

Ofgem Connections Delivery Board

December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 10 December 2024 – 13:00 – 15:00

MS Teams Meeting

Attendees

Role Category	Representative	Organisation
Chair	Jack Presley Abbott	Ofgem
Technical Secretariat	David Boyer	Energy Networks Association
	Kyle Smith	Energy Networks Association
	Natasha Sardinha	Energy Networks Association
National Energy System Operator (NESO)	James Norman	National Energy System Operator
	Robyn Jenkins	National Energy System Operator
	Milly Lewis	National Energy System Operator
Distribution and Transmission Network Operators	Steffan Jones	Electricity North West
	Mark Adolphus	UK Power Networks
	Mark Askew	SSE Distribution
	John Twomey	National Grid
	Gareth Hislop	SP Energy Networks
	Christina Logan	SSE
	Cuan Rowlands	National Grid Electricity Distribution
	Sarah Kenny-Levick	National Grid Electricity Distribution
UK Government	Paul Hawker	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
	Ian Thel	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
	Thomas Hughes	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
	Paul Van Heyningen	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
	Daniel Boorman	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
CPAG Chair	Merlin Hyman	Independent Chair of Connections Process Advisory Group (CPAG)
Connections Customer Representatives	Charles Wood	Energy UK
	Chris Hewett	Solar Energy UK
	Barnaby Wharton	Renewable UK
	Eddie Proffitt	Major Energy Users Council
National Governments	Pamela McBride	Scottish Government
	Jasmine Killen	Scottish Government
Energy Regulator	Meadhbh Taylor	Ofgem
	Neal McLaughlin	Ofgem
	Kingsley Emeana	Ofgem
	Ellie Ritchie	Ofgem
	James Macauley	Ofgem
	Shabana Akhtar	Ofgem
	Klaudia Starzyk	Ofgem
	Salvatore Zingale	Ofgem
	Lee Wilkinson	Ofgem
	Jon-Paul Bignold	Ofgem
	Rory Fulton	Ofgem
	Liam Cullen	Ofgem

Apologies

Organisation
BayWa r.e. UK
Citizens Advice
HM Treasury

Key Summary

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and update from Chair

- There was a 7GW (Gigawatts) increase in the contracted queue last month. It now stands at 739GW and 460 MW connected in October with the queue still dominated by renewables and storage.

Agenda Item 2 - CAP Action Area Summary Update and POAP

- CAP 3.1 – Raise Entry Requirements: ENA reported this CAP action as on track as there were a number of customer forums and webinars held that were including an open consultation that ran through October and inputs collected from the markets.
- CAP 3.2 – Removing Stalled Projects:
CAP 3.2.1 – CMP376 - Ofgem requested the addition of a new core metric to the core metric update column which was to display the number of projects which have missed a milestone and are in the project remedy period to track the levels of people in the danger zone and have got 60 days to rectify.
- CAP 3.3 – Better Utilise Existing Network:
CAP 3.3.1 : Outstanding action between Ofgem and NGET about the implications of this status.
- CAP 3.5 – Improve Data & Processes:
CAP 3.5.3 – CPAG Chair queried about technical limits being enduring, what can help projects get on and build technical limits and what work is going on to continue to develop that in the next stage. The SCG lead responded that approach, the technology that's been developed across the country has got enduring benefits. What we need to understand is how that fits with a reformed queue and was of the view that one of the current issues is the sheer bandwidth to progress everything in parallel.
CAP 3.5.4 - ENA reported progress in reviewing the options/ pros and cons/opportunities for implementation across the SCG leads.
- CAP 3.6 – Longer Term Models – UK Government updated everyone that Clean Power Action Plan to be published by the end of the year as planned.

Actions:

- 3.2 Tec Sec to contact NESO for figures relating to CMP376 to add into tracking slides and to add a column for the core metric update.
- 3.2 ENA to provide Dx data to be included going forward.

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

Agenda Item 3 CAP 3.5.1 Digital View of Connections – Paper for Information

- NGED shared an update on 2024, that the DNOs are looking to deliver against the action CAP Action 3.5.1 on the single digital view of the connections pipeline.

Action – NGED took an action for all DNOs to discuss in January 2025 a process how to review/ensure all DNOs are doing best practice and at the same level keeping in mind they all have their platforms on individual websites.

Agenda Item 3 - Storage Modelling Assumptions – For Information NESO

- NESO informed they have been looking at how they model the behaviour of batteries for network planning purposes. They are looking at exactly how batteries behave and their roles in various markets and have a revised mathematical model that takes account of how different batteries behave.

Actions:

- NESO to take back to the team CPAG Chair ask if new model information is open source and can be published to version 2.0.
- NESO to take back to the team Ofgem request on if there is any sense of what the anticipated impact of the storage assumptions might be with regards to the prospective new process subject to Ofgem decision. For e.g. does NESO expect reinforcement levels for batteries to change? Does NESO have an anticipation on what the impact might be?

Agenda Item 4 – Consultation updates & Discussion – TM04+

- NESO has continued development of Clean Power 2030 advice which is now with DESNZ and in relation to connections and connections reform; they are reviewing responses that have just been received on the consultation on the connections methodologies for TMO4+.
- An update was provided on the NESO Methodologies Consultation, Code Administrator Consultation and the Financial Instruments Proposal.

Agenda Item 4 – Consultation updates & Discussion – End to End Review and Licence Policy Consultations

- Ofgem provided an update on the End to End Review and Licence Policy Consultations.

Action – Ofgem to consider delaying closing date by a month.

Agenda Item 5 – Review of Core KPIs and Development

- The outstanding actions from previous meetings was reviewed, no outstanding actions were marked red indicating no critical attention was required.

Action – Ofgem and NGET to discuss the implications of NGET’s TWR work showing that new CPA studies were not able to deliver material improvements and that limited additional capacity availability was found. NGET believes that they should not bring accelerated dates until reform reaches the decisions needed.

Agenda Item 6 – Outstanding actions from previous meeting

- The outstanding actions from previous meeting was reviewed, no outstanding actions were marked red indicating no critical attention was required.

Agenda Item 7 – AOB & CDB schedule

The date and time of the next CDB meeting was noted 30th January 2025 at 13.00.

ACTION - Joint Tx and Dx Data Book – ENA, NESO and Networks to look into databook for post TMO4+ queue and data.

1. Welcome & Update from Chair

JPA

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

A monthly context was provided, highlighting that last month the queue was increased to 739GW, denoting a 7GW increase. Pointing out that the CDB focus is not only reducing the queue but also getting projects connected as quickly as possible.

The agenda was discussed, with no objections.

2. CAP Action Area Summary Update and POAP

JPA, Board

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

Summary information included:

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

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

Connections Reform – “TMO4+”

2. CAP Action Area Summary Update and POAP

JPA, Board

- NESO flag that the RAG 2 status for CR3.1 and 3.2 are amber, due to the need to lock down financial instruments code mod and the paper later in the meeting will go into more detail but there is potential for them to turn to green even without a code financial instruments code mod.

CAP 3.1 – Raise Entry Requirements

- ENA report this CAP action as on track as there were a number of customer forums and webinars held that were including an open consultation that ran through October and inputs collected from the markets. A couple of very minor adjustments to the solution itself based on those comments. All DNOs on track for the implementation for 1st January 2025 and started awareness activities with their customers so their customers are aware that new applications after this date will need to arrive with those entry requirements and maturity demonstrated and submitted.
- CPAG chair inquires about the progress and would like to ensure the broad customer base that is connected to distribution is aware of this. ENA provide a high-level update that an open consultation was held in October where input was collected from the markets and since the last CDB there was a number of customer forums and webinars held. All DNOs are on track for implementation for 1st January 2025 and DNOS have started awareness activities with their customers so customers are aware that as of 1st January 2025. ENWL also informs that the campaign is planned through to post implementation as well with follow up webinars.

CAP 3.2 – Removing Stalled Projects

- CAP 3.2.1 – CMP376 - Ofgem request the addition of add a new core metric to the core metric update column which was to display the number of projects which have missed a milestone and are in the project remedy period to track the levels of projects in the danger zone and have got 60 days to rectify.
- Ofgem request for the next CDB if in the key insights where a milestone has been missed for it to be added as a metric to the core metric update of 3.2.1.
 - **Action** -Tec Sec to contact NESO for figures relating to CMP376 to add into tracking slides and to add a column for the core metric update.

CAP 3.3 – Better Utilise Existing Network

- CAP 3.3.1 : Amber status and outstanding action between Ofgem and NGET about the implications of this status.

CAP 3.4 - Better Allocate Available Network Capacity

- No comments or questions.

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

2. CAP Action Area Summary Update and POAP

JPA, Board

- CAP 3.5.3 – CPAG Chair queries about technical limits being enduring, what can help projects get on and build technical limits and what work is going on to continue to develop that in the next stage. The SCG lead responds that the technology that's been developed across the country has got enduring benefits. What we need to understand is how that fits with a reformed queue and one of the current issues is the sheer bandwidth to progress everything in parallel.
CAP 3.5.4 - ENA reported progress in reviewing the options/pros and cons/opportunities for implementation across the SCG leads. Next steps: ENA and Ofgem to review what that consideration will look like and what that might provide as inputs into Ofgem's policy view on this.

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

- DESNZ updates everyone that Clean Power Action Plan to be published by the end of the year as planned. Currently finalising cross government collective agreement on the plan and in relation to connections reform as previously set out and government reiterated in the Joint open letter published with Ofgem at the same time as NESO published its advice on CP2030; the action plan will set out the capacity ranges by technology, at the appropriate level of locational granularity. The final point was that DESNZ, Ofgem and NESO have heard stakeholder views in response to NESO's advice and the methodologies on potential issues around some of the methodologies including around not making sure that well advanced projects are not prevented from retaining their connection offers. They are not proposing going down to GSP level in action plan. Following the publication of the plan, there will be a conversation between networks and NESO on more granular level data. DESNZ want to ensure the right level of granularity necessary to avoid publication of perverse outcomes where you could see a distribution of a particular technology that really is not helpful for the system or completely misaligned with the way the network operates.

The plan on a page (POAP):

- No comments or questions.

New Actions

1	Tec Sec to contact NESO for figures relating to CMP376 to add into tracking slides and to add a column for the core metric update.	Jan CDB	Tec Sec
2	ENA to provide Dx data to be included going forward.	Jan CDB	ENA

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

NESO, SCG,
Board

CAP 3.5.1 – Digital View of Connections – For Information update SCG

- NGED shares an update on 2024, that the DNOs are looking to deliver against the action CAP Action 3.5.1 on the single digital view of the connections pipeline. Most networks delivered a digital view of their connections queue and two outstanding are on track to deliver by the end of this year.
- For next year with the significant changes going on with reform and Clean Power, networks drafted a short paper.
 - In the first half of next year, it has been agreed that each DNO will provide an updated Ofgem Databook template from February 2025 which will encompass a better breakdown of demand categories, tracking milestone progress, and getting a better understanding of what technology makeups are sat behind different hybrid sites. DNOs are on track to deliver that for February 2025 which will be January 2025 data for new applications going forward.
 - In relation to the single digital view of the queue; DNOs plan on carrying out stakeholder engagement in the first half of the year to feed into how to progress on the approach of a single digital view of connections ensuring they provide maximum value for stakeholders and customers; delivering what they want/need. Ensuring any improvements are aligned with the outputs of reform and Clean Power, and that they deliver something that works with the new connections process.

Ofgem welcomes the Databook for the connections in terms of the continued development and on the single digital view; the development of the different tools. They agreed it was right to wait for the interim review of the implementation of connections reform.

Action – NGED takes an action for all DNOs to discuss in January 2025 a process how to review/ensure all DNOs are doing best practice and at the same level keeping in mind they all have their platforms on individual websites.

Storage Modelling Assumptions – For Information NESO

- NESO provide an update that they have been looking at how they model the behaviour of batteries for network planning purposes. They are looking at exactly how batteries behave and their roles in various markets and have a revised network planning model that takes this analysis into account. Key headlines from that analysis are no strong correlation between the batteries charge and discharge profiles and market price signals. So it's not something that does seem to particularly affect their charge and discharge profiles, but their degradation and warranties do play a significant role in how they participate. NESO shared the battery toolkit they built with the TOs. The new assumptions on CPAs for batteries will be integrated into NESO's overall network planning model before connections reform. Once NESO do connections reform they will provide CPAs to all the TOs using the new model. They will start implementing this model from January 2025, get it ready by mid-March 2025 then giving them time to run test CPAs before the Gate 2 to the whole queue evidence

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

NESO, SCG,
Board

window.

CPAG Chair's ask was to ensure this information is open source and if it could be published.

Actions:

- NESO to take back to the team CPAG Chair ask if new model information is open source and can be published.
- NESO to take back to the team Ofgem request on if there is any sense of what the anticipated impact of the storage assumptions might be with regards to the prospective new process subject to Ofgem decision. For e.g. does NESO expect reinforcement levels for batteries to change? Does NESO have an anticipation on what the impact might be?

New Actions

1	NGED took an action for all DNOs to discuss in January 2025 a process how to review/ensure all DNOs are doing best practice and at the same level keeping in mind they all have their platforms online in relation to the Databooks and single digital view of the queue.	Dec CDB	NGED
2	NESO to take back to the team CPAG Chair ask if new model information is open source and can be published.	Dec CDB	NESO
3	NESO to take back to the team Ofgem request on if there is any sense of what the anticipated impact of the storage assumptions might be with regards to the prospective new process subject to Ofgem decision. For e.g. does NESO expect reinforcement levels for batteries to change? Does NESO have an anticipation on what the impact might be?	Dec CDB	NESO

4. Consultation updates & Discussion – TM04+

JN

NESO provides an update on the NESO Methodologies Consultation, Code Administrator Consultation and the Financial Instruments Proposal.

The NESO methodologies consultation closed on 2nd December and the code administrator consultation closed about a week before that, and the following headline figures from those and headline themes were shared with everyone.

NESO Methodologies

- Received 154 responses, good level of feedback. NESO thanks everyone on the call, also in the CPAG group and other groups that contributed responses.

- Of the responses NESO received; 36% were confidential, so can't be published. NESO will publish the non-confidential responses.

NESO Methodologies Feedback

- High level feedback is broadly the responses indicated general support for the proposed methodologies. Areas of strongest support were alignment to CP30 and in particular proposal to align to 2035; the Gate 2 readiness criteria and the Connections Network Design Methodology (CNDM).
- Lot of support for aligning to CP30, particularly 2035 time horizon, which was seen as critical to supporting long term strategic goals and providing investor confidence. However, there was some feedback on the granular breakdown of the pathways in the recommendations that NESO put to Government in the CP30 advice and NESO have been doing quite a lot of work internally and with government to address that feedback. There was also a request for increased CP30 data transparency and provision for informed decisions in terms of the GSP points and publishing Databooks.
- In terms of how connections operationalises CP30 alignment, the main area of request for additional changes was over half of the respondents requesting that NESO provide more comfort for well-developed projects. What NESO had done was set out that the projects with a 2026 connection date and in construction would be 'grandfathered / protected' via connections reform, but lots of respondents saying that that protections should go wider. That should include projects with planning consent, projects with CFDs or capacity market contracts for instance.
- NESO have been working very closely with government to think about what can be done and will publish something soon which sets out NESO view on that particular aspect of connections reform which is an important one to convey some clear messages on.
- Overall design majority support for Design 2; which focuses on filtering ready projects rather than just prioritising.
- Project attrition – some respondents calling for additional capacity to be in the CP30 plan up front to account for attrition. Few went as high as 50%. But the mean is between 10 to 20%.
- Readiness criteria supported, noting that's been through a round of consultation already through the code mods, but there was some really mixed feedback about the alternative for the DCO process which is an alternative for projects that can't secure land and have to go through the DCO process. NESO said that the DCO submission should count as readiness in that context. Some respondents stating you should be able to meet the readiness requirement by any other sort of type of planning, consent, submission as well. So NESO to look at that carefully.
- Project designation, general support for the principle, provided there is greater transparency in more detail.
- Queue management and advancement - managing the queue based on readiness and strategic alignment was supported, but various views around to what extent the new queue should be prioritised on the basis of planning consent status.

- Demand projects - some responses from demand project developers expressing support for the overall proposals but requesting greater prioritisation and integration of demand projects such as data centres into overall energy strategy. That's something NESO are consulting on at the moment through SSEP.
- Community energy projects - responses calling for Community energy projects to be exempt from connections reform and/or prioritised by government and NESO. NESO note that a lot of Community energy projects are smaller and may not go through the transmission impact assessment now or potentially in the future if the TIA threshold goes up in in England and Wales, so there is some interaction with that.

Code Administrator Consultation Feedback

- 103 responses received to the code administrator consultation.
- This is focused on essentially the legal drafting of the code mods. NESO will finalise legal text before submitting to Ofgem. Aim is to submit on 20th December and the submission will be made public.

Overall submission to Ofgem

- Materials to be sent through to Ofgem will be the final modification report, the three methodologies as amended as a result of the feedback, a cover report which summarises consultation responses and NESO views on what changes they are/aren't going to progress and why. An updated impact assessment that will use the final CP30 numbers as and when CP30 plan is published by government and NESO will then assess the impact of connections reform in terms of applying the actual final CP30 numbers for estimates of what's in the queue and what's ready based on RFI version 2.

Financial Instruments Update

- Roughly around 5% unanimous support.
- About 50% - felt it goes too far and about 45% saying there's some value in progressing, but it needs some changes and those changes ranged from it should be greater than £20,000 per MW, to it should be £5,000 per MW as an example.
- NESO is looking through all responses and will provide their final plans and proposals in the new Year. If those proposals are to issue a code mod; then it would be early in the New Year.

Questions and Comments

1) Renewables UK thanks NESO and their team for the phenomenal amount of work done over the past months. Due to the volume they ask how NESO are going to get through all the responses, process, analyse, interpret, change and then produce a final kind of cohesive full report by the 20th December.

NESO confirm there will be changes to consulted policy. Consultation closed on 2nd December however one of the reasons for having the seminar and the webinar in November and then taking all the FAQs was to gather early feedback to contemplate changes and this has been taking place for over a month. NESO are fully committed to looking through all of the responses in detail; NESO triaged them out and go through an involved process around who's reviewing them. NESO confirm their view is they will still be able to stick to the 20th December.

2) Solar Energy UK also thanked NESO for the work done in the past months and appreciated the engagement they had with members. Their question to NESO was if Clean Power Plan and the NESO Methodologies Consultation would be published together or separately.

DESNZ said Clean Power Action Plan will come out by the end of the year. NESO informed they need the Connections Annex to the CP30 plan and so the Clean Power Action Plan will need to be published first and NESO will do so thereafter.

3) CPAG Chair queries if the consultation responses would also be published and NESO confirms the non-confidential ones will be published along with the summary of all the responses.

4) CPAG Chair queries on locational data from the point of view of a developer. As discussed earlier within the meeting it was confirmed CP30 plan is not going to prescribe what connects at what GSPs. NESO will publish and work with the DNOs and the TOs the assumptions made around GSPs; around which GSPs are in which zones and this will be done in the New Year as soon as NESO can, but there will be no GSP allocation.

CPAG Chair then clarifies if when you do Gate 2 to the whole queue and someone comes in, if NESO will be assessing against the CP30 plan and there won't be a more detailed scale which will be divided out. For instance, NESO will be adding them up and then say within this zone and technology it has reached its required amount. NESO confirms this is the case.

Ofgem provides an insight into the two publications they did in November, what they are consulting on next steps and invite everyone's views on this.

1) End to End Review Consultation

Ofgem informs the CDB that on the 8th of November they published the End to End review, which is the policy consultation on the connections, incentives and applications, which was one of the CAP actions. The focus is on reviewing the regulations with the view to determine where changes may need to be made to try better behaviours and outcomes for the connecting customers agnostic of the actual connection process.

As part of this document, Ofgem are also consulting on new connection incentives for the RIIO T3 price control period. They expect to decide on these incentives through this consultation process in spring 2025 such that they are agreed before the draught determination in June 2025 and they expect to follow up with the 2nd consultation in spring.

2) Licence Policy Consultation

Ofgem informs CBD this consultation was published on 27th November and looks at policy consultation on licence changes. This will close on the 6th January and focuses on enabling the proposed new connection process in the codes methodologies and to drive the right behaviours and standards within the proposed new connection process. Ofgem expect to follow up with the statutory consultation in early 2025. It covers 3 licences, Electricity System Operator, Transmission Operator and Distribution Operator. Ofgem have proposed track changes for the NESO licence and electricity Transmission licence and just the policy intent for the electricity Distribution licence.

Since it's part of the TMO4+ package; the licence facilitates the new process and obligates NESO to create and maintain methodologies. The codes reference the methodology which in turn will reference the CP2030.

Ofgem plan to take their final decision on the full connection reform delivery package in Q1 2025.

Questions and Comments

1) SSE highlight that in the End to End Review Consultation that some of what's proposed can't be agnostic of the process. For example, taking commitment to dates; the process may be committing DNOs to certain dates beyond what's committed in, for example CP30. So there's an inherent interdependency between the two consultations, and highlight everyone should be mindful of that while working through the End to End review.

Ofgem agree it was a balance which needs to be addressed. Within licence changes, the balance between how prescriptive or non-prescriptive they are and they need to ensure outcomes are what they expect them to be and by agnostic they mean as agnostic as possible. For example, RIIO T3, the right incentives need be brought in. When it comes to TMO4+, the right incentives need to be set up and obligations brought in to ensure it operates efficiently. Hence the policy consultation is at a time when lots of changes are taking place and Ofgem need to ensure they hear industry views.

Ofgem also explains the licence changes timelines are because of the tight timeline of running TMO4+. In relation to End 2 End review consultation, Ofgem need the input/detail on that and is considering whether to move that out another month and giving more time. Ofgem clarify they are committed to the January date for the RIIO T3 incentives part of the consultation due to the timing of the T3 incentive and inputs will be needed on that.

Solar Energy UK mention there was the technical and Special Inputs Methodology Consultation deadline on 20th December and extending the deadline of the End 2 End Consultation is a good idea.

From the networks and ENA perspective on the discussion, ENA understand the kind of dependency and enabling kind of focus of the licence modifications consultation. At distribution, ENA will be inputting some strong views on the need for licence change to support TMO4+ implementation into that response so that makes sense to them. On the End 2 End consultation; with some of the ENA team and some of the network's collaborating on that response; it didn't seem to have a critical path and enabler separate from the T points and actually some alignment with the ED3 consultation. Some more time on the internal review would generate a better response.

CPAG Chair agrees the End to End review might just get missed and is very important. They acknowledged a relaunch in the New Year is sensible.

Ofgem thanked everyone for the views and will look at what extension can be given for the End to End review.

New Actions

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5. Review of KPI development and monitoring

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The discussion on KPI development and monitoring comprised a run through of two main slides, the SCG developed joint T&D dashboard highlighting key data trends and the updated CDB dashboard containing the impacts of various reforms across the connection process.

SCG T&D Dashboard Summary:

Overall, the contracted queue did increase this month by 7GW compared to the previous month, the rate of new applications and acceptances continue to be high, with 739GW currently in the queue; 41GW being demand and 698GW from export and storage. In October 16.6GW of new connections offers were accepted.

The queue continues to be dominated by renewables (350GW, 47% of the queue) and storage (249GW, 34% of the queue) far exceeding GB energy needs for net zero.

Networks are connecting customers at pace.

There remains significant capacity that networks can accommodate without delay, including over 53.48GW of distribution connecting customers that have no dependency on transmission works, and 56.66GW of transmission connecting projects that have been offered connection dates in the next three years. Actual connection of these projects will be subject to customer timelines, milestone management, attrition rates and other factors (e.g. supply chain).

However, the significant (and growing) queue continues to result in connection delays for customers:

31% of transmission offers in October met the requested connection date, with an average difference between offered and requested connection date at transmission of 59 months for the month of October.

70% of distribution capacity contracted is dependent on or being assessed for transmission reinforcements

CDB Impacts Dashboard Summary:

- Accelerated Connection Dates: Progress has been made in accelerating connection dates for projects, primarily through technical limits at distribution and offers at transmission. 10.4 GW cumulative capacity across Transmission and Distribution (T&D) accelerated by an average of six years, with much more expected to follow.
- Capacity Released: Reforms, particularly for storage at distribution, have enabled more efficient use of network capacity, reducing the reinforcement needed and allowing more customers access to the network. 30.4 GW cumulative capacity released across T&D.
- Removal of Non-Progressing Projects: The queue management measures already agreed and in place have effectively removed over 11.4 GW of non-progressing

projects across T&D from the queue, enhancing the efficiency of the connection process.

- Customer Service: There has been a monthly increase in meeting requested connection dates at transmission, emphasising the need for continued focus on improving the connection process. 31% of transmission connections were offered their requested connection date as of October 2024. The average delay, from requested date to date provided, for the remaining 69% of applications is currently approximately 59 months for October.

Questions and Comments

CPAG Chair queries if we are focusing enough on the 1.5 GW per month number which is necessary for CP2030 total as the current total of connections delivered is 0.5 GW which is a bit lower from the last dashboard. If right things are being prioritised during discussions to move the number up and maybe Ofgem could focus hard on this as it's a key metric against CP30.

ENA view is that one of the impacts on what is being connected and the rate at which it's being connected, particularly to a distribution is significantly customer project readiness based on the current queue position and this is currently one of the big challenges on connection actual connection rate.

Ofgem agree the key is to get connections and suggested that if there are other things which need to be addressed to connect customers quickly then the CDB is the right place to align; specially if there is a regulatory barrier.

SSE informs that it was currently proposed at the Networks Delivery Board and Networks Delivery Forum they will now start to track connections against CP30. Highlighting a need for wider review to ensure there is not multiple groups doing the same thing.

They flagged that they have started to see a recent trend of quite a significant volume of modification applications where organisations are looking to change technology type and their concern was how that might change the picture of what the queue is made-up of and how that changes the view against how the queue looks against the different targets and so on. The suggestion was whether in this phase of transition it might be worth introducing tracking of these mod apps to help everyone understand whether that is a trend or is that just an anomaly for a couple of months.

National Grid highlight that the focus was on generation and what it takes to meet CP30 going forward. The vast majority of the infrastructure will be for dual drivers across both demand and generation. Highlighting progressing forward it is to be particularly more complex to decouple from each other because most substations are getting delivered for demand and for generation type projects now going forward.

ENA response from an SCG point of view is demand is very much part of the consideration, although given the nature of the challenge that the percentage majority of solutions will end up being focused on the generation and storage queue, but demand is not ignored.

CPAG Chair requests an update on the process of getting to the decision about the discussion around the transmission impact assessment threshold and it's interactivity in terms of impact on smaller Community energy.

ENA are still looking to confirm who is in the position to raise the modification to progress TIA as NGET had pulled together some of the thinking on the TIA paper, however, aren't in a position to be the proposer. SCG WG on 13th December to further discuss that and look to confirm how it can be progressed and as part of that, there is the time scales question. However from the last CDB discussion and other conversations ENA has, most people are supportive of trying to do so ahead of connections reform implementation if possible, but we need to go through that process.

NESO inform they have engaged with NGET which has been helpful. They wish to raise this ASAP however timing needs to be confirmed due to long queue of code mods. It is important and they are trying to balance expectations but stressed on their support on it being raised as soon as possible.

Actions

1	Check with the SCG Data group: 1) If tracking the mod apps and changes reflects the mod apps where organisations are looking to change technology type.	Jan CDB	ENA
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6. Outstanding actions from the previous meeting

DB

The segment on outstanding actions began with a review of the progress made on previously identified actions. It was noted that no outstanding actions were marked as red, indicating critical attention was not required immediately.

The amber outstanding action - ENA noted they have to follow up on the CMP376 and ensured the board they would do so.

7. AOB, CDB Schedule, and date of next meeting

JPA, DB

Several AOB topics were raised:

- The meeting Schedule and Agenda for next meeting – There was confirmation that next CDB would be 30th January 2025.
- Next CDB will include how to structure the CDB through 2025 – this was raised by Ofgem. There is the offline thinking with Ofgem and Tech Sec.
- If there are any points the group want raised in the January CDB; ENA suggestion was to send across an email with these.

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

8. Appendix A

Plan on a Page - October 2024

Plan on a Page - October 2024								Owner			SCG, NESO, DESNZ Ofgem				
Action Area	Owner	Initiative	2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	
CAP 3.1 - Raise Entry Requirements	NESO	3.1.1 – Introduce letter of authority at transmission (LoA)	Design	Voluntary + Phase 1 Mod							Implementation and Benefits				
	NESO	3.1.2 - Identify, assess, bring forward proposals to strengthen entry requirements	Included in TMO4+												
	SCG	3.1.2 - Identify, assess and bring forward proposals to strengthen entry requirements	Design						Implement		Benefits				
CAP 3.2 - Remove Stalled Projects	NESO	3.2.1 – CMP376 implementation – transmission queue management	Design	Implement							Benefits				
	SCG	3.2.2 – Monitor application of queue management at distribution	Design	Implement							Benefits				
	NESO	3.2.3 - Bring forward recommendations to improve certainty and progression of customers holding capacity	Included in TMO4+												
CAP 3.3 - Better Utilise Existing Network	NESO	3.3.1 - Forward recommendations to optimise existing network capacity	Design			5-point plan: Implement acceleration for non-firm storage and where revised network modelling allows								Benefit	
	SCG	3.3.1 - Forward recommendations to optimise existing network capacity	Design	Implement	Benefits										
	NESO	3.3.2 – Review scope for improvements in CPAs for optimised planning	Design						Detailed design / prepare to implement from January 2025						
	NESO	3.3.3 – Review the scope of enabling works	Design						Detailed design / prepare to implement from January 2025						
CAP 3.4 - Better allocate available network	NESO	3.4.1 – Effectively allocate capacity released in short-term	Included in TMO4+												
	SCG	3.4.1 – Effectively allocate capacity released in short-term	Design												
	NESO	3.4.2 – Approach to allocate capacity with strategic planning	Included in TMO4+												
CAP 3.5 - Improve Data and Processes	SCG	3.5.1 – A single digital view of network data for connection customers	Design			Implement			Benefits						
	SCG	3.5.2 – Process for T impacts of D connections	DFTC Design			detailed design			Prepare to go Live from January						
	SCG	3.5.3 – Agreed 'technical limits' across identified GSPs	Implement			Benefits & Further implementation for Phase 2 and Scotland.									
	SCG	3.5.4 – Identify and resolve inconsistencies	Design						Implementation and further design on additional an						
	Ofgem	3.5.5 – Review incentives, obligations and requirements	Undertake review of connection incentives, obligations and requirements												
CAP 3.6	NESO / DESNZ / Ofgem	Develop Longer-term Connection Process to align with strategic planning, transmission build acceleration and future market reforms including REMA	Ongoing												
TMO4+ - first ready, first connected process reform	NESO	TMO4+ proposal development and implementation	TMO4 to TMO4+ design			Proposal		End-to-end process – detailed design, SOPs, training							
	NESO	CUSC and STC code modifications for TMO4+ (re-baselined)	Design		Proposal		Workgroups								
	NESO	Transitional offers (renamed from 'ligh-touch')	1?		Design			Set-up		1: New Apps - Implemented					
2: Mod A Progression															

Plan on a Page - 2025

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

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