Consultation

RIIO-ET3 Load Re-opener: May 2026 submission window Draft Determinations - Overview document

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The Load-Re-opener enables the delivery of essential network infrastructure by allowing Electricity Transmission Owners (ETOs) to request additional allowances for new load projects which were not funded at start of the RIIO-3 Price Control Period.

We are consulting on our Draft Determination of Load Re-opener applications submitted by ETOs in the May 2026 submission window. National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET), Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHET) and SP Transmission plc (SPT) made a combined total of 30 applications:

- 28 projects for Eligibility Assessment (EA), with an associated Pre-Construction Funding (PCF) request of £516.615m;
- 0 application for standalone Needs Case Assessment (NCA); and
- 2 projects for Project Assessment (PA), with ETOs' total requested funding of £425.947m.

We propose to approve the eligibility of 27 of 28 EA applications, granting £487.294m in PCF. This includes approving or partially approving the needs case of 15 projects, as part of EA applications that qualify for Early Options Needs Case approval. Subject to outcomes of this consultation, Early Options Needs Case projects will progress to the PA stage and be considered in a future consultation. For the 2 projects submitted for PA in this application window, we propose to approve £130.080m in allowances.

This document outlines the scope and purpose of the consultation, our Draft Determinations, the consultation questions and explains how you can get involved. Once the consultation is closed, we will carefully consider all responses before publishing our Final Determinations in November.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Network companies are natural monopolies. Effective regulation of privatised for-profit monopolies is essential to ensure they cannot unfairly exercise their monopoly power to the detriment of their customers. This is particularly important in the case of essential utilities, such as energy, where consumers have no choice over whether or not to pay what they are charged. It is therefore crucial that an effective regulator protects energy consumers by controlling how much network companies can charge their customers.

1.2 Ofgem does this through periodic price controls that are designed to ensure network companies are properly incentivised to deliver the best possible outcomes for current and future energy consumers. This includes ensuring that consumers only pay for investments that are needed and do not overpay for those investments.

1.3 The current price control model is known as RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs). RIIO-3 is the third electricity and gas price control under the RIIO model. The RIIO-3 price control period runs from 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2031 for Electricity Transmission (ET), Gas Transmission (GT) and Gas Distribution (GD).[1] It includes a range of Uncertainty Mechanisms (UMs) that allow us[2] to assess network companies' applications for further funding during RIIO-3 and adjust their allowances[3] in response to changing developments during the price control period.

1.4 Where possible, we have set automatic UMs, known as Volume Driver mechanisms, which provide network companies with immediate funding when they are required to undertake new customer connection works. In other areas, where the degree of uncertainty is too great to allow for an automatic mechanism, we set "re-openers".

1.5 Re-openers allow us to assess network companies' proposals robustly, once sufficiently accurate information is available. They are a type of UM that allow us to adjust a licensee's allowances (in some cases up and in some cases down), outputs and delivery dates in response to changing circumstances during the price control period. For some re-openers we can do this by issuing a direction, provided certain requirements are met in line with the Gas Act 1986 and the

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[1] RIIO-3 Final Determinations for the Electricity Transmission, Gas Distribution and Gas Transmission sectors | Ofgem

[2] The terms 'we', 'us', 'our' refer to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority). Ofgem operates under the direction and governance of the Authority.

[3] See our publication of the RIIO-3 Final Determinations for full information on the ETOs baseline funding allowances.

Electricity Act 1989. For some re-openers, modifications (ie modifications of licence conditions) must be made under section 11A of the Electricity Act 1989 or under section 23 of the Gas Act 1986.

1.6 The Load-Re-opener applies to all Electricity Transmission Owners (ETOs) as governed by SpC 3.18 (Load Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable, LR_t) of the Electricity Transmission licence. It enables ETOs to request additional allowances for new load projects which were not funded or only partially funded at start of the Price Control Period.

Why we introduced the Load Re-opener in RIIO-3

1.7 The RIIO-ET3 price control framework recognises the step change in investment that is needed over the coming years to build a more secure, reliable, and affordable energy system. It responds to the scale and urgency of infrastructure delivery required to increase energy security and resilience and meet government growth and decarbonisation targets, while keeping a strong focus on cost control and protecting consumers.

1.8 RIIO-ET3 reflects the realities of delivering infrastructure at scale, with the possibility that, across the price control period, over £70bn of investment in electricity transmission networks will be needed. The Load Re-opener was introduced as one of the key mechanisms to enable the delivery of essential network infrastructure. It is designed to balance the need to make investment decisions at pace with the need to robustly scrutinise the ETOs investment proposals, ensuring that overall we arrive at the best outcomes for consumers. The Load Re-opener and interacting mechanisms have a number of design features that help deliver these outcomes, including:

- early provision of Pre-Construction Funding (PCF), enabling ETOs to fully develop critical strategic projects ahead of full project funding applications. The PCF covers the cost of surveys, assessments, stakeholder engagement, project design and engineering development, tasks associated with wayleaves and planning applications and Early Enabling Works (EEW);
- the Major Projects Output Delivery Incentive (MP ODI-F) and Connections ODI-F incentivise ETOs to deliver projects on-time or early where there is a consumer benefit, and for timely connection of customers to the network;
- the fast-tracking of projects where the engineering solution that the ETO has proposed aligns with pre-defined design and engineering principles under the Pre-Approval of Solution by Engineering (PASE) framework; and

- the Advanced Procurement Mechanism (APM) that helps mitigate supply chain risks by enabling ETOs to procure essential equipment years in advance of project approval, reducing the risk of delivery delays and higher costs arising from supply chain constraints.

1.9 Alongside the Load Re-opener, the Generation and Demand Volume Drivers, and the Load and Closely Associated Indirect (CAI) Use-It-Or-Lose-It (UIOLI) mechanisms provide automatic funding for projects expected to require only minimal levels of upfront scrutiny or where post-delivery scrutiny is considered sufficient.

Load Re-opener applications and Draft Determinations summary

1.10 These Draft Determinations relate to the applications received in the first Load Re-opener application window. In total there are ten windows in RIIO-3, two in each year, six months apart – the first in April (except for 2026 when it was in May) and the second in October. Our aim is to make decisions on each application within six months of submission.

1.11 In total, we received 30 applications. This document provides an overview of our Draft Determinations for the Load Re-opener May 2026 application window, as are summarised below.

1.12 Eligibility Assessment (EA) applications:

- 28 EA applications were received, 24 from NGET, and 4 from SHET.
- we consider 27 projects submitted for EA are eligible for the Load Re-opener and are to be awarded in total £487.294m in PCF. Of the 27 eligible projects:
  - 15 projects are assessed as eligible for Assessment Track 2, meeting the criteria for Early Options Needs Case approval and may progress directly to Project Assessment (PA) in a subsequent application window.
  - the remaining 12 eligible projects will progress through Assessment Track 3, with their needs case to be assessed and consulted on in a subsequent Needs Case Assessment (NCA).
- we consider one project, NGET's Upgrade of Eggborough to Thorpe Marsh 400kV single circuit (ETRE), to be ineligible as our assessment is that it does not meet the eligibility requirements as set out in the Load Re-opener Guidance Document.

1.13 NCA applications:

- we did not receive any NCA applications in this application window.

1.14 PA applications:

- 2 PA applications were received with a total of £425.947m in additional allowances requested.
- we propose awarding a total allowance of £130.080m for SPT's XH and XJ Routes Overhead Line Uprating Works (VSRE) project, £11.997m less than the £142.077m requested.
- NGET's Woolavington project was previously submitted for Final Needs Case (FNC) approval under the RIIO-ET2 Large Onshore Transmission Investment (LOTI) mechanism. It will be eligible for funding through the Load Re-opener once the FNC decision has been published. We will publish a consultation on the FNC shortly, and will consult on full project funding under the Load Re-opener as soon as possible after the FNC decision is published later this year.

1.15 The MP-ODI-F was introduced in RIIO-ET3 to incentivise the timely delivery of strategically important projects. On projects where the MP ODI-F applies, ETOs are financially rewarded where they deliver the project on-time or early, and penalised where they deliver late. We are also consulting on the application of the MP ODI-F to Load Re-opener Outputs. We are minded-to apply the incentive to 11 of the submitted projects. We do not currently have sufficient certainty to reach a decision and require further information from the ETOs to set the incentive design parameters at a future time.

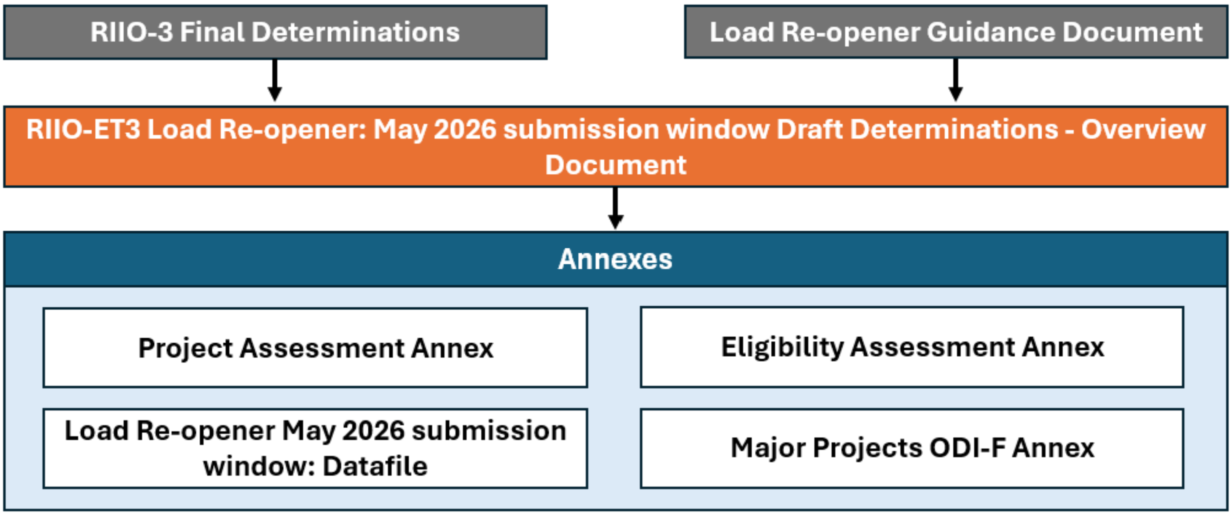
1.16 Where we propose to allow funding, this is because we believe it is in the interest of energy consumers as the associated projects will have benefits, such as enabling new supply and demand connections and alleviating network constraints. Where we propose disallowances, this is because we have assessed the ETOs' costs to be inefficient, unjustified, or out of scope of the Load Re-opener mechanism.

1.17 All consultation questions can be found in Appendix 2 of this document, as well as in the relevant sections of the associated Annexes.

2. Navigating the Load Re-opener Draft Determinations

2.1 Our Draft Determinations are a suite of documents set out in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Navigating our Draft Determinations



2.2 This document is the Overview Document, which sets out our standard assessment approach of network companies' re-opener applications and an overview of our Draft Determinations consultation position - including the proposed project allowances for each Load Re-opener application. Where there are specific Assessment Stage or Assessment Track considerations, we have set this detail out in the relevant annexes.

Consultation stages and timings

2.3 This consultation will run for 28 days and will close on 24 September. We will carefully review all responses before finalising and publishing our decision in November 2026. The key stages are:

- **Stage 1:** Consultation open: 27 August 2026.
- **Stage 2:** Consultation closes (awaiting decision). Deadline for responses: 24 September 2026
- **Stage 3:** Responses reviewed and published: with decision
- **Stage 4:** Consultation outcome (decision).

Giving legal effect to our Load Re-opener decisions

2.4 Proposals within the scope of this Load Re-opener publication are draft and subject to the outcome of the consultation we are carrying out. We expect to publish our decisions on the Load Re-opener applications subject to this consultation in our Final Determinations in November 2026.

2.5 We will give effect to our Final Determinations through licence modifications as set out in the associated licence conditions in the ET licences. Associated with this consultation will be:

- direction to Special Condition 3.15 (Pre-Construction Funding Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable (PCF_t and $PCFRE_t$)) to set PCF allowances for Load Re-opener Outputs following EA; and
- licence modification to Special Condition 3.18 (Load Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable (LR_t)) to set Load Ro-opener Outputs and associated allowances.

2.6 For modification associated with Special Condition 3.15 (Pre-Construction Funding Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable (PCF_t and $PCFRE_t$)) to set PCF allowances, we have included draft directions in the appendices of the EA and PA Annexes, which set out for consultation the text of our proposed direction. We will issue directions to set out any adjustments alongside our Final Determinations.

2.7 For modification associated with Special Condition 3.18 (Load Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable (LR_t)), such as funding, outputs and delivery timelines related to our PA decision-making, we have included the draft text for the proposed licence amendment in this consultation in the appendices of the PA Annex. We will publish a statutory consultation alongside our Final Determinations.

2.8 In future application windows, further licence modification may be consulted on as part of proposals related to Cost and Output Adjusting Events (COAEs), Material Project Changes and the MP ODI-F.

Related publications

2.9 The scope of this consultation is limited to Load Re-opener applications in the May 2026 application window. This document is intended to be read alongside:

- ETO published May 2026 Load Re-opener applications:
  - NGET - RIIO-T3 Re-openers | RIIO-T3
  - SHET - Our RIIO-T3 Business Plan - SSEN Transmission
  - SPT - RIIO-T3 Load Re-openers - SP Energy Networks

- Load Re-opener Guidance Document & Re-opener Guidance and Application Requirements Document: Electricity transmission price control 2026 to 2031 (RIIO-ET3) guidance | Ofgem
- Re-opener Guidance and Application Requirements Document: Network price control 2026 to 2031 (RIIO-3) guidance page.

- RIIO-3 Final Determinations for the Electricity Transmission, Gas Distribution and Gas Transmission sectors | Ofgem
- RIIO-3 electricity transmission licences: Modifications to the RIIO-3 licences and associated documents | Ofgem
- Draft licence modification notices: these documents set out the proposed text of our draft licence modifications that would give effect to our decision should we decide to proceed with the decision as stated in this consultation. The draft licence modification notices are included as appendices to the relevant annexes.

How to respond

We want to hear from anyone interested in this consultation. Please send your response to the person or team named on the front page of this document.

We have asked for your feedback in each of the questions throughout. Please respond to each one as fully as you can.

We will publish non-confidential responses on our website.

Your response, data, and confidentiality

You can ask us to keep your response, or parts of your response, confidential. We will respect this, subject to obligations to disclose information. For example, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, statutory directions, court orders, government regulations, or where you give us explicit permission to disclose. If you do want us to keep your response confidential, please clearly mark this on your response and explain why.

If you wish us to keep part of your response confidential, please clearly mark those parts of your response that you do wish to be kept confidential and those that you do not wish to be kept confidential. Please put the confidential material in a separate appendix to your response. If necessary, we will contact you to discuss which parts of the information in your response should be kept confidential and which can be published. We might ask for reasons why.

If the information you give in your response contains personal data under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) as retained in domestic law following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union ("UK GDPR"), the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority will be the data controller for the purposes of GDPR. Ofgem uses the information in responses in performing its statutory functions and in accordance with section 105 of the Utilities Act 2000. Please refer to our Privacy Notice on consultations, see Appendix 4.

If you wish to respond confidentially, we will keep your response confidential, but we will publish the number, but not the names, of confidential responses we receive. We will not link responses to respondents if we publish a summary of responses, and we will evaluate each response on its own merits without undermining your right to confidentiality.

How to track the progress of a consultation

1. Find the web page for the call for input you would like to receive updates on.
2. Click ‘Get emails about this page’, enter your email address and click ‘Submit’.
3. You will receive an email to notify you when it has changed status.

A consultation has three stages: ‘Open’, ‘Closed (awaiting decision)’, and ‘Closed (with decision)’.

3. Load Re-opener assessment and approval processes

3.1 Re-openers are a type of RIIO uncertainty mechanism (UM). Depending on their design, they allow us to adjust a licensee’s allowances (in some cases up and in some cases down), outputs and delivery dates in response to changing circumstances during the price control period.

3.2 The purpose of our decision-making process for re-opener applications is to ensure efficient use of the consumers’ money and that consumers only pay for projects that deliver sufficient benefits relative to their cost. The Load Re-opener is designed to balance the need to make investment decisions at pace with the need to robustly scrutinise the ETOs investment proposals, ensuring that overall we arrive at the best outcomes for consumers. Our assessment and approval process comprises a number of stages.

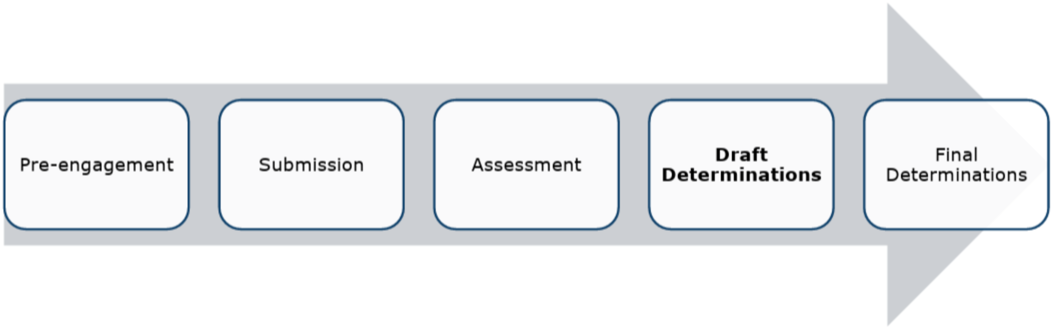
Standard re-opener application assessment processes

3.3 The re-opener assessment and decision-making process are as follows:

- **Pre-engagement:** Before applications are made, we engage with licensees to understand the materiality and complexity of the projects and to help ensure that their applications contain the information we need to properly assess them.
- **Application:** Licensees are required to submit their re-opener applications in defined application windows. Licensees are also required to publish their complete applications (subject to some permitted redactions) on their websites in accordance with the Re-opener Guidance and Application Requirements Document.
- **Assessment**: Project proposals and funding requests are assessed in accordance with the Re-opener Guidance and Application Requirements and the relevant licence requirements.
- **Draft Determination:** We consult on our Draft Determination which provides our minded-to position on any applications. This includes the allowances we are proposing to award based on our view of the efficient cost of delivering work we consider to be justified. We also typically publish for consultation, alongside our Draft Determination, drafts of the directions that will be required to give effect to the proposed decisions.

- **Final Determination:** Following consideration of consultation responses, the Final Determinations finalises our position on our assessment of the re-opener applications. We also issue a direction for implementing the Authority's decision for the relevant licensee's re-opener application, and where required, will undertake a statutory consultation on proposed licence modifications to give effect to the Authority's decision.

Figure 2: Our standard re-opener assessment process



Standard project assessment process

3.4 To be approved for specific funding, all projects, regardless of which mechanism funding is being requested through must undergo three assessments:

1. **Need**: assessment of whether there is a need for any money to be spent. The need for investment might be demonstrated by one or multiple drivers, for example new windfarms and batteries requiring a connection to the grid in the same area might demonstrate a need for a new transmission substation.
2. **Options**: the purpose of options assessment (or 'optioneering') is to ensure that network companies have appropriately considered all viable options for meeting the previously demonstrated need, and that it has selected the option that overall is in the best interest of consumers. For example, where the need is to connect multiple new windfarms and batteries in the same area there may be a range of viable options. All viable options might involve the construction of a new substation, but might differ in substation technology choice (such as Air-Insulated Switchgear or Gas-Insulated Switchgear) or choice of location for siting the new substation. Each option will have different costs, and may deliver different benefits. The option that is in the best interest of consumers is usually the one that delivers the highest net benefit (ie benefit to consumers minus the cost that consumers will pay).
3. **Costs**: once need has been demonstrated the best option has been determined we next need to set the level of funding ('allowance'). The allowance is set based on our assessment of the cost an efficient network

company would deliver the project for. Allowances may be split across different funding mechanisms, meaning when setting allowance for a project under one mechanism (eg the Load Re-opener) we need to consider the allowance that has been or may be provided through other mechanisms (eg other uncertainty mechanisms or historical funding).

Project delivery timeframes

3.5 The RIIO price control framework has been designed to ensure that project delivery timeframes are not dependent on the timing of individual in-period funding decisions, such as those through re-opener mechanisms. The framework as a whole ensures that where a network company proposes a project that is in the best interest of consumers, then the company can invest with confidence that it will receive the appropriate level of allowances. The network company therefore does not need to wait for funding decisions from Ofgem if it needs to mobilise or commence construction in order to meet required delivery timeframes (eg to meet a required customer connection date).

3.6 The Load Re-opener has also been specifically designed to ensure that ETOs have clarity over the levels of funding that they will receive as early as possible, including:

- confirmation of PCF at EA stage, meaning that the ETO will have early confirmed funding for the initial phases of eligible projects. This early funding confirmation ensures that ETOs, can progress the projects without risk and at the pace needed to fulfil any obligations to customers and to meet strategic objectives.
- our aim to make decisions on applications within six-months of application submission. This ensures that consumers have clarity as early as possible on how much they will pay for projects, and ETOs have clarity on final levels of funding in accelerated timeframes compared to projects of similar magnitude in previous price control periods.

The Load Re-opener mechanism design

3.7 As part of the RIIO-3 price control, we introduced the Load Re-opener mechanism in ET to allow ETOs to apply for additional allowances for new load projects which were not included in baseline allowances set out in our RIIO-3 Final Determinations (FDs). The Load Re-opener provides flexibility for ETOs to deliver necessary network infrastructure at pace, whilst protecting consumers from unnecessary costs.

3.8 Due to uncertainty regarding ET load system needs at the time of RIIO-3 business plans, relatively low load baseline allowances were agreed in our RIIO-3 FDs compared to ETO forecasts. This means we expect a significant amount of load investment to flow through the Load Re-opener when compared to similar re-opener mechanisms in previous price controls. The investment is expected to enable ET infrastructure investment associated with connection requirements, as well as national strategic decarbonisation and energy security goals.

3.9 Qualification criteria for projects eligible for funding through the Load-Re-opener are set out in Special Condition 3.18 of the ET licences. In summary, these projects are typically either associated with boundary reinforcement, are identified by National Energy System Operator (NESO) in its strategic planning, or are atypical generation or demand connection projects. To be eligible, projects must also expect capital cost of more than £40m, and not be funded through other mechanisms, such as the Load Use-It-Or-Lose-It (UIOLI) or connections volume driver.

Our approach to Load Re-opener application assessment

3.10 Under the Load Re-opener, how and when we carry out our three standard re-opener assessments (ie need, options, costs) varies depending on the Assessment Track that we consider to be appropriate, and at defined Assessment Stages.

- **Assessment Tracks** - define the overall pathway an application follows, ensuring that each project is scrutinised appropriately considering its materiality, complexity, and maturity, as well as taking account of any prior assessment carried out by the start of the price control period. There are three Assessment Tracks, ranging from a single-stage review for projects with established engineering options at RIIO-3 FDs (Assessment Track 1) to multi-stage assessments dependent on project complexity and value (Assessment Tracks 2 and 3).
- **Assessment Stages** - are the distinct steps within each Assessment Track that serve specific regulatory purposes – first confirming project eligibility for the Load Re-opener, before carrying out the assessments explained above (ie need, options, costs). There are three defined Assessment Stages:
  1. Eligibility Assessment (EA)
  2. Needs Case Assessment (NCA)
  3. Project Assessment (PA)

  An ETO is required to submit a separate application for a project at each relevant Assessment Stage.

3.11 Figure 3 sets out when and how our assessment of project applications varies through the different Assessment Tracks of the Load Re-opener mechanism.

Figure 3: Load Re-opener Assessment Tracks and their applicable Assessment Stages

Assessment Track	Eligibility assessment	Need assessment	Options assessment	Costs Assessment
Assessment Track 1	At RIIO-ET3 FDs or through a RIIO-ET2 re-opener mechanism.	At RIIO-ET3 FDs or through a RIIO-ET2 re-opener mechanism.	At RIIO-ET3 FDs or through a RIIO-ET2 re-opener mechanism.	Load Re-opener **PROJECT ASSESSMENT stage**
Assessment Track 2	Load Re-opener **ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT** stage	Load Re-opener **ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT** stage	Load Re-opener **ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT** stage	Load Re-opener **PROJECT ASSESSMENT stage**
Assessment Track 3	Load Re-opener **ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT** stage	Load Re-opener **ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT** stage[4]	Load Re-opener **NEEDS CASE ASSESSMENT** stage	Load Re-opener **PROJECT ASSESSMENT stage**

3.12 Where the purpose of the ETO's application is to establish eligibility only (ie Stage 1: Eligibility Assessment of Assessment Track 3), our assessment considers:

- the materiality of the project (ie is the project above the materiality threshold of £40m);
- the network need the ETO is seeking to address;
- the credible options under consideration; and
- indicative or average cost ranges associated with those options to enable us to set an appropriate PCF allowance.

3.13 Where the purpose of the application is to establish eligibility and Early Options Needs Case (ie Stage 1: Eligibility Assessment of Assessment Track 2), in addition to the assessment set out above in paragraph 3.12, we consider:

[4] While we primarily assess the need (ie whether there is a need for any money to be spent) at the EA stage, in some cases, there may require the ETO to submit some further evidence at NCA stage to fully justify the need for investment.

- the materiality of the project (ie is the project below the materiality threshold of £300m);
- the suitability of the preferred design choice of the ETO and quality of optioneering;
- whether the project is PASE aligned, and if not, whether a non-PASE aligned option is justified sufficiently; and
- the economic case for the project from the perspective of energy consumers.

3.14 Where the purpose of the application is to confirm project funding and outputs (ie Stage 3: Project Assessment of all Assessment Tracks), our assessment:

- considers the proposed project scope, outputs, delivery timelines and cost estimates by the ETO; and
- applies quantitative modelling with qualitative judgement to reach a robust and proportionate view of efficient funding.

3.15 Full descriptions of our approach to each Assessment Stage can be found in the relevant consultation Annexes.

Other Load Re-opener project decisions

3.16 There are a number of other RIIO-ET3 mechanisms that interact with the Load Re-opener. Our Load Re-opener decision process therefore includes decisions on relevant interacting mechanisms. As such, where appropriate we will determine:

- whether the MP ODI-F[5] will be applied to Load Re-opener projects; and
- whether a Load Re-opener project will be applicable for the Independent Technical Adviser (ITA)[6].

3.17 As projects mature and progress from design to delivery and operation we expect events to occur that will require us to consider modifying or supplementing decisions we previously made. We therefore may through our Load Re-opener draft and final determinations:

- report, and where required, consult on any changes to past Load Re-opener decisions, such as Project Cancellations, Material Project Changes, and/or Cost and Output Adjusting Events (COAEs).

[5] The MP ODI-F incentives the timely delivery of significant new ET projects where this provides a meaningful consumer benefit. The incentive may be applied to any project eligible for the Load Re-opener.

[6] The ITA is the party(ies) appointed by the Authority to fulfil the role of providing assurance to the Authority on the design, procurement, cost and overall delivery of selected load projects delivered by Transmission Owners. It may be used to inform Authority decisions, by providing assurance of the information on which a decision is being taken.

ETO application requirements

3.18 ETOs may submit an application at an appropriate Assessment Stage in any of the defined Load Re-opener application windows during RIIO-ET3. There are ten windows in total, two each year, one in spring and one in autumn.

3.19 The requirements that licensees must adhere to when submitting applications under the Load Re-opener are set out in two documents:

- The Re-opener Guidance and Application Requirements Document, which sets out the general requirements applying to Re-openers in RIIO-3, and
- The Load Re-opener Guidance Document, which gives additional requirements specific to the Load Re-opener

The latest versions of both of these documents can be found here: [Network price control 2026 to 2031 (RIIO-3) guidance page.]

3.20 In our RIIO-ET3 Final Determinations we committed to making Load Re-opener decisions within six months of application. This is significantly shortened compared to comparable decisions in previous price controls. Our ability to robustly assess an application is highly dependent on the quality of an ETO's application and timeliness in subsequent engagement. If, having reviewed an ETO's application material, we consider there are gaps or non-compliance with application requirements, then it is likely that the application will be rejected or subject to significant disallowances if at the PA stage.

ETO publication requirements

3.21 Given the materiality of projects that may be funded through the Load Re-opener, with total allowances potentially worth tens of billions of pounds, it is essential that ETOs are open and transparent with consumers and other stakeholders in relation to the projects and how much consumers will need to pay for them. To aid with this, the Re-opener Guidance and Application Requirements Document requires an ETO to publish its complete application in a prominent place on its website.

3.22 The ETO must publish the application within five days of it submitting its application to Ofgem. Although the ETO is required to publish the complete application, it is permitted to redact some elements in accordance with the Redaction Policy (Annex 12 to the Re-opener Guidance).

3.23 The ETO may make redactions only where they are necessary. Except in the case of national security, if redacting any information from its application then the ETO is required to publish an explanation of the nature of the redactions and reasons for them.

ETOs' compliance with publication requirements

3.24 All three ETOs fell short of full compliance with the publication requirements in respect of their May 2026 Load Re-opener applications. We have discussed this with the ETOs to explain what they need to do to ensure compliance going forward, including to ensure full compliance within the required five-day period in respect of future applications.

4. Our Draft Determinations at a glance

Eligibility Assessment (EA) application summary

4.1 Through an Eligibility Letter, ETOs may apply for a determination that the project:

- is eligible for a full funding application through the Load Re-opener; or
- is eligible for a full funding application through the Load Re-opener, and qualifies for 'fast-track' assessment through Track 2 due to acceptance of the early optioneering (ie Early Options Needs Case).

4.2 Eligibility Letters should detail projects in the ETOs pipeline where eligibility was not agreed in our RIIO-3 FDs (ie the project is not eligible for Assessment Track 1). If we determine a project to be eligible, it may progress through the Load Re-opener in either Assessment Track 2 or 3.

4.3 Our EA decision-making on whether to accept or reject an Eligibility Letter application, as well as our determination on which Assessment Track the project must follow through the Load Re-opener mechanism, is based on the principles set out in the Load Re-opener Guidance Document.

4.4 If we determine a project is eligible for Assessment Track 2 or 3, a PCF allowance of up to 8.2% of total project costs will be granted, with a Price Control Deliverable (PCD) applied in line with Special Condition 3.15 Pre-Construction Funding Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable.

4.5 Table 1 below summarises the Eligibility Letter applications received from all the ETOs, and our respective draft determinations.

Table 1: Our draft determinations for May 2026 Load Re-opener Eligibility Letter applications

ETO	Number of Eligibility Letter submissions (#)	Number of Eligibility Letters accepted by Ofgem (#)	Total PCF request for eligible projects (£m)	Total PCF granted for eligible projects (£m)[7]	Number of Assessment Track 2 projects (#)	Number of Assessment Track 3 projects (#)
NGET	24	23	407.900	372.954	12	11

[7] NGET's requested PCF used 8.2% of forecast costs for each project, whereas SHET used project-specific PCF estimates, with projected PCF being lower than 8.2% of forecast costs for some projects.

ETO	Number of Eligibility Letter submissions (#)	Number of Eligibility Letters accepted by Ofgem (#)	Total PCF request for eligible projects (£m)	Total PCF granted for eligible projects (£m)[7]	Number of Assessment Track 2 projects (#)	Number of Assessment Track 3 projects (#)
SHET	4	4	105.415	114.340	3	1
SPT	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

4.6 For the full details on each Eligibility Letter application, please see the specific Assessment Stage annex published alongside this document. This includes:

- description of the project within each Eligibility Letter application;
- our reasoning for rejecting and/or approving project eligibility;
- our reasoning for each project Assessment Track allocation proposal;
- our methodology for PCF calculation and reasoning for adjustments;
- shared feedback for ETOs on their applications; and
- all relevant consultation questions.

Needs Case Assessment (NCA) application summary

4.7 NCA is the second Assessment Stage of Assessment Track 3. It is for projects where eligibility for the Load Re-opener has already been confirmed and the project is not eligible for Assessment Track 2.

4.8 As part of their applications, for each project the ETOs must provide an Engineering Justification Paper (EJP) including:

- demonstration of the specific network need or constraint the project addresses;
- how credible alternatives have been considered and evaluated;
- robust data and supporting analysis (ie Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA), Whole-Life Cost Analysis (WLCA), sensitivity analysis etc.); and
- any changes regarding underlying assumptions and design following our eligibility Assessment Stage decision.

We have applied the 8.2% funding level and ongoing efficiency challenge set at RIIO-ET3 FDs to calculate PCF allowances, which may result in allowances above or below the amounts requested. PCF will be reassessed at Project Assessment Stage.

4.9 We received no needs case applications in the May 2026 Load Re-opener application window.

Project Assessment (PA) application summary

4.10 PA is the third and final Assessment Stage of the Load Re-opener for all Assessment Tracks. It determines the funding allowance, outputs and delivery timelines of each project.

4.11 In PA applications, ETOs must provide the rationale for the level of expenditure proposed and why this level should be regarded as being efficient. They must also provide any details of changes to project specification following original assessment of eligibility, as well as the justification for such changes.

4.12 Table 2 below summarises the total RIIO-ET3 allowances submitted for PA for the Load Re-opener May 2026 application window, as well as our Draft Determinations.

4.13 Note, we have not assessed NGET's single PA application. The project was originally submitted as a Large Onshore Transmission Investment (LOTI) project under RIIO-ET2. However, as the FNC for the project has not yet been concluded, we will not assess the project's efficient costs at this stage. We will undertake this assessment once an FNC decision has been made.

Table 2: Summary of the May 2026 Load Re-opener Project Assessment applications

ETO	Number of Project Assessment Applications (#)	Company requested funding (£m)	Ofgem's proposed cost adjustment (£m)	Ofgem's Draft Determination Allowances (£m)
NGET	1	283.870	To be determined	To be determined
SHET	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
SPT	1	142.077	-11.997	130.080

4.14 For the full details on our PA Draft Determinations, please see the specific Assessment Stage annex published alongside this document. This includes details on each assessed project in full, the proposed outputs and associated funding, and our assessment process, methodology and Draft Determinations.

Material Project Change application summary

4.15 ETO's must notify Ofgem where projects have significantly changed since our Final Determinations (ie Assessment Track 1) or between EA, NCA or PA. We did not receive any Material Project Change applications in the May 2026 application window.

Cost and Output Adjusting Event (COAE) application summary

4.16 ETO's may make COAE applications to amend outputs, delivery dates or allowances of Load Re-opener Outputs following our PA decision. We did not receive any COAE applications in the May 2026 application window.

5. Major Projects ODI-F (MP ODI-F) and Independent Technical Adviser (ITA) allocation

Allocation of projects for the MP ODI-F

5.1 For all projects eligible for the Load Re-opener, we have made an assessment of whether there is sufficient justification for applying an incentive to reward on-time delivery and penalise late delivery. Our assessment considers the potential for consumer benefits, the strategic importance of the project, and whether there are sufficient information and certainty to support the design of an incentive – as set out in the MP ODI-F Guidance Document. When we consider these factors fulfilled, we will consult on the application and design of the incentive for specific projects.

5.2 Where we consider there may be consumer benefit of applying the incentive, but the incentive cannot be applied at this stage due to the unavailability of necessary inputs (eg delivery timelines are unclear or optioneering is immature), we have proposed a minded-to position. This will be revisited in subsequent Load Re-opener consultations during RIIO-ET3. We welcome views on our minded-to positions as part of this consultation.

5.3 A summary of our proposal is:

- Not to confirm the application of the MP ODI-F on any projects submitted this window. This is reflective of the fact that the majority of the projects are at the Eligibility Letter stage we do not yet have the inputs required to calibrate the incentive.
- We are minded-to apply the MP ODI-F to 11 projects submitted this window in the future. We will seek further information from the ETOs before confirming the application of the incentive on these projects (eg regarding delivery dates).
- We are proposing the decision not to apply the MP ODI-F to SPT's VSRE project, the one project assessed at PA stage.
- For the remaining 16 eligible projects submitted in the May 2026 application window, we do not consider them suitable for the MP ODI-F at this stage.

5.4 We may revisit our application of the MP ODI-F on May 2026 Load Re-opener project applications in future application windows.

5.5 For the full details on our proposed MP ODI-F application, please see the specific MP ODI-F annex published alongside this document. This includes details on the ETO's proposals and reasoning for our proposed application.

Appointment of an ITA to Load Re-opener projects

5.6 Ofgem may appoint an ITA to assure Load Re-opener projects under Special Condition 6.2 Independent Technical Adviser of the ET licence. As set out in the ITA Guidance Document, our ITA eligibility assessment is based on our view of the strategic importance, materiality, and complexity of eligible projects (which is all load projects).

5.7 We have not yet carried out an eligibility assessment for ITA allocation. This is because the ITA is a new mechanism in the early stages of its operational implementation in RIIO-ET3. This does not rule out appointing the ITA onto any of the projects submitted this application window in the future. If we make any such decisions, the ETO's will be engaged as required, and it will be included in future application window publications for clarity.

6. Total amount that consumers will pay through their bills

6.1 Any allowances we award to network companies in the RIIO-3 price control period, including through re-opener mechanisms, will be recorded against the relevant Regulatory Year in which that spending is expected to take place. When we award annual allowances under the Load Re-opener, these feed through to network companies' annual allowed revenues (and so consumer bills) through two components:

1. 15% of the allowance in any Regulatory Year will be added to the allowed revenues for that year, ie will feed through to consumer bills in the year incurred. This is often referred to as "fast money".
2. The remaining 85% is then spread over the following 45 years. This is often referred to as "slow money"

6.2 Consumers pay an additional amount on this 85% to cover the interest on any debt raised by the company to finance the work (Cost of Debt, CoD) and allow the network companies’ shareholders to make a return (Cost of Equity, CoE)[8]. From a consumer perspective, this is conceptually the same as repaying a 45-year loan to the network companies with associated interest payments (with the interest rate being a combination of the Cost of Debt and the Cost of Equity).

6.3 For the May 2026 application window, we have estimated how much the funding decisions in our Draft Determinations will cost consumers in total over the full 45-year period in which consumers will pay through their energy bills. The total amount that consumers will pay to each network company is summarised in Table 3 below. The headlines from this analysis are presented below with all amounts in 2025/26 prices, which is the most recent completed regulatory year. Allowance figures are for all price control periods (ie they include RIIO-3 allowances, as well as any allowances that will be awarded through subsequent price controls):

- For the total £670m re-opener allowances approved, consumers will pay an estimated £1,278m to the network companies.

[8] For more information, please see the RIIO-3-Final-Determinations-Finance-Annex.pdf, with the CoD and CoE discussed in Chapters 2-4, and capitalisation rates (the 15% and 85% split) discussed in Chapter 12. RIIO-3 Final Determinations uses nominal and/or semi-nominal cost of debt and equity figures to take account of the effect of inflation in estimates and therefore to better reflect the actual cash return that investors will receive. We have used real figures for comparability with RIIO-2.

- For some projects, the allowances we award at Project Assessment stage through the Load Re-opener include allowances for Closely Associated Indirect (CAI) activities. For the other projects, ETOs may utilise funding provided through the CAI UIOLI mechanism to cover their efficiently incurred CAI costs. We estimate the ETOs will receive an additional £10m through the CAI UIOLI for these projects.
- The remaining £598m additional amount paid by consumers is to cover the companies' debt interest payments and shareholder returns. This breaks down as follows:
  (1) £259m (+38% of total allowances) additional will be paid over 45 years by consumers to cover the network companies' debt interest payments, and
  (2) £339m (+50% of total allowances) additional will be paid by consumers over 45 years to the network companies as a return on their shareholders' investments.
- The present value of the £1,278m total amount to be paid by consumers to the network companies is £732m.

6.4 It should be noted that the estimates do not account for any rewards or penalties that may apply under any delivery related incentive mechanisms (eg MP ODI-F), and do not account for the impact of any amounts that consumers may pay to network companies to cover the tax payable on their profits.

6.5 The estimates also assume that the network companies spend no more or less than their allowances. If an ETO over-spends or under-spends, the Totex Incentive Mechanism (TIM)[9] shares the cost or benefit between consumers and ETOs. Consumers pay for a portion (between 75% and 95%) of any over-spend, and the total amounts they pay will be reduced by amounts equal to similar proportions of the underspend.

Table 3: Estimated total amount to be paid by consumers through their bills for these Draft Determinations (£m)

Company	Price Base	Paid by Consumers: Re-opener Allowances	Paid by Consumers: CAI UIOLI Mechanism	Paid by Consumers: Company Debt Repayments	Paid by Consumers: Company Shareholder Return	Total Paid by Consumers	Present Value of Total Paid by Consumers
NGET	2023/24	372.954	-	138.169	187.021	**698.144**	397.588

[9] For RIIO-3, we have introduced a 'Stepped TIM' for ET. For over/under-spend of up to 5% from allowances, ETOs share, meaning they are exposed to or rewarded with, 25% of that over/underspend, with the remaining 75% paid for or returned to consumers. ETO sharing decreases with larger over/underspend, with 10% sharing at 5%-20% over/under-spend and 5% sharing beyond 20% over/under-spend.

Company	Price Base	Paid by Consumers: Re-opener Allowances	Paid by Consumers: CAI UIOLI Mechanism	Paid by Consumers: Company Debt Repayments	Paid by Consumers: Company Shareholder Return	Total Paid by Consumers	Present Value of Total Paid by Consumers
SHET	2023/24	114.340	-	47.054	57.337	**218.730**	124.501
SPT[10]	2023/24	138.400	9.138	56.638	72.097	**276.273**	161.232
Total	**2023/24**	**625.694**	**9.138**	**241.861**	**316.454**	**1,193.147**	**683.322**
Total	**2025/26**	**670.299**	**9.790**	**259.103**	**339.014**	**1,278.206**	**732.035**

RIIO-3 impact assessment and annual bill impact

RIIO-3 impact assessment

6.6 At RIIO-ET3 Final Determinations we estimated that across ET, GT, and GD sectors we expected our decisions to increase annual households network charges by around £108 by 2031. However, bills will not rise by £108 – the resulting lower constraint and wholesale costs[11] are expected to offset around £80, meaning a net impact of about £30 a year by 2031. The proposed decisions we are now consulting on are factored into these estimates.

6.7 Section 5A of the Utilities Act 2000 ("the Act") requires that before implementing a proposal that is important, we need to either carry out and publish an assessment of the likely impact of implementing the proposal ("a section 5A IA") or publish a statement explaining why we consider such an assessment is not necessary.

6.8 Section 5A(2) of the Act and paragraph 3.5 of our guidance on impact assessments sets out the reasons why a proposal may be considered to be important for the purpose of section 5A. In line with that guidance, in order for a proposal to be considered important it needs to have a significant impact on, among others, persons engaged in activities related to the electricity transmission network, the public, or the environment. We do not consider that the Load Re-opener applications considered in these Draft Determinations meet this definition of 'important' as the majority of the proposed allowances are PCF, which is primarily for project development activities. PCF allowances may be adjusted at PA stage in subsequent re-opener windows. Price Control Deliverables also allow for adjustments to PCF where criteria linked to planning consents have not been met.

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[10] For projects at PA stage, this includes existing PCF allowances set at RIIO-3 Final Determinations as well as any additional PCF granted through our assessment.
[11] Constraint costs are additional costs to balancing the electricity system in situations when there isn't sufficient network capacity, while wholesale costs are the costs of buying electricity in the market to meet demand, with both ultimately affecting consumer bills.

6.9 Furthermore, if we were to consider the applications 'important', the Load Re-opener mechanism as a whole was considered as part of the overall RIIO-3 Impact Assessment[12] through the projected changes in price control revenue, the impact of network charges on bills, and the resulting benefits this investment is expected to deliver. The Load Re-opener applications considered in these Draft Determinations represent a subset of the projects that may be assessed through the Load Re-opener during RIIO-ET3. We therefore consider that the proposals in these Draft Determinations fit within the estimated Load Re-opener allowances considered in the RIIO-3 Impact Assessment. As a result, we do not consider it necessary to prepare a section 5A IA for these proposals and is consistent with paragraph 3.17 of our 2024 Impact Assessment Guidance.

6.10 Even though we do not deem these proposals as important proposals for the purpose of section 5A of the Act, we intend to monitor the cumulative effect of our Load Re-opener decisions on an ongoing basis.

[12] Published alongside the RIIO-3 Final Determinations for the Electricity Transmission, Gas Distribution and Gas Transmission sectors

7. Next steps

7.1 All our Draft Determinations set out in these documents are subject to the consultation we are carrying out. We intend to publish our Final Determinations on the May 2026 Load Re-opener applications later this year.

7.2 We intend to make our Final Determination within 6 months of the LR application window. This means we aim to publish our decision by 8 November 2026.

7.3 Following our Final Determination, we intend to implement them as follows:

- for funding, outputs and delivery timelines associated with our PA decision-making, we have included the draft text for the proposed licence amendments in this consultation in the appendices of the PA Annex. We will publish a statutory consultation alongside our Final Determinations. Please note, the text may be revised following further consultation on the proposed licence drafting.
- for PCF associated with our EA and PA decision-making, we have included a draft directions in the appendices of the PA and EA Annexes, which set out for consultation the text of our proposed direction. We will issue directions to set out any adjustments alongside our Final Determinations.

7.4 Our proposals regarding the MP ODI-F are minded-to positions, therefore do not require any licence modifications at this stage. We will consult again at a future date on any proposed decisions regarding MP ODI-F allocation.

Send us your feedback

We believe that consultation is at the heart of good policy development. We are keen to receive your comments about this consultation. We would also like to get your answers to these questions:

- Do you have any comments about the quality of this document?
- Do you have any comments about its tone and content?
- Was it easy to read and understand? Or could it have been better written?
- Are its conclusions balanced?
- Did it make reasoned recommendations?
- Do you have any further comments?

Please send your feedback to stakeholders@ofgem.gov.uk.

Appendix 1. Glossary

A1.1 Definitions in this Glossary are relevant to this document only and do not supersede other definitions in the Load Re-opener Guidance Document and ET licences.

Term	Definition
Assessment Stages	Eligibility Assessment, Needs Case Assessment, and Project Assessment stages under the Load Re-opener.
Assessment Tracks	Three regulatory tracks determining scrutiny level based on maturity, complexity and PASE alignment.
Atypical Project	Connection project with forecast costs outside RIIO-ET3 volume driver thresholds.
Boundary Reinforcement	Reinforcement increasing transfer capability across system boundaries and/or maintaining SQSS compliance.
CAI UIOLI Allowance	The Closely Associated Indirect (CAI) Use it or lose it (UIOLI) allowance is an uncertainty mechanism which provides upfront funding for operational expenditure associated with load-related projects (with direct costs under £150m) via an allowance which can be recovered for projects in scope.
Clean Power 2030 (CP2030)	Policy target requiring transmission capacity to support a decarbonised power system by 2030.
Closely Associated Indirect (CAI) Costs	Costs that support the operational activities. These costs include network policy (including research and development), network design and engineering, engineering management and clerical, wayleaves administration, control centre, system mapping and health and safety functions.
Cost and Output Adjusting Event (COAE)	Event under Special Condition 3.18 allowing amendment of outputs, delivery dates or allowances.

Term	Definition
Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP)	NESO-led plan identifying strategic system reinforcements.
Early Options Needs Case	Means when an ETO is seeking approval of the needs case for a preferred option at Eligibility Assessment.
Eligibility Assessment (EA)	Stage determining whether a project meets criteria and assigning Assessment Track 2 or Assessment Track 3.
Eligibility Letter	Means the document that the licensee must provide to the Authority in accordance with Part D of Special Condition 3.18 (Load Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable (LR_t)) when seeking to apply for a Project Assessment Decision under that condition.
Engineering Justification Paper (EJP)	Document required at Needs Case stage for Track 3 projects.
Independent Technical Adviser (ITA)	The party(ies) appointed by the Authority to fulfil the role of providing assurance to the Authority on the design, procurement, cost and overall delivery of selected load projects delivered by Transmission Owners. It may be used to inform Authority decisions, by providing assurance of the information on which a decision is being taken.
Load Re-opener Guidance Document	Means the document of that name issued by the Authority in accordance with Part J of Special Condition 3.18 (Load Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable).
Load Related Expenditure	Means expenditure incurred by the licensee in relation to transmission infrastructure works that are primarily driven by changes in system demand or generation, and which are: (a) ETO identified works; (b) supported by ETO Construction Agreements (TOCAs); (c) recommendations from NESO; or (d) associated with new or modified connections, reinforcement, or fault level mitigation works required to accommodate load growth or generation changes.

Term	Definition
Load Re-opener Output	Means outputs specified in Appendix 1 of Special Condition 3.18 (Load Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable) which are the assets constituting an investment in the Transmission System, which investment: (a) is expected to cost more than £40m of capital expenditure; and (b) is, in whole or in part, load-related.
Major Project	For the purpose of Special Condition 4.8 (Major Projects output delivery incentive (MPIt)), means an infrastructure project constituting an investment in the Transmission System, which has been designated as a Major Project under Special Condition 4.8 (Major Projects output delivery incentive (MPIt)), Part B or Part C.
Major Projects (MP) ODI-F	Incentive mechanism rewarding timely delivery of strategically important projects.
Material Project Change	Significant change in cost, scope or timing requiring reassessment.
National Energy System Operator (NESO)	Organisation responsible for system planning, NOA and strategic design inputs.
Needs Case Assessment (NCA)	Assessment Track 3 stage validating need, justification and consumer value.
Network Options Assessment (NOA)	NESO's recommendation process for reinforcements and system options.
Optimal Delivery Date (ODD)	NESO independent assessment of the date which delivery of the major project would bring the most benefit for the consumer.
Outputs Delivery Incentive (ODI)	Incentive attached to performance against project delivery obligations.

Term	Definition
P50 Delivery Date	Delivery date with 50% probability used for ODI-F parameters.
PASE (Pre-Approval of Solutions by Engineering)	Ofgem’s framework for pre-approved engineering design solutions.
PASE Primary Option	Engineering design fully aligned with PASE principles.
PASE Variant Option	Adapted engineering design still consistent with PASE principles.
Pre-Construction Funding (PCF)	Means the funding required to complete Pre-Construction Works on a Load Re-opener Output or CSNP Re-opener Output or output otherwise listed in appendix 2 of Special Condition 3.15 (Pre Construction Funding Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable (PCFt and PCFREt)).
Project Assessment (PA)	Stage determining efficient cost allowance and readiness for delivery.
Price Control Deliverable (PCD)	Defined licence output with associated allowance and delivery date. PCDs allow us to return money to consumers in the event that the output is not delivered.
Price Control Period	Means a period of twelve months commencing on 1 April at 05:00 and ending on the following 1 April immediately before 05:00.
Regulatory Year	Means a 12-month period beginning on 1 April and ending on 31 March of the following year.
RIIO-ET3	Electricity transmission price control period 2026–2031.
Target Delivery Date (TDD)	The reference date for setting the Major Projects ODI-F.

Term	Definition
UIOLI (Use It or Lose It)	Mechanism requiring return of unspent allowances.
Whole-Life Cost Analysis (WLCA)	Assessment of lifetime cost including construction, O&M, carbon and extendibility impacts.

Appendix 2. Consultation questions overview

RIIO-3 Load Re-opener Draft Determination: May 2026 submission window - Eligibility Assessment annex

A2.1 EAQ1. Do you agree that these NGET projects are eligible for PCF funding under Part F of Special Condition 3.15?

A2.2 EAQ2. Do you agree with our assessment of the needs case for these NGET Assessment Track 2 projects?

A2.3 EAQ3. Do you agree that these SHET projects are eligible for PCF funding under Part F of Special Condition 3.15?

A2.4 EAQ4. Do you agree with our assessment of the needs case for these SHET Assessment Track 2 projects?

A2.5 EAQ5. Do you agree that these NGET projects are eligible for PCF funding under Part F of Special Condition 3.15?

A2.6 EAQ6. Do you agree that this SHET project is eligible for PCF funding under Part F of Special Condition 3.15?

A2.7 EAQ7. Do you agree with our assessment that the ETRE project is ineligible for the Load Re-opener?

A2.8 EAQ8. Do you agree with our approach to setting PCF allowances for eligible projects?

A2.9 EAQ9. Do you agree with our approach to Risk and Contingency Allowance for projects submitted to the Load Re-opener?

A2.10 EAQ10. Do you agree with our approach to Biodiversity costs for projects submitted to the Load Re-opener?

RIIO-3 Load Re-opener Draft Determination: May 2026 submission window - Project Assessment annex

A2.11 PAQ1. For each project assessed as part of our Project Assessment, do you agree with our assessment of the efficient costs?

A2.12 PAQ2. For each project assessed as part of our Project Assessment, do you agree with our proposed true-up for the Pre-Construction Funding (PCF)?

A2.13 PAQ3. Do you have any views on the funding route for the associated Biodiversity related costs?

RIIO-3 Load Re-opener Draft Determination: May 2026 submission window - Major Projects ODI-F annex

A2.14 MPQ1. For each project where we are minded-to apply the Major Projects ODI-F, do you agree with our proposal?

A2.15 MPQ2. For the VSRE XH & XJ Routes 400kV Major Refurb project, do you agree that this project does not meet the criteria for the Major Projects ODI-F, and that the ODI-F should not be applied?

A2.16 MPQ3. Do you consider any projects we have not proposed to apply the Major Projects ODI-F on should be applicable?

Appendix 3. Privacy policy

Personal data

The following explains your rights and gives you the information you are entitled to under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Note that this section only refers to your personal data (your name address and anything that could be used to identify you personally) not the content of your response to the consultation.

1. The identity of the controller and contact details of our Data Protection Officer

The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority is the controller, (for ease of reference, "Ofgem"). The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at dpo@ofgem.gov.uk

2. Why we are collecting your personal data

Your personal data is being collected as an essential part of the consultation process, so that we can contact you regarding your response and for statistical purposes. We may also use it to contact you about related matters.

3. Our legal basis for processing your personal data

As a public authority, the GDPR makes provision for Ofgem to process personal data as necessary for the effective performance of a task carried out in the public interest. i.e. a consultation.

4. With whom we will be sharing your personal data

Information: Include here all organisations outside Ofgem who will be given all or some of the data. There is no need to include organisations that will only receive anonymised data. If different organisations see different set of data then make this clear. Be a specific as possible.

5. For how long we will keep your personal data, or criteria used to determine the retention period.

Your personal data will be held for (be as clear as possible but allow room for changes to programmes or policy. It is acceptable to give a relative time e.g. 'six months after the project is closed')

6. Your rights

The data we are collecting is your personal data, and you have considerable say over what happens to it. You have the right to:

- know how we use your personal data
- access your personal data
- have personal data corrected if it is inaccurate or incomplete
- ask us to delete personal data when we no longer need it
- ask us to restrict how we process your data
- get your data from us and re-use it across other services
- object to certain ways we use your data
- be safeguarded against risks where decisions based on your data are taken entirely automatically
- tell us if we can share your information with 3rd parties
- tell us your preferred frequency, content and format of our communications with you
- to lodge a complaint with the independent Information Commissioner (ICO) if you think we are not handling your data fairly or in accordance with the law. You can contact the ICO at https://ico.org.uk/, or telephone 0303 123 1113.

7. Your personal data will not be sent overseas (Note that this cannot be claimed if using Survey Monkey for the consultation as their servers are in the US. In that case use "the Data you provide directly will be stored by Survey Monkey on their servers in the United States. We have taken all necessary precautions to ensure that your rights in term of data protection will not be compromised by this".

8. Your personal data will not be used for any automated decision making.

9. Your personal data will be stored in a secure government IT system. (If using a third party system such as Survey Monkey to gather the data, you will need to state clearly at which point the data will be moved from there to our internal systems.)

10. More information For more information on how Ofgem processes your data, click on the link to our "ofgem privacy promise".