

Annex 1 – Consultation on getting an electricity connection responses and questions

- 1.1. We would like to hear the views of interested parties in relation to any of the issues set out in our consultation.
- 1.2. We would especially welcome responses to the specific questions which we have set out in our consultation and are replicated below.
- 1.3. If you have any questions on this document please contact:

James Veaney
Head of Connections and Constraint Management
Ofgem, 9 Millbank, London, SW1P 3GE
0207 901 1861
Connections@Ofgem.gov.uk

- 1.4. **Responses should be sent, preferably by e-mail by 29 April 2016 to the address above.**
- 1.5. Unless marked confidential, all responses will be published by placing them in Ofgem's library and on its website www.ofgem.gov.uk. Respondents may request that their response is kept confidential. Ofgem shall respect this request, subject to any obligations to disclose information, for example, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
- 1.6. Respondents who wish to have their responses kept confidential should clearly mark the document/s to that effect and include the reasons for confidentiality. Respondents are asked to put any confidential material in the appendices to their responses.
- 1.7. Next steps: We will consider the responses to this consultation and these will be used alongside other evidence for our assessment of the ICE plans.
- 1.8. *Each of the questions asked by this consultation is set out in the template below.*
Note that an editable version of this response template is available on our website as an associated document to this consultation.
- 1.9. *Please ensure that you indicate the DNO to which your experiences relate.*
- 1.10. *When considering your responses to these questions, please consider your experiences, the actions that the DNO has undertaken or committed to undertake, and the actions that you consider it could reasonably undertake.*

Response template

Question	Response																								
About you and your work																									
1. What is the name of your company?	We consent to this information being published if the company name is removed.																								
2. In which DNO's region do you generally operate (see Annex 2 for DNO map)? If you operate in more than one DNO's region please indicate which DNO your responses to the following questions refer to.	Western Power Distribution SSE Northern Power Grid North West Electricity																								
3. What type of connection do you generally require? And for each type of connection, how many connection applications, including total MVA (Mega Volt Ampere) of connections have you made in the past year?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="790 751 1364 807">Type of connection</th> <th data-bbox="1364 751 1610 807">Total number of connections</th> <th data-bbox="1610 751 1843 807">Total MVA of connections</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="790 807 1021 1007" rowspan="4">Metered Demand Connections</td> <td data-bbox="1021 807 1364 855">Low Voltage (LV) Work</td> <td data-bbox="1364 807 1610 855">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 855 1364 903">High Voltage (HV) Work</td> <td data-bbox="1364 855 1610 903">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 903 1364 975">HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work</td> <td data-bbox="1364 903 1610 975"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 975 1364 1007">EHV work and above</td> <td data-bbox="1364 975 1610 1007"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="790 1007 1021 1126" rowspan="2">Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</td> <td data-bbox="1021 1007 1364 1070">LV work</td> <td data-bbox="1364 1007 1610 1070">118</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 1070 1364 1126">HV and EHV work</td> <td data-bbox="1364 1070 1610 1126">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="790 1126 1021 1262" rowspan="3">Unmetered Connections</td> <td data-bbox="1021 1126 1364 1166">Local Authority (LA) work</td> <td data-bbox="1364 1126 1610 1166"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 1166 1364 1222">Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work</td> <td data-bbox="1364 1166 1610 1222"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1021 1222 1364 1262">Other work</td> <td data-bbox="1364 1222 1610 1262"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of connection	Total number of connections	Total MVA of connections	Metered Demand Connections	Low Voltage (LV) Work	3	High Voltage (HV) Work	1	HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work		EHV work and above		Metered Distributed Generation (DG)	LV work	118	HV and EHV work	4	Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work		Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work		Other work	
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Consultation questions																									
1. Do you consider there are constraints on the network in this DNO's region?	The majority of metered DG connections that we apply for are in Western Power Distributions region and the answers given throughout this response																								

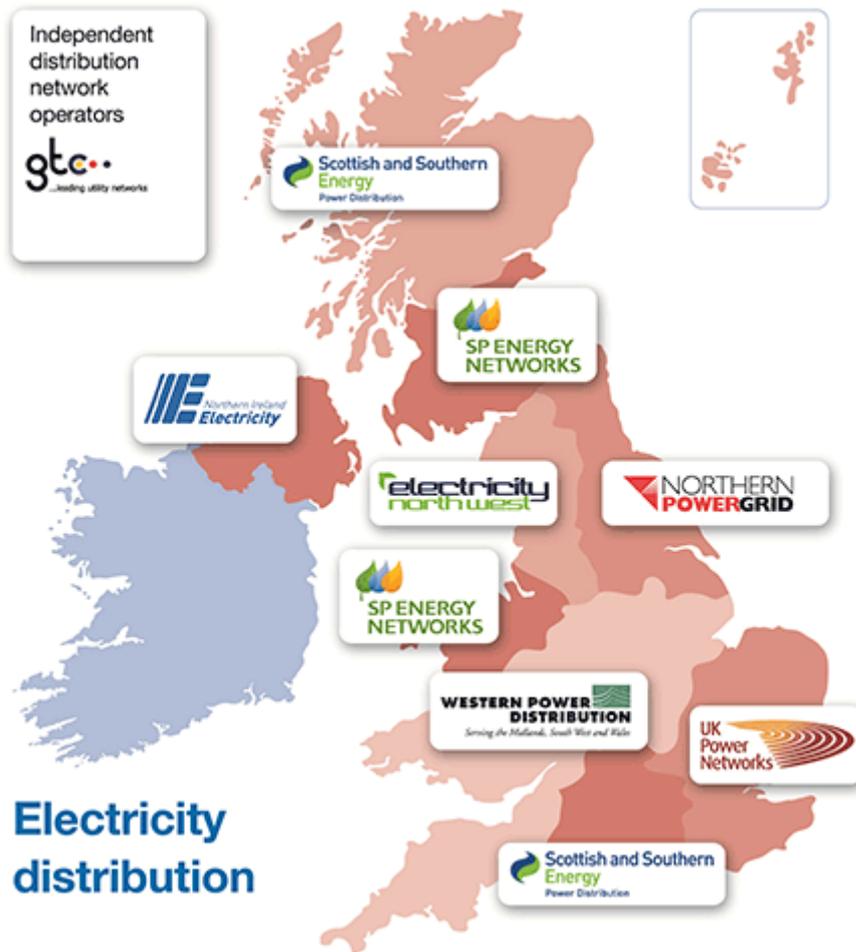
<p>If there are no constraints please do not answer the following questions.</p>	<p>will relate to that DNO.</p> <p>We often encounter constraints to the network across the region and are limited installing much lower generation on some sites. In addition the cost of reinforcement works can sometimes be in excess of £1 million, meaning that most generation projects become unfeasible when this cost is factored in. There are also issues with companies sitting on grid capacity for (in some cases) years without ever installing generation. This further reduces the installation of renewable energy.</p>
<p>2. What impact have these constraints had on your ability to get connected to the network?</p>	<p>If there are constraints in a particular area this will often result in the customer having to bear the cost of reinforcing the network in that area. At times this cost can be relatively low and in others very high e.g. upwards of £1 million. Such high costs result in people choosing not to install renewable energy.</p>
<p>3. To what extent has the DNO tried to find ways to help you get connected in constrained areas? For example:</p>	
<p>a. To what extent has the DNO offered you more flexible and alternative connection arrangements alongside conventional firm connections? If not, then have they explained why not?</p>	<p>We have never been offered more flexible and alternative connection arrangements.</p>
<p>b. If the DNO does offer alternative arrangements, is the information provided sufficient to decide whether or not to go forward with the connection?</p>	<p>If one has not been offered there has not been an explanation.</p>
<p>c. If the DNO does offer alternative arrangements, do you find the associated terms (eg. level of potential curtailment and certainty</p>	<p>N/A</p>

around maximum curtailment levels) acceptable?	
4. What information has the DNO shared with you on its work plan of activities designed to help enable connections in these areas?	None.
a. How comprehensive has this information been?	N/A
b. To what extent has the DNO provided information on associated delivery dates of its work plan of activities?	N/A
c. Are you aware if the DNO is forecasting future levels of growth in the type of connections you require?	N/A
d. Are you aware of any plans the DNO has to invest in new network capacity where the network is constrained, to enable further customer connections? Have you been consulted on these plans? Has the DNO explored with you ways in which this could be funded?	N/A
5. Please give details of any other activities you would expect the DNO to be undertaking to deal with constraints on their network.	<p>Be more accommodating of export limitation. Although we have installed a number of export limitation devices throughout the WPD area we are now finding that even when one of these is installed as part of a generating system, the DNO is still limiting the amount of onsite generation. This is despite the fact that they already have guidelines in place to witness test export limiters to ensure that they offer a complete failsafe option with a mechanical backup.</p> <p>Further limiting generation that can be installed in an already constrained area when there is a solution to prevent backflow onto the grid is affecting</p>

the uptake of renewable energy adversely.

We would welcome increased dialogue and wish to work with WPD to find solutions which help increase the level of solar generation on the grid.

Annex 2 - Map showing DNO licensee areas¹



¹ Image from Electricity Networks Association (ENA)