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National Grid Electricity Transmission response

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on NESO's performance over BP3, from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. We respond as an Electricity Transmission Owner, focusing on the parts of NESO's remit that most affect transmission delivery, system operability and design, and our ability to meet customer needs.

Strategic Whole Energy Plans

NESO's strategic planning outputs need to be reliable enough to support decision-making and industry planning. Timeliness matters; so too does clarity, stability, and enough maturity to translate plans into credible delivery programmes.

During BP3, several key outputs slipped beyond their original milestones, including CSNP, tCSNP2 and SSEP. Delay can be appropriate if it improves quality, or allows for a more coherent sequencing, so in some cases, we supported it. But timetable changes also have real consequences for investment, connections, system access, and portfolio planning.

Going forwards, NESO needs to ensure that strategic planning retains a clear view of industry dependencies, sequences across industry programmes and policy changes, and considers portfolio-level delivery consequences.

Operating the Electricity System and Clean Power 2030: enabling delivery at pace

NESO has a pivotal role in both day-to-day system operability and delivery of Clean Power 2030. From a transmission perspective, those issues are now tightly linked. A secure and efficient system depends not only on operational performance, forecasting and balancing, but also on enough access for the upgrades, connections and reinforcements needed for 2030.

The challenge of system access is increased by the need to accommodate Clean Power 2030, strategic demand, and a wider portfolio of customer projects. That makes clearer policy direction, coordinated planning and earlier visibility of constraints more important.

A positive development in BP3 was NESO's joint system access planning with Transmission Owners. It moved the conversation beyond project-by-project outage planning towards a more strategic view of

constraints. We would now like to see NESO use that insight early, so that pressure points can be addressed before choices narrow.

We also see value in a shared, well-governed view of Clean Power 2030 delivery across NESO, Ofgem, Government and Transmission Owners. The value will depend on whether it helps parties spot issues early, agree mitigations and maintain a credible forward view without adding reporting burden.

Where priorities compete, for example on outage access, or engineering capacity, NESO should surface issues early and transparently, working closely with Transmission Owners so that options and delivery implications are understood before decisions are taken.

Secure and Resilient Energy Systems: create the conditions for openness and learning

We welcome NESO's emerging review and resilience function and its ambition to identify vulnerabilities, improve preparedness and help the industry address systemic challenges. We also support defining resilience outcomes without cutting across the engineering responsibilities of delivery bodies.

That said, our understanding is that only one of the five regional restoration plans has been delivered so far. On that basis, the relevant success measures do not yet appear to have been fully met.

There is a clear opportunity to move from reactive reviews to a more proactive, learning-based model. That requires a safe environment where vulnerabilities and improvement opportunities can be raised early and worked through collaboratively. NESO can help create that openness and bring the right parties together sooner, especially as cross-sector resilience becomes more important.

Connections Reform

NESO has published the reformed connections queue, removing 221GW of projects and better aligning the queue with government targets and strategic need. However, oversubscription remains significant for batteries and demand, and important policy questions remain unresolved, including embedded demand and the position of AR7 projects in the queue.

We have been clear that the methodology was developed with a limited understanding of its engineering implications and likely outcomes. Either more upfront work was needed to make it robust, or a more pragmatic implementation was needed so issues could be corrected as they emerged. We do recognise however that the context has been shifting fast, and fragmented decision-making across parties has slowed resolution of important issues.

NESO has acknowledged the scale of the challenge on systems, data, and communication with our shared customers. We raised concerns about its background planning assumptions after our engineering studies showed they were creating perverse outcomes. NESO accepted that point and reissued the assumptions for rerun studies.

Closer working and greater transparency could have helped resolve these issues earlier and reduced knock-on effects for NGET. The governance introduced in early 2026 has improved this by creating a more structured way of working with clearer visibility of constraints, dependencies, and critical-path interfaces.

We encourage NESO to build on this model, especially for complex or high-risk programmes. Managing sequencing across generation reform, demand reform, transmission-distribution interfaces, and delivery of flexibility in a coherent way will be critical.

Cross-cutting theme: governance, roles, and decision rights

Across these areas, a cross-cutting theme stands out: the need for clear governance and sharp interface management. Delivery improves when responsibilities are explicit across NESO, Ofgem, Government, Transmission Owners, and customers. Where roles and decision rights are not clear, duplication increases, decisions slow down, and trust can erode – especially when trade-offs require quick, accountable decisions.

From a transmission perspective, a critical measure of NESO's performance is whether its work helps delivery happen. That means outputs that are clear, reliable, and usable, there is effective coordination across parties, and material constraints and trade-offs are identified early.

Overall, NESO made positive progress during BP3, including in strategic planning, data sharing, system access insight, separation activity, and collaboration with Transmission Owners. We believe the next phase needs focus on pace, predictability, interface clarity, and delivery coherence.

We have aimed to provide clear, constructive feedback while keeping accountability for outcomes firmly in view, and welcome continued engagement with Ofgem and NESO on these themes.

Kind regards,



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cc. Rob Salter-Church, Director of Regulation, NGET