li> <li>PCF code mod decision</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing to make offers to protected projects.</li> <li>Reviewing Government and Ofgem consultations.</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	None	
							<b>Justification for RAG Status</b>
						RAG 1	RAG 2
						TMO4+ Re-baselined	Impact is progressing on target.

# CAP 3.5 Action level reporting – Improve data and processes and sharpen obligations and incentives

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<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>SCG (Networks)</b>
<b>Owner</b>	ENA

**CAP 3.5 - Improve data and processes & sharpen obligations and incentives**

**CAP 3.5.2 – Improve existing processes at the transmission/distribution interface**

**RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE**

**KEY INSIGHTS**

- As reported last month, this work has been deprioritised due to TMO4+.

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required		
		RAG 2				Justification for RAG Status		
						RAG 1	RAG 2	
<b>CAP 3.5.2</b> <b>ENA Additional 3</b> <b>NESO Additional package 1</b>  Review and update the guidance available to customers on deciding between a D or T-Level connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As reported last month, this work has been deprioritised due to TMO4+</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progressing a T D guidance for connecting customers due Q3/4 2025</li> </ul>	Guidance Published		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No decision required at this stage</li> </ul>		
								Activity to be picked up in Q4 2024

<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>SCG (Networks)</b>
<b>Owner</b>	B Godfrey / Janeece Hylton




## CAP 3.5 - Improve data and processes & sharpen obligations and incentives

### CAP 3.5.2 – Improve existing processes at the transmission/distribution interface

RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE

#### KEY INSIGHTS

- NESO Connections 360 undergoing improvements as part of Connections Reform
- Work underway on Demand Reforms to breakdown demand technology types and align across industry

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required	
						Justification for RAG Status	
						RAG 1	RAG 2
<b>CAP 3.5.2</b> <b>ENA Additional 4</b> <b>NESO Additional 3</b> <b>package 1</b>  Sharing queue data across the T/D boundary  Better sharing of queue data across the Transmission / Distribution (T/D) boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connections 360 live improvement workshopping</li> <li>• Attending OFGEM-led workshops on creating Demand Capacity Register</li> </ul>	    	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transmission demand pipeline data being collated with plans to combine with distribution (with support of ENA)</li> </ul>	% of distribution queue appearing on a publicly available AppG	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No decision required at this stage</li> </ul>	
				% of transmission queue published against ConSags	-		

<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>NESO / ENA</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Claire Witty

## Connections Reform “TMO4+”

### CAP 3.5 – Improve data and processes, and sharpen obligations and incentives

[RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE](#)

#### KEY INS.

- Gate 1 guidance published and presented at ENA webinar
- TMO4+ have led on a number of key policy decisions
- Continued alignment with reform implementation hubs

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update	Decisions Required
<p>TMO4+ Impacts sub-groups</p> <p>Allow for open discussion between networks on the current thinking within Connections reform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued conversations with NESO on Protected 26/27 AtV for England &amp; Wales and associated timelines.</li> <li>• Discussions around large BEGAs and CMP434 process.</li> <li>• DNO alignment on implementation of CMP446, following publication of GSPs with fault level issues prior to the first CMP434 window opening.</li> <li>• Continued discussions on advancement fees, run rates and hybrid projects</li> <li>• Working with NESO on updated timelines to delivery programme</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued discussions on large BEGAs and CMP434 process.</li> <li>• Implementation of CMP434 – DNO process</li> <li>• Technical Limits – separate meeting to be held to discuss / agree the process for Gate 2 TL offers.</li> <li>• CMP343 Methodology Consultation</li> </ul>		<p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>Justification for RAG Status</b></p> <p>DNOs continue to ensure consistency with the application of reform and the development of key policy areas</p>

# **CAP 3.6 Action level reporting – Develop longer-term connection process models aligned with strategic planning and market reform**

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<b>Delivery Vehicle</b>	<b>NESO, DESNZ / Ofgem</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Neil Copeland / Paul Hawker / Shabana Akhtar

## CAP 3.6 - Longer-term models; align with strategic planning & market reform

### CAP 3.6 – Joined up and collaborative approach; Reforms under REMA

[RETURN TO SUMMARY SLIDE](#)

#### KEY INSIGHTS

- Government has made its decision to deliver reformed national pricing, connections is one lever for delivering reformed national pricing

Action ID and Title	Activities & Milestones progressed this period	RAG 1	Activities & Milestones planned for next period	Core Metric Update		Decisions Required	
						Justification for RAG Status	
						RAG 1	RAG 2
<b>CAP 3.6.1</b> Ensure connection process is integrated with strategic planning <b>CAP 3.6.2</b> Ensure a joined up and collaborative approach between the Transmission Acceleration Action Plan, and other network reforms, and the CAP. <b>CAP 3.6.3</b> Ensure coordination with future market reforms being considered under REMA, including the review of electricity network charging arrangements, connection access rights and other options for sending locational signals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The evidence submission window for the first Gate 2 window has opened and closed.</li> <li>Engaged with Government and Ofgem on RNP, and demand connections.</li> </ul>	<b>RAG 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to issue connection offers.</li> <li>Engage with Government and Ofgem on RNP, and demand connections.</li> <li>Consultation on v2 of the methodologies published on 17 March.</li> </ul>	Agreement on the end-state Goal for the long-term connections model		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	
				Effective engagement between connections and networks delivery			
				Effective engagement between connections and REMA			

# Completed CAP Actions

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# Completed CAP Actions

Action ID	Action Title (Abbr.)	RAG 1	RAG 2	Key Dates	Delivery Vehicle	Core Metric Update	Decisions Required
<b>CAP 3.1 – Raise Entry Requirements</b> <u>CAP 3.1.1</u>	Introduce letter of authority at transmission (LoA)			• N/A – Action complete	NESO Connections Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LOA submissions 2025 (Accepted/Rejected) - Jan 44/6, Feb 9/2, March 78/0</li> <li>Connection applications accepted only from those who have LoA - Implemented</li> <li>Reduced rate of connection applications being submitted – <b>58 applications received in Jan 2024 compared to 122 applications received in Jan 2025 (increase apps expected due to applications pause)</b></li> <li><b>No further new apps being processed due to the Pause</b></li> </ul>	• No decision required at this stage
<u>CAP 3.1.2</u>	Identify, assess and bring forward proposals to strengthen entry requirements			• Completed. New entry requirements went live Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> .	SCG (Networks)	• <b>ACTION COMPLETE</b>	• No decision required at this stage
<b>CAP 3.2 – Remove Stalled Projects</b> <u>CAP 3.2.2</u>	Monitor application of queue management at distribution			• Completed, DQM ongoing benefits being recorded.	SCG (Networks) (3SP, point 1)	• <b>ACTION COMPLETE</b>	• No decision required at this stage
<u>CAP 3.2.3</u>	Bring forward recommendations to improve certainty and progression of Customers holding capacity		N/A	• 3.2.2(1) Disincentivising modification applications – recommendations approved in March CDB	NESO	• N/A	• No decision required at this stage
<u>NESO 5PP 1</u>	Provide TEC amnesty			• This project has been completed	NESO 5-Point Plan	• <b>4.1GW of capacity released</b>	• No decision required at this stage
<b>CAP 3.3 – Better Utilise Existing Network</b> <u>CAP 3.3.1</u>	Bring forward recommendations to optimise existing network capacity			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Completed. Implementation into BAU:</li> <li>T/D interface: TOs to implement BESS Access rights and consistency achieved for all DNOs WK24 submission assumptions.</li> <li>EREC P2/9: progressing changes required for EREP 130.</li> </ul>	SCG (Networks) (3SP, point 3)	• <b>ACTION COMPLETE</b>	• No decision required at this stage
<b>CAP 3.4 – Better Allocate Available Network Capacity</b> <u>CAP 3.4.1</u>	Effectively allocate network capacity released in short-term			• DNO Queue Management document released following industry feedback and changes made for TMO4+ <a href="#">LINK</a> .	SCG (Networks)	• <b>ACTION COMPLETE</b>	• No decision required at this stage
<b>CAP 3.5 – Improve Data &amp; Processes: Sharpen Obligations &amp; Incentives</b> <u>CAP 3.5.1</u>	A single digital view of network data for connection customers			• Updated version of databook agreed with Ofgem/DESNZ, to be implemented in February 2025 with January 2025 data.	SCG (Networks) lead NESO Connections Portal, (6SP add. point 1)	• <b>ACTION COMPLETE</b>	• No decision required at this stage

# Completed CAP Actions

Action ID	Action Title (Abbr.)	RAG 1	RAG 2	Key Dates	Delivery Vehicle	Core Metric Update	Decisions Required
<b>CAP 3.5 – Improve Data &amp; Processes; Sharpen Obligations &amp; Incentives</b> <u>CAP 3.5.3</u>	Flexible connections and management of distribution connections within agreed 'technical limits' across all GSPs			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 2 GSP's delivered. 72 GSP's confirmed</li> <li>Review considering any changes due to TMO4+</li> </ul>	SCG (Networks) (3SP, point 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>ACTION COMPLETE</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No decision required at this stage</li> </ul>
<u>CAP 3.5.4</u>	Identify and resolve inconsistencies			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action progressing through DCUSA and CUSC discussions</li> </ul>	SCG (Networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>COMPLETE as progressing through relevant governance.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No decision required at this stage</li> </ul>
<u>CAP 3.5.5</u>	Undertake review of connection incentives, obligations and requirements			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation Closed Feb 25</li> </ul>	Ofgem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Improved quality of service and timely connection outcomes</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No decision required at this stage</li> </ul>



# Demand Connections

Connect Task & Finish Group

28/01/2026

# Agenda

**1. Introductions**

**2. ToRs**

**3. Objectives and Scope**

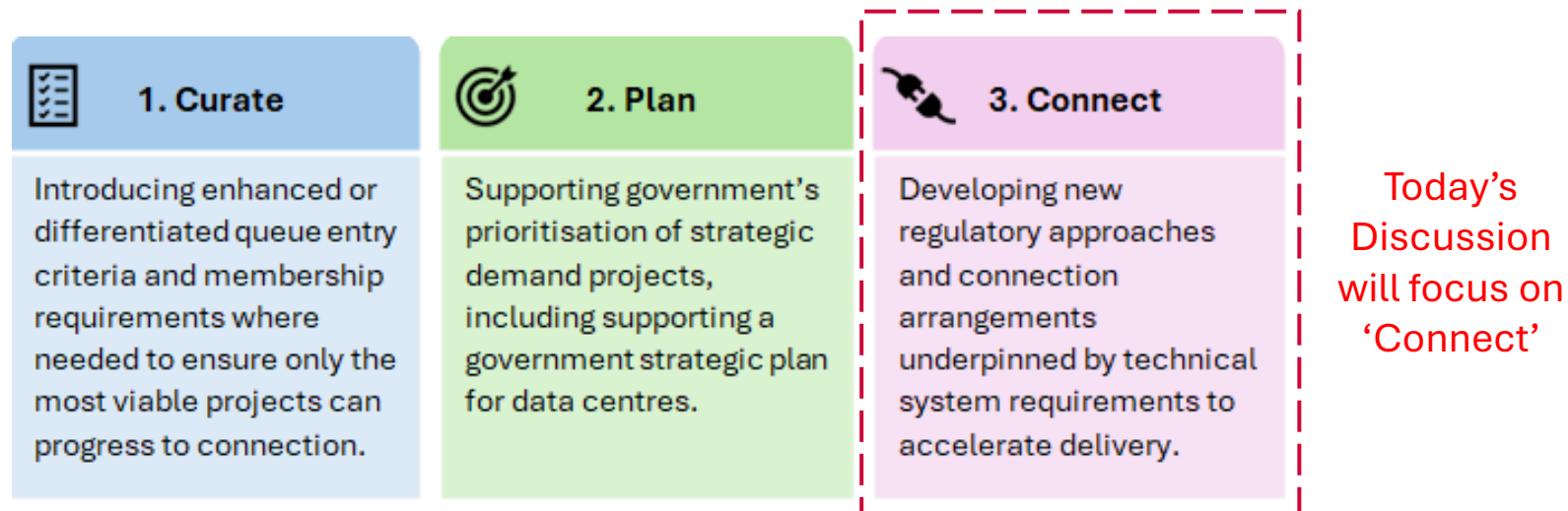
**4. Timeline**

**5. Wrap-up**

# Introduction - Please note this forum is not Government Policy

## Problem statement

- A surge in demand connection application between November 2024 and June 2026, driven largely by data centres, has created an oversized connection queue and sets significant pressure on the system.
- Ofgem, NESO and DESNZ are committed to delivering demand connections reform around three pillars: **Curate, Plan and Connect**.
- The 'Curate' measures focus on strengthening project commitments and tackling speculation in the demand queue.
- Government-led 'Plan' measures aim to align demand projects with strategic plans and to prioritise strategic demand.
- Our 'Connect' work targets acceleration of connection dates through a range of regulatory approaches and connection agreements.
- It is designed across desired outcomes: protect consumers, investment and growth, system integrity, security, durability of solutions.
- Goals: faster connections, certainty and predictability



# ToRs for Transmission Connections Task & Finish Group – For challenge and review

Any Questions?

*Purpose / Scope: To translate policy intent into technical solutions for 'Connect' reforms.*

## Attendees

**Chair:** Ofgem & DESNZ rotating chair

**Secretariat:** Rotating

**Attendance (evolving):**

- Ofgem: Liam King, Arthur Bessis, Ben Pirie, Matteo Lenzi
- NESO: Folashadé Popoola, James Whiteford
- DESNZ: Dan Boorman, Freddie Saunders, Lea Bothorel
- Network Companies: NGET, SPT, SSEN, ENA, INA
- Industry bodies: techUK, DC Alliance, Roadnight Taylor, Knight Frank, Stonehaven

## Authority

The T&F Group is an advisory group so will not be decision making. **Decision making is reserved to respective organisations aligned via Connections Delivery Board and the Electricity Networks Delivery Forum.**

## Roles & Responsibilities

- **DESNZ/Ofgem/NESO** - Overall project definition and management
- **DESNZ/Ofgem** – Set policy and regulatory intent and update on regulatory / legislative direction.
- **NESO** – Advise on the design and implementation of technical solutions
- **Network companies** – Critically challenge and provide feedback on solutions
- **Industry bodies** – Critically challenge and provide feedback on solutions

## Meetings

Meetings will be held online monthly from 28 Jan, concluding in 6 months but could be continued. The ToR and group will be reviewed in April 2026. Agenda will be circulated in advance; write ups and actions will be circulated.

## Deliverables to Emerge from Connect Work

- Ofgem Policy Statement in Feb 2026
- Consultation on Demand package and specifically to Connect on
  - Revised Transmission licence conditions
  - CMP414 / CMP330 / CMP374
  - Updated technical standards and codes where relevant
- Outcome on enhanced contestability – CMP414
- Potential technical code updates (SQSS, Grid Code)

## Standing Agenda

- Review actions from previous meeting.
- Update on working group progress
- Discuss working group proposals / solutions and provide feedback
- Actions / AOB

# Transmission Connections Objectives and Scope

Do these objectives match expectations? Are other reforms needed to unlock further benefits?

Joint taskforce between **DESNZ, NESO** and **Ofgem** that brings together key stakeholders with the aim to accelerate and optimise transmission-voltage connections through more efficient grid resource use.

## Objectives

The group's objectives are organised into:

- 1. Clarifying the Electricity Act 1989:** Interpretation of the EA89 on transmission networks and licence requirements.
- 2. Ownership Models:** Approaches to asset ownership, including licensing options across transmission and s.5 licence exemptions, where relevant.
- 3. Greater Network self-build:** Determine the extent to which self-build and ownership should be enabled.
- 4. Flexible Connections:** Enable more adaptable connection arrangements e.g., phased, non-firm contracts.
- 5. Updating network technical standards to reflect changing connection regime**
  - Asset design – SQSS
  - Connection rules – Grid Code
- 6. Conditions for large load behaviour on the grid.**

Subgroups (e.g. NESO technical expert workgroup) will align with these objectives, prioritising ideas and quick wins, such as improvements in queue management and connection processes.

## Ambition

The high-level ambition is to encourage **efficient use of grid resources** through:

- Near-term: Rewarding efficient use of available capacity
- Longer-term: Expand the system's grid connection capacity

## Scope

- Clarification of legality of transmission asset connections/ownership across England, Wales and Scotland acknowledging differences in definition of 'high voltage'
- NESO technical inputs on network standards and codes for HV connections
- Overarching licensing/exemptions policy for demand customers to allow transmission asset ownership.
- Explore interaction of short-term solutions with long-term regulation.
- Assess viability of different models including network build to users, user build & transfer and build & operate.
- Ensure large induced system costs are understood and funded fairly.

# Priorities for 'Connect' Policy

Is there a specific sequencing and/or timelines that should be met?

We aim to bring regulatory and technical solutions at pace in the coming months, with certain reforms extending for longer. We will prioritise progress on key uncertainties and regulatory gaps.

We would welcome feedback on how to prioritise these objectives:

- 1. Clarify the EA89,**
- 2. High-voltage (HV) asset ownership rules/regime,**
- 3. HV Network contestability,**
- 4. Updating technical standards**
- 5. Where possible expanding flexible agreements e.g., phased connections**
- 6. Determine the conditions for how large electricity demand applicants can behave on the system.**

# Wrap-up

- We will send invites to future monthly Task and Finish Group meetings soon
- The agenda for each session will be shared in advance
- We will communicate directly on our evolving deliverables e.g., upcoming policy statement and consultations.



# Demand Connections

Connect Task & Finish Group

25/02/2026

# Agenda

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Actions from the previous meeting

---

Demand connections call for input

---

Roadnight Taylor's class exemption proposal

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Actions and next steps

# Actions from the previous meeting

Organisation	Description	Update
DESNZ	Confirm and communicate to TFG participants the TFG title: “Connect Task and Finish Group”. Update calendar invites/materials.	Done
Ofgem	Update problem statement to reflect CP30 and the need for adequate generation/network build alongside demand connections.	ToR up-dated to reflect this
Ofgem	For next TFG: Add a Trade-offs Tracker slide to the deck; propose the Desired outcomes (“target end-state”) slide per ENA suggestion.	Will cover this in today’s meeting
All	Terminology note: use “HV (as defined by EA89) at transmission voltages” where needed; ensure GB wide consistency (Scotland vs E&W). -wide consistency (Scotland vs E&W).	ToR up-dated to reflect this
Ofgem, NESO	Adapt the timeline sequencing per feedback (EA89 → Ownership & Contestability (parallel) → Technical standards/standardisation → Flexible agreements → Large load behaviour	Suggested future agenda items based on this
Ofgem/DESNZ	For next TFG: Prepare Delivery test slide: how each policy option pulls forward energisation dates, and Success criteria slide and a Risk tracker for recurring review at each TFG.	Underway – further consideration needed on how to measure impact
Ofgem/DESNZ	For next TFG: Prepare Success criteria slide and a Risk tracker for recurring review at each TFG.	Will cover this in today’s meeting
ENA	Share a list of perceived drivers/blockers affecting connections (incl. interactions with Transmission Build, APM, PASE, TAAP/ENA standardisation).	For next meeting
Stonehaven	Share input on ownership/right-of-access and competition levers; help articulate trade-offs. -of-access and competition levers; help articulate trade-offs.	For next meeting
Roadnight Taylor	Share generation side learnings (e.g., baybuilding model) that can be ported to demand/HV context. -side learnings (e.g., bay-building model) that can be ported to demand/HV context.	For next meeting
ENA	Provide a pointer pack/lines on TAAP follow on standardisation efforts and expected Electricity Networks Sector Growth Plan actions to avoid duplication. -on standardisation efforts and expected Electricity Networks Sector Growth Plan actions to avoid duplication.	For next meeting
All orgs	To share views on the delivery lens of different measures to pressure test candidate policies against energisation dates - do these enable faster energisation? -test candidate policies against energisation dates - do these enable faster energisation?	For next meeting

# Future Agenda Items

- Future outline agenda to reflect priorities identified in January T&F
- Are there any topics you would like to add to future agendas?
- Aiming for two-way forum – please get in touch to present industry / network operator view

March

Target End State  
Regulatory regime

April

Ownership Models  
and Contestability

May

Technical Standards  
Flexible Connections

# Our draft strategic Success criteria – what do we want to achieve, and why?

**Target end state:** Diversifying network asset build/ownership models, potentially leading to faster energisation, more variable network models, greater developer choice, and without compromising wider network integrity.

## Speed of energisation

- Faster connections than conventional routes.
- GB wide benefits from strategically important projects connecting earlier (economy, decarbonisation)

## More flexible connection models

- Complex projects able to design & implement bespoke network solutions.
- Potentially more innovative network solutions

## Competition & contestability

- More competition -> choices & potential cost savings for developers.
- Expand on IDNO sector at distribution.
- Reduce burden on TOs to focus on wider network reinforcement.

## Whole system benefits

- Wider system integrity maintained; aligned with government priorities.
- Consumers not exposed to higher than necessary costs.

# Trade offs

- How do we manage the trade offs, and what should be prioritised?
- Key theme- how much do we want to leave to the developer, and how much do we want to standardise ?



## Speed to connect individual projects vs overall system design efficiency

e.g. Smaller scale individual use substations could mean faster energisation, but fewer, larger scale could be better for overall system efficiency

## Standardised designs to increase scale vs bespoke site-specific optimisation

e.g. prioritise supply chain scale, or individual bespoke needs

## Flexible/ramped access vs firmness & curtailment risk

e.g. promote earlier, partial operation or whole system fairness

## Equality of asset treatment (demand vs generation) vs tailoring

e.g. should demand and generation be treated equally, or are different approaches needed?

# **Demand connections call for input**

Overview

# Demand connections call for input

## Problem Statement

The demand connections process is currently facing three interrelated challenges:

1. The demand queue is large and growing and contains a significant number of projects that are likely non-viable
2. The demand queue contains a significant number of well-progressed projects that cannot progress to connection quickly enough, due to the time required for network or generation build, and the presence of non-viable projects
3. There are no mechanisms to prioritise strategically important demand projects

## Objective

To reform the demand connections process so that viable projects can secure timely connections and strategic projects can be prioritised, delivering benefits for consumers and supporting economic growth while maintaining system security and operational integrity.

## Scope of work

### Curate

Introducing new or strengthened queue entry and membership criteria where needed to ensure viable projects progress to connection.

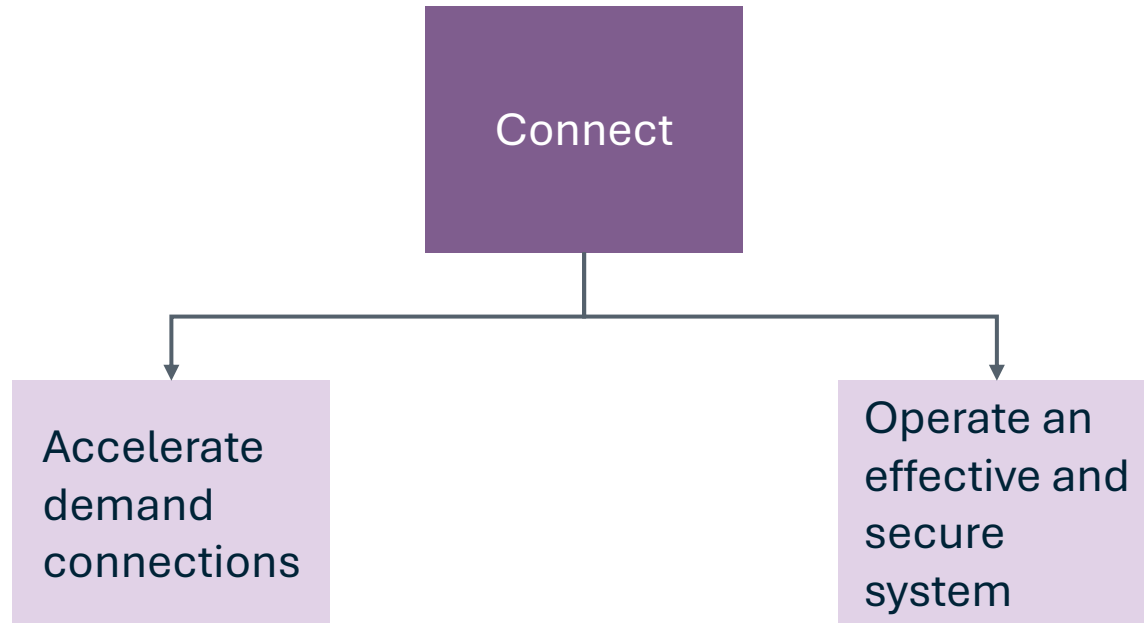
### Plan

Supporting government's prioritisation of strategic projects and development of a strategic plan for data centres.

### Connect

Developing new approaches and connection arrangements to accelerate and increase the number of connections and maintain a secure system.

# Demand connections call for input



## We invited feedback on:

- whether the measures we are considering under the Connect pillar are appropriate and respond to stakeholders' priorities and concerns, and
- the practical blockers to greater adoption of flexible, non-firm, and ramped connection agreements.

# | Operate

# Operate

- Demand Connection Reform aims to maintain secure, reliable and efficient system
- Update tech codes to ensure consistent grid design, build, operation and safety standards
- Ensure clear routes for alternative connection agreements, e.g. ramped and non-firm
- Identify opportunities for large demand to contribute to real time flexibility to support system stability, which may be a condition of connection
- Next step: Identify and define levers to support long- and short-term requirements for operation of large-scale demand centres on the grid in line with the reform aims

## Questions for discussion

1. What are the practical blockers to greater adoption of flexible, non-firm, and ramped connection agreements?
2. Are there any other jurisdictions where this is working well? What lessons can we learn from other countries?

# Accelerate

# Electricity Act 1989

In the Demand Connections Call For Input, we reiterated the guidance we set out in November, namely that in principle demand projects are not prohibited from connecting at high voltages (those over 132 kV in Scotland; 275 kV and 400 kV in England and Wales) based on existing provisions in the Electricity Act 1989.

## Questions for networks and developers on the group:

1. What do you think the blockers to demand projects connecting at high voltages are?
2. What further clarity is required beyond 6 November and 13 February statements?
3. Noting the existing G2tWQ process: what interaction does this have with offers process? If further clarity is still necessary when is necessary?
4. How many projects would this impact?
5. What legal advice have parties sought on this issue, including on what constitutes 'wholly or mainly' a transmission system? Are you willing to share this?

# Self build / ownership

- The Connect pillar of work aims to accelerate and increase the number of physical grid connections for demand projects and operate an effective and secure system that includes increasingly large demand loads.
- We know that a variety of demand connection projects are looking to connect, and we appreciate there might not be a “one size fits all” solution to achieve this outcome.
- Therefore, we are starting to develop projects archetypes to help us consider which solution might be appropriate for which type of project, taking into account the outcomes we want to achieve and the trade-offs.

## Initial thinking on the outcomes and trade-offs we are managing:

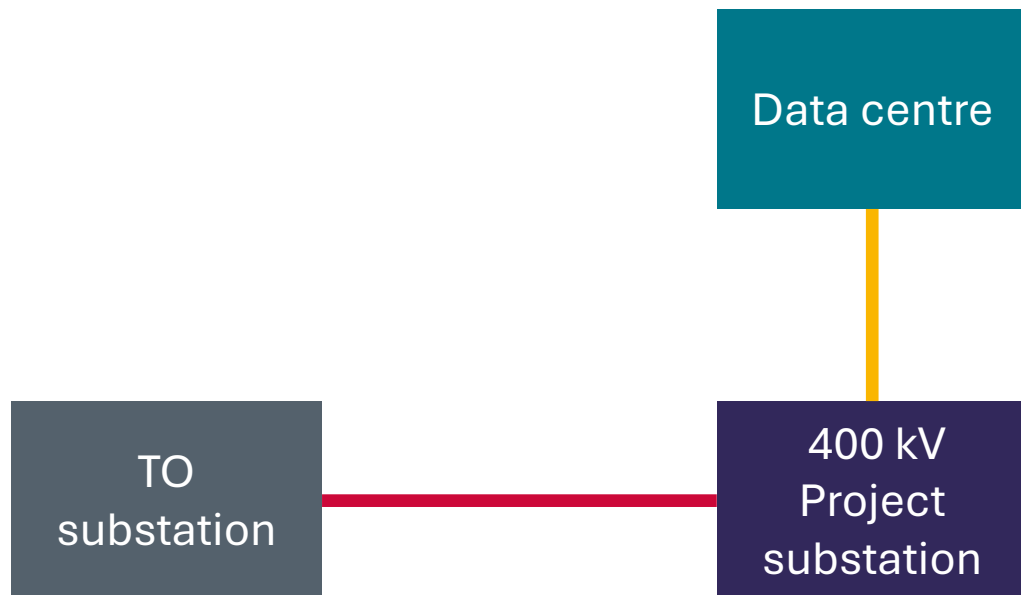
### Outcomes

- Accelerating and expanding connections
- Economic and efficient network
- Increasing competition
- Quick to implement
- Addresses operability risks

### Trade Off's

- Connection speed <> whole system efficiency
- Standardisation <> bespoke solutions
- Same approach for generation and demand <> tailoring

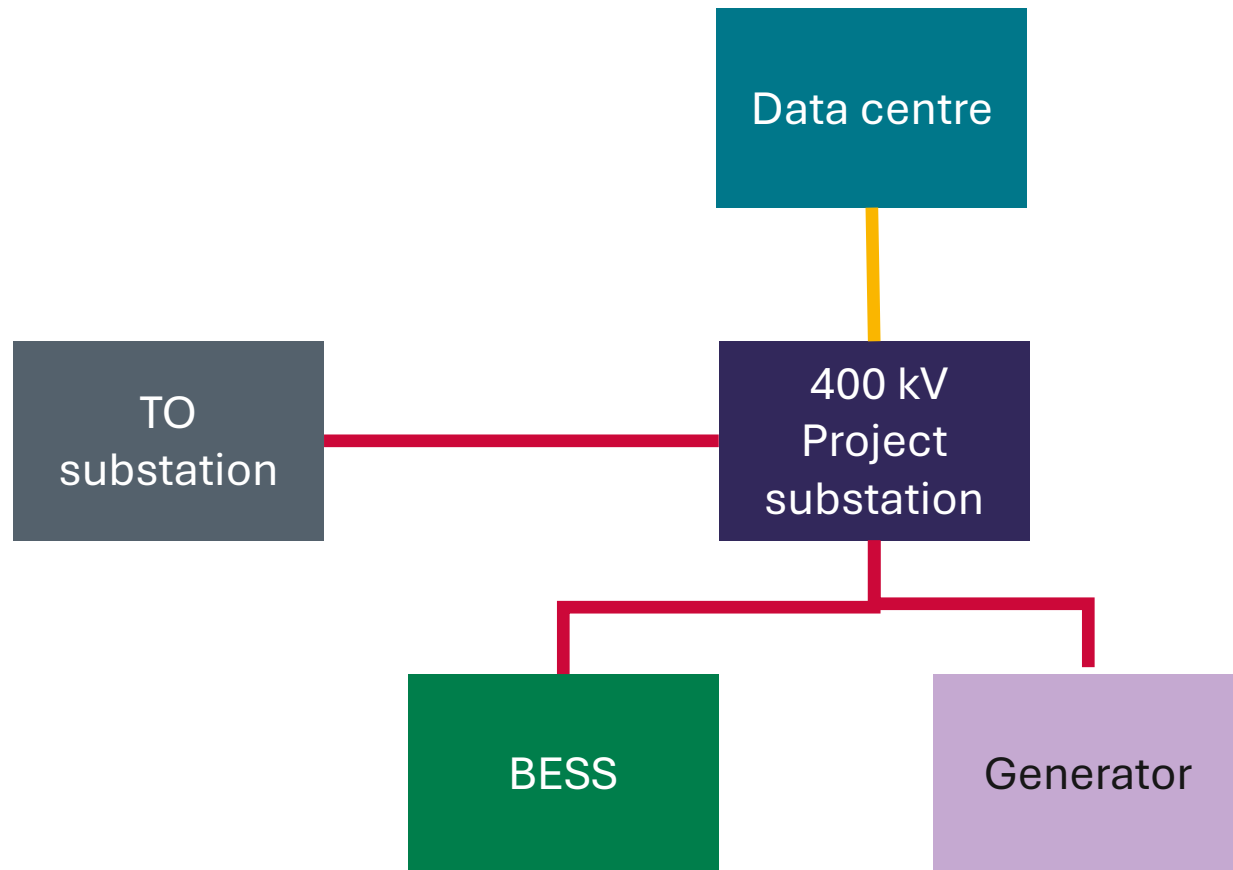
# Project archetype one



— high voltage line  
— low voltage line

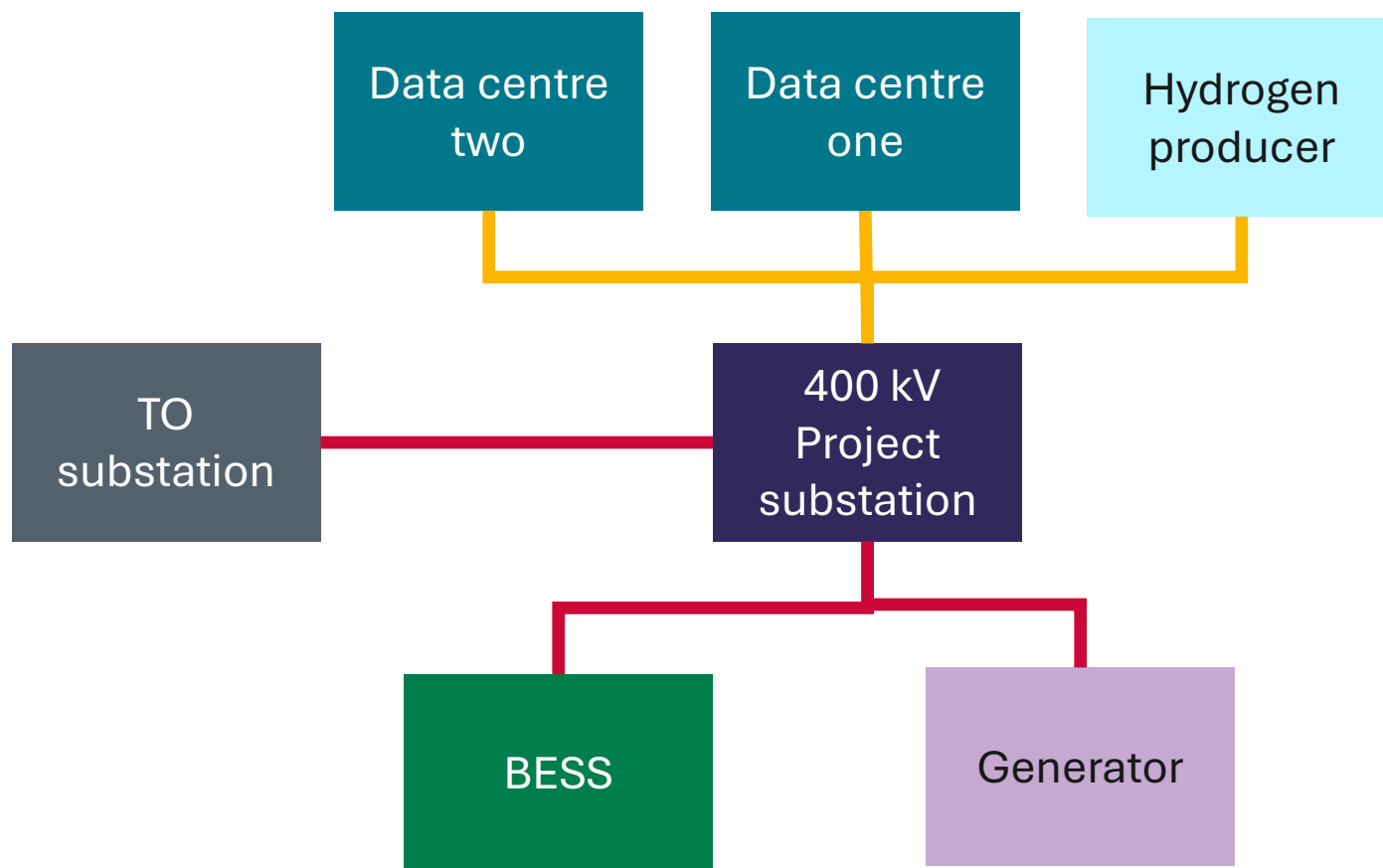
1. Which option(s) do you think might be suitable for this project type?
  - a) Licence – case by case or iTO
  - b) Licence exemption – case by case or class exemption
  - c) Self-build and transfer to the Transmission Owner (TO)
  - d) Other?

# Project archetype two



1. Which option(s) do you think might be suitable for this project type?
  - a) Licence – case by case or iTO
  - b) Licence exemption – case by case or class exemption
  - c) Self-build and transfer to the Transmission Owner (TO)
  - d) Other?

# Project archetype three



1. Which option(s) do you think might be suitable for this project type?

- a) Licence – case by case or iTO
- b) Licence exemption – case by case or class exemption
- c) Self-build and transfer to the Transmission Owner (TO)
- d) Other?

# Self-build/ownership

## Questions for discussion

1. Do these archetypes cover the type of projects you are looking to connect?
2. Within the archetypes there are different ownership options. What are the key factors which will drive the ownership decisions?
3. Are you seeing an even split of projects between the different archetypes or are most projects falling within one archetype?
4. What are your initial thoughts about how each option compares to trade offs and outcomes?

# Class exemption

Catherine Cleary, Roadnight Taylor

# **Class exemption proposal**

The slides for this agenda item have been circulated separately.

# Actions and next steps

# Next steps

1. Refine archetypes based on the groups feedback
2. Initial analysis of what option might be suitable for each archetype
3. Progress work to enable greater network self-build
4. Identify and define levers to support long- and short-term requirements for operation of large-scale demand centres on the grid



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# Curate Advisory Group Meeting

03/03/2026

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# Agenda

Agenda No.	Item	Lead	Purpose	Timing
01	<b>Welcome</b> from Chair	Ofgem	Welcome	11:30 – 11:40 (10 mins)
02	<b>Problem Statement, reform objectives, Ofgem CFI</b>	Ofgem	For Information and discussion	11:40 – 12:00 (20 mins)
03	<b>Curate Advisory Group (CurAG) Terms of Reference</b>	Ofgem	For Information and Discussion	12:00 – 12:20 (20 mins)
04	<b>Increased Gate 2 readiness and/or User Progression Milestones</b>	NESO	For Discussion	12:20 – 12:50 (30 mins)
05	<b>Next steps and up coming meetings</b>	Ofgem	For Information	12:50 – 12:55 (5 mins)
06	<b>Actions taken and AOB</b>	All, Ofgem	For Discussion and Close	12:55 – 13:00 (5 mins)

# Problem statement and Reform Objectives

## Problem statement

- A surge in demand connection application between November 2024 and June 2026, driven largely by data centres, has created an oversized connection queue and sets significant pressure on the system.
- Ofgem, NESO and DESNZ are committed to delivering demand connections reform around three pillars: **Curate, Plan and Connect**.
- Our 'Curate' measures focus on strengthening project commitments and tackling speculation in the demand queue.
- Government-led 'Plan' measures aim to align demand projects with strategic plans and to prioritise strategic demand.
- The 'Connect' work targets acceleration of connection dates through a range of regulatory approaches and connection agreements.
- It is designed across desired outcomes: protect consumers, investment and growth, system integrity, security, durability of solutions.
- Goals: faster connections, certainty and predictability

Today's  
Discussion  
will focus on  
'Curate'



### 1. Curate

Introducing enhanced or differentiated queue entry criteria and membership requirements where needed to ensure only the most viable projects can progress to connection.



### 2. Plan

Supporting government's prioritisation of strategic demand projects, including supporting a government strategic plan for data centres.



### 3. Connect

Developing new regulatory approaches and connection arrangements underpinned by technical system requirements to accelerate delivery.

# Curate Demand Connections Scope

Demand connections reform is joint work between **Ofgem, NESO, and government**.  
Under Curate the focus for Phase 1 is data centres and then streamline the rest of that queue if needed.

## Objectives and Scope

- Work programme divided into two phases
- Focus on transmission and distribution projects
- Consider solutions that apply to existing agreements and new connections applications

### Phase 1

In Phase 1 we intend to develop and implement:

1. a data-centre specific financial mechanism at transmission and distribution,
2. update the securities regime for demand at transmission,
3. develop strengthened readiness requirements for data centres

### Phase 2

In Phase 2 we will assess evidence, data, and the case for developing a financial mechanism, such as a Progression Commitment Fee, and strengthened readiness requirements for other demand types. Our approach to Phase 2 will be set out later in 2026, and we will seek stakeholder input before progressing.

## Ambition

Our aim is to reform the demand connections process so that viable projects can secure timely connections bringing benefits for consumers and supporting economic growth while maintaining system security.

Work under the Curate pillar aims to strengthen queue entry and membership requirements to ensure the queue consists of viable projects capable of progressing to connection.

## Questions:

1. Do you agree with the problem statement?
2. Is there anything we did not consider in our CFI regarding the “Curate” Pillar?
3. Do these objectives match expectations? Are other reforms needed to unlock further benefits?

# ToR for Curate Advisory Group –

## For discussion and review

Any Questions?

*The aim of this group is to support the development of the regulatory changes under the Curate pillar through advice, and to test and refine potential solutions*

### Attendees

**Chair:** Ofgem

**Secretariat:** NESO

**Attendance:**

- Ofgem: Liam King, Salvo Zingale, Calum Shields, Keren Mascher
- NESO: James Whiteford, Ash Adams, Adeola Onabanjo, Folashadé Popoola, Neil Copeland
- DESNZ: Ian Thel, Scarlett Vincent, Paul Hawker
- ENA: David Boyer, Avi Aithal
- SCG embedded demand subgroup: Brian Hoy, Neil Madgwick
- Industry bodies: Katie Davies, Jade van Zuydam, Venessa Moffat, Steve Hone, David Wildash, Anna Solar-Bassett, Pam MacDougall, Pete Aston, Barnaby Wharton, Joe Colebrook, Frank Hodgson

**We will evolve the membership as required**

### Authority

The CurAG is an advisory group so will not be decision making. **Decision making is reserved to respective organisations aligned via the Strategic Demand Connections Delivery Board.**

### Roles & Responsibilities

- **Ofgem** – set policy and regulatory intent
- **NESO** – advise on the design and implementation of technical solutions
- **Network companies** – test solutions and provide feedback
- **Industry bodies** – test solutions and provide feedback

### Meetings

Meetings will be held online monthly from w/c 3 March. Agenda will be circulated in advance; minutes will be circulated.

### Deliverables to emerge from Curate work

#### Phase 1:

- Ofgem Call for Input
- Financial mechanism and increased readiness proposals for data centres
- Options analysis and impact assessment
- Consultation on final proposals
- Ofgem Final decision
- **Phase 2:** [TBC]

### Standing Agenda

- Update on project group progress
- Discuss project group proposals / solutions and provide advice
- Actions / AOB

# Readiness and progression

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# Status Quo: Gate 2 Requirements & Project Progression Milestones

Gate 2 Readiness Requirements sit in Gate 2 Requirements Methodology:

**LAND** - Meet Minimum acreage requirements (or Offshore equivalent as set out in Section 4.4); and • Provision of Original Red Line Boundary for site on which project is located; and • Secured Land Rights

Or

**PLANNING** - Submission of (and validation of) application for planning consent for projects following the Development Consent Order (DCO) process • evidence of meeting Minimum acreage and provision of Original Red Line Boundary for site on which project is located Queue Management Milestone M2

Project Progression milestones are intended to ensure developers maintain progress on projects after a connection offer has been made.

Milestone	0–2 years (0–729 days)	2–3 years (730–1094 days)	3–4 years (1095–1459 days)	4–5 years (1460–1824 days)	5+ years (1825+ days)
<b>M1 – Initiated Statutory Consents &amp; Planning Permission</b>	Bilaterally Negotiated	18 months	24 months	36 months	48 months
<b>M2 – Secured Statutory Consents &amp; Planning Permission</b>	12 months	18 months	24 months	30 months	(no value)
<b>M3 – Secured Land Rights</b>	21 months	27 months	39 months	51 months	(no value)
<b>M5 – Contestable Design Works Submission</b>	12 months	15 months	18 months	21 months	(no value)
<b>M6 – Agree Construction Plan</b>	9 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	(no value)
<b>M7 – Project Commitment</b>	6 months	9 months	12 months	15 months	(no value)
<b>M8 – Initiate Construction</b>	3 months	6 months	12 months	15 months	(no value)

# Ofgem Policy Statement

Ofgem's objectives for this work are:

- **Ensure viable demand projects can progress to connection in a timely manner**, so the connections process enables (rather than inhibits) economic growth and decarbonisation.
- **Reform the demand connections queue so it is composed of viable projects**, reducing the presence of non-viable projects that block capacity, distort network planning signals, and delay others.
- **Enable strategically important demand projects to be prioritised for connection where necessary**, particularly projects identified by government as supporting economic growth, jobs, and national priorities (e.g. AI Growth Zones).
- **Maintain system security, resilience, and operational integrity** while connecting large volumes of new demand and accommodating increasingly large loads.
- **Support a coordinated, whole-system approach to demand connections reform**, working jointly with government, NESO, and network companies to align demand, generation, and network build.

Following **NESO's** work on connections reform our view is that any additional readiness requirements need to be:

- Clear,
- unambiguous, and
- objectively measurable.

# Data Centres & Anchor customer

**Data Centre in** The Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill

**Definition:** Data centres are classified as facilities housing IT equipment for storing, connecting, and processing data, including supporting infrastructure like electricity, HVAC, and security.

**Designation:** Data centres are designated as Critical National Infrastructure (CNI).

**Regulatory Scope:** Covers operators with  $\geq 1$  MW (third-party) or  $\geq 10$  MW (enterprise).

**Planning Changes:** As of 8 January 2026, major data centres are brought under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) regime.

- What do we mean by Anchor Customer?
  - An entity who has contracted with the developer to make use of a large proportion of a Data Centre's capacity (this might be the developer).
- Concerned that it may not be clear, unambiguous and objectively measurable if not binding.
- Do you have any views?
- Do you recognise this concept?
- Ask if this is a clear milestones for most DCs?
- Does this work for all types of data centre which meet the definition to the right?
- Ask if this is something which is clear, unambiguous, and objectively measurable?

# Forward v Backward Calculated milestones for Data Centres

- Milestones are standard for all technologies and are backward calculated from date of connection.
- This means it can take a long time for milestones to remove projects from the queue.
- In addition to thinking about additional milestones, is it possible to establish a best practice forward calculated set out of milestones for data centres that would bite earlier?

Milestone	0-2 years (0-729 days)	2-3 years (730-1094 days)	3-4 years (1095-1459 days)	4-5 years (1460-1824 days)	5+ years (1825+ days)
<b>M1 – Initiated Statutory Consents &amp; Planning Permission</b>	Bilaterally Negotiated	18 months	24 months	36 months	48 months
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# Next steps



# Next steps and future meetings

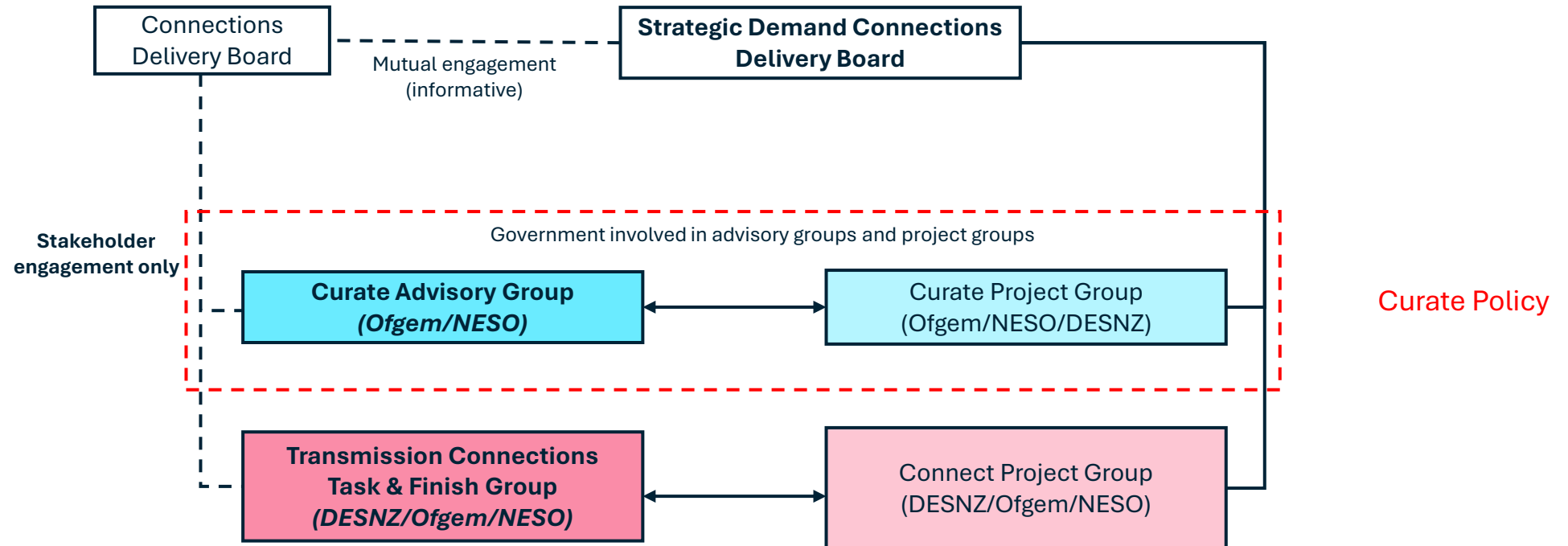
## Dates of future meetings

- 17 March 2026, time: 15:00-17:00.
- 14 April 2026, time: 15:00-17:00.
- 12 May 2026, time: 15:00-17:00.

## Planned Publications

- We aim to consultation in Spring/Summer covering financial measure and increased readiness requirements

# Governance: Interaction with CDB and SDCDB



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# Curate Advisory Group Meeting

17/03/2026

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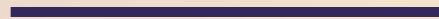
# Agenda

Agenda No.	Item	Lead	Purpose	Timing
01	<b>Welcome</b> from Chair	Ofgem	Welcome	15:00 – 15:05 (5 mins)
02	<b>Review of Actions</b>	NESO	For Information and discussion	15:05 – 15:10 (5 mins)
04	<b>DC Definition</b>	Ofgem	For Information and discussion	15:10 – 15:40 (30mins)
05	<b>Financial Mechanism Options</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives to support recommended options</li> <li>• Overview of options considered</li> <li>• FM design policy questions</li> </ul>	NESO Ofgem	For Information and discussion	15:40 – 16:25 (45 mins)
06	<b>AOB</b>	All, Ofgem	For Discussion and Close	16:25 – 16:30 (5 mins)

# Actions

No	Next Step	Assigned to	Due / Closed Date	Updates
159	Share the UKPN large demand report, which aggregates data at GSP level, with the group for reference in improving demand queue visibility.	Pete Aston	31/03/2026	
160	Share the publicly available Tech UK report with the group and circulate a link alongside the meeting slides.	Salvo	31/03/2026	Complete. Link in Appendix
161	Provide examples of what constitutes objective, clear, and measurable evidence of anchor customer agreements in data centre projects.	Industry members	31/03/2026	
162	Assess and provide feedback on the potential impact(s) of the planning consent requirements (e.g., outline vs. full planning) being changed for queue entry or progression - including retrospective and prospective effects. (David Wildash)	David Wildash	31/03/2026	
163	Develop and propose a clear definition of "data centres" for the purposes of readiness and queue management requirements.	Salvo	10/03/2026	Salvo coordinating

# Data centre definition



# DSIT Data centre definition

**Please note:** this definition has been included in response to an action taken in the last CurAG meeting

DSIT is working to define a data centre in law. The [Cyber Security and Resilience \(Network and Information Systems\) Bill](#) contains a definition, and is working its way through parliament.

DSIT colleagues noted that this definition of a data centre does not have a threshold capacity, but that to be considered an essential service there are minimum thresholds that a data centre service has to clear. 1 MW for non-enterprise and 10 MW for enterprise.

## Definition

- (2) For the essential service of the provision of a data centre service in the United Kingdom, **otherwise than on an enterprise basis**, the threshold requirement is that the rated IT load of the data centre is equal to or greater than **1 megawatt**.
- (3) For the essential service of the provision of a data centre service in the United Kingdom **on an enterprise basis**, the threshold requirement is that the rated IT load of the data centre is equal to or greater than **10 megawatts**.
- (4) "Data centre service" means a service consisting of the provision of a physical structure (a "data centre") which—
- (a) contains an area for the housing, connection and operation of relevant IT equipment, and
  - (b) provides supporting infrastructure for or in connection with the 25 operation of relevant IT equipment.

# NESO classification of Data Centres

- NESO is exploring the use of MW capacity-based buckets to group data centre projects for analysis purposes
- The capacity buckets are shown below (currently under review)

Data Centre Classification	
Data Centre - Small	0 - 10MW
Data Centre - Medium	11-50M
Data Centre - Large	51-100MW
Data Centre - Extra Large	101-499MW
Data Centre - Hyper	500+MW

# Initial Questions about DSIT definition

DSIT definition may present some limitations, particularly if applied to a Financial Mechanism:

- **Scope:**
  - Would the definition capture any projects not intended to be in scope? Eg if a business had IT equipment that had a load of > 1MW, could it inadvertently be in scope?
  - Would the definition need to capture specific data centres attributes (eg cloud computing, storage resources for shared applications and services, etc.)? What should be a comprehensive list?
- **Load threshold:** the definition used the rated IT load whereas network companies are interested in the total load. Can the IT load be differentiated?
- **Classification:** how would a network company know if a project met the criteria? Would this have to be self declared by the customer?

# Financial Mechanism Options

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# FM Objectives

We propose the FM should be assessed against the following objectives:

- Deter non-viable projects from joining the queue
- Encourages proactive self-termination from non-viable projects
- Drive timely project Progression
- The simplicity of implementation and ongoing administration

Do you agree with the objectives stated?

Are there other objectives that should be considered?

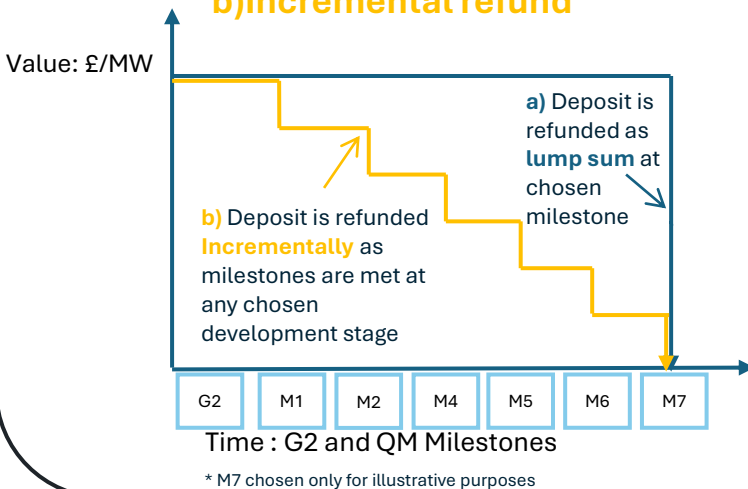
# Financial Mechanism Options (Data Centres only)

Primary objectives considered for each option are: i) **Discourage non-viable projects in the queue**, ii) **Encourage pro-active self-termination**, iii) **Encourage timely progression**, iv) **simplicity of implementation and administration**.

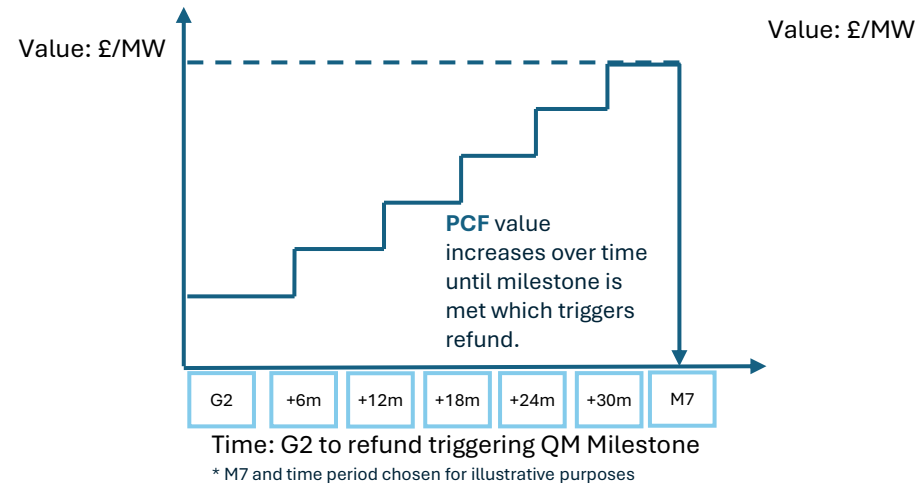
## Option 1: Refundable Deposit

### a) Lump sum refund

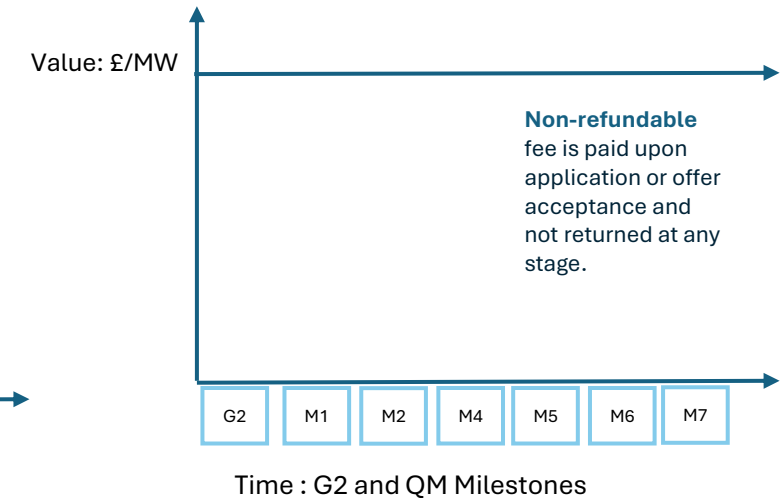
### b) Incremental refund



## Option 2: Demand PCF



## Option 3: Non-Refundable Fee



### 1 - Refundable Deposit:

- A refundable deposit required to be paid by new and existing projects from the point of application or offer acceptance.
- Could be refunded wholly at specific development milestone (1A) or incrementally (1B)
- Addresses issue of **Non-viable projects joining the queue** by raising initial bar to entry.
- Should provide a limited (one time) incentive for **proactive self-termination**.
- 1A should provide some incentive for **timely progression**, 1B should provide strong incentive for **timely progression**
- 1A should be is easiest option to design and implement. 1B similar in complexity to option 2.

### 2 – Demand PCF:

- A fee required to be secured by new and existing projects at point of offer acceptance, which would increase over time and becomes payable if a certain milestone is not met.
- Should Incentivise **Proactive Self-Termination** of unviable projects already in the queue and **Timely Progression** of viable projects.
- Smaller deterrent effect on **non-viable projects joining the queue** than options 1A and 1B.
- Should be more complex to develop and implement than options 1A and 3, but processes already exist for generation which could be amended.

### 3- Non-Refundable Fee:

- An upfront fee would be required to be paid by new projects at point of application or offer acceptance. Fee would not be refundable and should be paid to secure capacity on the queue.
- Primarily would reduce **Non-viable projects joining the queue** by raising initial bar to entry.
- Should not necessarily encourage **Timely Progression** as there would be no refund to be issued.
- Should be the easiest option to design and implement.
- Could be considered a charge for network access and if so, would need to be cost-reflective.
- May have a larger impact on data centres that are less well funded.

# Indicative assessment of FM options against Objectives

We are developing an analytical framework to assess FM options. Below are provided some **initial considerations** to present for feedback. These considerations are subject to change and do not consider responses to Ofgem CFI

Any views on these considerations?

Option	Discourages non-viable projects joining the queue	Encourages proactive self-termination (S-T)	Encourages timely progression	Implementation and Administration
<b>1A Refundable Deposit (lump sum)</b>	High up-front sum at early stage of development, non-viable applicants could risk losing deposit as refunds would be conditional on achieving a specific milestone.	Should encourage S-T at single point in time when deposit would be issued (if applied to existing queue.)	Should incentivise projects to reach specific milestone but no incremental incentive to progress quickly.	Design and implementation would likely be challenging but achievable for window 1. Ongoing administration could be relatively simple.
<b>1B Refundable Deposit (incremental)</b>	High up-front sum at early stage of development, but non-viable applicants could have opportunity to obtain partial refunds sooner than 1A	Should encourages S-T at single point in time when deposit would be issued (if applied to existing queue.) Lower incentive than 1A as value would reduce over time	Should incentive progression as fast as possible to the next milestone to receive next refund.	Design and implementation would likely be difficult for window 1. Ongoing administration should be much more onerous than other options.
<b>2 Data Centre PCF</b>	Non-viable applicants would be required to secure smaller sums at early stages of development that should increase over time.	Should encourage regular review of project viability and S-T of unviable projects.	Should incentivise projects to reach specific milestone but no incremental incentive to progress quickly.	Design and implementation would likely be difficult for window 1. Ongoing administration should be more complex than 1A and 3 but slightly simpler than 1B.
<b>3 Upfront fee (non-refundable)</b>	High up- front sum at early stage of development, non-viable applicants would not pay without confidence of ultimately connecting.	Should encourage S-T at single point in time when fee would be issued. (if applied to existing queue.)	Should provide no incentive for timely progression.	Design and implementation would likely be challenging but achievable for window 1. Ongoing administration should be relatively simple. This option may present some complexities around legality and cost-reflectivity

# FM Design Policy Questions (1)

There could be an opportunity to consider a lower threshold, only over which the FM should apply.

- Do you agree that a lower threshold could be appropriate?
- If not, why?
- If so, what should this lower threshold be (e.g. 1MW, 5MW)?
- Should this threshold consider IT capacity or total capacity?

# FM Design Policy Questions (2)

We are considering the possibility to provide exemptions from the FM for mature projects (including near to completion).

- Do you agree that an exemption for mature projects could be appropriate?
- If not, why?
- If so, how should this exemption apply?
  - Time based exemption e.g. less than x months before connection date.
  - Milestone based exemption e.g. projects that have passed MX are exempt
- At what point should the exemption apply?

# FM Design Policy Questions (3)

We would like feedback on the potential scope of application of the FM.

- At which point should the FM be applicable from?
  - Point of offer acceptance (including of a variation, if applicable to existing agreements)
  - Point of application
  - Other
- For refundable options, when the full refund should be made?
  - Energisation
  - Late stage development milestone e.g. M7 (Final Investment Decision) or M8 (commencement of construction)

# Tech UK Report: Powering Digital Infrastructure

[Web link- Report: Powering Digital Infrastructure](#)