

Matthew Magill
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Email: connections@ofgem.gov.uk

Date: 21 May 2025

Dear Matthew ,

Ofgem decision on Joint Direction and Letter of Comfort requests from NESO and all three GB Transmission Owners (NGET, SSENT and SPT) – Extension of Transitional Arrangements Reliefs

On 21 August 2024, Ofgem published a decision in support of implementing transitional arrangements to the electricity connections process.¹ Subsequently, we approved a modification to connections transitional arrangements on 15 January 2025.²

This letter sets out our support in extending transitional arrangements in response to a request made by the National Electricity System Operator (NESO) and Transmission Owners (TOs). In summary, NESO and the TOs will continue to be responsible for implementation and administration of this phase of the transition process until Connections Reform³ implementation on 10 June 2025.

Context

On 21 August 2024, we supported the NESO and the TOs' proposal to introduce a transitional arrangements process applicable to new directly connected applications made from 2 September 2024. The transitional arrangements were in place to facilitate the move from the existing connections process to the proposed reformed gated process (which was subject to Ofgem approval at the time).⁴

Nearing the prospective implementation of the reformed connections process⁵, NESO and the TOs revisited the transitional arrangements process and came forward with a proposal to introduce amendments, consisting of three elements:

- 1) A "pause" in responding to applications (other than directly connected demand)

¹ [Ofgem Transitional Arrangements Decision](#)

² [Decision on joint direction and Letter of Comfort requests on cut-over arrangements for new connection applications | Ofgem](#)

³ Also referred to as 'TM04+ reform package' in this letter. Ofgem decision and further information: [Decision on Connections Reform Package \(TM04+\) | Ofgem](#).

⁴ See code modifications: [CMP434](#), [CMP435](#) and [CM095](#).

⁵ As we set out in our [Open letter: update on reform to the electricity connections process following proposals from ESO | Ofgem](#).

- 2) Modifying the existing transitional offer process to apply only to new directly connected demand projects
- 3) An exceptions process to the pause to continue issuing firm offers for specified modification applications to existing connections.⁶

We decided to approve the request and set out our rationale in our letter dated 15 January 2025. All reliefs provided in that letter were effective from **29 January 2025** until:

- In the event [CMP434](#), [CMP435](#) and [CM095](#) are approved, then the date of implementation of those code modifications;
- In the event [CMP434](#), [CMP435](#) are [CM095](#) are rejected, Ofgem's confirmation at that stage of the expiry date of the reliefs;
- In any case (including delay to decision on the code modifications), the reliefs provided in the letter would expire **on 31 May 2025**.

The purpose of the 31 May expiry date was to ensure there was a 'backstop', providing certainty for industry in case of delays to the Connections Reform decision.

On 15 April 2025, we published our decision to approve the TMO4+ reform package.⁷ In light of the decision date for our decision to modify relevant licences being 15 April 2025 and the subsequent statutory 56-day standstill period, these changes brought forward by the reform will take effect on **10 June 2025**. Code modifications will therefore also be implemented on that date. This leaves a gap between the end of the reliefs provided for under connections transitional arrangements and the implementation of Connections Reform.

Our decision and reasoning

Based on the information provided by NESO and TOs, our assessment, and having regard to our principal objective and statutory duties, we have decided to extend the comforts granted in our decision dated 15 January.

We set out our reasons for implementing the subsequent phase of transitional arrangements in our letter dated 15 January. The primary reason for further extending the period for which the reliefs specified in that letter remain effective, is to ensure the preparatory works for the implementation of the Connections Reform and the one-off 'Gate 2 to Whole Queue' exercise can proceed as planned. That way, maximum clarity can be provided to customers.

Further, we consider this decision to provide sufficient certainty to the industry since the implementation timescales for Connections Reform have been specified and clearly communicated, eg in our decision to approve the Connections Reform package.

The Authority hereby confirms that:

- NESO are permitted to not comply with the relevant requirements of Licence Conditions of the Electricity System Operator Licence, CUSC and STC in relation to providing the use of system and connection for customers **until the end of the day on 9 June 2025**.

⁶ See our letter for further details: [Decision on joint direction and Letter of Comfort requests on cut-over arrangements for new connection applications | Ofgem](#)

⁷ [Decision on Connections Reform Package \(TMO4+\) | Ofgem](#)

- TOs are permitted to not comply with the relevant requirements of Standard Licence Conditions of the Electricity Transmission Licence and STC in relation to providing the use of system and connection for customer **until the end of the day on 9 June 2025**.

The reliefs granted continue to relate solely to the issues set out in our letter dated 15 January 2025 and for the time-limited period. On this basis, we do not envisage that it would be in the consumer interest to pursue enforcement proceedings in respect of these specific obligations for this purpose; however, please note that we reserve the right to take action against you, should you fail to fulfil the proposed steps set out in the letter. For the avoidance of doubt, the acceptance of this proposal will not prevent us from taking any enforcement action necessary for any other failures that are separate to this matter.

Our approval of the direction and comfort requests are time-bound until the longstop date of end of **9 June 2025** – they will lapse by this date under all circumstances. In the event of further delays and that the reliefs provided in this letter lapse before the go-live of the reformed process, NESO and the TOs will need to write to us to seek extensions to these reliefs at that stage, if still required.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact the Connections team, at Connections@ofgem.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Presley Abbott
Deputy Director, System Planning and Connections

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose.

Cc: John Twomey, NGET
Christianna Logan, SSENT
Scott Mathieson, SPT