

**Version History:**

FAQ iteration number: 7  
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**Please Note:**

Whilst we have endeavoured to answer each question in a way which is fully aligned with the relevant licence/methodology/code content, if there is any conflict between the content of this document and the content of the relevant licence/methodology/code, then the content of the licence/methodology/code should be taken as being the confirmed position.

Responses are correct as of the date displayed in the Last Reviewed column.

To search the document, please use Ctrl + F to open the Excel search functionality, and please filter the 'topic' in column B to refine your search.

**This document will be updated on a regular basis. We recommend checking this document frequently to see if your query has been answered. You can view the latest FAQs by filtering column F to the latest date.**

**Topics:**

1. Date and Queue Position	6. Fees, securities and timing	13. Hybrid Projects
2. Understanding the notification	7. Escalation and complaints	14. Technology Specific - Batteries
3. Methodology and decision	8. Advancement	15. Technology Specific - Solar
4. Information and errors	9. Distribution Contracts	16. Technology Specific - Offshore Wind
5. Pre-Reform & Historical Issues	10. Future Windows	17. Technology Specific - Onshore Wind
	11. Portal Queries	
	12. General	

Topic	Question	Answer	Last Reviewed
<b>1. General</b>	What is the Progression Commitment Fee?	<p>The Progression Commitment Fee (PCF) supports Connection Reform by encouraging uncommitted projects to leave the delivery pipeline and viable ones to remain – helping drive progress toward clean power and net zero. For more information, please see the slides from (or watch) the webinar on the 11th December. This was discussed approximately one hour in to the session. [Available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive">https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive</a>]</p>	11/12/2025
<b>2. General</b>	Will changing the name of the director and company address for the Special Purpose Vehicles within our portfolio affect the gate 1 and gate 2 offers yet to be received?	<p>Filing changes of director and/or registered office address at Companies House for existing Special Purpose Vehicles will not affect the Gate 1 or Gate 2 offers you're due to receive, provided the legal entity itself remains the same (i.e., same company number) and there's no change to the project particulars submitted to NESO. However, if you are contemplating any change to the legal entity itself (e.g., moving a project to a different SPV, merger, or similar), please contact us via the portal and we will put you in touch with a Customer Connections Manager, as this can require a formal transfer/novation process and need to be handled case by case with NESO. Please remember to update your contact details in the portal to ensure future communications are shared with the correct contact.</p>	23/01/2026
<b>3. Portal Queries</b>	Who was my notification sent to?	<p>The notification was shared with the Commercial Contact for the project[s]. You can see who is your designated Commercial Contact in the Connections Portal. Customers can amend the Commercial Lead in the Connections Portal at any time. Note this does not retrospectively re-issue you G2TWQ notification to the updated contact.</p>	09/12/2025
<b>4. Date and Queue Position</b>	What does a Gate 1 offer mean for my project?	<p>Gate 1 applies to projects that do not meet the Gate 2 criteria. These projects will receive a Gate 1 offer or have the option to agree to terminate their connection request. Gate 1 projects will not be assigned a confirmed connection date but may progress through future windows if readiness is demonstrated.</p>	05/12/2025
		<p>Having a Gate 1 Agreement will mean your project is 'known' to NESO. Where there is an undersupply of a technology against a CP30 requirement, or where projects exit the queue and this creates an undersupply, Gate 1 projects may also contribute to anticipatory investment decisions, which would result in an earlier connection date when a related project does eventually apply to Gate 2, as this work will have already been identified and planned for in advance.</p>	

<b>5. Date and Queue Position</b>	What does a Gate 2 offer mean for my project?	Gate 2 applies to projects that meet the new requirements for readiness and strategic alignment. These projects will secure a confirmed connection date, connection point, and position in the new delivery pipeline.	05/12/2025
<b>6. Date and Queue Position</b>	Why haven't I received a connection date and costs with my Gate 1 offer?	Gate 1 offers constitute a removal of your contracted connection date and queue position, and subsequently no costs will be associated with it in your offer. A connection date is only assigned once you progress to Gate 2, where readiness and strategic alignment are confirmed. You can apply for Gate 2 through the next Connections Window. NESO envisage that the next window will open no earlier than Q2 2026.	05/12/2025
<b>7. Date and Queue Position</b>	I am a protected project - why am I Gate 2 Phase 2, rather than Phase 1?	The protection clauses in the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology contain no assurance on dates – in other words, they protect a customer's place in the delivery pipeline but not their connection date. Only protections 1A and 2A* protect a customer's date. Please see sections 3.19 and 3.20 of Ofgem's decision of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology [available at: <a href="https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-04/Gate-2-Criteria-Methodology-Final-Decision.pdf">https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-04/Gate-2-Criteria-Methodology-Final-Decision.pdf</a> ].	09/12/2025
<b>8. Date and Queue Position</b>	What is a countersignature date and why is it important?	The countersignature date is when NESO formally signs your contract following your acceptance. As per the Connections Network Design Methodology, the pipeline was reordered based on countersignature dates.	05/12/2025
<b>9. Date and Queue Position</b>	In a previous webinar it was mentioned that projects that are given a phase 1 status aren't guaranteed to be connected before 2030, can you provide more information on this?	The intention is to align CP30 Phases with actual connection timescales, but this is not guaranteed. Phases are specifically related to your CP30 capacity allocation, and therefore your actual connection date might differ. Phases are subject to change as network operators undertake final engineering assessments following queue formation notifications.	05/12/2025
<b>10. Date and Queue Position</b>	Considering current progress, when do you expect to START issuing gate 2 offers for projects connecting 2028 & beyond, that are due no later than Q2 2026.	Contracts (full offers) are issued over the course of 2026, following the reassessment of the previous queue in 2025. The issuing of contracts is currently planned as follows: December 2025: Transmission and distribution projects with self-declared Gate 1s, no submission, or failure of initial checks January 2026: Transmission Projects with 26/27 dates issued Gate 2 offers March 2026: Distribution Projects with 26/27 dates issued Gate 2 offers June 2026: Transmission projects with 28/29/30 dates issued Gate 2 offers September 2026: Distribution projects with 28/29/30 dates issued Gate 2 offers September 2026: Transmission projects up to 2035 dates issued Gate 2 offers.	05/12/2025

		The CNDM sets out the rules for queue formation under the first CMP434 application window [available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/375026/download">https://www.neso.energy/document/375026/download</a> ]. Having a Gate 1 Agreement does not confer any advantage to projects for queue formation purposes under CMP434 as queue formation is based on whether and when the project secured relevant land rights and its planning consent status. However, earlier sight of potential future projects at Gate 1 helps with development of the first Strategic Spatial Energy Plan and with future plans for anticipatory investment (see page 63 of the [CNDM]).	
<b>11. Date and Queue Position</b>	I have been issued a Gate 1 offer. Is there an advantage in having a Gate 1 offer as opposed to re-applying in a CMP434 window when we are ready?		05/12/2025
		Having a Gate 1 Agreement will mean your project is 'known' to NESO. Where there is an undersupply of a technology against a CP30 requirement, or where projects exit the delivery pipeline and this creates an undersupply, Gate 1 projects may also contribute to anticipatory investment decisions, which would result in an earlier connection date when a related project does eventually apply to Gate 2, as this work will have already been identified and planned for in advance.	
<b>12. Date and Queue Position</b>	Is there an updated timeline for gate 1 Agreements To Vary to be released?	Self-elected have been issued; Agreements as a result of 'did not submit' and 'failed initial checks' will be issued shortly.	05/12/2025
<b>13. Date and Queue Position</b>	Will queue positions be made public?	The EA register will show an anonymised view of the delivery pipeline, it will not show specific line items given customer anonymity requirements.	05/12/2025
<b>14. Date and Queue Position</b>	When will I receive my full offer?	<p>Contracts (full offers) are issued over the course of 2026, following the current reassessment of the previous queue in 2025. The issuing of contracts is currently planned as no later than the dates below. NESO will communicate if timelines change:</p> <p>December 2025: Transmission and distribution projects with self-declared Gate 1s, no submission, or failure of initial checks</p> <p>January 2026: Transmission Projects with 26/27 dates issued Gate 2 offers</p> <p>March 2026: Distribution Projects with 26/27 dates issued Gate 2 offers</p> <p>June 2026: Transmission projects with 28/29/30 dates issued Gate 2 offers</p> <p>September 2026: Distribution projects with 28/29/30 dates issued Gate 2 offers</p> <p>September 2026: Transmission projects up to 2035 dates issued Gate 2 offers.</p>	05/12/2025
<b>15. Date and Queue Position</b>	How can you start queue formation when detailed checks are not completed? What impact will lack of detailed checks have on queue formation?	Detailed checks were moved earlier in the plan to address this concern. While we cannot guarantee the new delivery pipeline will be formed with complete certainty regarding projects passing these checks, we have accelerated the process to provide as much assurance as possible without delaying the queue formation timeline. So far, the evidence points to a very low failure rate, with fewer than 5% of projects eligible for Gate 2 expected to fail. If any of these few projects enter the new delivery pipeline but are later removed due to detailed checks, it could create a capacity gap.	05/12/2025
<b>16. Understanding the Notification</b>	Why has NESO not provided detail of which protection clause customers are protected under in the offer letters?	Protected customers were previously made aware of the protection clause(s) they are protected under. This information was used in the queue formation process. Should a customer not know their protection status, NESO encourage them to search through previous communication in the first instance, and then get in touch with NESO via the Connections Portal by using the 'Reform Query' option	05/12/2025

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The 'phase' relates to 'firm' or 'enduring non-firm' connection date. Some projects and connection contracts have an 'interim non-firm' connection date, which is sometimes called a 'temporary non-firm connection'. Where relevant, 'interim non-firm' connection dates will be included in the offer issued as a result of the G2TWQ process and will be confirmed at the same time as your 'firm' or 'enduring non-firm' connection date.

**17. Understanding the Notification** What is a non-firm connection date and when will I get my offer?

As 'interim non-firm' connection dates are earlier than 'firm' connection dates, this means that any 'interim non-firm' connection date(s) confirmed in your Gate 2 offer could be before 2030, even where you have been provided with a Phase 2 queue outcome in the table above.

09/12/2025

Gate 2 Final customer offers regarding applications up to and including 2030 (transmission) will be provided no later than the end of Q2 2026 and up to and including 2035 (transmission) will be provided no later than the end of Q3 2026. Please see NESO's website for more information: <https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connections-reform-timeline>.

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**18. Understanding the Notification** What is an Agreement to Vary (ATV) and what do I need to do?

If your project did not meet the Gate 2 criteria, you will receive a Gate 1 Agreement to Vary, or ATV. The ATV is a legal agreement that changes the terms of your existing contract. It suspends your previous connection date, making it indicative only, and explains why your project was classified as Gate 1, typically because it did not meet the readiness or strategic alignment criteria at this stage.

05/12/2025

You will need to sign and return the ATV within four weeks. If you have placed cash security, you will be asked to provide up-to-date bank details so NESO can process your refund, which will be issued within six weeks of receiving your signed ATV. The ATV also allows you to reapply in future application windows, once you are able to meet the necessary criteria.

The key difference between a Gate 2 Modification Offer and an ATV lies in your project's status:

A Gate 2 Modification Offer is issued to projects that have passed all checks and are ready to proceed. It sets out a firm or enduring non-firm connection date and the next steps, including the placement of new securities.

**19. Understanding the Notification** What is the difference between a Gate 2 Modification Offer and an ATV?

An ATV is issued to projects that did not meet the Gate 2 criteria. It suspends your previous connection date, allows you to reapply in future windows, and triggers the return of your securities if applicable.

05/12/2025

In summary, if your project is successful at Gate 2, you will receive a Modification Offer. If your project is classified as Gate 1, whether self-declared, failed to submit, or did not meet the criteria, you will receive an ATV.

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**20. Understanding the Notification** Will DNO/DX connections actually get these notifications direct?

NESO will notify large embedded generators whereas DNO/IDNOs notify small and medium embedded generators. For more information, please see the ENA webpage containing all of the electricity network operators' information on UK connections reform [available at: <https://www.energynetworks.org/industry/connecting-to-the-networks/connections-reform>]

09/12/2025

<b>21. Understanding the Notification</b>	When will EA Register be released and how will it be shared?	The Existing Agreements register will be published shortly after queue formation on the NESO website.	05/12/2025
<b>22. Understanding the Notification</b>	I have had no email whatsoever as yet. Will the email come from NESO or the DNO?	NESO will have notified large embedded generators whereas DNO/iDNOs will have notified small and medium embedded generators. For more information, please see the ENA webpage containing all of the electricity network operators' information on UK connections reform [available at: <a href="https://www.energynetworks.org/industry/connecting-to-the-networks/connections-reform">https://www.energynetworks.org/industry/connecting-to-the-networks/connections-reform</a> ]	05/12/2025
<b>23. Methodology and Decisions</b>	How did NESO and the DNOs calculate permitted capacity as per the CP30 capacity breakdowns?	<p>The capacity breakdowns outlined in the CP30 Action Plan for each technology type also include capacity that is installed and operational. For the purposes of aligning the previous queue to the CP30 Action Plan, NESO and DNOs will calculate the remaining available capacity, hereafter referred to as the 'permitted capacity', as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For the 2026 to 2030 phase (phase 1), NESO and DNOs will use the 2030 Regional capacity breakdowns for each zone and technology and deduct the latest installed and operational capacity figures from this to determine the permitted capacity against which to align the existing queue</li> <li>2. For the 2031 to 2035 phase (phase 2), NESO and DNOs will use upper bound of the stated CP30 Plan "2035 FES-derived Capacity Range" for 2035 for each zone and technology and deduct from this the actual Phase 1 allocation after rebalancing and substitutions, as well as the current built capacity, to determine the permitted capacity against which to align the existing queue.</li> </ol>	07/01/2026
<b>24. Methodology and Decisions</b>	Is there any option to move a project that has received a Gate 2 Phase 2 offer to a Gate 2 Phase 1 offer?	<p>The queue formation process is complete, therefore in this G2TWQ (CMP435) process there is no opportunity to go from Phase 2 to Phase 1. However, there are two potential mechanisms by which customers can receive an earlier connection date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Customers can request earlier connection dates in future via a mod app - whether those are deliverable will depend on the network specifics of the project location and what the TO and DNO can deliver.</li> <li>2) If capacity is available due to Gate 2 projects withdrawing or being removed from the new pipeline, a project could be re-allocated the capacity subject to the CNDM (see section 7 for the criteria for the reallocation of capacity). Available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/375026/download">https://www.neso.energy/document/375026/download</a></li> </ol>	07/01/2026

		3 gigawatts was advanced from phase two to phase one, which is 85 queue items. This refers to projects that had a 2031 firm connection date or later and were advanced into phase one for queue formation purposes. 240 gigawatts requested advancement from phase 2 to Phase 1, but in order to advance into phase one from phase two, there has to be room in the phase one pipeline. The only technologies that had any room in their phase one queue were solar in the distribution zones and some onshore wind zones across distribution and transmission.	
<b>25. Methodology and Decisions</b>	How many projects / MW were advanced from Phase 2 to Phase 1?	As the Queue Formation notification only relates to the phase for the firm or the enduring non-firm stage, not receiving an advancement does not necessarily stop you from connecting in phase one on a temporary non-firm basis. For more information, we recommend customers watch the recent Connections reform Webinars. This particular topic is discussed at approximately 15 minutes in to the session on the 18th December [available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive">https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive</a> ].	07/01/2026
		Finally, to note that the above does not cover advancement requests within a phase (eg 2029 to 2028; or 2035 to 2031) - we will not know how many projects / MW are advanced within phase until the TOs have completed their network studies in order to issue G2 offers	
<b>26. Methodology and Decisions</b>	Why are TOs and DNOs involved in the advancement process?	Advancement is essentially concerned with whether the physical network can be built in time to connect someone in line with their requested advanced connection date. Physical network build is an area of TO and DNO expertise. They understand how their network can be built, how quickly it can be built, how it can be built to safety standards, etc. Therefore NESO have worked with the TOs and DNOs in line with published methodologies and technical documents in order for TOs and DNOs to carry out advancement checks. For more information, we recommend customers watch the recent Connections Webinars. This particular topic is discussed from approximately 15 minutes in to the session on the 18th December [available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive">https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive</a> ].	07/01/2026
<b>27. Methodology and Decisions</b>	How will NESO ensure capacity reallocation will be fairly allocated between transmission and distribution for the next gated window?	Capacity Allocation and reallocation is detailed in Section 7 of the CNDM. In high level summary, for the next window, capacity allocation goes on the basis of protected projects (if any), then it goes in order of when projects met readiness requirements. There is no distinction between transmission and distribution - both are treated exactly the same based on the above criteria. Note for particular technologies there may not be any capacity available in the next (434) window to be allocated or relocated. This is because most zones/technologies are currently 'full' and because reallocation relies on projects that have an existing gate 2 offer withdrawing from the queue or being removed from the delivery pipeline, which may not have happened by the time the first 434 window is opened.	07/01/2026
<b>28. Methodology and Decisions</b>	Can non-gated mod apps be submitted during this process?	Yes, non-gated mod apps are being processed; please submit them via the connection reform dot box email [box.connectionsreform@neso.energy].	05/12/2025

		Section 6.2 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology details the protections available for customers. Protections, in the context of Gate 2 To Whole Queue, are only Protection Clause 1 and 2A.
<b>29. Methodology and Decisions</b>	Why wasn't I protected under the reform process?	Protection Clauses 2B, 3A and 3B are only applicable to future application windows Please see: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/375016/download">https://www.neso.energy/document/375016/download</a> 17/12/2025
<b>30. Methodology and Decisions</b>	Can you confirm whether a specific project has been awarded a Confirmed connection date?	Due to commercial sensitivities and requirements of our licence conditions, we will not be providing confirmation on the status of individual projects, as these projects still need to receive and sign connection agreement contracts. Once contracts have been signed, publicly disclosable information will be shared later in 2026. Some details of individual project connections agreements are commercially sensitive, so will not be disclosed. For distribution level projects, this information sits with the DNOs for small / medium embedded projects. 17/12/2025
<b>31. Methodology and Decisions</b>	What was the approach to co-located projects?	A co-located site is one where Power Generating Units belonging to different technologies and/or fuel types, including storage and demand, are installed at the same site or Power Station and connected to the GB electricity system, each technology within a co-located setup is assessed individually against permitted capacity limits under Clean Power 2030 (CP20) pots, and Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) or Developer Capacity. For more information, please see the post notifications Customer Handbook, available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/373546/download">https://www.neso.energy/document/373546/download</a> 09/12/2025
<b>32. Methodology and Decisions</b>	Is NESO currently working with DNOs to complete detailed checks for distribution projects (including BEGA/BELLA projects) and finalise their place in the new delivery pipeline?	Yes – we are working in coordination with Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) on finalising detailed checks. For small and medium embedded customers (including those small and medium embedded customers with a BEGA), we have completed duplication checks of red line boundaries as per the Gate 2 Criteria methodology, and have worked with DNOs to understand any duplications. Large EG BEGA/BELLA projects submitted their evidence directly to the NESO, and so we are currently carrying out detailed and duplication checks for these customers. We will be in touch with these customers soon to request permission to share red line boundaries with their DNOs. This is so that DNOs can ensure that Large EG BEGA/BELLA projects are adhering to existing DNO policy on red line boundaries 10/12/2025
<b>33. Methodology and Decisions</b>	What detailed checks are being carried out?	NESO is completing checks on director verification, minimum acreage, land rights documentation, and planning documentation (if sought readiness via planning route) checks for directly connected and large embedded projects. We are also doing duplication of red line boundaries checks for all projects. These ensure projects meet the minimum readiness criteria set out in the Gate 2 Criteria methodology. 17/12/2025

<b>34. Methodology and Decisions</b>	How have you treated a demand project which has a battery storage element?	If the connection is demand only, i.e. there is no export to the electricity system, then the project would not contribute towards the Clean Power 2030 permitted capacities and the connection was treated as demand only for the purposes of Gate 2. These projects will be deemed as automatically strategically aligned, and will have had to only demonstrate readiness. For any projects with a battery storage element, this technology is considered to be generation, and is therefore subject to the Clean Power 2030 capacities and will need to meet one of the strategic alignment criteria to be considered in the new delivery pipeline (unless the developer has indicated the battery is import only in which case the battery will be treated as though it is demand from a connections perspective).	10/12/2025
<b>35. Methodology and Decisions</b>	What can I do if my project failed at initial checks?	You will have received notification already if you failed your initial checks, and you will receive a Gate 1 offer. You can reapply during the next Connections Application Window after addressing readiness gaps. This is anticipated no earlier than Q2 2026. NESO envisage that application windows will be open every 6 months for 6 weeks, but exact dates for the next window have not yet been published.	05/12/2025
<b>36. Methodology and Decisions</b>	What is a gated and non-gated Modification Application?	NESO Guidance on classification of Gated Modification Applications details the difference between gated and non-gated modification applications (mod-apps). Please see: [ <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/360456/download">https://www.neso.energy/document/360456/download</a> ].	05/12/2025
<b>37. Methodology and Decisions</b>	Will the delivery pipeline be changed after customers receive the Queue Formation notifications? For example, as a result of a complaint, dispute, or otherwise?	Under the new connections process, new connection applications and certain use of system applications and Modification Applications are 'Gated applications' and as such (with the exception of new BEGA and BELLA applications) can only be made during a Gated Application Window and cannot be submitted or processed at other times. The Modification Applications that need to be submitted by Users during a Gated Application Window are termed 'Gated Modification Applications'. Modification Applications that are not considered to be Gated Modification Applications, i.e. non-Gated Modification Applications, can be submitted and processed at any time, and do not have to wait for an open Gated Application Window.	05/12/2025
		Reform for the connections queue was developed with strong support from industry and government, shaped by extensive consultation and collaboration. The framework, approved by Ofgem, is designed to ensure that projects which are ready and strategically important for Great Britain are prioritised.	
		Upon publication of the results, the new delivery pipeline is final. No new projects can be added, and the order projects are connecting in cannot be changed, regardless of circumstances. This is essential to maintain fairness and integrity for all customers.	05/12/2025

		The capacities outlined in Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan include the capacity that is already installed on the network. Subtracting installed capacity from this figure gives the remaining 'permitted capacity' that the existing queue will be aligned to.	
<b>38. Methodology and Decisions</b>	Could you confirm whether the zonal capacities for 2030 and 2035 are total connected capacity or additional connected capacity?	Where the 2035 figure in the plan exceeds the capacity in 2030 the difference between the two figures is the additional capacity 'added' for the 2030 period.	10/12/2025
		Please see Section 5.4.14 available on page 28 of the CNDM for an example [available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/350241/download">https://www.neso.energy/document/350241/download</a> ].	
<b>39. Methodology and Decisions</b>	Is NESO currently working with DNOs to complete detailed checks for distribution projects (including BEGA/BELLA projects) and finalise their place in the new delivery pipeline?	Yes – we are working in coordination with Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) on finalising detailed checks. For small and medium embedded customers (including those small and medium embedded customers with a BEGA), we have completed duplication checks of red line boundaries as per the Gate 2 Criteria methodology, and have worked with DNOs to understand any duplications. Large EG BEGA/BELLA projects submitted their evidence directly to the NESO, and so we are currently carrying out detailed and duplication checks for these customers. We will be in touch with these customers soon to request permission to share red line boundaries with their DNOs. This is so that DNOs can ensure that Large EG BEGA/BELLA projects are adhering to existing DNO policy on red line boundaries.	10/12/2025
<b>40. Future Windows</b>	How will new projects get entry to the pipeline in future?	Going forwards developers will only be able to apply for a connections agreement during one of two connection application windows throughout the year. New projects and projects that have already sought a connections agreement and have been placed in the development pipeline (officially known as Gate 1) will have an opportunity to have their project assessed on whether it should move to the delivery pipeline (Gate 2) as part of these connection application windows. Future application windows will be for all available capacity from that window until the next milestone point. So, if capacity becomes available in 2026 or subsequent dates up to the next milestone point it can be applied for. NESO will announce the date for the first connection applications window in the New Year.	11/12/2025
<b>41. Future Windows</b>	Will substitutions and rebalancing be available in the next window?	Substitutions and rebalancing will continue in the next window where there is an opportunity to do so. There is limited available capacity remaining in most of the zones and most of the technologies, but where there is capacity available in a zone and there is an excess of projects who qualify for that, but there is an undersupply in an associated permitted zone, substitutions and rebalancing will still be available using the same principles as were used in the G2TWQ process. For more information, we recommend customers watch the recent Connections Webinars. This particular topic is discussed from approximately 25 minutes in to the session on the 18th December [available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive">https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive</a> ].	07/01/2026

<b>42. Future Windows</b>	Will a project protected under clause 3a be guaranteed to be offered a gate 2 connection once they receive planning and applying in 434? Will they be inserted into the pipeline as if protected under 435 or added to the end of the new queue?	Protection Clause 3A means that projects can exceed both the zonal and the national permitted capacities if they apply in the 434 window. They have to apply and they have to provide NESO with evidence that they have secured milestone M2 (planning consent). Where projects are successful in applying for a G2 agreement in the first 434 window, whether protected or not, they would go to the back of the new connections pipeline that was formed via the G2TWQ (CMP435) process. This will be the standard approach for future 434 windows. The only exception to going to the back of the new connections pipeline is where capacity is reallocated if projects are removed from the connections pipeline. For more information, we recommend customers watch the recent Connections Webinars. This particular topic is discussed from approximately 30 minutes in to the session on the 18th December [available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive">https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive</a> ].	07/01/2026
<b>43. Future Windows</b>	For oversubscribed technologies (eg Batteries), does this mean there will be no availability until post 2035? Is it even worth putting any projects through the next window whenever that opens?	For oversubscribed technologies, such as batteries, it means a significant number of projects would have to leave the delivery pipeline to enable a project not currently prioritised to become prioritised. However, the permitted capacity may be updated in the future to reflect any updates to the CP30 Action Plan and/or SSEP.	09/12/2025
<b>44. Future Windows</b>	When will the CMP 434 window open or be updated?	No earlier than Q2 2026; further updates will be provided as so as they are available.	05/12/2025
<b>45. Future Windows</b>	In future windows will it be possible to apply for a connection date in the period up to 2030 or 2035?	Future application windows will be for all available capacity from that window until the next milestone point. So, if capacity becomes available in 2026 or subsequent dates up to the next milestone point it can be applied for.	17/12/2025
<b>46. Technology Specific - Batteries</b>	Why have some battery projects been granted protection whilst others have not?	Projects which meet the relevant protections criteria (e.g. have secured planning consent) have had their agreements protected as these projects are at the final stages of delivery. NESO designed Ofgem approved connection reform methodologies to maintain a stable energy investment environment, meaning protections were offered to projects that could evidence their intention to build and where significant investment had already been made. Removing these projects would undermine investor confidence. The number of battery projects in the pipeline shows that the market recognises the value of flexible capacity to support decarbonisation in Great Britain.	17/12/2025
<b>47. Technology Specific - Batteries</b>	I am a Protected battery - why have I moved from Phase 1 to Phase 2?	Not all of the protection clauses in the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology contain assurance on connection dates or phases. Only protections 1 and 2A (Additional Protection) protect a customer's connection date and phase.	09/12/2025
		As battery zones across the country are oversubscribed, some Battery projects with firm or enduring non-firm connection dates before End 2030 would have had their phase moved to Phase 2. Where a distinction was made between 2A projects without the additional protection, this was based on countersignature dates as per the Connections Network Design Methodology (CNDM) [available here: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/375026/download">https://www.neso.energy/document/375026/download</a> ].	09/12/2025

48. Technology Specific - Batteries	Why have so many batteries not received a gate 2 offer?	<p>Connections reform is aimed at delivering a sustainable pipeline of projects that can deliver on Great Britain's strategic energy goals by 2030. Technology based targets have been established using The UK Government 2024 Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (Please see Table 1, page 32 – DESNZ 'Clean Power Capacity Range', available at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-power-2030-action-plan">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-power-2030-action-plan</a>). This report sets out that 27-33GW is required by 2030, with around 7.4GW already installed. The existing levels of storage in the old connection queue amounted to around 240GW, nearly ten times what is required by 2030. The figures we are publishing today show that there will be over 80GW of batteries in the new delivery pipeline, which is almost 3 times what we need for 2035.</p>	17/12/2025
49. Technology Specific - Batteries	How are you addressing the oversubscription of batteries after 2030, or will they all get 2035 connection dates?	<p>All protected batteries will receive a confirmed offer, in line with the connection methodologies approved by Ofgem. Over half of the battery capacity is in phase 2 of the connection delivery pipeline, which means that it is likely to receive a firm connection date after 2030. Specific dates will be dependent on the outcome of engineering assessments and network designs undertaken by the Transmission Owners. Once the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) is completed NESO will use this to determine whether additional batteries are needed in the period 2031-35 or beyond.</p>	17/12/2025
50. Technology Specific - Batteries	Why have you not categorised me as an LDES?	<p>LDES project capacity have been allocated on a national basis as per Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan. As outlined in DESNZ and Ofgem's Long Duration Electricity Storage: Technical Decision Document, an LDES asset must be capable of discharge at full power for at least eight hours, and full power must be at least 50MW or 100MW (depending on technology maturity) [available at: <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/677bc80399c93b7286a396d6/clean-power-2030-action-plan-main-report.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/677bc80399c93b7286a396d6/clean-power-2030-action-plan-main-report.pdf</a>]. This also states that for the purposes of the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan pathway which will be used for connections, lithium-ion electricity storage projects will be treated as batteries. You will not have been categorised as an LDES project if you do not satisfy this criteria. If you believe NESO have made a mistake, please provide detail of this through submitting a complaint on the NESO Connections Portal.</p>	10/12/2025
51. Technology Specific - Solar	Why have so many solar projects not received a gate 2 offer?	<p>Technology based targets have been established using the UK Government 2024 Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (Table 1, page 32 – DESNZ 'Clean Power Capacity Range'. Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-power-2030-action-plan">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-power-2030-action-plan</a>). This report sets out that 45-47GW is required by 2030, with around 16.6GW already installed. The existing levels of solar in the old connection queue amounted to around 210GW, four times the 2030 target. Almost 60GW of solar is in the new delivery pipeline.</p>	17/12/2025

	<p>The signing cut off date has to be taken in the context of level of readiness. In line with the Connections Network Design Methodology (CNDM), projects are ordered by current phase (or new phase if advanced from phase 2 to phase 1); then by planning status (i.e. level of readiness), then by initial queue position.</p>	
<b>52. Technology Specific - Onshore Wind</b> What was the cut off date for Phase 1 offshore wind?	<p>The cut-off dates published are only for Phase 2 because Phase 2 is where projects are removed from the pipeline. NESO have not published the cut off dates for what made it into Phase 1 as projects that did not make it into phase 1 were considered for phase 2. Phase 2 of onshore wind in Scotland was full with protected projects. Phase 1 onshore wind in Scotland did include some non-protected projects as those projects were already in phase 1 and fitted within the permitted capacity for the relevant zone(s) in line with the criteria in the CNDM and summarised above. For more information, we recommend customers watch the recent Connections Webinars. This particular topic is discussed from approximately 29 minutes in to the session on the 18th December [available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive">https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connection-reform-webinars-and-archive</a>].</p>	07/01/2026
<b>53. Technology Specific - Offshore Wind</b> What does the queue formation outcome mean for the Holistic Network Design?	<p>All offshore wind projects that had a Crown Estate lease at the time when evidence needed to be submitted have been included in the new delivery pipeline. This means that all offshore wind projects that have gone through the HND process and applied in the window will be in the new delivery pipeline. We have enough offshore wind in the new delivery pipeline to meet the top of the UK Government's range of capacity for 2035</p>	17/12/2025
<b>54. Technology Specific - Offshore Wind</b> What does this mean for Celtic Sea?	<p>The Celtic Sea offshore wind projects did not have Crown Estate leases at the time when evidence needed to be submitted in order to be included in the new pipeline. This means that they could not receive a Confirmed offer and be included in the new pipeline. They will have the opportunity to apply in future windows when they can demonstrate that they have a Crown Estate lease.</p>	17/12/2025
<b>55. Technology Specific - Offshore Wind</b> What does this mean for ScotWind?	<p>All offshore wind projects that had a Crown Estate Scotland lease at the time when evidence needed to be submitted and applied in the window have been included in the new delivery pipeline. This means that all ScotWind offshore wind projects who applied will be in the new delivery pipeline.</p>	17/12/2025
<b>56. Technology Specific - Offshore Wind</b> What does this mean for INTOG?	<p>All offshore wind projects that had a Crown Estate Scotland lease at the time when evidence needed to be submitted and applied in the window have been included in the new delivery pipeline. This means that all INTOG projects who applied will be in the new delivery pipeline.</p>	17/12/2025

<b>57. Hybrid Projects</b>	How do I understand a Hybrid outcome where there is a 0MW gate 2 offer?	Where the Energy Storage within the hybrid project was classified as either export or import (i.e. not both) for the Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) process, the Connections methodology states that export/import only Energy Storage does not contribute towards the permitted capacities set out in the Clean Power Action Plan. The update to the connections methodologies published in November further clarified that where an energy storage system is export/import only, we will set the export/import capacity of the energy storage system at 0MW. If the generation stage(s) of the hybrid project received a Gate 1 outcome and the energy storage received a Gate 2 0MW outcome the hybrid project would also have a total export capacity of 0MW. In simple terms, this means that the hybrid project would not be able to export or import capacity from the electricity system unless you apply for and successfully receive a Gate 2 offer in a future submission window for a generation technology that has associated export capacity.	07/01/2026
<b>58. Hybrid Projects</b>	I am a hybrid project – what happens if one of my technology types failed Gate 2 readiness?	Hybrid projects were required to seek Gate 2 readiness for each technology type that is part of the facility. If one technology type did not make it into the Gate 2 process, it did not disadvantage the other technology type, provided it met the Gate 2 criteria. This also applies to staged projects, including hybrid sites where the technology types have different connection dates. For more information, please see the Evidence Submission Handbook: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/361056/download">[https://www.neso.energy/document/361056/download]</a>	05/12/2025
<b>59. Hybrid Projects</b>	For sites with a hybrid setup (part gate 2, part gate 1), are new DRC schedules required for both parts or just the gate 2 portion?	Only the gate 2 portion requires a new DRC schedule.	05/12/2025
<b>60. Hybrid Projects</b>	How do I understand a Hybrid outcome where there is a 0MW gate 2 offer?	Where the Energy Storage within the hybrid project was classified as either export or import (i.e. not both) for the Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) process. The Connections methodology states that export/import only Energy Storage does not contribute towards the permitted capacities set out in the Clean Power Action Plan. The update to the connections methodologies published in November further clarified that where an energy storage system is export/import only, we will set the export/import capacity of the energy storage system at 0MW. If the generation stage(s) of the hybrid project received a Gate 1 outcome and the energy storage received a Gate 2 0MW outcome the hybrid project would also have a total export capacity of 0MW. In simple terms, this means that the hybrid project would not be able to export or import capacity from the electricity system unless you apply for and successfully receive a Gate 2 offer in a future submission window for a generation technology that has associated export capacity.	22/12/2025
<b>61. Hybrid Projects</b>	I am a hybrid project – why has only one of my projects received a Gate 2 offer?	Hybrid projects are treated as their two respective technologies when it comes to protections and CP30 pots. This means that a customer could have received a Gate 1 offer for one technology, and a Gate 2 offer for the other technology. For example, where one or more technologies exceeds the 2035 permitted capacity (and does not have protected status), that technology element of the hybrid project will not receive a Gate 2 offer. This represents the same treatment as any other project that exceeds the 2035 permitted capacity.	05/12/2025

<b>62. Distribution contracts</b>	<p>I am a distribution customer- how do I find out more information about my outcome or raise a complaint?</p>	<p>Your DNO will be responsible for managing your queries and complaints in the first case. As the DNOs managed their customers evidence submission process, and assessed Gate 2 evidence, they are the best placed to do so. NESO have also provided DNOs with all relevant information and data pertaining to their customers' outcomes where the NESO have been involved (eg strategic alignment assessment). If you are unhappy with the outcome of your query or complaint, you may notify the DNO of this and request escalation to the NESO. Your DNO will manage the communications with NESO in regard to any of their customer complaint escalations, but please note that you will be required to provide evidence for any complaint you wish the DNO to escalate on your behalf, so that the NESO may undertake a suitable investigation into the escalated matter.</p> <p>Contacting your DNO will ensure your query or complaint is dealt with efficiently and help the NESO and DNOs deal with high contact volumes. Contacting NESO as opposed to, or in addition to, your DNO will not expedite or escalate your query but will hinder the NESO's response process and will result in a slower response time.</p>	09/12/2025
<b>63. Fees, Securities and Timing</b>	<p>I paid an advancement fee, but I have not been advanced – (why) do I still need to pay an advancement fee?</p>	<p>Our methodology set out that an advancement fee was required to enter the process, to cover the cost of processing requests. However, paying an advancement fee does not guarantee advancement itself, this is based on our wider delivery pipeline reassessments and network design exercises which aim to deliver a new pipeline of projects that align with the systems needs.</p>	09/01/2026
<b>64. Fees, Securities and Timing</b>	<p>What happens if I do not respond to the demand RFI by the deadline?</p>	<p>The Demand Queue Call for Input (CFI) is your opportunity to help shape how the demand queue is understood and managed. By providing information on key themes, such as project details, connection status, project timelines, financial readiness, and project maturity, you will help shape how future connections are managed and ensure fairness across the queue. That said, the CFI is voluntary, and there is no consequence to not responding.</p> <p>For more information, please see: [<a href="https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections/demand-queue-call-input-cfi">https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections/demand-queue-call-input-cfi</a>]</p>	05/12/2025
<b>65. Fees, Securities and Timing</b>	<p>When will I get my offer?</p>	<p>For projects that applied directly to NESO, the timelines are as follows. Those who applied to DNOs should refer to their DNOs timeline.</p> <p>Gate 2 projects connecting in 2026/2027: No later than end of January 2026</p> <p>Gate 2 projects connecting up to and including 2030: No later than end of Q2 2026</p> <p>Gate 2 projects connecting up to and including 2035: No later than end of Q3 2026</p> <p>Gate 1 (projects that did not meet Gate 2 requirements): We began issuing these in November 2025 for those who had self-selected Gate 1, we will continue to issue these ATVs and this exercise will run into 2026</p>	05/12/2025

		Fees and securities are essential financial requirements within the NESO electricity connections process.	
<b>66. Fees, Securities and Timing</b>	What is the difference between fees and securities?	Fees refer to the payments applicants make at specific stages, such as when submitting an application or progressing through key milestones. These fees cover the administrative and operational costs of processing and managing connection requests.	05/12/2025
		Securities, on the other hand, are financial guarantees, such as cash deposits or bonds, that applicants provide to NESO. Their purpose is to ensure that customers are genuinely committed to their projects and can cover costs if a project is delayed, withdrawn, or cancelled. By requiring securities, NESO protects the system and other customers from the risks associated with speculative or non-committed applications.	
<b>67. Fees, Securities and timing</b>	Concerningly, there is still no update from NESO whether the Securities freeze will be extended. When will we be notified if there will be Securities update in Jan-26? NESO have also committed to review LARF calculations. However there has been no further news on that yet.	We are intending that the securities freeze remains in place until one of the following occurs: • Gate 1 projects – until customers sign their Agreement to Vary (ATV) and the return of existing securities is processed. • Gate 2 projects – until customers sign their Gate 2 Modification Offer. Once signed, securities must be placed within 30 days of signature. A formal industry update will follow once Ofgem approves the next steps.	05/12/2025
<b>68. Fees, Securities and timing</b>	Securities for gate 2 offers – does the 30 day countdown start on the date the customer signs, or the date that NESO countersigned?✉	The 30-day period begins from the date NESO countersigns the Gate 2 Modification Offer. This is the effective contract date under CUSC, and all subsequent obligations, including security placement, are calculated from that point.	11/12/2025
<b>69. Information and errors</b>	Will the specific protection clause be included in notifications?	Only a yes/no (indicating whether a projected has protection status or not) is provided; customers will have been made aware of their protection status at an earlier date.	05/12/2025
<b>70. Information and errors</b>	What is the process for resubmitting evidence for detailed checks?	You will receive a resubmission email with a four-day SLA. Please resubmit evidence using the "resubmit evidence" button on the Connections Portal. If you are concerned that you do not have enough time to resubmit the requested evidence then please let us know by responding to the request as soon as possible.	05/12/2025
<b>71. Information and errors</b>	If a project has been confirmed as protected under a Protection Clause at Initial Checks stage, could this be re-evaluated during Detailed Checks and issuing the Gate 2 Offer, or is the initial confirmation from NESO of protected status definitive and unable to change?	Protected status confirmed at Initial Checks is provisional. NESO will re-evaluate during Detailed Checks before issuing the Gate 2 offer. Only once NESO countersigns the Gate 2 Modification Offer is the status definitive.  For more information please consult the Evidence Clarification Guidelines (detailed checks) [ <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/370771/download">https://www.neso.energy/document/370771/download</a> ] provided information to support project developers and investors in successfully completing detailed checks resubmissions as part of the Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ process).	05/12/2025
<b>72. Information and errors</b>	I have not received any Detailed Checks Updates yet, should I be concerned?	NESO did not notify customers if they passed the Detailed Checks ahead of the Queue Formation offer being issued. Customers were only notified if they failed the detailed checks and are required to resubmit evidence. Your notification outcome email will have confirmed whether you have passed Detailed checks, or whether the outcome was subject to completing Detailed Checks successfully.	07/01/2026

<b>73. Advancement</b>	What is the methodology for determining advancement?	Developers will be able to request advancement of their connection date when submitting their evidence of meeting the Gate 2 criteria. This requested advancement date (or the existing contracted connection date where advancement is not requested) will be the date used to allocate the project to a 'Phase' as shown in CNDM Section 5.7. The TOs will then take this date into consideration during the reassessment, and offer a date as close to this advancement date as the existing or future network permits. Any advancement will depend on network viability and the delivery schedules of the TO, DNO or iDNO. The methodology for determining advancement is described from section 5.25 of the Connection Network Design Methodology [available at <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/375026/download">https://www.neso.energy/document/375026/download</a> ].	05/12/2025
<b>74. Advancement</b>	How are advancement and planning status considered in pipeline formation and movement?	Advancement is based on network capacity, not planning status. As projects are removed, those with planning may move forward.	05/12/2025
<b>75. Advancement</b>	My notification does not receive detail of my advancement request, is this right?	The notifications do not contain the results of customers advancement requests, except where a Phase 2 Customer was granted an advancement to Phase 1. Projects will not be notified of within-phase advancements, or where advancement request fails.	05/12/2025
<b>76. Advancement</b>	How did the process for TO and DNO advancement checks change as of November 2025?	A November 2025 Connection Methodologies update identified two areas in which we and our delivery partners are able to deliver process efficiencies, leading to more timely delivery of G2TWQ. These relate to the Transmission Owner' (TO) and Distribution Network Operator (DNO) 'advancement checks' which occur during the 'Align the connections queue to the CP30 Action Plan' activity as set out within 5.7.1 (page 31), 5.7.6 and 5.7.7 (page 32), 5.8.3 (page 34), and 5.25.5 (page 53) of the CNDM. We have decided that it is more efficient to move these 'advancement checks' from step 5 in the 'Align the connections queue to the CP30 Action Plan' activity as set out within 5.7.1 (page 31), to being carried out before step 1 of the 'Align the connections queue to the CP30 Action Plan' activity as set out within 5.7.1.	17/12/2025
<b>77. Advancement</b>	Why was I given an earlier Phase 2 date instead of Phase 1?	For more information, please see the November 2025 Connection Methodologies update [available at: <a href="https://www.neso.energy/document/371986/download">https://www.neso.energy/document/371986/download</a> ] (page 31). This change was made is to remove the 'advancement checks' from the critical path for pipeline formation and ensure that any delay in the 'advancement checks' would not result in a delay to pipeline formation.	17/12/2025
<b>78. Advancement</b>	Why was I moved from Phase 1 to Phase 2 (or vice versa)?	Your phase allocation is based on NESO's queue formation methodology, which considers project readiness and strategic alignment. There are several different reasons why you may have been given Phase 2 rather than Phase 1 e.g. if you currently have a 2031+ firm or enduring non-firm connection date, requested Advancement and did not get a positive advancement check outcome.	17/12/2025
		Your phase allocation is based on NESO's queue formation methodology, which considers project readiness and strategic alignment. Projects are allocated to Phase 1 or Phase 2 in accordance with this approach, including in relation to whether Advancement was requested and granted. Please note that phase allocation is for the purpose of queue formation and does not indicate the firm or enduring non-firm connection date which will ultimately be provided within the Gate 2 Modification Offer in future. Phase allocation also does not relate to any interim non-firm stages/dates.	

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**79. Pre-Reform & Historical Issues**

What happens if a project has made its gate 2 submission but will be connected before the gate 2 offer is issued? Will an offer still be received? You will receive a notification. The DNOS and TOS will check if you are already connected and process accordingly.

05/12/2025

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