Connections Reforms

Birmingham

12 December 2023

ESO

10:00hr

Registration

10:30-10:45hr

Welcome and House keeping

James Norman

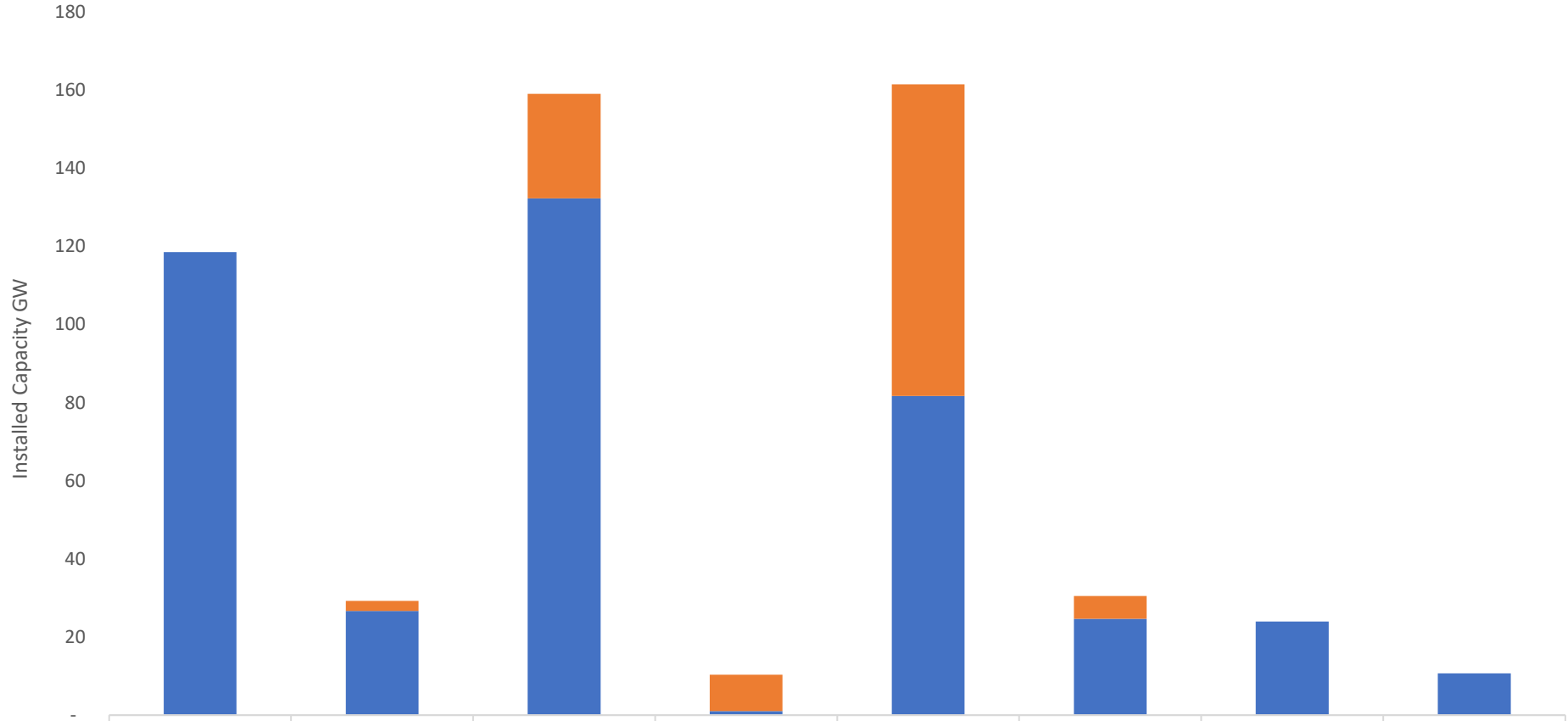
Head of Connections Strategy, ESO

Agenda

Time	Item
10:00 – 10:30	**Registration & Coffee**
10:30 – 10:45	**Welcome** [James Norman, Head of Connections Strategy, ESO]
10:45 – 11:30	**Connections Action Plan Overview including Q&A** [Paul Hawker, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero]
11:30 – 12:15	**Update On Current Initiatives: 5 Point Plan; 3 Point Plan** [Laura Henry, ESO and Ben Godfrey, NGED]
12:15 – 13:00	**Networking Lunch**
13:00 – 14:15	**Connections Reform Final Recommendations** including Q&A
14:15 – 15:00	**Walk the Walls, Connections Reform Final Recommendations**
15:00	**Close**

Tx & Dx Queue Summary

(excluding connected)



	Wind Offshore	Wind Onshore	Solar	Other Renewable	Storage	Non-Renewable	Interconnector	Nuclear	
Distribution	-	2,562	26,761	9,320	79,728	5,821	-	-	**124 GW**
Transmission	118,546	26,644	132,284	1,010	81,722	24,686	23,954	10,680	**420 GW**
	118.5	**29**	**159**	**10**	**161.5**	**30.5**	**24**	**10.7**	**544 GW**

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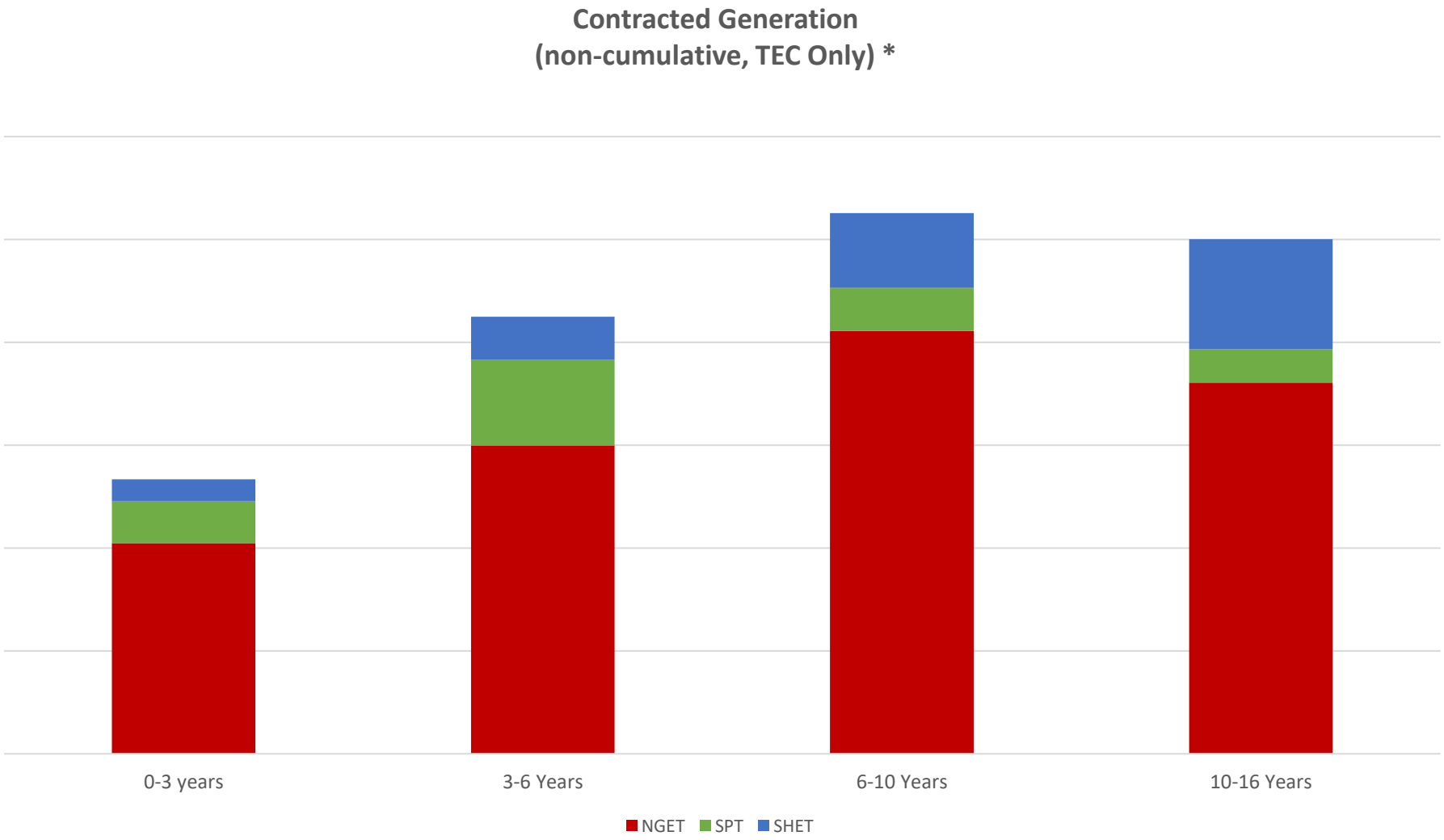
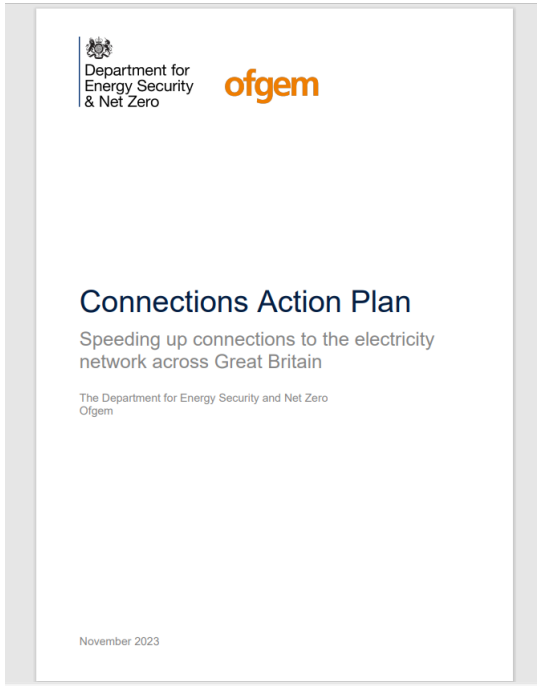
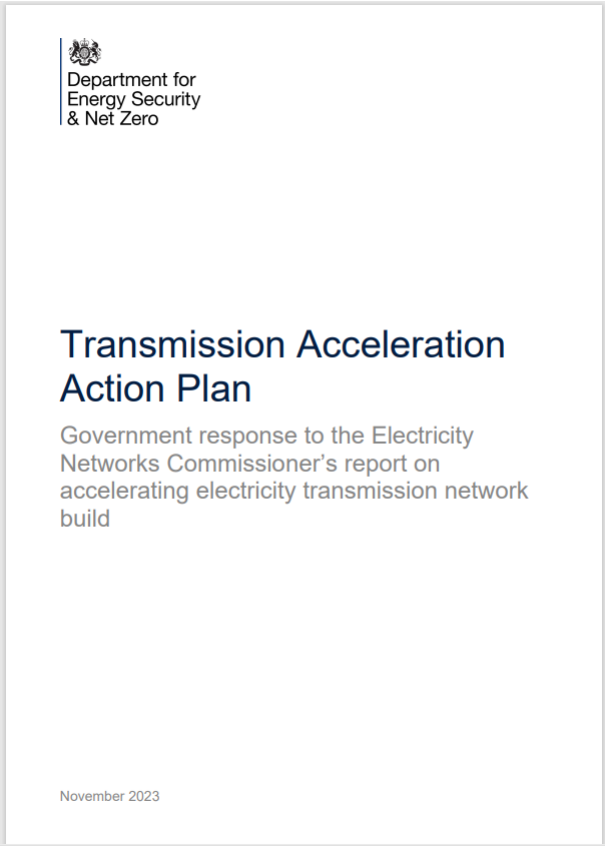
Connection dates



Initiatives and actions to reform connections



Key additional initiatives



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Transmission Acceleration Action Plan

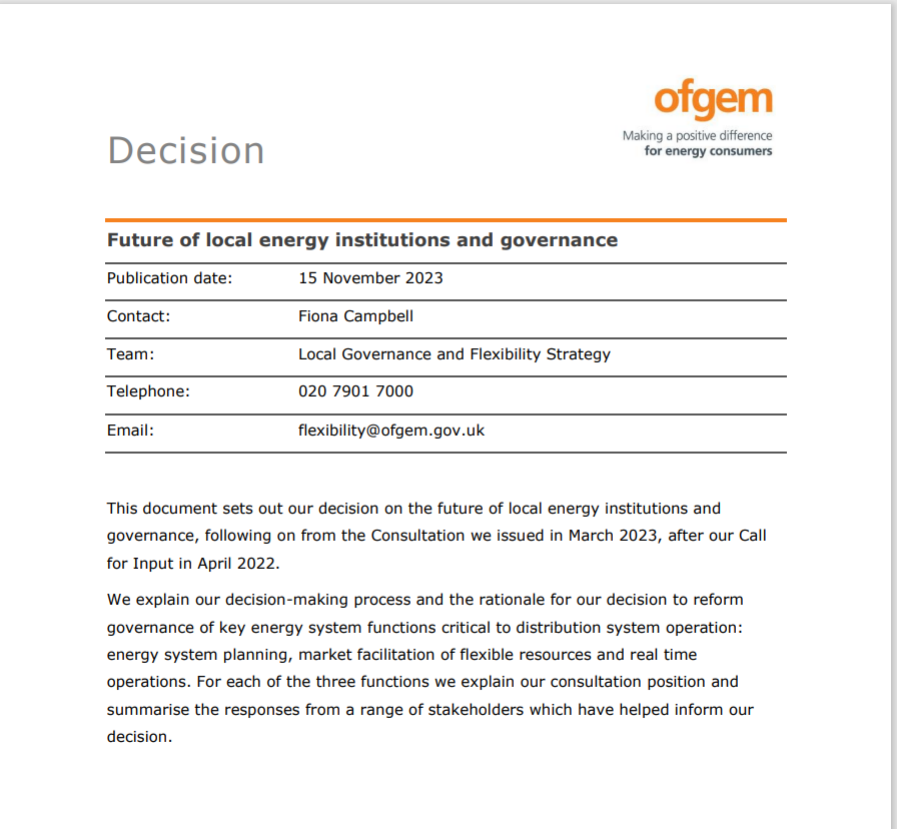
Government response to the Electricity Networks Commissioner's report on accelerating electricity transmission network build

November 2023

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Review of Electricity Market Arrangements

Summary of responses to consultation



Decision

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Making a positive difference for energy consumers

Future of local energy institutions and governance

Publication date:	15 November 2023
Contact:	Fiona Campbell
Team:	Local Governance and Flexibility Strategy
Telephone:	020 7901 7000
Email:	flexibility@ofgem.gov.uk

This document sets out our decision on the future of local energy institutions and governance, following on from the Consultation we issued in March 2023, after our Call for Input in April 2022.

We explain our decision-making process and the rationale for our decision to reform governance of key energy system functions critical to distribution system operation: energy system planning, market facilitation of flexible resources and real time operations. For each of the three functions we explain our consultation position and summarise the responses from a range of stakeholders which have helped inform our decision.

10:45 -11:30hr

Connections Action Plan Overview

Paul Hawker
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

ESO

CONNECTIONS ACTION PLAN

Paul Hawker - Head, Electricity Network Connections, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Tessa Hall - Head of Electricity Connections, Ofgem

December 2023

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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Content

- Autumn Statement – Connecting Britain
- Connections Action Plan rationale
- Main drivers of connection dates
- Connections Action Plan – actions and timelines
- Connections Action Plan - implementation

Autumn Statement – Connecting Britain

- Connections Action Plan
- Transmission Acceleration Action Plan
- Energy National Policy Statements
- Community Benefits

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Connections Action Plan: Rationale

- Scale and breadth of connection delays
- ESO and ENA shorter-term actions will not be sufficient
- ESO longer-term connections reform will not be comprehensive
- Some actions will be for Government and Ofgem rather than industry
- Government and Ofgem to provide leadership across a coherent package of actions
- Government and Ofgem to set priorities and provide support to ESO and network companies in delivering actions

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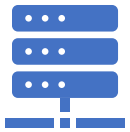
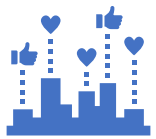
Main drivers of connection dates

- Volume of projects holding connection agreements due to:
  - Relative ease for projects to gain a connection agreement;
  - Slow-moving or stalled projects able to retain their connection agreements
- Connection queue management ‘rules’ eg First Come, First Served
- How impacts of connections are assessed
- Following this assessment, the consequential ‘need’ for network reinforcement to be in place before the network can accommodate the connections.
- *Time to deliver any network reinforcement*

Connections Action Plan - Summary

	**1. Raise entry requirements**
	**2. Remove stalled projects**
	**3. Better utilise existing network capacity**
	**4. Better allocate available network capacity**
	**5. Improve data and processes and sharpen obligations and incentives**
	**6. Develop longer term connections process models aligned with strategic planning and market reform**

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1. Raise entry requirements

- **Introduce letter of authority at transmission (LoA)**
- **Identify, assess and bring forward recommendations to strengthen entry requirements further**

2. Remove stalled projects

- Implement queue management milestones into transmission connection contracts (CMP376)
- Monitor application of queue management via progression milestones across the system
- Bring forward recommendation s to improve certainty and progression of customers holding capacity

3. Better utilise existing network capacity

- **Bring forward recommendations to optimise existing network capacity**
- **Review the scope for improvements in CPAs, to support more optimised planning**
- **Review the scope of enabling works**

4. Better allocate available network capacity

- **Confirm the approach to allocating capacity released through near term actions (eg 5PP and 3SP)**
- **Decide longer term approach to allocate capacity complementing strategic network planning**

5. Improve data and processes and sharpen obligations and incentives

- Create a single digital view of network data for connection customers
- Develop a transparent/ faster process to assess and convey transmission impacts of distribution connections
- Flexible connections and management of distribution connections within agreed ‘technical limits’ across all GSPs
- Identify and resolve inconsistencies
- Undertake review of connection incentives, obligations and requirements

6. Develop long term connection process models aligned with strategic planning and market reform

- **Ensure connection process is integrated with strategic planning**
- **Ensure collaborative approach between the Transmission Acceleration and Connections Action Plans**
- **Ensure coordination with future market reforms under REMA**

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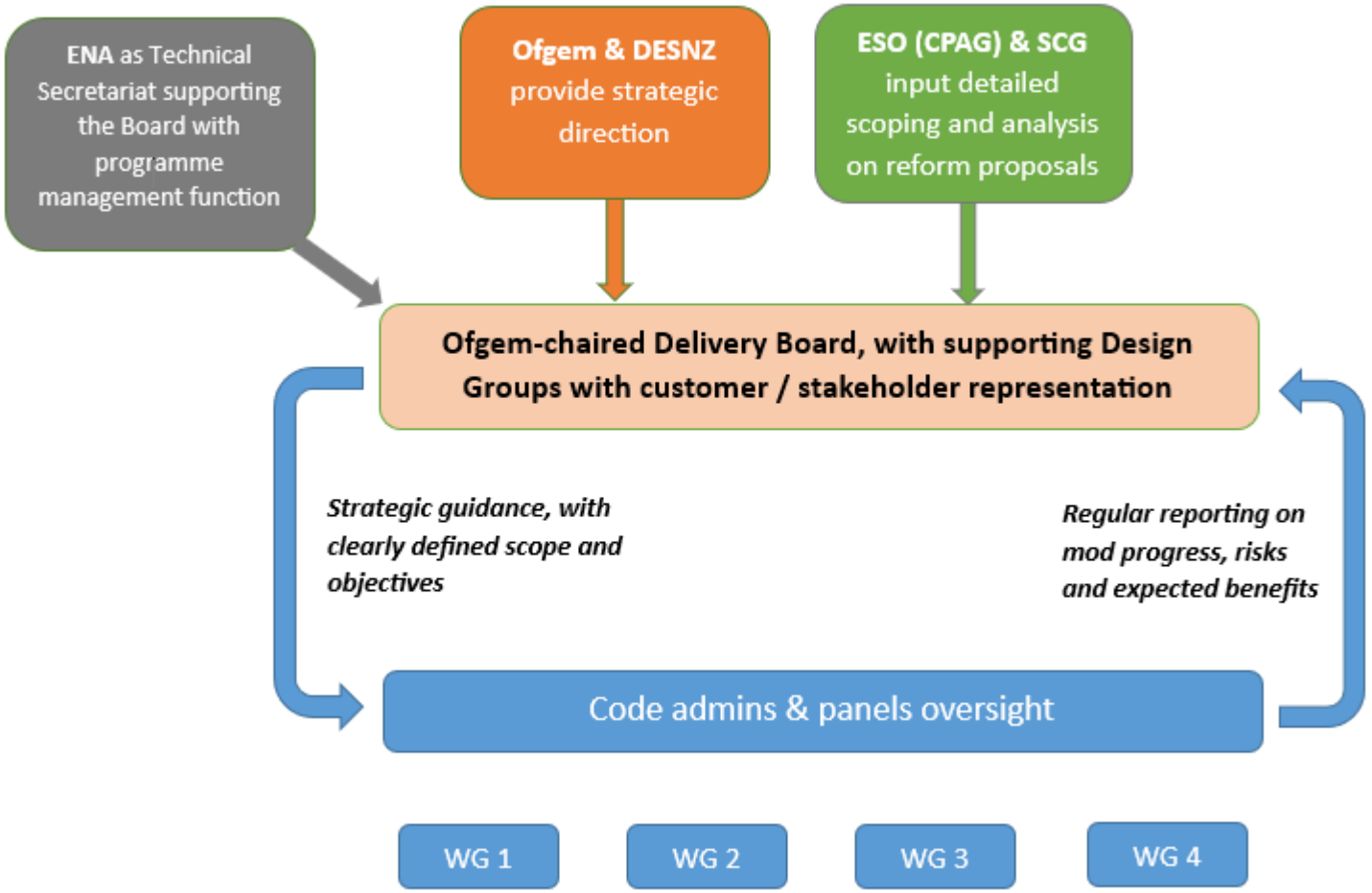
Implementation



The **Connections Delivery Board (CDB)** will work collaboratively to ensure timely and efficient implementation by:

- setting overall **strategic direction**;
- **tracking progress** against key milestones, deliverables and benefits, and monitoring overall delivery of workstreams
- providing a **steer on key strategic matters of policy and process design**, including **endorsement** of key matters and deliverables.

The **Connections Process Advisory Board (CPAG**) will support in undertaking more detailed design and implementation of changes to the connections process, as a result of:
the ESO's 5-Point Plan,

- ENA Strategic Connections Group Transmission/Distribution interface subgroup,
- Connections Reform project, and
- any further change measures introduced.

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11:30 -12:15hr **Update on Current Initiatives**

Laura Henry
ESO

Ben Godfrey
National Grid Electricity Distribution

Five-point plan

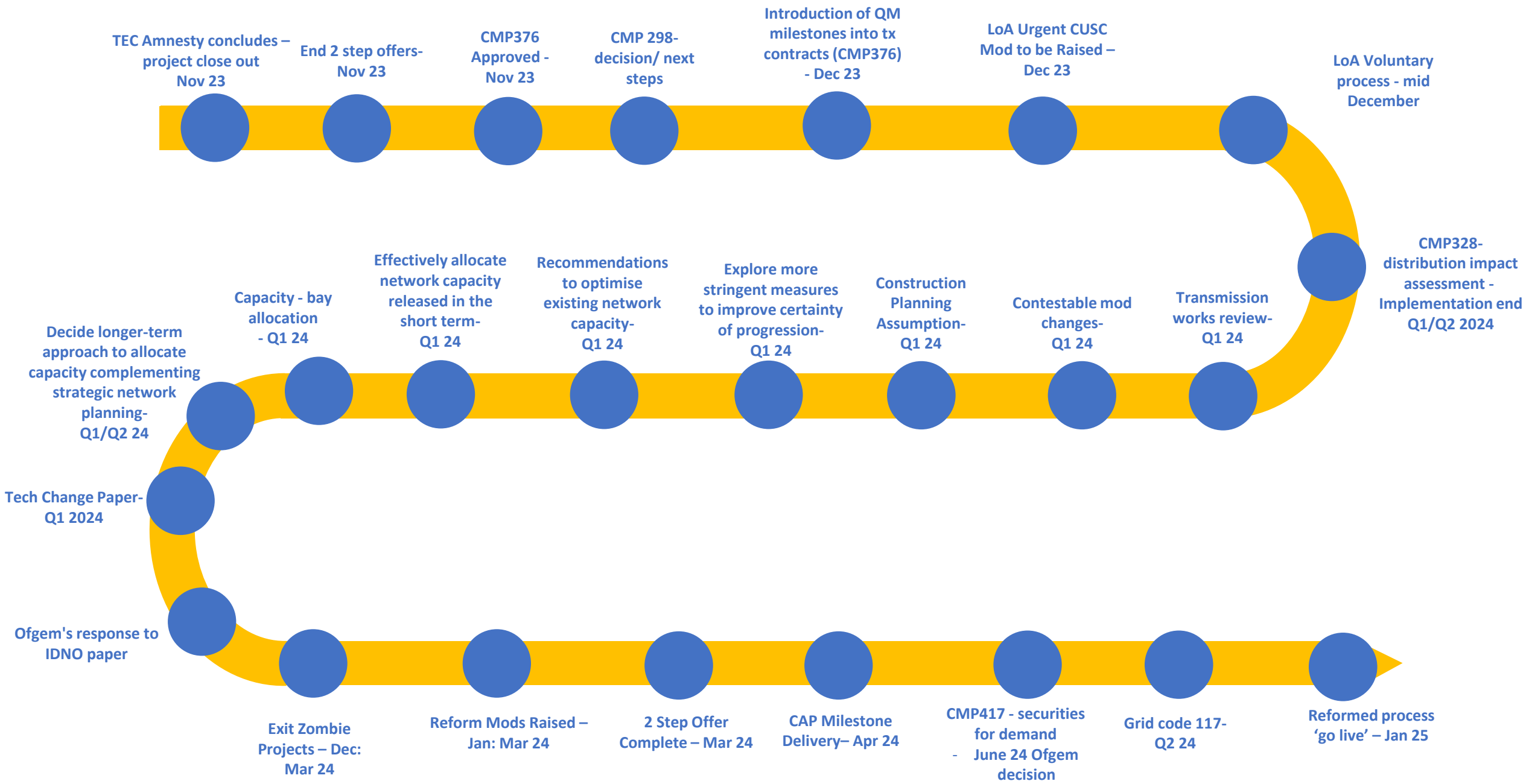
Laura Henry

Our 5 Point Plan

Our 5-Point Plan is a set of Tactical Initiatives ahead of the wider connections reform

1. TEC Amnesty
2. Construction Planning Assumptions Review
3. Treatment of Storage
4. Queue Management
5. Non-firm Offer Development

The next 6 months



Strategic Connections Group

Industry Response & Inflight actions update

December 2023

Networks are already delivering reform actions now through: the ESO 5 Point Plan and the SCG Action Plan

	Clean up the queue and actively manage to 'first-ready, first-connected' process	Take a flexible approach to accelerate connection dates	Treat storage differently to free up capacity	Make network planning processes more efficient and realistic
Solutions in Delivery	• ESO 5PP Sol. 1 – Provide TEC amnesty • ENA SCG Action 1 – Reform the • distribution network connection queue • ESO 5PP Sol. 4 – Develop new terms for connection contracts	• ENA SCG Action 2 – Change how T&D coordinate connections(T/D technical limits) • ESO 5PP Sol. 5 – Provide interim offers for battery energy storage solutions (BESS)	• ENA SCG Action 3 – Connection arrangements for distribution of electricity storage customers • ESO 5PP Sol. 3 - Update storage impact assumptions	• ESO 5PP Sol. 2 – Update background modelling assumptions • ESO Connections Reform process
Problem we are Solving	*The Queue has projects progressing at different rates e.g., 40-60% of contracted projects at transmission level ultimately won't be completed*	*Connection timelines are linked to network reinforcement timelines e.g., 31% (167 GW) have connection dates >10 years away*	*Energy storage projects are allocated more capacity than they need – and storage applications are increasing faster than any other technology (5930% from 2019-2023)*	*The current framework makes it difficult to coordinate infrastructure plans with market activity*
Benefits	✓ Release up to **90GW** of capacity – up to 84GW at transmission level, and 6GW at distribution level ✓ Provide earlier connection dates to customers remaining in the queue – including **1GW** already at distribution	✓ Allow DNOs to connect up to **50GW** of customer projects ahead of enabling works through non-firm contracts ✓ Allow TO's to connect up to **20GW** of storage projects through non-firm contracts	✓ Minimizes the need for network reinforcements, optimizing existing capacity. ✓ Changes to contracts and modelling assumptions release **3GW** of capacity at distribution level	✓ Enhances network planning, anticipatory investment, improves capacity reallocation, and earlier connections. ✓ Modelling changes lead to **46GW** transmission capacity released (combined with ESO 5PP Sol. 3)
Desired Outcomes	❖ Position in the "queue" does not affect the speed with which customers can connect	❖ Customers have flexible options to connect to the network ahead of reinforcement works		❖ The network continues to enable the transition to net zero
Timeline	*In Progress:* full implementation expected by **Q4 2023**	*In Progress*: full implementation expected by **Q3 2024**	*In Progress:* full implementation expected by **Q2 2024**	*In Progress*: full implementation expected by **Q4 2024**

Solutions delivery plan

Key: SCG Action Plan | ESO Five-Point Plan | ESO Connections Reform

Solution	Timeline						Impacts		
	Jul - Sep 2023	Oct - Dec 2023	Jan - Mar 2024	Apr - Jun 2024	Jul - Sep 2024	Oct - Dec 2024	Capacity Released	Applications Accelerated	Pipeline Quality Improved
Clean up the queue and actively manage to 'first-ready, first-connected' process	ESO 5PP Sol. 1 – Provide TEC amnesty ENA SCG Action 1 – Reform the distribution network connection queue ESO 5PP Sol. 4 – Develop new terms for connection contracts						✓	✓	
Take a flexible approach to accelerate connection dates	ENA SCG Action 2 – Change how T&D coordinate connections (T/D technical limits) ESO 5PP Sol. 5 – Provide interim offers for battery energy storage solutions							✓	
Treat storage differently to free up capacity	ESO 5PP Sol. 3 - Update storage impact assumptions	ENA SCG Action 3 – Connection arrangements for distribution of electricity storage customers					✓		
Make network planning processes more efficient & realistic	ESO Connections Reform process					Go live in 2025	✓	✓	✓
		ESO 5PP Sol. 2 – Update background modelling assumptions							

Timeline Sources: (1) SCG Action Plan timelines were obtained from the ESO slide of the 11/10/23 - SCG 3 Point Plan Update Webinar slides, (2) SCG Action Plan 2 was obtained from Dan Clarke from National Grid, (3) ESO Five-Point Plan timelines were obtained from the 11/10/23 - SCG 3 Point Plan Update Webinar slides, (4) New Solutions timelines were obtained from new action descriptions from first draft leads in Paper Group: Matt White, Paul Lowbridge, Ben Godfrey, Dan Randles, David Boyer.

Strategic Connections Group

SCG Action Plan Update

Strategic Connections Group

ENA Strategic Connections Group

Action 1: Managing the Distribution Queue

Action 2: Changing how T & D coordinate the queue

Action 3: Changing how storage connects to the network

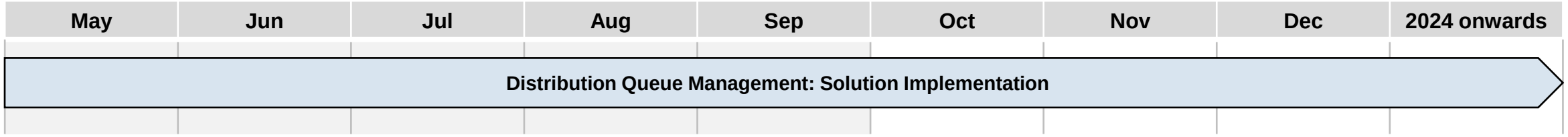
Supported by the SCG engagement workstream & connections queue data collection

Delivered in coordination with NG ESO's Connections Reform & 5 Point Plan at transmission level

Action 1: Distribution Queue Management

Workstream Objective: Reform the distribution connections queue, through bringing forward 'shovel ready' customers who are ready to connect sooner.

Key Progress:	Upcoming Plans:
1. Reduced the number of contracts without milestones to 10 across all distribution network queues 2. Cancelled, promoted, or connected over 3.3GW of distribution customer projects as of October 2023	1. Continue to operate queue management as business as usual, terminate or migrate all contracts not currently on milestones and bring forward shovel ready customers 2. Implement queue management milestones and actions for demand contracts



Action 2: T/D Interactive Queue Enhancement

Workstream Objective: Create clear technical boundaries between Transmission & Distribution, to better manage the distribution connection queue and accelerate customers with projects that are ready to connect and can accept an interim flexible connection.

Key Progress:

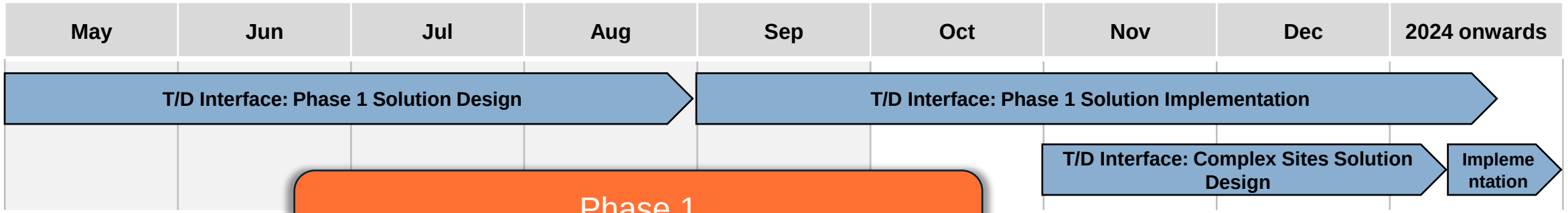
1. Commenced implementation for Phase 1A and 1B sites:
   - 52 priority Phase 1A sites, with the expected benefit of 18 GW / 411 customers
   - 20 priority Phase 1B sites, with the expected benefit of 12 GW / 339 customers

2. Issuing customer expression of interest requests and commenced issuing customer variation offers

Upcoming Plans:

1. Finish issuing and agree connection variation agreements to provide Phase 1 customers with accelerated connection dates

2. Complete design and implementation for clear Visibility and Control rules, and for Phase 2 and complex sites



Phase 1

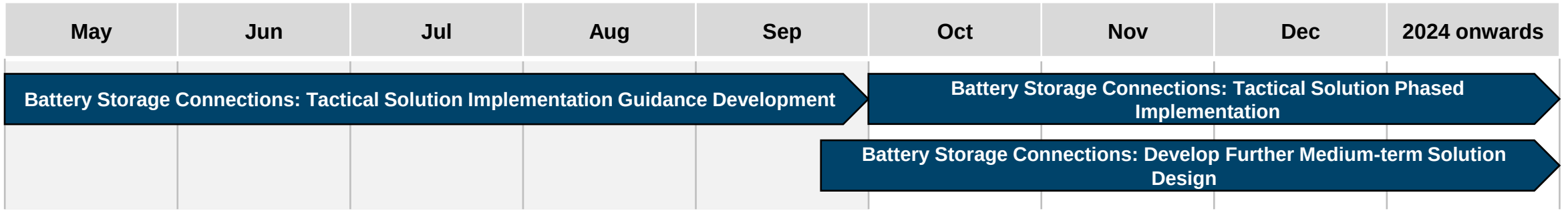
30GW across 72 GSPs, 750 customers!

Action 3: Battery Storage Connections

Workstream Objective: create better use out of existing network capacity, avoid investments to add capacity until we can be sure they're beneficial, and provide storage customers with a more common and consistent treatment across DNOs.

Key Progress:
1. Developed Tactical Solutions. Received support from Ofgem for Tactical Solutions 1-3: ENA SCG Battery Storage Solutions - Ofgem letter of support | Ofgem 2. Tactical Solutions 1-3 guidance documents prepared and published, to support implementation. 3. Tactical Solutions 1-3 implemented from 30 September.

Upcoming Plans:
1. Continue phased implementation of Tactical Solutions 1-3 and realise the resulting benefits. 2. Develop further medium-term solution(s).



13:00-14:15hr

Connections Reform Final Recommendations

James Norman
ESO

Michael Oxenham
ESO

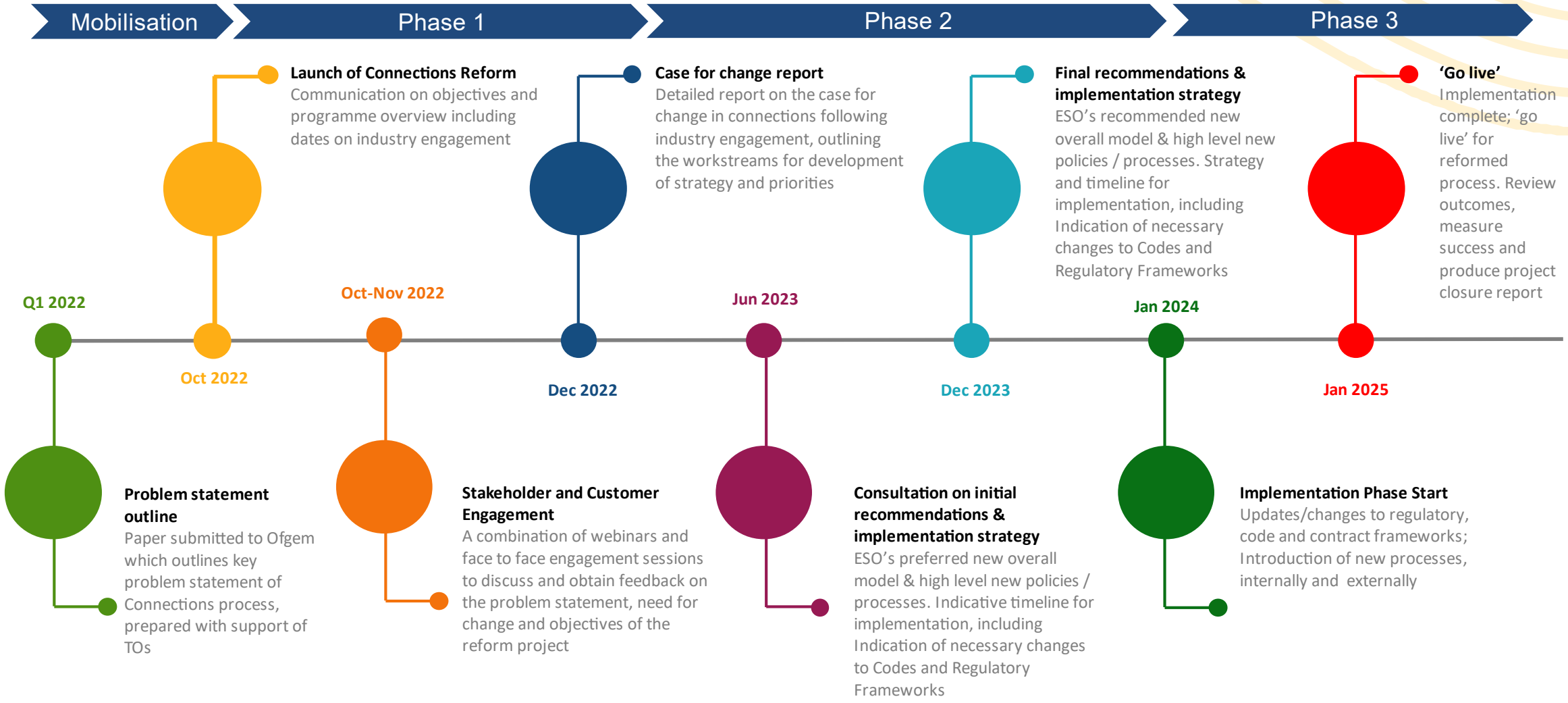
Paul Mullen
ESO

Ben Godfrey
National Grid Electricity Distribution

Connections Reform Overview

James Norman, ESO

Our connections reform programme



Overview of our connections reform final recommendations

What

- A process that is robust, produces better outcomes and is future proofed
- Annual windows and 2 gates to accelerate priority projects
- More strategic network design and smooth interface across T/D

When / How

- ‘Go live’ on 1 Jan 2025
- Prioritise MVP via urgent code mods
- New governance

Additional / quicker impact?

- Queue management milestones may take time to deliver impact
- Considering 5 packages of additional actions, plus transition plan
- Recommendations to CDB Q1 2024

Connections Reform Final Recommendations

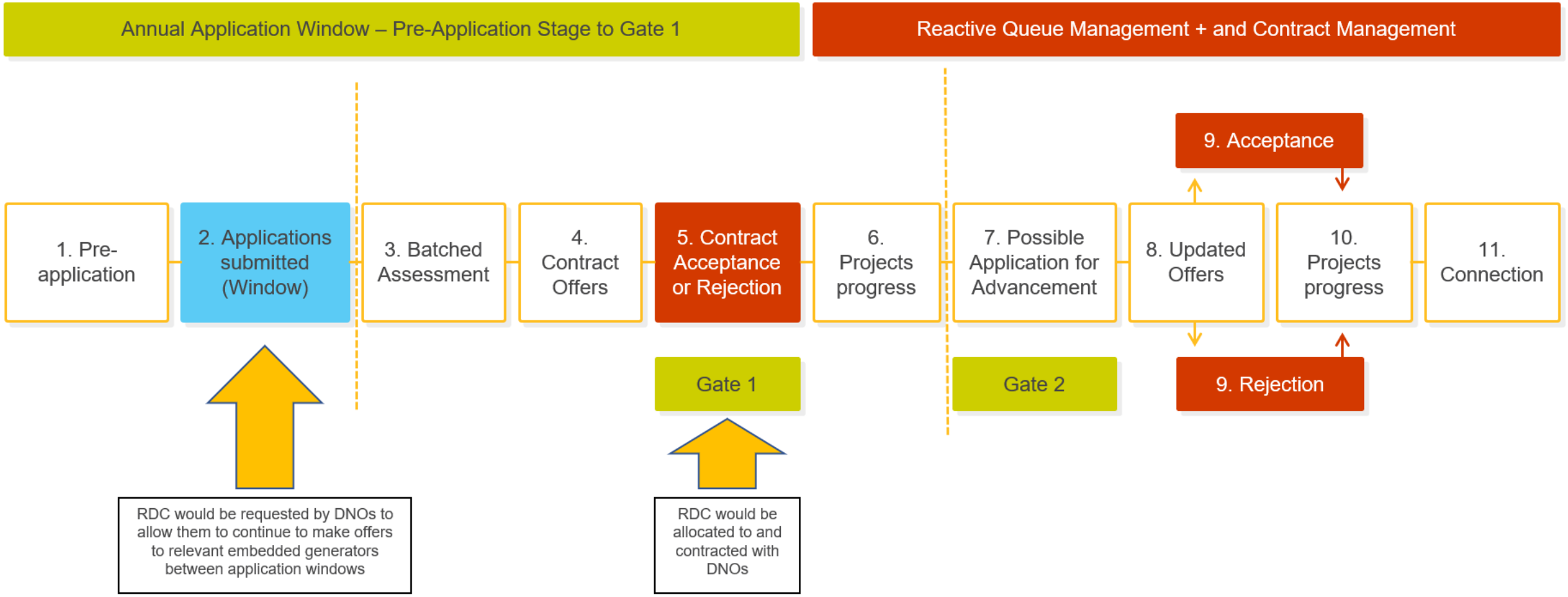
Mike Oxenham, ESO

Ben Godfrey, NGED

Our final recommendations for the reformed connections process ('TMO4')

- Will apply to all new generation, interconnection and demand connection applications (or significant Mod Apps) received after ‘go live’
- Early application window (with an indicative frequency and duration of 12 months) and two formal gates
- Gate 1 will provide a connection location and connection date
- Gate 2 can accelerate ‘priority projects’
- New LoA entry requirement
- Relevant new EG doesn’t need to wait for the application window - DNO reserves firm capacity
- Before ‘go live’, where capacity is freed up, will allocate that capacity to either ‘priority projects’ or projects identified via an EoI.

Reformed connections process overview



Our final recommendations in other key areas

Reformed process will also include:

- improvements to the pre-application stage;
- amended application fees and financial security arrangements, to align with new end-to-end process;
- specific amendments for offshore projects to reflect interactions with TCE and CES;
- a fast track dispute resolution process;
- efficient and appropriate interactions with other key processes; and
- consideration of the most appropriate arrangements for future strategically important demand projects

TMO4 Benefits

We think that TMO4 is the most beneficial model for customers and consumers:

- provides the greatest opportunity for earlier connection dates, on a first ready first connected basis;
- leads to more efficient and coordinated future planning of the network - savings and better managing environmental / community impact;
- supports ability to build network more efficiently in anticipation of need;
- better facilitates competition, innovation and introduction of non-build solutions; and
- is most future-proofed and aligned to facilitate other major reform programmes

Consultation Responses on TMO4

Significant outright support for TMO4.

Also, some conditional/cautious support for TMO4 - main suggested improvements:

1. more frequent application windows and/or reduced application window duration;
2. more detail on how RDC would work in practice; and
3. when Gate 2 occurs and what it means for developers.

Other key final recommendations

Area 1	Final recommendation
Application window duration and/or frequency	Currently expect 12-month frequency and duration. We will work with industry and other key stakeholders during Phase 3 to further consider: • frequency and/or • duration (of application windows) Both for the first window following ‘go live’ and for future windows once the reformed process is more established.

Other key final recommendations

Area 2	Final recommendation
The process / methodology for relevant embedded projects to receive a connection offer	To introduce RDC* - DNOs can forecast (up to 10 years) future capacity requirements and reserve '**firm**' capacity for relevant embedded projects, i.e. for projects within an agreed threshold range. This reserved capacity would be incorporated into the modelling assumptions/methodology used to create the coordinated network design leading up to Gate 1 in each application window. Where RDC is available, this allows DNOs to make offers in the inter-window period, including firm transmission connection dates. The process therefore replaces SoW and CoPP processes. When projects meet Gate 2 there will be the potential for an earlier **firm** connection date. DNOs can also offer earlier **non-firm** connection dates (even where Gate 2 has not been met) in line with ongoing ENA Strategic Connections Group initiatives, such as Technical Limits. **To be renamed as Distribution Forecasted Transmission Capacity for Phase 3.*

Other key final recommendations

Area 3	Final recommendation
Gate 2 milestone(s) and when to allocate queue position	We will develop network modelling assumptions and a network design methodology to create a coordinated network design as an output of each application window. This will be used to issue connections contracts at Gate 1 (and Gate 2). During Phase 3 we will: • determine the most appropriate timing of capacity and queue position allocation (Gate 1 or Gate 2); and • determine the most appropriate timing and milestone for Gate 2.

Non-MVP final recommendations

Reform Component	Final Recommendations
Enabling Works (TMA E)	Make a recommendation to the CDB in Q1 2024 on whether to make further changes to CPAs, Enabling Works definitions and/or Connect and Manage.
Offshore considerations	Process deviations related to leasing round capacity requests / reservations and LoA equivalent for offshore projects to be explored in parallel to the MVP
Connection Contracts (TMA D5 and TMA D6)	Standardise and simplify connection offer by agreeing a common structure across all TOs. Introduce requirement to accept standard form contract as part of application process, with non-standard terms offered to developers leading up to Gate 1
Application Rejection (TMA I and TMA N)	We should (in limited circumstances) have ability to reject a properly submitted application – must be based on clear and transparent Govt / Ofgem policy and supporting guidance
Capacity Products (TMA K)	Continue to progress improvements proposed under TMA K2, TMA K3, TMA K4 & TMA K6
Optioneering Route (TMA C)	An optional optioneering route should remain an option
Secondary Processes (TMA O)	Development of changes to existing secondary processes i.e. for changes that do not go through TMO4

Connections Reform Implementation and Governance

Paul Mullen, ESO

Our proposed implementation strategy and timeline

Aiming for **go live by 1 January 2025**

Key aspects of TMO4 to be developed on an expedited basis as part of the MVP

Based on progressing necessary code mods under the urgency criteria

View to submitting these mods for approval by Ofgem in mid to late 2024

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	2023			2024												2025		
	Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Q1		
TASK	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
GOVERNANCE																		
Final reform recommendations published																		
PHASE 3 Mobilised																		
Expected decision on additional changes to be made																		
Connections Delivery Board																		
Connections Process Advisory Group																		
Communications strategy																		
PRE 'GO-LIVE' CHANGES																		
Letter of Authority - base-level implemented*																		
Pre-Application - enhanced industry information on ESO website				Part 1			Part 2											
Online portal pre-Application stage functionality																		
REFORMED PROCESS - MVP																		
Process mapping and detailed design of end-to-end process																		
Network design methodology																		
Licence change - Ofgem-led																		
Urgent Code Changes - CUSC, STC, STCP (GC & DCUSA tbc)																		
Identify changes required, draft changes through CPAG																		
Raise code changes at Panel																		
Code Change Process																		
IT and systems																		
Data and processes																		
Develop secondary processes																		
People - Recruit additional staff (ESO, TOs, DNOs)																		
People - Training for ESO, TO, DNO staff																		
Industry guidance (pre-launch, then annual review)																		
Internal guidance, SOPs and training																		
REFORMS GO-LIVE																		
Publish guidance																		
Release portal functionality																		
Stakeholder events																		
Launch communications																		
REFORMS LIVE - WINDOW 1 OPENS																		

Note:

** An enhanced Letter of Authority will also be included within proposed code changes*

The "Non-MVP" reformed process changes timetable is to be confirmed

Governance

We will create a new CPAG from January 2024

- to enable industry to steer detailed process design and code mods within parameters in final recommendations
- independent chair
- fortnightly meetings
- will report into new CDB

CDB will:

- provide strategic direction on changes to the connections process; and
- hold organisations to account for timely and coordinated delivery of these changes

CPAG Membership

Role Category	Representative	Organisation
Independent Chair	Merlin Hyman	Regen
ESO **(5PP, Reform and Transition Reps)**	James Norman Robyn Jenkins	ESO
SCG Chair	Andrew Scott	SSEN-D
Ofgem	Liam Cullen	Ofgem
Government	Paul Hawker	DESNZ
Government	Jasmine Killen	Scottish Government
Government	Jennifer Pride	Welsh Government
Transmission Owner	Paul Lowbridge	NGET
Transmission Owner	Neil Bennett	SSEN-T
Transmission Owner	Allan Love	SPT
Distribution Network Operator	Matt White	UKPN
Distribution Network Operator	Ben Godfrey	NGED
Independent Network Owner / Operator	TBC	TBC
Offshore Generation	Claire Hynes	RWE
Interconnection	TBC	TBC
Directly Connected Onshore Generation	Garth Graham	SSE Generation
Directly Connected Onshore Generation	Deborah MacPherson	ScottishPower Renewables
Storage	Patrick Smart	RES
Embedded Onshore Generation	Chris Clark	Emtec Group
Embedded Onshore Generation	Catherine Cleary	Roadnight Taylor
Directly Connected Demand	Arjan Geveke	EIUG
Embedded Demand	Oz Russell	The ADE

Connections Reform
Additional actions we could take

James Norman, ESO

Additional changes we could make

CAP includes some actions for us to consider that go above and beyond our final recommendations

Mainly relate to:
- further potential steps to address size and mix of current queue,
- to further accelerate connection dates; and
- ensure a pipeline of expected projects and connection dates consistent with Net Zero.

Queue management milestones should deliver major impact
- but will take time, potentially into 2025
- depending on what is terminated, may have little or no impact on mix of technology

Therefore important that we consider other opportunities to maximise benefits of reformed connections process

Any additional actions need to:
- align with final recommendations
- be agile and responsive to market and wider policy changes, eg TAAP, (SSEP), and REMA.

Will be providing recommendations on further beneficial actions to CDB in Q1 2024

Packages of potential additional changes

We have grouped potential actions into 5 indicative packages:

Packages 1 and 2 could be taken forward alongside any of packages 3, 4 or 5.

1. Low regret or enabler actions;
    - intended to support efficient delivery of benefits from the 5-Point Plan / 3-Point Plan and the reformed connections process.
    - relatively low risk, but may not deliver sufficient impact sufficiently quickly
    - we propose to progress these

2. Actions that focus on whether and/or how to change network modelling tools to reduce amount of network reinforcement that needs to be built;
    - we plan to investigate the cost benefit case and communicate our views to the CDB in Q1 2024,
    - any decision on package 2 needs to be taken in the context of any decision on packages 3, 4 and 5.

Packages of potential additional changes

Packages 3, 4 or 5 would be mutually exclusive.

3. Actions that may support a transition towards SSEP, by designing network connections based on a more central view of what the system needs;

4. Actions that try to use the power of markets to re-order and reduce the queue so that the most viable projects are prioritised; and

5. A hybrid of packages 3 and 4.

We will also consider additional actions to support efficient transition towards ‘go live’

Summary

James Norman, ESO

Overview of our connections reform final recommendations

What

- A process that is robust, produces better outcomes and is future proofed
- Annual windows and 2 gates to accelerate priority projects
- More strategic network design and smooth interface across T/D

When / How

- ‘Go live’ on 1 Jan 2025
- Prioritise MVP via urgent code mods
- New governance

Additional / quicker impact?

- Queue management milestones may take time to deliver impact
- Considering 5 packages of additional actions, plus transition plan
- Recommendations to CDB Q1 2024

Q&A

Appendix: Design Criteria Scores

Scoring of the TMOs against the design criteria

Design Objectives	Design Criteria	Ref	TMO1	TMO2	TMO2 (Var.)	TMO3	TMO3 (Var.)	TMO4	TMO4 (Var.)
Creates a more coordinated and efficient transmission system and network design	Better informs when and where to connect	1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
	Enables economic, efficient, coordinated network design	2	-1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+2	+2
	Delivers more efficient use of network capacity	3	0	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2
	Maintains or improves operability of network	4	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
Options collaboratively developed throughout the connections lifecycle	Reduces risk of wasted effort	5	0	+1	0	+2	+2	+1	+1
	Parties able to engage to identify best option(s)	6	0	0	0	+1	+1	+2	+2
Quicker connections for projects progressed on their merits	Better recognises nature and status of connections	7	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2
	Enables “shovel ready" projects to progress more quickly	8	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+1
	Accelerates timing of connections	9	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2
A simple transparent and coordinated approach to connections	Improve Transmission and Distribution coordination	10	0	0	+1	+1	+2	+1*	+1*
	Improve the connections process experience of connectees	11	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	+1*	+1*
	Efficiently manages policy complexity/interdependencies	12	-1	0	0	+1	+1	+2	+2
Easy access to self-service tools, consistent data and quality insight	Gives better access to and visibility of data and info for parties	13	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
	Enables parties to plan and act more efficiently	14	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
	Reduces reliance and/or workload on others	15	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
Consistent, skilled and well-resourced engagement	Provides coherent customer experience across networks	16	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2
	Skills and capabilities matched to responsibilities and customer needs	17	0	0	0	0	0	+1	+1
Future proof process	Adaptability to changes in the market landscape	18	0	+1	+1	+2	+2	+1	+1
	Supports greater investment certainty across the industry	19	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2
	Flexibility to evolve process to deliver future needs	20	-2	-1	-1	+1	+1	+2	+2
Better cost outcomes for the end consumer	Reduces overall costs to end consumers	21	0	0	0	+1	+1	+2	+2
	Can be implemented in a timely and efficient manner	22	0	-1	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2
	Environmental and community impacts are avoided, minimised or mitigated by the network design	23	0	0	0	+1	+1	+2	+2

** Potential to increase to +2 when the forecasting variance risk (of concern to some stakeholders) has been sufficiently mitigated by detailed process design within Phase 3*