

Guidance

ESO Roles Guidance (draft for consultation)

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The electricity system operator (ESO) has a central role in our energy system. It performs a number of important functions from the real time operation of the system, through to market development, managing connections and advising on network investment. We regulate the ESO to help ensure the actions it takes align with the interests of consumers. The ESO's regulatory and incentives framework aims to place wider system and consumer interests at the heart of its decision-making, create transparency around the ESO's performance and make the ESO more clearly accountable to its stakeholders.

This guidance document provides further explanation of the ESO's roles and the associated expectations, which underpin the ESO's regulatory framework. The purpose is to help to align expectations between the ESO, Ofgem and stakeholders, support the enforceability of the ESO's obligations and create a more transparent framework overall. Under the ESO's regulatory and incentives framework, the ESO must also provide evidence of how it has performed in relation to the roles.

This guidance document (version 5.0) builds on the previous guidance document (version 4.0). **The ESO Roles Guidance (version 5.0) will come into effect on the 1 April 2021 and will apply from 1 April 2021 until stated otherwise.**

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Contents

Version history	4
ESO roles	6
Role 1: Control centre operations	9
Activity 1a: System operation	10
Activity 1b: System Restoration	16
Activity 1c: Transparency, data and forecasting	19
Role 2: Market development and transactions	22
Activity 2a: Market Design	23
Activity 2b: Electricity Market Reform	27
Activity 2c: Industry codes and charging	29
Role 3: System insight, planning and network development	34
Activity 3a: Connections and network access	35
Activity 3b: Operational strategy and insights	38
Activity 3c: Optimal network investment	41
Mapping the guidance to Standard Licence Condition CXX	46

Version history

We published this guidance initially in July 2017 and incorporated changes to role one before publishing again in December 2017. We have since made a number of small changes in this iteration. The table below summarises the changes made to the ESO roles and principles guidance:

Version	Date published	To be applied	Summary of changes	Link
1.0	July 2017	July 2017 – March 2018	N/A	https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2017/07/future_so_reg_framework_july_2017_working_paper.pdf
Consultation on changes	December 2017	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding role one to better reflect the ESO's system operability role 	https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2017/12/eso_roles_and_principles_appendix.pdf
2.0	February 2018	April 2018 - March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifications on the status and purpose of the roles and principles Clarifications on how the roles and principles will be updated going forward Clarification to principle 4 to include European Network Codes. 	https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2018/02/eso_roles_and_principles.pdf
3.0	March 2019	April 2019 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifications and updates to introductory text Rewording the title of Principle 2 Clarifications to supporting principle guidance for Principles 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7. 	https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2019/03/eso_roles_and_principles_guidance_2019-20.pdf

Consultation on change	January 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlining the roles framework by moving from 4 to 3 roles. 	https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/call-input-2020-21-eso-regulatory-and-incentives-framework
4.0	6 March 2020	1 April 2020 – 30 March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlining the roles framework by moving from 4 to 3 roles. New text on competition and FES 	https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2020/03/eso_roles_and_principles_guidance_2020-21.pdf
Consultation on change	September 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated guidance to align with start of RII02 price control 	

ESO roles

Introduction

- 1.1. This guidance document provides further explanation of the ESO's roles and the associated expectations, which underpin the ESO's regulatory framework. The roles are a foundation of the ESO's regulatory and incentives framework. The ESO Roles Guidance outlines our current view of the activities and outcomes expected from the ESO in order to maintain an economic, efficient, and co-ordinated system. The ESO's roles were first introduced as part of our July 2017 Working Paper on the ESO's Future Regulatory Framework.¹ This document contains updated guidance (version 5.0) and builds on the previous guidance (version 4.0)² that was issued in March 2020 and our latest ESO RIIIO-2 policy. This version of the ESO Roles Guidance (version 5.0) will continue to underpin the ESO's regulatory and incentives framework from April 2021 onwards.
- 1.2. Alongside the roles are the performance expectations, behaviours and the predominant legal obligations underpinning these. The guidance has been drafted with the intention that it should help to outline the types of activities that we would consider to be meeting expectations, or exceeding expectations with regard to the ESO's licence obligations. The ESO's licence conditions underpin the roles and remain the legal obligations that the ESO must fulfil.
- 1.3. In the rest of this chapter we set out further details of the three roles we have defined for the ESO. Throughout all of these roles are the cross-cutting themes of ensuring the ESO provides most value to consumers (i.e. protecting consumers from undue costs), being a trusted source of information and insight, transparency in its actions, and high levels of engagement with industry and other network operators. Although for presentational purposes we describe each role in turn, in reality the roles have a degree of overlap and interaction.

¹ The original guidance can be found in our July 2017 Working Paper on the future regulatory framework: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/ofgem-publications/118930>

² Version 4.0 of the ESO roles and principles guidance: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2020/03/eso_roles_and_principles_guidance_2020-21.pdf

Status and purpose of the ESO Roles Guidance

- 1.4. This document provides updated guidance on the ESO's roles and the behaviours we expect to see when the ESO fulfils its roles. This guidance should be considered as a non-exhaustive list of examples of how we currently envisage the ESO should fulfil its roles when undertaking its day-to-day system operator functions. The roles are underpinned by the ESO's binding licence obligations – particularly the Standard Licence Condition [CXX (Functions for an efficient, coordinated and economic electricity system operator)],³ which sets out our expectations of an economic, efficient and coordinated ESO. We've also structured the guidance to show what we expect to see as evidence of the ESO's compliance with its obligations under CXX.
- 1.5. **This version of the ESO's Roles Guidance will come into effect on 1 April 2021 and apply from 1 April 2021 onwards until stated otherwise.** Before then, the version of this guidance published in March 2020 will continue to have effect, and compliance with it may be taken into account from the date of its issue.
- 1.6. In the event that the ESO does not meet its licence obligations it may be found to be non-compliant. This guidance document (in all its versions) will inform any future decisions taken by the Authority when considering possible investigation and enforcement issues arising out of non-compliance with the relevant licence obligations⁴.
- 1.7. In the event of formal enforcement proceedings finding a breach of one or more relevant licence conditions, there may subsequently be made an order for payment of a financial penalty and/or consumer redress. The outcome of such procedures would be made publicly available.

Updating the ESO's Roles Guidance

- 1.8. We recognise that the transition in the energy system may mean that this guidance may need to change in future. We will therefore keep this under review. Where we

³ An informal consultation on the ESO's RII02 licence drafting is published alongside this document.

⁴ All decisions taken by the Authority relating to enforcement matters are subject to its [Enforcement Guidelines](#) and [Penalty Policy](#).

believe changes are needed, we would consult with impacted parties, including the ESO.

- 1.9. For the purposes of the ESO incentive process, this guidance will only apply from the start of the 2021-22 regulatory year and we will not use the updated changes to retrospectively assess the ESO's performance as part of the incentive scheme.

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Role 1: Control centre operations

- 1.10. Balancing the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) in a safe, reliable and efficient way is a core function for the ESO. The Electricity National Control Centre (ENCC) performs the day-to-day, short-term (within day and day-ahead) operational activities for the NETS.
- 1.11. The ENCC carries out real-time system balancing by contracting and trading with energy market participants (e.g. generators, storage providers and third-party providers of aggregated flexibility). This is achieved primarily via the Balancing Mechanism (BM) and utilisation of contracted balancing services. The ENCC also requests transmission network owners (TOs) to optimise physical networks configurations using network assets, e.g. flexing voltage tolerances or amending specific circuit ratings or planned outages and maintenance.
- 1.12. Alongside the real-time operation of the NETS, other key control centre functions include:
- Coordinating with other network operators on operational decisions and outage changes and network planning out to one-year;
 - Short-term energy forecasting;
 - Managing and sharing system data and information; and
 - Restoration and emergency response (to system instability events).
- 1.13. With regard to data and digitalisation, the ESO is responsible for providing information to market participants to facilitate informed decision-making, and for ensuring efficient operation of the system. The ESO is expected to do this transparently and in a user-friendly manner.

Activity 1a: System operation

Meets expectations predominantly underpinned by licence conditions:

CXX (a) taking the most efficient actions to operate the national electricity transmission system based on all of the relevant information the licensee had available at the time;

CXX (b) taking into account the impact such actions have on competition in the wholesale electricity market and on [economic, efficient and coordinated operation and development of the] total system;

CXX (c) considering the impact any action would have on the total system;

CXX (d) optimising the timing of transmission outages under the outage plan on the national electricity transmission system;

CXX (h) procuring balancing services to ensure operational security;

CXX (j) monitoring balancing services markets for potential breaches of the grid code, investigating where necessary and raising concerns to Ofgem where appropriate

CXX (l) facilitating an economic and efficient transition to a zero carbon energy system;

CS37 Digitalisation and making better use of energy data

Output	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Immediate and ongoing		
Balancing efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing economically and efficiently, in line with the meets expectations benchmark of Performance Metric 1 (balancing costs) <p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ taking actions that minimise consumer costs irrespective of provider type or size ➤ planning ahead to accurately forecast reserve, foot room requirements and system constraints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a comprehensive plan to proactively drive down balancing costs, in line with the exceeds expectations benchmark of Performance Metric 1 (balancing costs) <p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ acting early and proactively to reduce drivers of higher costs ➤ continually refreshing and upgrading control room processes to deliver a demonstrable improvement in the accuracy of forecasting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ using the full range of available balancing services and options (e.g. from both market parties and network companies) 	<p>contingency needs and system constraints (evidenced, for example, through robust back-casting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ exploring proactively, developing and utilising improvements to existing balancing services and new innovative types of services
Maintaining security of supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain system frequency and voltage within statutory limits (including the SQSS) • No increase in the instances of 'near miss' events,⁵ in line with the meets expectations benchmark of Performance Metric 2 (security of supply) • Respond swiftly to unexpected events to secure the system and minimise costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain stable system frequency and achieve a decrease in the instances of 'near miss' events, in line with the exceed expectations benchmark of Performance Metric 2 (security of supply) • Develop innovative operability solutions to unexpected events that maintain system security and minimise costs in a fair and transparent way
Making trade-offs across time horizons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers the appropriate trade-offs between short-term costs and longer-term market developments in the interests of consumers now and in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of new processes, or innovative balancing actions, that reduce costs in the short-term and facilitate market developments that provide longer-term cost reductions
Ensuring future operability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of plans to ensure known/expected future operability challenges can be managed once the challenges materialise (for example the continued production of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive testing of plans to manage future operability challenges and evidence of taking necessary steps to reduce the severity of the challenges before these challenges materialise

⁵ Instances in which the ESO is close to breaching current SQSS requirements.

	System Operability Framework and Operability Strategy reports)	
Coordinating with other network operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with other network/system operators to optimise the use of resources <p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ identifying and progressing the changes to outage plans in order to minimise constraint costs (e.g. through the effective use of System Operator Transmission Owner Code (STC) processes), ensuring the costs put forward by TOs are reasonable ➤ exchanging information and data with distribution network operators (DNOs) to ensure efficient dispatch of distributed energy resources (DER) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with DNOs through ensuring ESO dispatch of DER and DNO network management actions deliver whole system⁶ benefits Facilitate the development and implementation of innovative services from network operators in order to achieve significant reductions to overall operational costs across the whole system <p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Providing network operators with a high degree of visibility of the transmission constraint cost savings that can be achieved through enhanced network services and conducting robust analysis on any services offered ➤ Developing new or improved systems and processes that optimise whole system dispatch decisions
Minimising outage changes caused by error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small proportion of short notice changes to unplanned outages are caused by ESO error, in line with the meets expectations benchmark of Performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No or only a very small proportion of short notice changes to unplanned outages are caused by ESO error, in line with the exceeds expectations

⁶ Also referred to as 'total system' in standard licence condition C16. For the purposes of this Guidance, Whole System means the national electricity transmission system and the distribution systems of all authorised electricity operators which are located in the national electricity transmission system operator area.

	Metric 5 (short notice changes to outages)	benchmark of Performance Metric 5 (short notice changes to outages)
Market surveillance and signals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective systems for surveillance of balancing market activity and monitoring the quality/accuracy of information received from market participants. Effective engagement with Ofgem on any concerns that come to light Ensures balancing actions do not distort market signals and influence perversely market participants' behaviours or decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive surveillance of market activity and swift engagement with Ofgem to support investigation of any anti-competitive behaviours or actions that may undermine balancing market integrity
Maintaining effective and reliable IT systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continual and responsive development of IT systems High IT system availability and reliability compared to historical averages, with reduced unplanned outages from RIIO-1 Timely completion of ongoing and incremental upgrades to IT systems delayed from RIIO-1. Regular engagement with industry on design of ESO IT systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive development of innovative IT systems capable of adapting to future operational requirements. High IT system availability and reliability compared to historical averages, with progressive step change reductions in unplanned outages from RIIO-1 Proactive engagement with industry on all types of potential IT system solutions. Taking account of stakeholder feedback to inform future IT development.
By the end of RIIO-2 (with evident progress demonstrated by March 2023)		
Operating the network carbon free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESO has the ability to efficiently and economically operate the system carbon free in most situations and scenarios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESO has the ability to efficiently and economically operate the system carbon free in all situations and scenarios

	<p>To underpin this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ESO has replaced legacy IT systems with systems that are fit for purpose in the future energy system, shaped through good engagement with industry ➤ The ESO's control centre engineers have fit for purpose training and simulation tools that enable them to efficiently operate a zero carbon network in most situations. 	<p>To underpin this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ESO has engaged extensively with all types of energy industry stakeholders and IT solution providers to deliver high quality, flexible and future proofed IT systems. These are capable of being updated ahead of system developments and interoperating with the digital systems of other related organisations in the sector and in other sectors. ➤ The ESO's training and simulation tools equip highly skilled control room engineers to achieve the outcomes and benefits expected in the RIIO-2 plan.
Coordinating with other network operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO ensures its processes and systems facilitates close operational coordination between different electricity network operators <p>To underpin this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ESO exchanges all necessary real-time operational information with other network operators ➤ ESO has regularly engaged with distribution network operators to inform DNOs' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO has proactively led the development and implementation of frameworks and processes that ensure the optimal real time operation of the whole energy system <p>To underpin this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ESO IT systems capable of interoperating with the systems of other related organisations in the sector and in other sectors wherever

	operability plans and process development	<p>this would provide overall benefit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The ESO has shared guidance and expertise (e.g. training) to distribution network operators to ensure common practices (e.g. through joint simulator training) are in place that maximise whole system benefits and facilitate seamless and efficient system operation across voltage levels
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Activity 1b: System RestorationMeets expectations predominantly underpinned by licence conditions:

CXX (a) taking the most efficient actions to operate the national electricity transmission system based on all of the relevant information the licensee had available at the time;

CXX (b) taking into account the impact such actions have on competition in the wholesale electricity market and on [economic, efficient and coordinated operation and development of the] total system;

CXX (c) considering the impact any action would have on the total system;

CXX (e) publishing easily accessible information which the licensee holds to generate value for consumers and stakeholders, including but not limited to ensuring information services are designed to meet the needs of the service users;

CXX (g) procuring balancing services to ensure operational security

CXX (i) ensuring the effective and non-discriminatory participation of all qualified market participants in the provision of balancing services, including not unduly restricting new and existing service providers from competing for the provision of such services;

CXX (k) anticipating future national electricity transmission system requirements by using and developing competitive approaches to procuring balancing services wherever this is in the best interests of current and future electricity consumers in Great Britain;

CXX (l) facilitating an economic and efficient transition to a zero carbon energy system;

Output	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Immediate and ongoing		
Restoration plans and tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain fully-tested plans and processes to support incident management and system restoration Provide transparency on the real-time system state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops and progresses future restoration plans and tools that can continuously adapt to network changes in advance of, and during, real time system operation or system restoration.
Restoration policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build consensus with Government, regulators and industry to drive improvements to the system restoration strategy for the future If obligated to, determine an appropriate implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities that lead, organise, convene and build consensus with Government, regulators and industry to drive improvements to the system restoration strategy for the future

	<p>framework to enable a system restoration standard to be met in a fair and non-discriminatory way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If obligated to, implement a system restoration standard by: Leading, organising, and building consensus with industry on the most appropriate implementation framework that enables a system restoration standard to be met, whilst satisfying the majority of stakeholders and ensuring maximum value for money for consumers.
Restoration services procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accessible information to market participants on system restoration service requirements, costs and current and future needs • Full implementation of RIIO-1 commitments in the Product Roadmap for Restoration⁷ • Progress and conclude the ESO's Distributed ReStart project⁸ to establish a pathway to enabling the full participation of DER in restoration services • Achieves a year on year increase in the level of restoration services that are competitively procured, that are consistent with meet expectations benchmarks Performance Metric [6]. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively seeks to maximise the use of non-traditional sources of generation at all voltage levels in restoration plans (and any restoration activities) to minimise restoration times in GB. • Achieves a significant year on year increase in the level of restoration services that are competitively procured, that are consistent with exceed expectations benchmarks Performance Metric [6].

7

<https://www.nationalgrideso.com/sites/eso/files/documents/National%20Grid%20SO%20Product%20Roadmap%20for%20Restoration.pdf>

⁸ More information about the project can be found at the following address: <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/projects/distributed-restart>

By the end of RIIO-2 (with evident progress demonstrated by March 2023)		
Restoration plans and tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans and processes to support incident management and system restoration that are fit for purpose for a zero carbon electricity system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESO has dynamic restoration tools that are able to advise control centre engineers on the best route for restoration at any point, enabling them to manage potentially hundreds of restoration providers, and demonstrably reducing potential restoration times. <p>To underpin this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ successful development and implementation of the necessary IT to enable such a decision-making tool, in close collaboration with other relevant parties.
Restoration service procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitively procure the majority of system restoration services. Ensures that procurement is fair and open to all market participants and technologies at transmission and distribution voltage levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop liquid markets for system restoration services such that all providers, from transmission and distribution voltage levels, can be procured competitively at an economic price in all restoration zones.

Activity 1c: Transparency, data and forecastingMeets expectations predominantly underpinned by licence conditions:

CXX (e) publishing easily accessible information which the licensee holds to generate value for consumers and stakeholders, including but not limited to ensuring information services are designed to meet the needs of the service users;

CXX (g) producing and publishing accurate and unbiased forecasts;

CXX (l) facilitating an economic and efficient transition to a zero carbon energy system;

CXX (p) exchanging all necessary information and co-ordinating with the distribution network operators in so far as is necessary to ensure the optimal utilisation of resources, to ensure the economic and efficient operation of the system and to facilitate market development;

CS37 Digitalisation and making better use of energy data

Output	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Immediate and ongoing		
Provision of market information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide user-friendly, comprehensive and accurate information, including transparency on control room decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive information provision that shares valuable information to market participants and network companies before this is requested, and ensures they have a high degree of understanding of the ESO's operations and decision-making processes
Driving the energy sector digitalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make available a Digitalisation Strategy and Action Plan, with the strategy updated at least once every two years, and the action plan updated at least once every 6 months. Demonstrate progress against that plan and how it is driven by the needs of stakeholders and market expectations, such as the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set an example to the whole sector for the pace of change and progress made delivering the Energy Data Task Force recommendations and beyond The ESO participates in and leads cross-sectoral initiatives for UK infrastructure and Net Zero, such as the Centre for Digital Built Britain's Information Management Framework

	recommendations made by the Energy Data Task Force.	
Using and exchanging data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of data by the ESO complies with the expectations of Data Best Practice, such as making available robust and reliable processes for exchanging operational information with DNOs • Treating energy system data as open for all to use by default, only restricting access where there is evidence of a good reason to do so 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO actively shapes the development of DNO RIIO-2 business plans to ensure future platforms are fully interoperable • Making data (and its associated methods for data processing) widely available and easy to work with in open collaboration to give market participants opportunity for greater contributions to the decision-making processes related to system operation. • Treating energy system data, the associated processing methods and algorithms as open to all by default
Forecasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accurate forecasts with continuous incremental improvements to forecasting accuracy, in line with the meets expectations benchmark in Performance Metric 3/4 • Full implementation of Energy Forecasting Project Roadmap commitments for 2018-21⁹ • Forecasts are accurate at both national and regional level and methodologies used are regularly updated to reflect changes at each GSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step-change improvements in forecasting accuracy each year through improvements to forecasting models and processes, in line with the exceeds expectations benchmark in Performance Metric 3/4 • Dynamic forecasting processes which utilise machine learning to ensure forecasts are highly accurate for each half hour period, and both the national at the regional level • Undertakes activities that lead, organise, convene and build

⁹ <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/145941/download>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model and understand developments on the distribution system which impact transmission-level demand 	consensus to ensure all network operators are sharing and using consistent information to create accurate, whole system forecasts
By the end of RIIO-2 (with evident progress demonstrated by March 2023)		
Data use and exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESO has implemented a data and analytics platform (and an associated data portal) which achieves most of the outcomes in its RIIO-2 plan, but may still require some additional functionality to achieve all planned outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESO has integrated all tools and systems within its data and analytics platform, achieving all outcomes set out in its RIIO-2 plan, and receiving highly positive stakeholder feedback Data and analytics platform enables the seamless real time exchange of information with distribution and other energy system participants to enable efficient whole system operation

Role 2: Market development and transactions

- 1.14. In addition to running the BM, the ESO develops and procures a number of additional balancing services to balance and operate the system in a safe, reliable and efficient way. The ESO's regulatory framework for procuring balancing services, as set out in the Transmission Licence C16 statements,¹⁰ provides the ESO with significant scope and flexibility in the design of these services. The design of these services and approach to procurement are important as these can have significant impacts on the revenues available to different providers of these services and the ability for new entrants to compete with existing providers. This can also have a further impact upon short-term price signals and revenues in the wholesale traded electricity markets.
- 1.15. The ESO also has a number of additional roles related to market rules. The ESO administers the Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC), the Grid Code, the SO-TO Code (STC), and the Security and Quality of Supply Standard. It is also a party to the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) and the Distribution Code. The ESO is able to propose changes to these codes, provide its expertise and analysis to aid industry discussions, and influence the final recommendations that go to the Authority. It is also the Electricity Market Reform (EMR) delivery body and has transmission system operator (TSO) responsibilities related to implementing European network codes and regulations.

¹⁰ Accessible at the following address: <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/c16-statements-and-consultations>

Activity 2a: Market DesignMeets expectations predominantly underpinned by licence conditions:

CXX (h) procuring balancing services to ensure operational security;

CXX (i) ensuring the effective and non-discriminatory participation of all qualified market participants in the provision of balancing services, including not unduly restricting new and existing service providers from competing for the provision of such services;

CXX (k) anticipating future national electricity transmission system requirements by using and developing competitive approaches to procuring balancing services wherever this is in the best interests of current and future electricity consumers in Great Britain;

CXX (l) facilitating an economic and efficient transition to a zero carbon energy system;

CXX (n) co-ordinating and cooperating with transmission owners and distribution network operators to identify actions and processes that advance the efficient and economic operation of the networks;

CXX (p) exchanging all necessary information and co-ordinating with the distribution network operators in so far as is necessary to ensure the optimal utilisation of resources, to ensure the economic and efficient operation of the system and to facilitate market development;

Output	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Immediate and ongoing		
Competitive, market-based procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of balancing services through market-based competitive approaches, consistent with the meets expectations benchmark in Performance Metric 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of balancing services through market-based competitive approaches, consistent with the exceeds expectations benchmark in Performance Metric 6
Close to real time procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of balancing services in timeframes compliant with relevant GB and European policy and regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear plans and demonstrable progress towards maximising the procurement of all balancing services at day-ahead, with a clear and transparent explanation of the circumstances in which this is not possible and/or is not in consumers' overall interest.

Delivering accessible markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplified suite of balancing services with participation requirements that support revenue-stacking,¹¹ a level playing field, and maximise participation regardless of provider size/type <p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparent completion of all balancing market reform commitments made for the 2018-21 period (including those contained in the Product Roadmaps for Response, Reserve, Reactive, and Wider Access to the BM).¹² Ensuring fit for purpose, reliable procurement, communications and settlement systems that do not present any material barriers to participation, with the ESO clearly demonstrating how it has (or is) responding to previous issues raised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works extensively with industry to implement a seamless suite of balancing services, with no material barriers to participation and that ensures opportunities for revenue-stacking and ensures a level playing field for participation regardless of provider size/type <p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a single integrated platform for the ESO markets (in line with RIIO-2 business plan timescales) in a joined up manner with wider system changes and with positive user feedback. A year on year step change in the satisfaction levels of industry parties, with greater numbers and types of parties responding positively about the accessibility of platforms, and fewer reporting issues and delays in market access
Signalling procurement needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparent and clear communication to market participants on current and future system challenges and ESO balancing service needs, in line with the objectives of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive, transparent development of balancing services markets to solve foreseen future system challenges (before these challenges begin to pinch), with

¹¹ Revenue-stacking is the ability to derive revenue from the provision of multiple services.

¹² <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/research-publications/future-balancing-services>

	System Needs and Procurement Strategy (SNaPS). ¹³	notice of procurement rounds signalled to stakeholders sufficiently in advance to enable maximum participation.
Coordinated procurement across the whole system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborates with other network operators to ensure that balancing services procurement is coordinated and where appropriate (e.g. contract terms, service requirements and frequency of procurement) standardised across networks • Active participation in projects and forums that drive improved coordination in procurement, including relevant data sharing (such as Open Networks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively inputting into the development of distribution network ancillary services (including actively inputting to DNO RIIO-2 plans) to enable integration with ESO markets and facilitate the future efficient, whole system procurement of balancing/ancillary services • Organises, convenes and builds consensus with other network/system operators to drive changes that will optimise balancing service procurement across the whole electricity system, using high quality information/analysis to support the process.
By the end of RIIO-2 (with evident progress demonstrated by March 2023)		
Competitive procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO has introduced market-based, competitive procurement in most balancing services, with few, and only minor, examples of non-competitive procurement remaining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO has introduced full competition everywhere, in all balancing services
Delivering accessible markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO has implemented most service procurement within a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO has incorporated procurement of all service within a single, highly accessible market

¹³ <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/84261/download>

	<p>user-friendly single market platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few and only minor issues with market access, with the ESO acting quickly to improve functionally and address any issues as they arise. 	<p>platform, which is praised routinely by market participants.</p> <p>In particular, the platform would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ minimise cost and complexity for users, enabling them to easily capture the value they provide to the system across multiple services ➤ maximise participation from all different types and sizes of participants or business models ➤ be flexible, future proofed and easily adaptable to enable a quick response to feedback or changes in the wider system.
Coordinated procurement across the whole system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO run markets are coordinated with distribution-level flexibility markets, providing minimal complexity for providers looking to maximise the value from their services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO run-markets are seamlessly integrated with all distribution-level flexibility markets so service providers have a single interface point and set of requirements when looking to provide services to the ESO or DNOs.

Activity 2b: Electricity Market ReformMeets expectations predominantly underpinned by licence conditions:

CXX (m) providing accurate and timely guidance to all industry parties on the relevant rules for the Contracts for Difference (CfD) and Capacity Market (CM) prequalification and auction processes

CXX (e) publishing easily accessible information which the licensee holds to generate value for consumers and stakeholders, including but not limited to ensuring information services are designed to meet the needs of the service users;

CXX (g) producing and publishing accurate and unbiased forecasts;

Output	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Immediate and ongoing		
User experience with the EMR portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An evident year-on-year improvement in the user experience from RIIO-1 (e.g. existing issues are resolved, resulting in lower barriers to entry for providers) <p>Underpinned by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Timely completion of the refreshed EMR IT portal with positive user feedback, and which results in and the ability of the ESO and the IT portal to respond quickly and cost efficiently to change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A seamless user experience for EMR participants with a highly accessible platforms that facilitate increasingly wide participation <p>Underpinned by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extensive engagement with industry to develop of a highly accessible EMR portal.
Implementation of policy and rule changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy changes, or system workarounds, should be implemented continuously in a timely and cost efficient way to ensure compliance with legal obligations, and no later than 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking an annual prioritisation exercise of all expected system change requirements by Delivery Partners, which results in a predictable, transparent and

	12 months following the relevant rules or regulations being laid, unless otherwise stated by Ofgem.	achievable roster of changes to be delivered.
Providing support to EMR parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports industry parties through the CfD & CM prequalification and auction processes through provision of accurate & timely guidance to parties on relevant rules and changes to those rules. • Ensure fair provision of guidance and support. This may require a targeted strategy depending on the type of Capacity Provider to ensure a level playing field. For example, smaller parties should not lose out due to lack of resource, with a variety of communication channels allowing for this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of an evidenced step change in query management with demonstrable improved feedback from Capacity Providers¹⁴
Making accurate prequalification decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate prequalification and agreement management decision making, based on compliance with the Rules and Regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few errors made or decisions overturned by Ofgem in the Tier 2 process.
Improving EMR processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readily, regularly and accurately present information demonstrating the ongoing effective operation of the Capacity Market processes with Delivery Partners. • Ensure that auction recommendations assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of continuous improvement to prequalification and auction delivery, resulting in lower barriers to entry for Capacity Providers. Lessons learned implemented demonstrably and result in an increase in the effectiveness of

¹⁴ Market participants that have a capacity market agreement.

	are accurate and responsive to recommendations for improvements.	applicants applying to prequalify and participate in the auctions.
Monitoring compliance with rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive engagement with delivery partners when issues are identified and informs Ofgem any potential instances of non-compliance within a working day from discovery of the issue. 	
Security of supply modelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement from the Panel of Technical Experts (PTE) on annual modelling approach. Engages with ENTSO-E and effectively represents GB TSOs in respect to medium and long term security of supply modelling and direct foreign participation in the CM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step change improvements in medium term demand forecast accuracy, through the proactive identification of changes to the methodologies and input data.
By the end of RIIO-2 (with evident progress demonstrated by March 2023)		
User experience with the EMR portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An EMR IT portal with a user-friendly and accessible interface –backed up by feedback with a high degree of satisfaction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seamlessly integrate the EMR portal with other ESO markets within a single market platform, and use the latest data technologies to enable integration with digital infrastructure in UK systems more widely

Activity 2c: Industry codes and charging

Meets expectations predominantly underpinned by licence conditions:

CXX (i) ensuring the effective and non-discriminatory participation of all qualified market participants in the provision of balancing services, including not unduly restricting new and existing service providers from competing for the provision of such services;

CXX (l) facilitating an economic and efficient transition to a zero carbon energy system;

CXX (q) proposing and supporting code arrangements that promote competition in a timely manner and in line with the strategic direction across all changes required

CXX (r) developing, managing and maintenance of the process for the methodologies for use of system charging

CXX (s) managing connection applications for access to the national electricity transmission network in a fair, consistent and timely manner;

Output	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Immediate and ongoing		
Managing codes changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality code administration service in line with industry norms Provide a code change process that supports participation of industry participants and integrates effectively with changes to other codes Provides unbiased, detailed analysis or modelling to support code modifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemplary code administration service compared to most other code administrators (demonstrated through comparative surveys and stakeholder feedback) Proactively works with Ofgem and government on improvements to energy code governance, including providing robust evidence and thought leadership into the Energy Codes Review
Improving GB rules and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive identification of the most necessary changes to GB frameworks to remove distortions and to ensure a level playing field Propose and support code modifications that promote the relevant code objectives, in the interests of GB consumers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous and frequent activities that organise, convene, listen and building consensus to ensure the GB electricity market framework develops in the best interests of consumers Insights, analysis and change proposals that consider the links

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes views and analysis to aid the development of distribution-level rules and frameworks • Be as open and transparent as possible, sharing insights, comparisons of alternative proposals and robust analysis that can inform workgroup deliberations. 	<p>and dependencies between balancing, wholesale and capacity markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure change proposals evaluate effectively trade-offs between options, in the context of the broader reform environment (e.g. consideration of changes taking place in other energy codes and the sector more broadly). • Proactively shapes and provides system operation expertise and insights into the development of distribution-level operational frameworks
Influencing, implementing and administering European rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a consistent and holistic GB perspective during the development and implementation of European methodologies and processes, via membership of ENTSO-E. • Timely implementation of all GB and European code changes • Administers GB participation in the Inter-TSO Compensation mechanism, meeting the requirements of UK and EU legislation, including through engagement with ITC parties as relevant. Provides accurate and timely GB data for reporting purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemplary stakeholder engagement processes to ensure that GB's shaping of European developments represents a broad cross-section of stakeholders; including by communicating key outcomes and trade-offs to interested GB participants. • Direct influencing of European market developments to ensure changes are in the interests of GB consumers • Monitor, influence and communicate the impact of changes in Inter-TSO Compensation mechanism participation to maximise consumer benefit, such as GB participation post-Brexit

Promoting efficient charging and access arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent and responsive development, management and maintenance of the charging process Providing insight, clarity and transparency through role as Charging Futures lead secretariat Chair relevant workgroups through Charging Futures Take a leading role in the Access SCR delivery group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake activities that organise, convene and building consensus to contribute directly to the development of new approaches to transmission network charging, which maximise long-term benefits for consumers Undertake activities that utilise the ESO's technical understanding of the transmission system and charging methodologies to provide qualitative and quantitative policy inputs that are beyond simply modelling the tariffs to support the Access SCR
By the end of RIIO-2 (with evident progress demonstrated by March 2023)		
Managing codes changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESO has successfully introduced a single digitalised grid code, with positive user experience. Some discrepancies between transmission and distribution code change processes may remain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESO has introduced a single, accessible technical code for transmission and distribution which achieves the user functionality and benefits set out in its RIIO-2 plan. This includes the ESO successfully transforming the Grid Code to incorporate existing transmission and distribution codes into an IT system with AI-enabled navigation and, document and workflow management tools that provides users with a more user-friendly, inclusive and tailored experience.

Improving GB rules and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESO has progressed a number of key changes to technical standards to facilitate a zero carbon energy system, in line with government recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESO has proactively influenced, comprehensively reviewed and (subject to BEIS conclusions) successfully implemented necessary changes to the Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS) and other technical standards to ensure they are fit for purpose for a zero carbon energy system.
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Role 3: System insight, planning and network development

1.16. The ESO performs a variety of insight, planning and network development activities. It publishes key insight documents that include credible long-term pathways for the energy sector through its Future Energy Scenarios (FES), it identifies long-term electricity system needs in the Electricity Ten Year Statement (ETYS) and also provides GB input, based on the FES, into the development of the pan-European Ten Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP).

1.17. The ESO's annual Network Options Assessment (NOA) is a central part of its network development activities. The NOA assesses and recommends solutions to electricity onshore and offshore transmission system needs and provides an analysis of optimal interconnector capacity growth. The wider NOA methodologies also provide a foundation for the ESO to contract for long-term operability solutions (e.g. to solve network constraints and stability issues) via its NOA pathfinding projects.

1.18. The ESO network development activities also include improving the coordination of offshore network development through the wider network benefit investment (WNBI) mechanism and working with DNOs to ensure that its efficient and coordinated network development activities maximise whole system benefits across network boundaries. In addition, the ESO carries out network development cost-benefit or impact assessments to inform Ofgem's decision-making, such as decisions on major new investments in the onshore transmission networks proposed by TOs.

1.19. At present, the ESO is undertaking further work to develop a plan to introduce Early Competition in network development and an assessment of options for a more coordinated approach to offshore transmission network planning and delivery. We expect to update this guidance with additional expectations in these areas once this existing work concludes.

1.20. The ESO is also responsible for the connections process to use the electricity transmission system and for managing the impacts on the NETS from new connections of new offshore generation as well as at distribution level, through liaison with developers and DNOs to ensure that offshore/onshore networks are planned holistically.

Activity 3a: Connections and network accessMeets expectations predominantly underpinned by licence conditions:

CXX (d) optimising the timing of transmission outages under the outage plan on the national electricity transmission system;

CXX (l) facilitating an economic and efficient transition to a zero carbon energy system

CXX (n) co-ordinating and cooperating with transmission owners and distribution network operators to identify actions and processes that advance the efficient and economic operation of the networks;

CXX (o) using all best endeavours to implement actions and processes identified and proposed through its activities under paragraph XX.4 (n) of this condition that are in the interest of the efficient and economic operation of the total system

CXX (p) exchanging all necessary information and co-ordinating with the distribution network operators in so far as is necessary to ensure the optimal utilisation of resources, to ensure the economic and efficient operation of the system and to facilitate market development;

CXX (s) managing connection applications for access to the national electricity transmission network in a fair, consistent and timely manner; and

CXX (t) ensuring coordination with other network operators and interested parties and identifying and delivering the most efficient network planning and development of solutions to meet future transmission network needs. These solutions should include, but are not limited to, solutions that cost-effectively alleviate the need to upgrade or replace electricity network capacity

Output	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Immediate and ongoing		
Managing connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent and responsive development, management and maintenance of the transmission network connections process (including onshore, offshore and interconnector connections) <p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting all parties fairly, establishing dedicated account 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides and supports a seamless connections experience to electricity networks across GB (including both transmission and distribution networks), in order to facilitate a timely and efficient transition to a Net Zero electricity system <p>Including by:</p>

	<p>functions for DER where necessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provides visibility and understanding of connections process and considerations for all parties, including through well run seminars and events ➤ Planning ahead to consider the pipeline of future connections across the whole electricity network and use this to inform actions today ➤ Develop processes where an accumulation of connection requests in a given area can be considered together rather than processed in isolation, e.g. the development of a regional Connection and Infrastructure Options Note (CION) process. ➤ Process connection requests in a sufficiently timely manner and is able to provide developers with certainty over their respective connection completion date. ➤ Recording all options considered when processing a connection request for an offshore wind farm, including whether the ESO has considered Developer Associated Wider Works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing connections processes and systems in close collaboration with other network operators, industry and developers, that are consistent across networks and flexible to future system changes ➤ Process connection requests in a sufficiently timely manner such that to the rate of connection requests processed by the ESO is at least equal to the rate of incoming connection requests. ➤ Proactively identifying challenges and potential longer-term responses to connection planning issues, particularly in response to offshore transmission, interconnection and implementation of Government policy. ➤ Working with connecting parties to understand early whether there are services they can provide to the system that would mitigate other system costs. ➤ Leading industry thinking by developing economic and efficient conceptual solutions for coordinating the development of the NETS in offshore waters, whilst taking account of pan-European network development plans.
Outage and medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with all TOs and significant sources of generation to implement efficient outage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates an optimal, whole system approach to network access and planning by coordinating seamlessly with all

access planning	<p>plans that minimise costs to consumers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide visibility on the costs and benefits associated with changing network outages, through system analysis and cost assessments • Transmission access programmes planned on a whole system basis using open data where appropriate • Works with DNOs to coordinate and collectively optimise network access and planning through exchanging all relevant data in consistent formats 	<p>network operators via common data exchange systems (with use of open data where appropriate) to shape the future development of network access policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with network operators to identify and bring forward innovative, medium term network solutions that drive significant constraints savings for consumers (e.g. through Joint Works projects)
<p>By the end of RIIO-2</p> <p>(with evident progress demonstrated by March 2023)</p>		
<p>Managing connections</p> <p>Outage and medium term access planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESO has helped to deliver a high degree of coordination between connections and network access processes across transmission and distribution networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO has actively extended connection and network access planning approaches across the whole electricity system, with a single interface point, run in cooperation or coordination with other network operators, that ensures a seamless experience for all types of parties and facilitates efficient planning across transmission and distribution <p>To underpin this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The ESO has contributed to the implementation of a central highly accessible hub for connections, which is fully interoperable with the systems of other network operators, and delivers the outcomes described in its RIIO-2

		plan (eg, an enhanced understanding for all parties of the available capacity and the costs of connecting to different parts of the whole network)
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Activity 3b: Operational strategy and insights

Meets expectations predominantly underpinned by licence conditions:

CXX (e) publishing easily accessible information which the licensee holds to generate value for consumers and stakeholders, including but not limited to ensuring information services are designed to meet the needs of the service users,

CXX (g) producing and publishing accurate and unbiased forecasts;

CXX (l) facilitating an economic and efficient transition to a zero carbon energy system

CXX (n) co-ordinating and cooperating with transmission owners and distribution network operators to identify actions and processes that advance the efficient and economic operation of the networks;

CXX (p) exchanging all necessary information and co-ordinating with the distribution network operators in so far as is necessary to ensure the optimal utilisation of resources, to ensure the economic and efficient operation of the system and to facilitate market development

Output	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Immediate and ongoing [until the end of RIIO-2]		
Providing energy insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informs the future development of the electricity and gas systems through the production of clear, accessible and timely insight documents, which are informed by robust stakeholder engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses expertise to produce trusted and highly valued insights that shape policy decisions on the energy transition and support the UK's 2050 net zero commitment.
Producing analytically robust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competent and responsive development, management and maintenance of the Future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitors and evaluates previous analysis/scenarios, including by performing ex-post analysis of

scenarios and forecasts	<p>Energy Scenarios (FES) process, with evidence for assumptions and decisions through a record of data inputs and the cross section of stakeholders views gathered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide justifiable long-term forecasts (updated at least annually) covering a sufficiently wide range of scenarios, both in terms of future energy system development and the associated costs of operating the electricity system in those scenarios • Continuous stress-testing of scenarios, analysis and assumptions and consideration of whether scenarios and forecasts remain fit for purpose. • High degree of engagement, transparency and justification of decision making to stakeholders throughout the development process • Highlights areas where industry data improvement is necessary to improve assumptions and analysis 	<p>what has happened since the 'forecast' scenarios that has led to a different 'real-world' scenario, to improve accuracy and explain clearly the reasons for deviations between forecast and realised outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invites and proactively facilitates collaboration from all interested stakeholders to drive forward the improvement of industry data to achieve more reliable forecasting capabilities • Continually expands the functionality of demand models to provide step changes in accuracy, in particular by better taking into account profiles across the year, changes at the regional level and developments across vectors
Ensuring coordinated scenario development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engages and coordinates with other licensees (eg GSO, DNOs) to ensure regional and cross-sectoral interactions are clearly taken into account in the scenario development processes. • Provides accurate and consistent GB scenario data into European processes via ENTSO-E membership, and contribute to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively brings together as many industry parties as possible, both directly and through working with open data, to identify consistent pathways to achieving scenarios that meet decarbonisation targets, across the whole energy system. • All insight and scenarios documents (including the FES,

	the development of the ENTSO-E TYNDP.	ETYS, Operability Reports, and the SOF) work together seamlessly to present a clear, and accessible view of all future needs across the whole electricity system
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Activity 3c: Optimal network investment

Predominantly underpinned by current, as well as proposed, licence conditions:

CXX (l) facilitating an economic and efficient transition to a zero carbon energy system;

CXX (n) co-ordinating and cooperating with transmission owners and distribution network operators to identify actions and processes that advance the efficient and economic operation of the networks;

CXX (o) using all best endeavours to implement actions and processes identified and proposed through its activities under paragraph XX.4 (n) of this condition that are in the interest of the efficient and economic operation of the total system;

CXX (p) exchanging all necessary information and co-ordinating with the distribution network operators in so far as is necessary to ensure the optimal utilisation of resources, to ensure the economic and efficient operation of the system and to facilitate market development;

CXX (t) ensuring coordination with other network operators and interested parties and identifying and delivering the most efficient network planning and development of solutions to meet future transmission network needs. These solutions should include, but are not limited to, solutions that cost-effectively alleviate the need to upgrade or replace electricity network capacity

Output	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Immediate and ongoing		
Making optimal network recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make recommendations that lead to the economic and efficient future design and operation of the transmission network (encompassing onshore, connections for offshore wind and interconnection). <p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identifying future network issues in advance of additional costs being incurred 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make recommendations that lead to the economic and efficient future design and operation of the transmission network, taking into consideration the system needs associated with Net-Zero (encompassing onshore, connections for offshore wind and interconnection), by demonstrably maximising the number and types of solutions available.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inviting all types of providers (network and non-network) to provide solutions to these issues ➤ Proposing potential commercial alternative solutions to traditional network reinforcement based solutions ➤ Assessing all options fairly, based on robust and transparent cost benefit analysis ➤ Producing clear, accessible and timely NOA publications 	<p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identifying all transmission network issues in sufficient time for all possible types of solutions to be developed (including solutions from the distribution network that could solve transmission network issues). ➤ Proactively encouraging solutions from all types of parties (network and non-network) by making future opportunities clear and accessible to all technologies ➤ Where appropriate, identifying additional solutions not proposed by other parties, recommending optimised combinations of solutions to target a known issue, or identifying a solution that may address multiple issues ➤ Keeping network investment options open against uncertainty, through incorporating effectively medium term market solutions ➤ Assessing all options based on robust and transparent cost benefit analysis, providing a high degree of confidence that the ESO has recommended the optimal solutions.
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<p>Improving the network options assessment processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving clear coordination between the different assessments of solutions to different transmission network needs (e.g. ensuring coherence between the NOA and 'NOA type' pathfinder assessment processes as well as offshore wind connections.) <p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensuring that all commitments made in previous Network Development Roadmaps are completed in a transparent, timely manner ➤ Regular engagement with Ofgem, industry and interested stakeholders on NOA methodology development to ensure that the year-on-year system planning process is fit for purpose ➤ Building on past learning to continually improve the models, methodologies and analytical tools underpinning the assessment process of the NOA and NOA pathfinders ➤ Taking the NOA pathfinders out of the 'proof of concept' stage and integrating them with the NOA into an established and coherent set of assessments governed by the NOA methodology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting a clear pathway for (and making demonstrable progress towards) the introduction of a co-optimised assessment of all solutions to multiple transmission network needs (e.g. bringing together all network assessments under one single process) <p>Including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing a clear future vision and strategy for developing a single, optimal network assessment process ➤ Identifying the key barriers to achieving this vision (both technical and regulatory), making these clear to all parties, and proposing the best way to address these barriers ➤ Extensive and proactive engagement with Ofgem, industry and interested stakeholders to help shape the network planning process in consumer's best interests. ➤ Introducing step change improvements to the models, methodologies and analytical tools underpinning the assessment process against an agreed, transparent and clearly justified timeline.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Setting out a clear and coherent timetable/calendar for when the different assessments are to take place. Ensuring that it is easily accessible to all that wish to engage with the NOA, NOA-pathfinders and any new NOA-type processes. ➤ Providing timely and comprehensive submission of methodologies for key network development documents to Ofgem for approval, clearly highlighting how stakeholder input and lessons learned have been taken into account. 	
Procurement of medium and longer term solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of medium and longer-term balancing/network solutions through well-defined, timely, clear needs specifications • Continual improvements made to the procurement process informed by stakeholder feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of medium and longer-term balancing/network solutions through transparent, timely, regular, predictable market processes • Extensive engagement with existing participants and potential new entrants ensure the process works for all types of parties
By the end of RIIO-2 (with evident progress demonstrated by March 2023)		
Making optimal network recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESO has introduced a network planning process that ensures that all different types of solutions, to all network needs are fully and equally assessed as part of a coordinated set of processes which ensures the efficient solutions are brought forward. In doing so, the ESO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESO has introduced a network planning process that ensures that all different types of solutions, to all network needs, are fully and equally assessed as part of a single, co-optimised assessment which ensures the optimal solutions are brought forward.

	<p>has produced, and then continually updated, one overarching methodology and timetable that clearly shows how the different processes interact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESO has also ensured that the network planning process enables a long sighted strategic planning function at the onshore/offshore boundary. • The NOA has been progressively extended year-on-year to include innovative recommendations 	<p>Underpinned by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High quality, fully tested and future-proofed economic and technical assessment tools which are integrated within one platform. ➤ IT systems and models that are capable of establishing a co-optimised set of NOA assessments that simultaneously identify all future system needs and all energy-related network issues from a wide range of scenarios. ➤ IT system and models that are capable of simultaneously considering solution proposals from all types of network and non-network parties to recommend and/or procure the most economic and co-optimised set of solutions to the system needs
Consistency with distribution network planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESO has assisted the DNO's in developing network planning processes which are consistent with those at the transmission level, engaging at regular intervals to share expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network planning processes and assessment at the transmission level are fully coordinated with those at the distribution level, with the ESO having proactively shaped the DNO's RIIO-2 Business Plans to ensure optimal whole system network development.

Mapping the guidance to Standard Licence Condition CXX

The table below is intended to support the ESO's interpretation of the guidance in Chapter 1 through mapping it directly to the relevant C16 licence modifications.¹⁵

[To be included following the consultation on the licence drafting and this Roles Guidance]

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¹⁵ https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2017/04/so_incentives_-_decision_standard_licence_conditions_0.pdf