

Hello Ofgem,

I see that your team are looking for feedback regarding DNO's looking forward and backward ICE plans.

My feedback does not neatly fit into the template provided, but whilst the iron is hot I would like to offer the feedback that I do have regarding two DNO's and their approach to connection offer costings.

We are presently building out two wind farm one in Cumbria (ENW area) and the other in S.Wales (WPD patch). Both schemes have seen significant DNO connection cost increases several months after financial close and in some cases years after Connection Offer acceptance.

Both for similar reasons that feature DNO Communication Requirement changes. In short it appears that the DNO's are upgrading their communications infrastructure and networks with the result that better systems are needed for new connections. Consequently the assumptions made within the original connection offers are wildly out of date. Each scheme has seen connection cost increases of circa 25% - 45%, largely down to each project now needing a 15m communications structure and access to other 3rd party communication structure sites.

As a business we would happily wait longer for the DNO's to produce their Connection Offers if it resulted in Connection Offers that were more reliable in terms of costs, scope and timescales.

Is this something that could feature within their ICE plans? Otherwise I'm hoping your team can do something else useful with this feedback?