



Connections Reform

Customer update

5th February 2026

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Headlines

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NESO statement

Connections reform timeline

Connections Reform Timeline Update – 29 January 2026

Joint statement from all connections reform delivery partners (including NESO, networks and all joint governance parties)

Immediately following creation of the new connections delivery pipeline in December 2025, NESO, network operators and delivery partners kicked off a review of the Connections Reform delivery timeline in light of the newly established list of phase one and phase two connecting projects. Through this work, technical and engineering matters have been identified, and require resolution to ensure that offers issued through the programme will be robust, reliable and technically accurate.

Additional work related to these matters will take longer than planned, which means some delivery dates will shift. However, this is not a wholesale timeline change: all parties remain focused on maintaining momentum, issuing as many offers as early as possible.

We recognise that any change to the timeline creates uncertainty, particularly in relation to resourcing and investment. The additional work underway is intended to strengthen delivery across the programme and increase confidence in the offers that will be issued.

Our priority now is to give customers clear visibility of when offers will be issued and to set out a plan we can all move forward with confidently. A revised timeline has been developed and is now being reviewed through the programme's joint governance process. Subject to signoff by programme governance, we are aiming to publish the updated plan in the coming weeks.

To support customers while this process concludes, we set out responses to some key questions below. Thank you for your continued patience. All programme partners remain fully committed to delivering a timeline that customers can rely on and that supports the long-term success of Connections Reform.

Milestones

“We understand the extended uncertainty that the delays in issuing Gate 2 Offers is having on your project. To provide reassurance that your project will not be disadvantaged by these delays, we would like to provide clarity on how we will deal with project milestones when Gate 2 Offers are issued.

When issuing Gate 2 Offers we will contact you to understand the progress of your project with a view to set appropriate milestones factoring in an appropriate adjustment for the delays in the Gate 2 Offers being issued. Extensions to those milestones equal to the length of time between the original date planned for issuing Gate 2 Offers i.e. [date] and the date of your offer being issued will be granted automatically. If it can be demonstrated that your project is delayed beyond this extension, we will assess these on a case-by-case basis with a view to granting reasonable extensions.

Hopefully the above provides clarity and if you have any further questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch.”

Tech Limits

DNO Industry-Aligned Position on Technical Limits

- **Pause Point:** Issuing of technical limits offers was paused in **early 2025**.
- **Current Status:** Only customers with an accepted TL offer **and Gate 2 notification** can proceed. Customers with Gate 1 notification cannot.
- **Hybrid Projects:** Where a technology has been dropped, only the technology with Gate 2 notification can benefit from earlier connection; Gate 1 elements cannot proceed under TL.
- **Contract Variations:** Some form of variation is needed for hybrids, but each DNO will decide internally if restudies or curtailment reviews are required.
- **Resumption:** TL offers will only resume **after the connection reform programme is complete** (when all Q3 offers are accepted or lapsed), and only at TL-enabled GSPs.
- **Customer Impact:** The fairest approach is to wait until CMP435 concludes, giving NESO and DNOs clarity post-technical studies.

Post webinar update for clarity - those Gate 2 projects with a current TL accepted offer may connect in advance of their firm date at risk. A single variation will be issued in line with NESO amended timelines for the firm connection which will include curtailment estimates (for firm and non-firm) and description of revised works and prices.

As a result of the delays UK Power Networks are exploring options to see if anything can be done to work alongside Connections Reform

Our preparedness

- In readiness for receipt of Offers from NESO we have revisited and reassessed all 2026/27 Protected Offers
- We believe all D PoC's remain unchanged (final confirmation when NESO Offers received)
- We still await “Legal green light” to be able to proceed
- Our plan still remains unchanged
 - Issue UK Power Networks Connection Offers within 4/5 weeks of receipt (vs 12 weeks BAU)
 - 4/5 weeks for customer acceptance