

Ref	Questions from workshop 1	Answer
1	Under Option 1, where a customer seeks a revised "later" connection date, will the Milestones also be revised to work backwards from the new later connection date?	If a customer submits a Modification Application for that connection date, then the milestones will work backwards from the new connection date
2	If A Mod-App is received Clock Start before CMP implementation date will it come back with Appendix Q?	Yes, that is correct.
3	Why are User Milestones split into sub-categories "Conditional" and "Construction"?	<p>Conditional Progression Milestones – ESO “will” terminate.  Construction Progression Milestones – ESO have the “right to” terminate.</p> <p>For User Progression Milestones 1 to 3 inclusive (the Conditional Progression Milestones), notice will be given by the ESO to the User terminating the Construction Agreement.</p> <p>For User Progression Milestones 5 to 8 inclusive (the Construction Progression Milestones), the ESO will consider whether it is appropriate for the ESO to exercise the “right to” terminate as provided for in the Construction Agreement. The right will only be exercised by the ESO after escalation within ESO and through engagement with the User and the Relevant Transmission Licensee establishing the likelihood that the User will still be in a position to progress to the Completion Date. Where required, ESO will engage with the User in respect of the relevant Users to understand from the User the overall status of their project, including in relation to participation in UK Government funding rounds, such as Contracts for Difference or the Capacity Market; to allow the ESO to take an informed and reasonable decision regarding the application of discretion on termination of any User’s project. Users. Where the ESO takes the decision to Terminate, notice will be given by the ESO to Terminate the User, in turn terminating the Construction Agreement and the reason for this.</p>
4	Will you be applying Tolerances like the DNO's do?	Tolerance periods have been removed with adjustments made to milestone durations. This also removes the need for a cumulative delay process. A 60 calendar day remedy period has also been introduced once a milestone is missed, to allow the user time to remedy the missed milestone before the project is terminated.

5	<p>Wind farm planning applications typically take 3-5 years to be decided (rather than the assumed 9 months). This is mainly because (i) LPAs are very slow to respond to ECU consultations and (ii) where they object a public inquiry is needed. Could NGENSO clarify (i) whether these delays would be treated as exceptions and (ii) under what circumstances they would (actually) terminate a grid connection agreement for a project where a planning application has been submitted (it usually requires several £million to get an onshore wind farm to that stage)?</p>	<p>A Milestone can be completed at any point during the process. Where a planning application is delayed due to an appeal or Local Authority issue, an exception can be applied for. Please see below exception from the guidance document-</p> <p><b>'Where a User is not able to meet a User Progression Milestone due to Planning appeals and third-party challenges in relation to the User's Consents.'</b></p> <p>ESO will review all exceptions.</p>
6	<p>What happens if our Planning Application gets stuck in the planning process and we fail to meet Milestone 2#?</p>	<p>A Milestone can be completed at any point during the process. Where a planning application is delayed due to an appeal or Local Authority issue, an exception can be applied for. Please see below exception from the guidance document-</p> <p><b>'Where a User is not able to meet a User Progression Milestone due to Planning appeals and third-party challenges in relation to the User's Consents.'</b></p> <p>ESO will review all exceptions.</p>
7	<p>Please can you explain the process for 'in flight' mod apps? When received they will include QM but do they still get the opportunity to mod app again?</p>	<p>Appendix Q will be issued with all Offers being sent post implementation of CMP376 - 27 November 2023, this includes in flight offers.</p> <p>In the case of the first Modification Application made by a User after CMP376 implementation (27 November 2023) for any pre-existing Construction Agreement(s) (and which introduces the Transmission Queue Management process into that pre-existing Construction Agreement), User Progression Milestones are set based on the Modification Application Offer Date and the Completion Date in that Offer.</p> <p>For any subsequent Modification Application made by a User, User Progression Milestone dates stay fixed – even where changes are made to the Completion Date – unless there is an exceptional issue or ESO discretion in relation to termination of M5-M8 is engaged, as stated in CUSC section 16 Paragraph 16.5.</p>
8	<p>Currently, the Connections Portal doesn't allow for the submission of evidence. When will this be fixed?</p>	<p>The Connections Portal update will be deployed in January and is being built to adapt to the scope of Queue Management.</p> <p>Training/training materials will be provided and further information will be given closer to deployment.</p>
9	<p>Is the Connections Portal you refer to the same as the existing one</p>	<p>Yes - there will be an update released in January.</p>

10	For existing projects who do not wish to modify the connection date, will the milestones be based on the CMP376 implementation date or the date the ATV is issued?	The User Progression Milestones will be based on the date the Agreement to Vary is issued working backwards from the connection date.
11	Are you saying the milestone calculator on the website is not fit for purpose?	No, however, there are some errors for certain Users which the ESO are working on.  Please use the table in Section 16 of the CUSC to work out durations of each Milestone or discuss at Project Progression calls with your Connections Contract Manager (CCM).
12	Where a customer applies for a new Connection date/Completion Date and this is provided by NGESO, does the customer lose its position in the queue?	The new offered Completion Date will be provided by the Relevant Transmission Licensee (RTL) and ESO – there is a risk for the customer that this may be significantly later than their existing contracted Completion Date, however the queue position will remain. The ESO is working with Ofgem and industry to look at other ways that the queue can be managed going forwards.
13	How does ESO plan to reallocate new capacity from the projects that have been knocked off the queue?	We are in discussions with DESNZ and Ofgem around how the ESO reallocates capacity.
14	For a project that has a Step 1 offer for 2035, all milestones will apply 'x' period (based on Ofgem's approval) before this connection date. How will that achieve the objective of reducing the queue now?	The two step offer process is not designed to try and reduce the size of the queue, it is designed to help implement the Transmission works review. The size of the queue will be reduced if projects that are not progressing terminate allowing those that are progressing to connect.
15	The QM Guidance still mentions the letters from directors every 6 months for Milestones 2-3 - was this not dropped in a working group discussion? The letters are not mentioned in the Legal Text of Section 1	This has now been updated.
16	What happens to the securities already paid if ESO (via DNV) decides to terminate the grid connection under the new queue management system?	With the works currently being undertaken by DNV, we cannot terminate a User. Where a project is not progressing, the ESO will issue a notice to the customer giving them 2 months to make a decision.  Where a project decides to terminate, we will work with RTL colleagues to establish the cancellation charge, securities are reconciled, therefore if the final cancellation charge is more than the amount of security that has been deposited then an invoice will be raised and if it is less then the remainder will be returned.
17	For a project to obtain planning permission under Section 36 in Scotland will take 18-24 months - this will not fit in the period stipulated by the queue management?	We expect customers to start planning well in advance of when a milestone is due.  ESO had substantial conversations in the CMP376 workgroup on timescales and milestone durations have subsequently been set to allow for these scenarios. These durations were agreed by the workgroup members.

18	Is there right to appeal a termination?	Under CUSC, any dispute in the application of the Queue Management Process will be treated as an Other Dispute under the CUSC disputes process at CUSC section 7'. In accordance with that Disputes Process as per CUSC 7.3.1, there will be initial discussions between the ESO and the User seeking a resolution ahead of raising a dispute, and either party may then refer that Other Dispute to the Electricity Arbitration Association.
19	If an exception has occurred and accepted (for example, a Planning Delay), what happens to forward looking milestones?	Forward looking milestones will remain the same, the Milestone for which the exception has been applied for will move, only. However, where the delay is more then 6 months discussions will need to take place to review the knock on impacts on other Milestones.  The Connections Portal will have functions where a User is to provide visibility of the delay/impacts on future Milestones etc. We will look to cover this prior to deployment of update to the Connections Portal.
20	What happens to Construction Milestones if the TO Connection Works are delayed resulting in delayed Connection Date?	The User would apply for an exception and if accepted the Milestone duration will be amended and if the impact of connection date then discussions will be had with RTL, User and ESO to algin all Milestones to the new completion date. the exception below is in the guidance document <b>Any delay in the achievement of a milestone by the User which is caused by a Relevant Transmission Licensee or The Company</b>
21	What checks/balances will be put in place to ensure that milestones that allow ESO discretion are equally applied to all (i.e. is there a risk of 'un QM-able' projects due to things like political pressure etc)?	First 3 milestones are automatic termination, later milestones will have an internal escalation process, the ESO may also speak to TO's/Ofgem and DESNZ (f a government funded project).
22	Shared works for non-radial offshore connections and any Offshore Transmission System User Development Works (OTSDUW)) are excluded from the mod. It has been said a separate mod will be raised to clarify this, any indication on when this will be?	This is being picked up as part of the wider Connections Reform. We will look to communicate further on this in due course.
23	Will prolonged (by a third party) discharging of planning conditions be an recognised as a exception to delays to construction progression milestones?	Yes, please see Conditional Progression Milestones - M1 - M3. Exception as per Section 16 CUSC, the below is the wording in the guidance document- <b>'Where a User is not able to meet a User Progression Milestone due to Planning appeals and third-party challenges in relation to the User's Consents.'</b>
24	As a follow-up on planning, what does "submitted in good time" mean? There are statutory determination periods, but everyone knows those are completely unrealistic. When will it be deemed a failure to meet M2 be deemed to be down to the developer being "over-optimistic" with how long that will take, and when will it be deemed to the LPA/ECU being slow?!	We expect Customers to factor in Local Authority planning timelines prior to application.
25	Please can you confirm the queue management milestones will be applicable to all direct connections across all TOs including Scottish TOs?	Yes it will be applicable across the whole of GB.

26	What happens to securities and cancellation charges if a project is terminated?	Customer would be expected to pay the full cancellation charge and upon termination
27	Just double checking about Mod-apps. So Milestones will only move backwards for Mod-apps made in the next 6 months following receipt of new ATV, and any subsequent Mod-apps (say later next year/year after etc) requesting a later date will not come back with later Milestones. In other words we only get one chance to push the Milestone Dates backwards?	Correct. Once an agreement has queue management milestones in them they remain fixed. For any subsequent mod-apps made by a User the User Progression Milestone dates will stay fixed even where changes are made to the connection completion date. unless there is a exception issue or discretion in relation to termination.
28	In terms of calculating the queue management milestones in a step 1 offer, is it the case that the customer needs to wait for the step 2 offer to fix their Completion Date (so that the milestones are calculated against that Completion Date)?	Yes- it would make sense to wait and see what your step-two offer looks like. However, you can have User Progression Milestones put into your step-two offer, if you are happy with date. Appendix Q will be issued as part of the of the step-two offer. If queue management milestones are not included in your second step offer then you will need to reply to the Notice within six months to state which option you would like to go with.
29	Can developers Mod App Connection date towards us?	Yes a developer can mod app to bring a date forward can but as explained in the Notice it is unlikely that connection dates will be able to come forward based on market landscape.
30	Are batteries treated as generation or demand in this process?	It can be treated as both, but from a BCA perspective a Battery is considered generation
31	Does this process apply for all projects (i.e. those connected via distribution and transmission or just those connected via transmission)?	Transmission Queue Management doesn't apply to <b>BEGA / BELLA</b> or anyone with a <b>Connection Agreement with a DNO</b> . DNOs have their own Queue Management Milestones.
32	So does that mean BEGA applications will not be to achieve earlier connection times? Should developers look for sub 100MW projects to benefit from this process?	The Milestones are in line with those at Distribution; however, Milestone 4, which relates to the transmission requirements for a project connecting to a distribution network are not relevant here and will not be included in the Transmission arrangements as that Milestone will be monitored by the DNO, and if required the project will be terminated at Distribution level. Should an agreement that has a Distribution and a Transmission connection i.e., a BEGA and is terminated at Distribution level, this would then result in a termination at Transmission level as per the clauses in the BEGA.
33	<b>If a project has an "in-flight" Mod App for something else, but also wants to delay its Connection Date, what is the process to do this as it would not be normal to have two Mod Apps running in parallel?</b>	<b>If you have a project that falls into this category then please make it known to your CCM that you would like to have further discussions in relation to this and we will work with you on the best option to ensure that you have queue management milestones added within the Notice period.</b>
34	If a project is entitled to have a new Completion Date based on ConsAg clause 3.2, would the Milestones be recalculated and reissued based on the new Completion Date (as well as having an exception)?	Yes if exception was approved for Construction Milestones M5-M8 and the delay to meet the Milestone date was more then 6 months.

35	Will the Agreement to Vary following a Mod App to delay the Completion Date need to be signed and, if so, what will be the period for this? I presume there won't really be an option not to sign without losing the connection but I just wanted to check the process.	A customer can choose to keep their current completion date or if a Modification Application is not made then ESO will issue an ATV to modify the Construction Agreement and add Queue Management Milestones which would be aligned to the User's existing Completion Date - Standard signing period for a licenced Offer or Agreement to Vary is 3 months, we do require all offers to be signed to satisfy the Notice
36	Just to clarify, this doesn't apply to Directly Connected Demand, I was under the impression it did?	Applies to all <b>directly connected customer with a Bilateral Connection Agreement (BCA), including directly connected demand.</b> It does not apply to Distribution connected Customers and those with BEGA's/BELLA's. (the slides have been amended to reflect this)
37	What is "Contestable Design Works Submission – if the User chooses to go down this route." means? DNOs have contestable/non-contestable works, NGESO offers do not specify this. Can you explain this further please	Contestable Design Works - Customers who wish to build on behalf of the RTL. Currently on the application form, a developer can select contestable works - currently that's up to 2km If the developer hasn't explicitly requested it then they will not receive a contestable works design - therefore <b>MS 5</b> will be marked as <b>N/A</b> .
38	If you receive a notice for your staged projects as "ON TRACK" does that apply to all staged connections of the projects?	There will be 2 Appendix Qs issued for each stage. Each Milestone stone acts independently.
39	More on planning I'm afraid... if 50% of wind farms need public inquiries (which add 2 years to the programme) would a public inquiry being needed constitute an exception or not (or is that something NGESO would feel a developer should have included in their programme). This all seems incredibly uncertain given the consequences (and potential write-offs)	We would expect this to be included in the programme and where possible to ensure preparation is made well in advance.  Yes, a exception can be applied for and it would be within ESOs discretion.
41	What are "optimization works" and how are projects being prioritized across the UK?	<a href="#">Please visit our 5pointplan webpage for more information.</a>
42	For new large scale DNS projects with multiple technologies can bespoke milestones be agreed with the ESO at Stage 2? For example. Battery sites may get planning before 400 acre solar sites.	Each stage connection will have its own Appendix Q. Milestones can be negotiated if a User falls within the 0-2 years connections bracket as per Section 16. As part of application stage these discussions would be encouraged.
43	How can we access the slides?	Available on the ESO Queue Management webpage: <a href="https://www.nationalgrideso.com/industry-information/connections/queue-management">https://www.nationalgrideso.com/industry-information/connections/queue-management</a>

Ref	Questions from workshop 2	Answer
1	Can we expect correspondence for each individual connection or a letter covering all sites?	The Notice sent covers all sites who have a live Construction Agreement.
2	What is Milestone 5 "Contestable Design Works Submission – if the User chooses to go down this route." means? DNOs have contestable/non-contestable works, NGENSO Offers haven't not specified this so far. Can you explain this further please	Contestable Design Works - Customers who wish to build on behalf of the RTL.
3	Will any in flight applications also be Offer the opportunity for a mod app under option 2?	Currently on the application form, a developer can select contestable works - currently that's up to 2km If the developer hasn't explicitly requested it then they will not receive a contestable works design - therefore User Progression Milestone 5 will be marked as N/A.
4	Will you be doing similar assessment with DNV on projects due to connect post-2025 and if not, will you be advising customers if you believe they are progressing appropriately or not?	This process is just for pre 27 November 2025 Connection dates, those with a post 27 November 2025 date will be required to pick one of the two options from the Notice to have User Progression Milestones added to their agreements.  We will be communicating with customers on their progression.
5	Under option 2 can earlier dates be requested, or only 'future'?	We have gone into a lot of detail on this in the Notice. It is very unlikely that we will be able to Offer an earlier connection date, but there is nothing stopping a request to be put forward as the CUSC allows it. The Offer put out is already the most economically efficient Offer so unlikely the date will be brought forward.
6	Will the slides be available after today's session?	Yes the slides will be made available on the Queue Management webpage.
7	The NGENSO guidance note states the following: 'Milestone duration time is determined from a look-up table as per CUSC Section 16, based on the period from the Offer date of the Agreement to the contracted Completion Date.' In this case, what is the 'Agreement'? Is it the original connection Offer we would have received? Or the Agreement to Vary we will receive imposing Appendix Q?	The Agreement is the Offer that is going out will contain the User Progression Milestones, this is the first Offer with User Progression Milestones applied, for any following Modification Applications the User Progression Milestones will then not move.
8	Do exceptions apply to Milestones 1-3 also?	Yes they do.

9	<p>If there is knock on effect on delay due to a milestone, will the later milestones also be amended, subject to agreement with ESO and suitable evidence etc.?</p>	<p>Users will have to proactively engage with their CCMs to monitor User Progression Milestones and where applicable apply for an exception.</p> <p>Dates will only change for all User Progression Milestones if an exceptional issue or ESO discretion in relation to termination of M5-M8 is engaged, as stated in CUSC section 16 Paragraph 16.5.</p> <p>Exceptions are only valid for the Milestone applied for and the remaining Milestones will not move dates.</p>
10	<p>Please share the link for the milestones date calculator.</p>	<p>Please use the guidance provided on the ESO Connections website/Section 16 of the CUSC as there is a macro issue impacting the milestone calculator and it will be removed.</p>
11	<p>Apols if I missed the earlier comments but will the webinar Q&amp;As be published also?</p>	<p>Yes they will be. You can find them in the ESO connections Queue Management webpage</p>
12	<p>If a project which holds a pre-2025/6 connection date has to MODAP, will the project retain its queue position or will it automatically be moved to the back of the connections queue?</p>	<p>The queue position will remain. We are working with Ofgem on a First Ready First Connect process which is part of the wider Connections Reform work but currently First Come First Served basis apply.</p>
13	<p>For connection Offers with dates in the mid 2030s currently, if the date can be improved (brought forward) by one of the measures of the 5 point plan (TEC amnesty, revised CPAs, Queue Management etc.), how does that filter through to the connection Offer and appendix Q. Noting QM milestones can't be amended</p> <p>You say can't Offer earlier date, but what about the Expression of Interest to pull connection dates forward - is the intention not to ultimately improve connection dates for customers? If not part of this mod app process under QM, then when would this be expected to filter through?</p>	<p>If we are looking to bring the dates forward as part of one of the other initiatives e.g. expression of interest in non firm Offers for energy storage, we estimate these in the new date of their Offer. This will have User Progression Milestones applied.</p>
14	<p>For Offers currently being assessed in the EOI process, will CMP376 rules apply as normal or will there be any alterations made?</p>	<p>User Progression Milestones will form part of that Offer for those in the EOI process.</p>
15	<p>What do you mean the last 2km</p>	<p>User can build 2k off their Assets so anyone with this will have their M5 Milestone applied, only relevant for Connection Assets.</p> <p>If there is more 2k then it becomes 'sole use' so that can't be built contestable and there is a CUSC mod already underway that will look into sole use contestable works.</p>



16	Leading on from NGET answer on moving connection Offers forward; how will this apply to BESS connections (when considering non-firm modelling, revised CPA assumptions etc)?	Already answered in question 13.
17	For co-located technology, can you confirm my understanding is correct please. Each technology can have it's own AppQ, but only one; multiple AppQ will not be possible for staged commissioning any single technology?	co-located sites (Generation sites which comprise multiple technology types within one Power Station) would have a separate Appendix Q for each technology and if they miss a Milestone for one technology that part of the project would be subject to termination.
18	How this will be managed if TO delays their scheme works and impacts the key milestones?	Exception for delay as per CUSC Section 16 can be applied for:  <b>Any delay in the achievement of a milestone by the User which is caused by a Relevant Transmission Licensee or The Company</b>
19	Thanks Laura, however we are not talking Mod-app here. For example, we have received an Offer back in the October 2022 with connection date October 2027, Based on the calculation methodology from the guidance, if the Offer date is October 2022, if fall under the category '5 years (1825days) and above from contracted Completion date, then the M1 date would be October 2023. but if the Offer date is after October 2022( say today's date) with connection date 2027, it would fall under '4 up to 5 years(1460 – 1824days) from contracted Completion date', then the M1 date would be October 2024. It doesn't see User Progression Milestone fair in this case.	Hypothetically, Offer for October 2027, sent in October 2022, easiest way to look at it is whatever date the Offer is sent the duration for User Progression Milestones will be applied from that date.  Refer to workshop 2 slide 13
20	When do you predict FRFC will take over from existing queue and will this also apply to DNO/DSOs?	We are having conversations about this for Transmission. Gate 2 allows for earlier capacity, between now and Reform we are looking into how we can bring this in earlier. If we are looking to terminate a User this will not be for a few months, there will be a short amount of time between now and when Reform goes live and summer next year to consider how this will work in practice.
21	ATV how do you slot QM Milestones in?	If someone chooses ATV, Offers will be licensed Offers, anything longer than 6 years connection date, these will be sent out based on the date the Offer goes out. These are all forward looking, any milestones will be post signing. We would never put in a milestone in the past, however, you may have multiple milestones due on the same date.

