

Updated Queue Entry Requirements

For Demand Connection Applications 5MVA and above

21st May 2026



Housekeeping

Please keep yourselves muted.



Please keep your videos switched off.



Please type any questions you may have into the Q&A



This webinar is being recorded



The full slide deck will be published online after the webinar.



Agenda

Slides	Topic	Name
Slides 1 - 3	Welcome & Housekeeping	Marcus Marshall – ENA
Slide 4	Background of changes	Ollie Easterbrook – NGED
Slides 5 & 6	What's changing and why?	Drew Johnstone – Northern Powergrid
Slides 7 & 8	Letter of Authority & Heads of Terms requirements	Jamie McDougall – SP Energy Networks
Slides 9 & 10	Single Line Diagram & Project Timeline	Tracey Taylor – SP ENW
Slides 11 & 12	What this means for you & next steps	Pankaj Yadav – Northern Powergrid
Slide 13	Q&A Session	All

Background

Demand connection applications of 5MVA and above have increased significantly across the UK. In response, Ofgem issued a letter on 6 November 2025 outlining its expectation that DNOs strengthen the information required at the point of application to ensure that projects entering the connection queue are sufficiently developed and demonstrably viable.

Under the governance of the ENA Strategic Connections Group (SCG), DNOs and Transmission Operators (TOs) have worked together to strengthen and clarify queue entry requirements for larger demand connections.

These updates complement earlier reforms introduced for generation projects in January 2025 and are aligned with the Connections Action Plan (CAP), the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (CP30) and Ofgem's Demand Connections Reform Call for Input.

The purpose of this webinar is to inform customers of the new minimum information required for demand connections of 5MVA or above and provide additional guidance on the new requirements introduced through Ofgem's updates to the Electricity Distribution Regulatory Instructions and Guidance (RIGs) published on 16 April 2026.

This approach helps ensure that only credible and well-progressed projects secure positions in the queue and in turn reduces speculative or underdeveloped applications, which can otherwise occupy capacity and delay more viable schemes and provides alignment with existing entry requirements for generators.

What's Changing and Why?

In November 2025, Ofgem asked Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) to strengthen the way they assess new connection applications.

Following this, DNOs jointly reviewed existing processes to introduce additional and consistent **minimum information requirements** at the application stage for larger demand projects to align with previously enhanced generation minimum information requirements and in addition, proposed changes to the Regulatory Instructions Guidance (RIGs) –Annex G **via the annual consultation process (signposted in previous ENA newsletters and individual DNO communications).**

What is Minimum Information?

Minimum information is information provided by a customer that is required by the DNO for it to produce a quotation. A DNO will only be able to start producing a quotation on receipt of the minimum information.

What is the scope of these changes?

From the **1st June 2026**, all new demand connections applications with a maximum **total capacity of 5MVA or above**, and; existing connections **increasing their maximum total capacity to 5MVA or above**.

These changes apply to all type of applications i.e. full works and non-contestable works only including IDNO connections **(does not apply to budget estimates or feasibility studies)**

Minimum Information Requirements

Demand connection applications of 5MVA and above must provide, in addition to the standard minimum information requirements, the following additional minimum information;

- A **Letter of Authority (LoA)** where the applicant is acting as an agent of the Customer.
- Where the applicant is not the existing owner/leaseholder of the site, an appropriately signed agreement of **Heads of Terms (HoT)** for the land indicated on the site plan (red line boundary).
- A **Single line diagram** of any existing and/or proposed electrical plant (for Demand Applications this is only required where there is customer owned equipment likely to cause disturbance).
- A **preliminary project timeline**, demonstrating that the requested connection date is credible

Where minimum information is not provided, the DNO will not be able to progress the application or issue a quotation.

Letter of Authority (LoA)

A LoA is required whenever the **Applicant is acting on behalf of another party**. It confirms what actions the **Applicant is authorised to carry out** in relation to the connection, and **identifies any other parties involved**.

The table below describes the circumstances in which a LoA is required*:

Applicant	Letter of Authority Required?
Is the Customer and the Landowner/Leaseholder	No LoA required
Is the Customer but not the Landowner/Leaseholder	Yes - between Applicant (Customer) and Landowner/Leaseholder
Is the Landowner/Leaseholder but not the Customer	Yes - between Applicant and Customer
Is not the Customer or Landowner/Leaseholder	Yes – between Applicant and Customer Yes – between Applicant and Landowner/Leaseholder

*Please note that specific documentation requirements may vary between DNOs, and Applicants should adhere to the minimum information standards required by the relevant DNO

The Letter of Authority must:

1. Identify both the Customer and Applicant, including legal names, addresses, company numbers (where applicable), and key contact details
2. Clearly specify the site(s) covered
3. Define the Applicant's authority to manage DNO connection applications and related communications
4. Be signed on the Customer's letterhead by an authorised signatory
5. Be dated within 12 months of the application*
6. Include clearly defined start and expiry dates*

Heads of Terms (HoT)

A Heads of Terms (HoT) document **sets out the key commercial and land arrangements agreed in principle** between the **landowner** and the **party seeking a connection** for a specific development site. A HoT is **required** where the applicant **does not own or lease the identified site** and must relate to the land indicated on the site plan (red-line boundary).

Key Points to Note:

- A HoT should outline basis of future purchase/lease agreement.
- Are a **preliminary and non-binding** agreement which do not constitute secured land rights.
- **Cannot** be used for queue management or milestone purposes.
- Are **site-specific** and must be provided for **each individual site and each landowner** where multiple parties hold interests in the land (unlike Letters of Authority).
- Applicant/Customer **solicitor must sign** HoT.

Applicant	Heads of Terms
Is applying on behalf of a Customer who is not currently the Landowner/Leaseholder.	Yes, between Customer and Landowner
Is the Customer but not currently the Landowner/Leaseholder.	Yes, between Applicant (Customer) and Landowner
Is applying on behalf of the existing Landowner/Leaseholder (who may be the Customer)	No, subject to evidence of the Landowner's land rights
Is the Landowner/Leaseholder	No, subject to evidence of the Landowner's land rights

Appendix 1. Heads of Terms Example.

Heads of Terms for Data Services Energy Connection Project

Date: 14 November 2025

Parties:

1. **Landowner:** John Smith
Contact details: john.smith@example.com, 01234 567890

2. **Applicant:** DSE Ltd.
Contact details: Jane Doe, jane.doe@anothereexample.com, 07876 543210

Key Terms:

1. **Framework for Negotiations:** The Landowner agrees to negotiate exclusively with Joe Bloggs Ltd. for a period of 6 months from the date of this agreement. The negotiations will cover the terms of the lease of the land, including price, duration, and any conditions precedent.
2. **Land Details:** The land in question is located at 123 Green Lane, Eco Town, UK, and covers an area of 50 acres. The land is identified by the red line boundary map attached to this document.
3. **Use of Land:** The land in question will be used to build a Data Centre.
4. **Duration:** the Leasehold will be for a period of 30 years.
5. **Conditions:** Subject to board approval, planning consent, and satisfactory due diligence.

Name	Role	Signature	Date
John Smith	Landowner		
Jane Doe	Applicant		

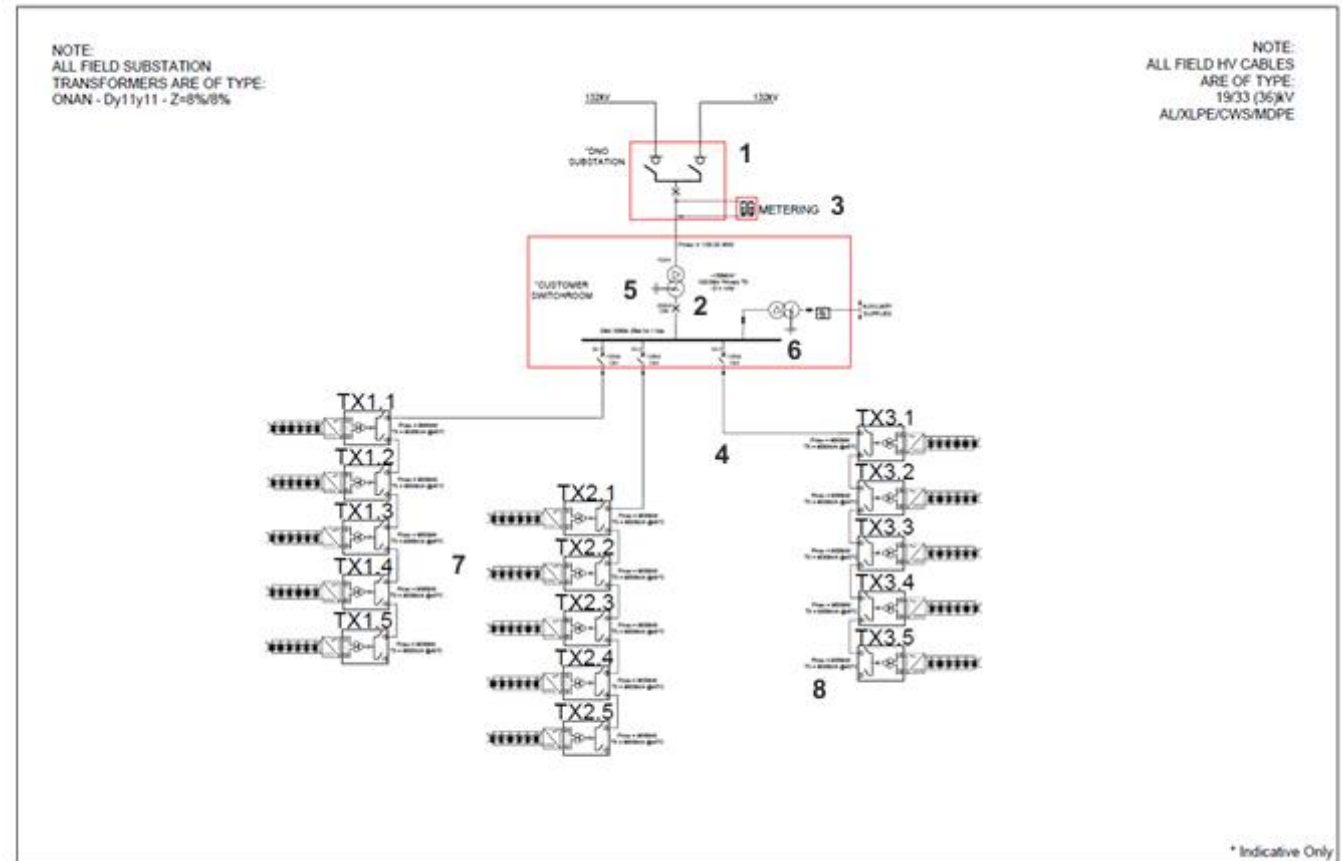
Single Line Diagram

A Single Line Diagram (SLD) is required where there is Customer owned equipment likely to cause disturbance to the electricity supply (e.g. air conditioning systems, lifts, welders etc)

In addition to the technical details, you must provide a clear, simplified SLD drawing that shows how the site's main electrical equipment connects and interfaces with the DNO network.

The SLD must include as a minimum:

- Clearly identify where the customer's electrical plant is intended to connect to the DNO's network (the Point of Supply).
- Show the main switchgear and how it links the Supply Point to the customer plant.
- Show any transformers that form part of the connection arrangement.



Preliminary Project Timeline

The preliminary project plan should demonstrate that the requested connection date is credible by providing clear and realistic interim dates / timescales that reflect:

- Type of planning process the Applicant expects to follow
- Any requirement for Environmental Impact Assessments
- Any requirement for third party land rights
- Assumptions on equipment lead times
- Anticipated offer acceptance date
- Expected planning consent submittal date / approval date
- The date by which the Applicant expects to provide full instruction to the DNO/ICP to proceed with detailed design and construction works
- The date the Applicant expects to place the order for the main plant
- The date the Applicant expects to start / complete site construction works
- The date the Applicant expects to commence commissioning works

Background Questions	Yes / No	Comments
Do you expect / anticipate the project to be subject to an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)?		
Do you expect / anticipate the project to have significant Third-Party Land Rights that will need to be secured beyond the site boundary?		
Are you planning to follow a Development Consent Order (DCO) based planning methodology		
Planned Dates	Date	Comments
Anticipated Acceptance Date *		
Planning Consent Submitted		
Planning Consent Secured		
Detailed Construction Programme Provided		
Financial Close (for full project)		
If different to Financial Close – Date at which Full Financial Release for DNO / ICP to proceed with Contestable Works		
Site Construction Commencement		
Main Construction Works Completed		
Commissioning Works Commenced		
Planned Energisation / Connection Date		
Planning Assumptions	Months	Comments
Assumption for Main Plant Lead Time (order to site delivery)		
Assumption for DNO Connection Works Lead Time (Financial Release to Energisation)		

What this means for you!

For customers, meeting these additional minimum information requirements at the application stage will help ensure smoother progression and reduce the risk of delays later in quotation process. Where minimum information is not provided, the DNO will not be able to progress the application.

When will the new requirements apply?

All eligible applications **submitted on or after 1st June 2026 must comply** with all minimum information requirements. These changes have been incorporated into Annex G of the Regulatory Instructions and Guidance (RIGs) published in April 2026 and will also be reflected in each DNOs respective Connections Charging Methodologies from the 1st June 2026.

Help and support with the changes!

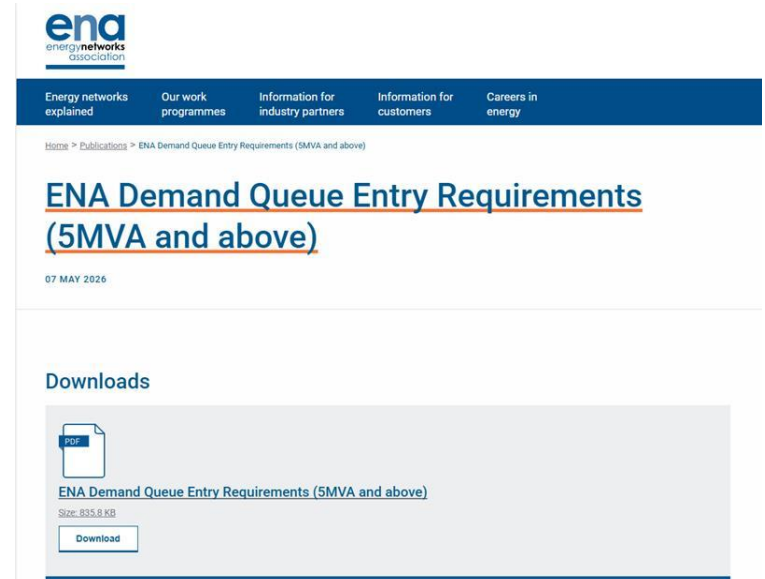
Customers are encouraged to engage with their DNO to understand the new requirements in more detail and help avoid delays in the connection's application process.

In addition, the ENA have published a guidance document to support these changes, which can be found **here:**

[https://www.energynetworks.org/publications/ena-demand-queue-entry-requirements-\(5mva-and-above\)](https://www.energynetworks.org/publications/ena-demand-queue-entry-requirements-(5mva-and-above))

Next Steps

- Read the ENA guidance document to fully understand what's changing and what minimum information is required before making an application for connection.
- Engage with your DNO if you require any additional support and guidance.
- Be prepared to provide **where required**;
 - Letter of Authority
 - Heads of Terms
 - Single line diagram
 - A preliminary project timeline.
- Updates to Standard Licence Condition (SLC)15 by Ofgem to improve licence clarity.
- DNOs are now preparing for go live and updating relevant application forms and supporting documentation.



Q&A Session

