

Sent by email to [Connections@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:Connections@ofgem.gov.uk)

13 January 2025

Dear Ofgem

**Connections end-to-end review – consultation**

We encourage Ofgem - working with NESO and the UK government - to incentivise timely and low-cost connection requests from demand customers, particularly industry, as well as connection requests from renewable generation. We encourage Ofgem to consider how to prioritise flexible demand connections, for instance that utilise storage to lower peak demand, within the queue.

Much of the focus of Ofgem and the UK government's Connections Action Plan is on connecting renewable generation. This focus on generation connections is understandable because of the government's ambitious Clean Power 2030 target and the scale of renewable generation to be deployed in the next five years and beyond.

While we support Ofgem's work to enable renewable generation projects, we recommend that Ofgem also incentivises electricity networks to provide a timely and reasonably priced response to connection requests - and requests for connection upgrades - from demand customers.

Outside of industrial clusters, British manufacturers will increasingly switch away from fossil fuels to electricity at the distribution and, in some cases, transmission level. British businesses cannot wait years for new or upgraded electricity connections and the cost of this connection must be reasonable. This focus on facilitating timely and reasonable demand connections is also important for connecting new-build housing estates that use electric heating to the distribution grid. Electricity networks cannot slow down the UK's much-needed housebuilding.

We encourage Ofgem to consider how to prioritise flexible demand connections, for instance those that utilise storage to lower peak demand, within the queue. This could mean manufacturers receiving non-firm connections for their demand, reducing the cost of connections in return for not being able to import when the grid is congested.

Best wishes

Tom Lowe

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**Thermal Storage UK**