



Making a positive difference
for energy consumers

Email: connections determinations@ofgem.gov.uk

Date: 2 October 2026

To: All interested stakeholders,

Ofgem agreement to a further alternative timetable for issuing Gate 2 Phase 1 connection offers under the Gate 2 to Whole Queue (“G2tWQ”) process

On 25 September 2026, we¹ received a letter of request from the National Energy System Operator (“NESO”) in respect of Condition E12.14(c) of its Electricity System Operator licence, to amend the deadline for issuing Gate 2 Phase 1 connection offers under the G2tWQ process from 30 September 2026 to 31 October 2026.

NESO’s Request

On 3 June 2026, the Authority agreed an alternative timetable which set a revised deadline for Gate 2 offers to be issued in its decision letter.²

The 25 September letter represents NESO’s second request for an extension to the deadline for issuing Gate 2 Phase 1 connection offers and affects a small subset of projects (approximately 62 offers).

The request was initially required due to delays by NGET in providing the necessary Transmission Owner Construction Offers (TOCOs), meaning that NESO requires a short further extension to finalise and issue the affected offers.

Ofgem’s decision in respect of NESO’s Second Request

The Authority consents to a second extension of time in respect of Gate 2 Phase 1 offers only. The timetable is amended as follows:

- **Gate 2 Phase 1 offers:** To be issued by NESO no later than 31 October 2026.

All other parts of the timeline remain as per our original decision

¹ The terms “we”, “us”, “our”, “Ofgem” and “the Authority” are used interchangeably in this document and refer to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. Ofgem is the office of the Authority.

² [Ofgem decision letter, 3 June 2026.](#)

Reasons for the Authority's decision

The Authority is satisfied that granting a further, limited extension of time is justified, proportionate and in the interests of consumers.

Condition E12.10 specifies that NESO must make an offer before the end of the period specified in Condition E12.14 and after receipt of all information reasonably required to formulate the offer, except “where the Authority consents to a longer period”. Condition E12.14(c) provides that offers must be issued no later than 7.5 months from the close of the application window, unless “agreed otherwise with the Authority”. The application closed on 26 August 2025.

As set out in our decision of 3 June 2026, the Authority agreed to updated deadlines of:

- **Gate 2 Phase 1 offers:** to be issued by NESO no later than 30 September 2026 (in place of the default 7.5 months requirement)
- **Gate 2 Phase 2 offers:** to be issued by NESO by no later than 31 January 2027 (in place of the default 7.5 months requirement)

As a result, we expected (in line with the timeline):

- **Gate 2 Phase 1 Distribution Offer Completion:** no later than 30 November 2026
- **Gate 2 Phase 2 Distribution Offer Completion:** no later than 31 March 2027

NESO has explained that it was initially unable to conclude its Gate 2 Phase 1 offers by 30 September 2026 due to NGET requesting a 2-week extension for their DNO small and medium embedded Grid Supply Point Transmission TOCOs and a 4-week extension for their Transmission connected and large embedded TOCOs due to complexity and engineering considerations, such as further network redesign.

Separately, NESO more recently became aware of a need for additional time for a small number (c.25) of other Gate 2 Phase 1 offers for other reasons, primarily at customer request where a pre-offer discussion highlighted pragmatic reasons for later issuance agreed by both parties.

The Authority is satisfied that NESO did not receive the NGET TOCOs as expected and that delay for the other projects is justified, and therefore it is not able to issue all Gate 2 Phase 1 offers within the agreed timeline. We are disappointed that NGET required an extension to deliver the TOCOs but note that they have advised that they issued all DNO offers and 98% of transmission offers to NESO within two weeks of the original industry milestone. NESO has proposed mitigation measures to reduce impacts on affected customers and has confirmed that the revised timeline will not affect the delivery of the subsequent Gate 2 Phase 2 offers or other applicable deadlines. In such circumstances, the Authority considers an extension of time is appropriate and in the consumer interest.

Expectations, monitoring and next steps**NESO**

Ofgem expects NESO to manage its processes in a way that ensures customers have clarity. We are pleased to see NESO and NGET have already engaged with the affected customers. NESO must comply with its reporting requirements for offers under Condition E12.19(b). Ofgem encourages regular written progress updates against the revised delivery plans and written confirmation when all Gate 2 Phase 1 offers have been issued.

Transmission Owners

Ofgem expects Transmission Owners to comply with their standard licence conditions, including Condition D4A(4), which requires licensees to cooperate and coordinate with NESO and other STC parties as necessary to facilitate NESO's obligation to make connection offers.

The delay to TOCOs within the timescales originally anticipated has resulted in further uncertainty for customers and has contributed to the need for a second amendment to the Gate 2 Phase 1 timetable.

The Authority confirms that this letter does not limit or preclude its regulatory review or assessment arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Neal McLaughlin

Head of Policy – Connections Reform and Governance

Duly authorised on behalf of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

2 October 2026