BSUoS Outturn

Average BSUoS charge	£/MWh
Aug-21	5.84
Past 12 months	4.57
2020/21	4.77

The outturn BSUoS for August was significantly higher than July. Balancing costs rose across all categories as a result of higher prices in the balancing mechanism and the OTC market driven by tight margins in GB and across Europe. The total BSUoS volume was slightly lower than July.

The blue line on the chart shows the estimated monthly average BSUoS charge for the past 12 months. The red line shows our forecast for each month, made at year ahead. The table shows a breakdown of the elements that make up the BSUoS charge (including volume), broken down by cost category. The total cost divided by the volume gives the estimated average charge.

Historical outturn vs year ahead forecast

Legend: Estimated BSUoS Charge (£/MWh) — Year ahead forecast (£/MWh)
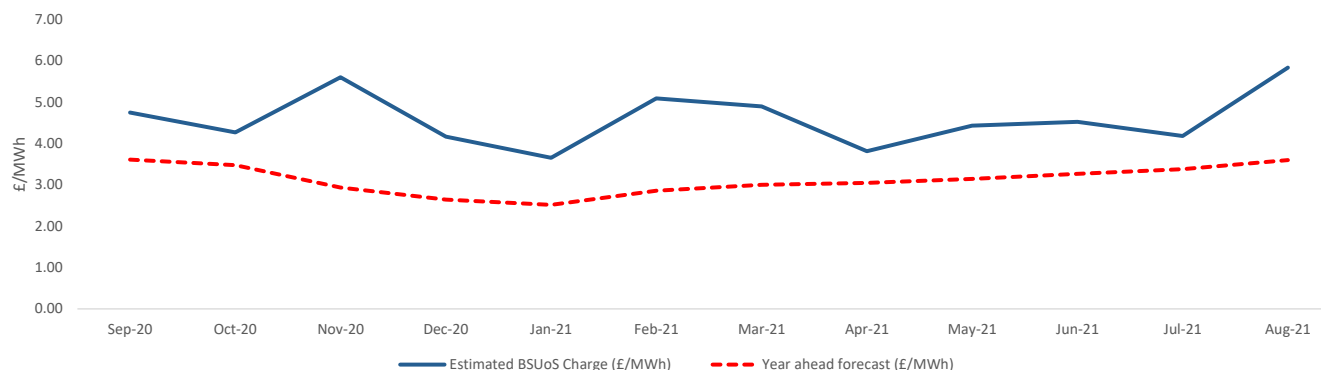
Month	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21
Energy Imbalance	8.5	10.9	7.7	12.3	6.5	7.8	4.0	5.9	15.2	7.1	3.9	16.5
Operating Reserve	8.7	11.1	13.8	18.0	50.3	23.4	36.2	22.7	13.6	16.5	22.2	28.6
STOR	2.7	3.3	4.0	4.3	3.4	2.7	2.9	4.3	3.6	4.3	3.3	3.4
Constraints - E&W	43.1	59.5	119.9	61.3	32.8	36.9	37.9	36.6	51.3	26.7	23.0	40.2
Constraints - Cheviot	10.7	8.0	0.9	17.3	1.3	57.6	15.9	1.5	0.0	3.6	1.0	2.4
Constraints - Scotland	19.0	17.3	15.9	12.5	6.5	6.4	20.1	5.7	0.3	1.5	2.3	0.7
Constraints - AS	17.8	0.9	2.1	1.4	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.3	3.9	5.8	6.3	11.1
Negative Reserve	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.9
Fast Reserve	9.7	9.2	10.5	11.0	11.4	10.3	14.7	17.2	19.8	19.9	21.0	20.4
Response	8.2	12.6	14.4	15.6	15.1	15.3	20.1	20.4	24.0	30.2	29.7	37.9
Other Reserve	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.4	2.0	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.3
Reactive	4.2	4.5	5.4	5.9	5.4	5.6	7.6	7.5	8.2	8.6	10.2	11.7
Minor Components	1.7	3.0	1.0	0.9	2.4	0.3	3.0	0.7	4.1	0.7	1.6	3.4
Black Start	8.9	7.6	7.9	4.5	8.0	5.4	6.0	3.7	4.1	9.6	2.6	5.2
Total BSUoS	145.7	150.0	205.4	166.9	144.8	173.8	171.5	129.2	149.7	135.7	128.0	183.8
Estimated BSUoS Vol (TWh)	34.5	39.6	39.9	44.6	46.5	38.7	40.2	40.8	40.0	35.9	37.2	36.2
Estimated Internal BSUoS (£m)	18.3	18.9	18.3	18.9	18.9	17.1	18.9	23.3	24.0	23.3	24.0	24.0
ESO Incentive	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ALoMCP	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
CMP345/350 Deferred Costs								1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8
Estimated BSUoS Charge (£/MWh)	4.75	4.27	5.60	4.17	3.66	5.09	4.90	3.82	4.43	4.52	4.18	5.84
Year ahead forecast (£/MWh)	3.61	3.48	2.94	2.65	2.52	2.86	3.00	3.05	3.14	3.27	3.38	3.60

BSUoS Forecast

Average BSUoS charge	£/MWh
Sep-21	5.88
2021/22	4.77
2022/23	3.72
Next 12 months	4.59

ESO Incentive has been removed from the forecast as a separate cost and is now included in the ESO internal costs as part of the Price Control Financial Model. The ALoMCP costs have been revised and following the approval of CMP373 the under-recovered costs have been profiled in the forecast, further details can be found here:

https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/192426/download/

In March for the FY21/22 forecast we have re-costed the outage plan and adjusted the constraint costs accordingly. When producing a forecast of constraint costs, we apply a historical wind profile for each month. Variations in the constraint costs month on month will therefore be driven by the reduction in constraint limits due to outages in addition to the wind level applied. As such these are indicative of where costs may outturn but variations are expected due to outturn wind not following a particular historical profile exactly.

We have added an additional line to the forecast from Apr 21 to Mar 22 to account for the deferred BSUoS as per CMP345/350.

From April 21 CMP333 comes into effect changing the demand base to gross demand (NB. This has been included in the forecast figures for some time).

The chart shows the average monthly BSUoS forecast for the next 24 months. The grey band shows the upper and lower range of the forecast. The forecast uses a combination of forecast models and historical data. Constraint costs are adjusted in line with major changes to the outage plan, system faults, and commissioning programmes. The other energy cost categories are forecast using a baseline of historical trends with adjustments for expected changes in system operation or balancing services markets.

24 month rolling forecast with error bands
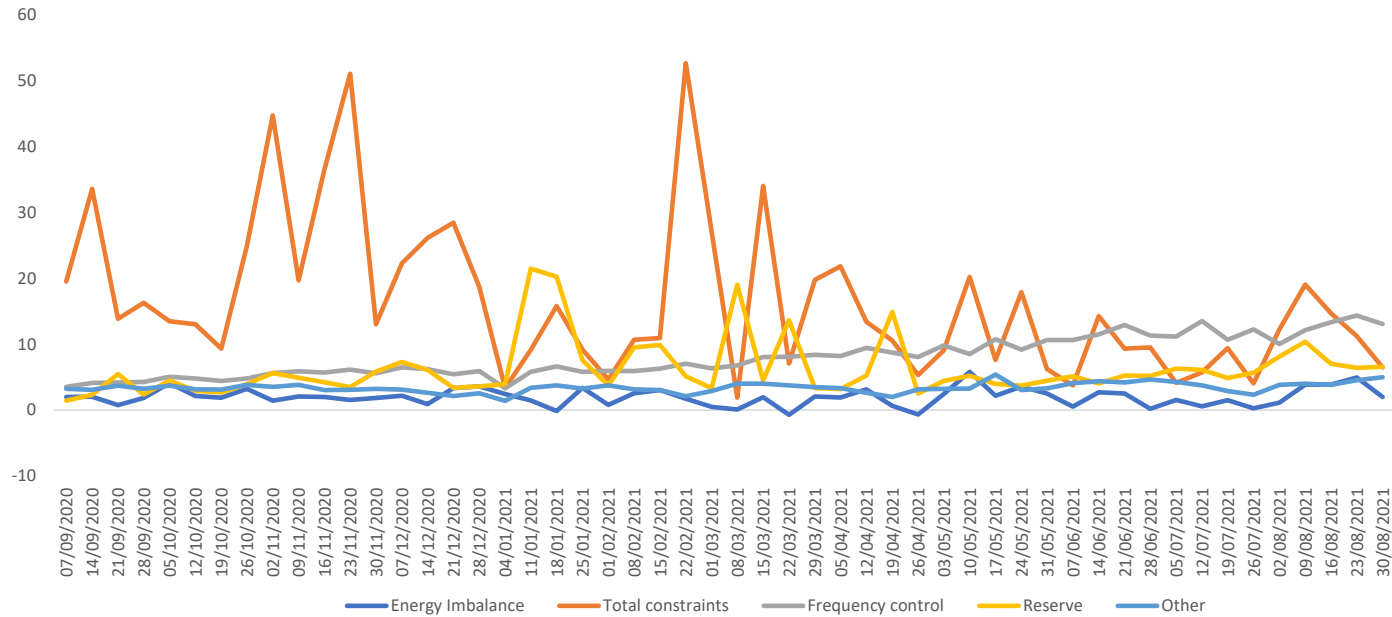

Estimated BSUoS Charge (£/MWh)
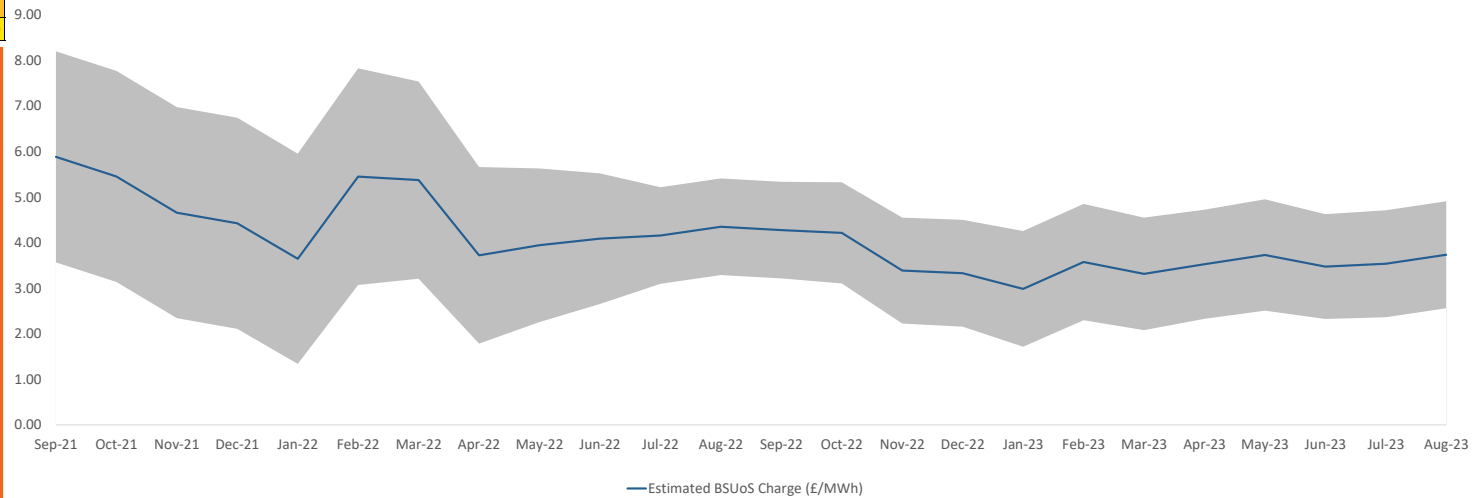
Month	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Energy Imbalance	12.1	13.4	12.8	13.2	13.9	14.6	9.8	8.5	7.9	8.2	9.3	8.7	10.1	11.3	10.9	11.1	11.9	12.8	10.8	8.5	7.9	8.2	9.3	8.7
Operating Reserve	83.5	16.4	16.1	18.9	21.1	20.9	18.2	15.3	12.0	10.8	11.0	11.2	14.1	16.4	16.1	18.9	21.1	20.9	13.2	15.3	12.0	10.8	11.0	11.2
STOR	10.2	6.2	7.4	7.5	7.6	6.5	7.4	5.2	5.6	5.4	6.0	5.8	6.3	6.2	7.4	7.5	7.6	6.5	7.4	5.2	5.6	5.4	6.0	5.8
Constraints	37.8	88.5	97.2	83.1	57.4	113.7	117.4	38.9	39.5	39.2	40.5	49.5	53.1	56.0	52.6	46.5	39.8	45.3	41.6	38.9	39.5	39.2	40.5	49.5
Negative Reserve	1.3	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.9	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.9	1.6	1.8	1.7	
Fast Reserve	13.5	19.3	19.3	20.2	20.5	17.9	19.9	17.4	17.6	17.2	17.8	18.3	17.2	17.8	17.8	18.7	19.0	16.5	18.4	14.5	14.6	8.8	9.1	9.6
Response	25.8	28.6	27.9	28.6	28.4	26.1	28.7	24.6	25.8	24.8	25.8	26.3	24.1	24.5	24.0	24.6	24.4	22.4	24.6	19.7	20.7	11.9	12.6	13.1
Other Reserve	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.3	
Reactive	6.7	7.5	7.2	7.8	7.7	6.3	6.8	7.4	8.2	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.8	7.7	6.3	6.8	7.4	8.2	7.0	6.9	6.8
Minor Components	2.0	3.1	1.6	2.0	0.5	2.3	0.3	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.6	1.5	1.1	2.1	0.6	1.0	-0.6	2.3	0.3	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.6	1.5
Black Start	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Total BSUoS	197.8	188.8	194.7	186.5	162.5	213.3	213.7	125.7	125.2	122.4	127.4	135.7	139.9	147.6	141.8	141.3	136.3	138.0	128.3	117.8	117.1	100.6	104.8	113.1
Esitmated BSUoS Vol (TWh)	38.2	40.7	48.8	49.7	53.7	44.7	46.0	40.0	37.9	35.7	36.4	36.7	38.2	40.7	48.8	49.7	53.7	44.7	46.0	40.0	37.9	35.7	36.4	36.7
Estimated Internal BSUoS (£m)	23.3	24.0	23.3	24.0	24.0	21.7	24.0	23.3	24.0	23.3	24.0	24.0	23.3	24.0	23.3	24.0	24.0	21.7	24.0	23.3	24.0	23.3	24.0	24.0
BSUoS Cost Recovery	0.0	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.2	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ALoMCP	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CMP345/350 Deferred Costs	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.8																	
Estimated BSUoS Charge (£/MWh)	5.88	5.45	4.66	4.42	3.64	5.45	5.37	3.72	3.94	4.09	4.16	4.35	4.27	4.21	3.39	3.33	2.98	3.57	3.31	3.52	3.73	3.47	3.54	3.73

	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
High Error Band (£/MWh)	8.20	7.77	6.97	6.74	5.95	7.83	7.53	5.66	5.63	5.52	5.21	5.41	5.33	5.32	4.55	4.50	4.25	4.85	4.55	4.72	4.95	4.62	4.71	4.91
Low Error Band (£/MWh)	3.57	3.14	2.34	2.11	1.34	3.07	3.21	1.78	2.26	2.65	3.10	3.29	3.22	3.10	2.22	2.16	1.71	2.30	2.08	2.33	2.51	2.32	2.36	2.56

BSUoS Volatility and Forecast Accuracy

nationalgridESO

The first chart shows the volatility of the cost categories that make up BSUoS. Constraint costs shown in red are the most variable and difficult to predict, mainly driven by the output of wind generation combined with the transmission outage plan at the time.
A fault on the transmission system can add to the underlying volatility and cause large unforeseen increases in constraint costs.
Reserve, shown in yellow, is generally stable but can have large deviations when the cost of generator margin increases significantly when generation is short.
Predicting increases in the cost of reserve is difficult at long timescales, and can have a significant impact on the average BSUoS charge.
Energy Imbalance is the other category that contributes to BSUoS volatility, which is the cost of residual balancing when the energy market is long or short. The other cost categories are relatively stable across the year, although there may be longer term trends that we consider.

The second chart shows the annual outturn BSUoS charge compared with the forecast made at 12 months ahead, and the absolute percentage error for each year.
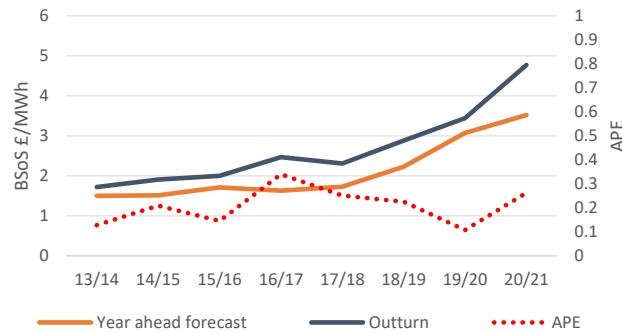
The third chart shows the month ahead forecast compared with outturn and absolute percentage error. Month ahead is the month ahead of the reporting month.

Cost volatility by category over past 12 months

Legend: Energy Imbalance — Total constraints — Frequency control — Reserve — Other

Yearly History and APE

Legend: Year ahead forecast — Outturn — APE

Month ahead forecast vs actual and APE

Legend: Actual — Month ahead forecast — APE