Scheduling and Dispatch ‘Case for Change’

Public Webinar – 21st May 2024

ESO

Housekeeping

1. The main meeting will be recorded and published online.
2. Breakout groups will not be recorded. But each group will have a scribe making notes of relevant feedback.
3. We encourage people to turn on their cameras when in breakouts.
4. These notes will operate under Chatham House Rules.
5. Q&A
    - Please ask all your questions via the Q&A functionality in the Teams Webinar.
    - No anonymous questions.
    - We will answer as many questions as possible today. Some questions might need to be answered later via a publication in our website.

Today’s speakers

AFRY

Stephen Woodhouse
Director

Kostas Theodoropoulos
Senior Principal

Grid Enhancing Technologies

Romain Bourdette
Manager

Marie Hayden
Managing Director

ESO

Isabel Sunnucks
Market Strategy Manager

Francisco Celis Andrade
Market Strategy Lead

Rob Westmancoat
Job title

Agenda

Item			Time
ESO Intro		Izzie Sunnucks (ESO)	09:05 – 09:15
DESNZ Intro		Eva Grobbink (DESNZ)	09:15 – 09:25
Exec Summary		Stephen Woodhouse (AFRY)	09:25 – 09:45
Challenge 1: Incentives	Presentation & Clarification questions	Francisco Celis-Andrade (ESO)	09:45 – 10:10
	Activity 1		10:10 – 10:25
Coffee Break			10:25 – 10:40
Challenge 2: Visibility and Access	Presentation & Clarification questions	Marie Hayden (Grid Enhancing Technologies) Romain Bourdette (AFRY)	10:40 – 11:05
	Activity 2		11:05 – 11:20
Coffee Break			11:20 – 11:30
Challenge 3: Intertemporal Issues	Presentation & Clarification questions	Kostas Theodoropoulos (AFRY) Rob Westmancoat (ESO)	11:30 – 11:55
	Activity 3		11:55 – 12:10
Conclusions		Stephen Woodhouse (AFRY)	12:10 – 12:20
Q&A		Ed Farley (ESO)	12:20 – 12:45

ESO Intro

Introduction

- ESO is supporting DESNZ' REMA Programme by leading the 'Dispatch' workstream.
- This includes assessing self dispatch (such as options for Balancing Mechanism reform) and central dispatch

Establish the case for change	Identify possible solutions	Develop solutions for REMA evaluation
Build shared understanding of what issues should be addressed with scheduling & dispatch reform	Work with industry, within REMA programme timescales, to identify options for reforming dispatch arrangements	Identify shortlist of dispatch options and support DESNZ to assess within the broader REMA programme

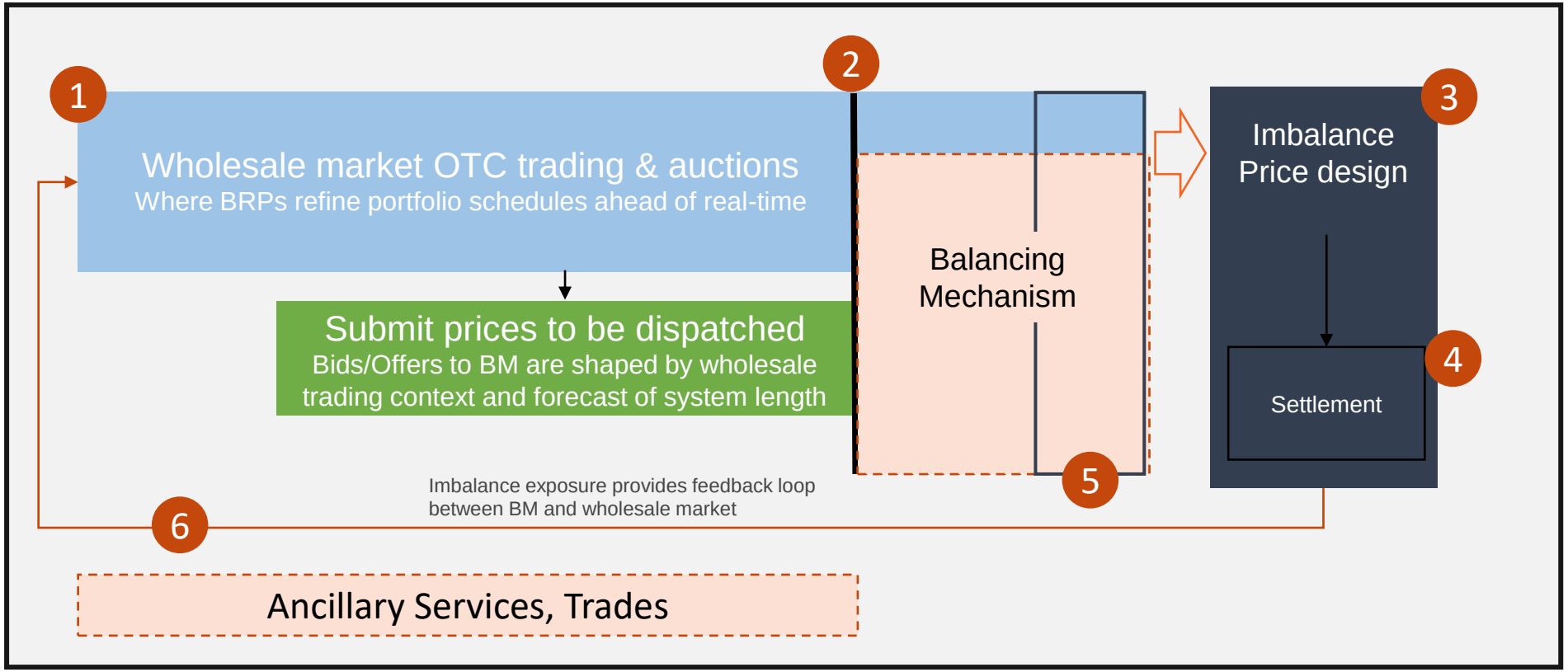
Webinar Objectives:

1. Get your feedback on the extent to which the issues identified provide a Case for Change
2. Capture the impact of these challenges on market stakeholders

Scope of this work

GB Dispatch Design includes multiple interlocking features governed by different parties, and sets ESO up to be a residual balancer

1. Design of spot markets
2. Timing of Gate Closure
3. Balancing Market or Mechanism
4. How is imbalance exposure allocated (i.e profiled or case based settlement)
5. Settlement Period Length
6. Speed of feedback loop



Portfolio owners | Consumers (bills) | SO | Balancing Mechanism Participants

Why are we exploring the Case for Change?

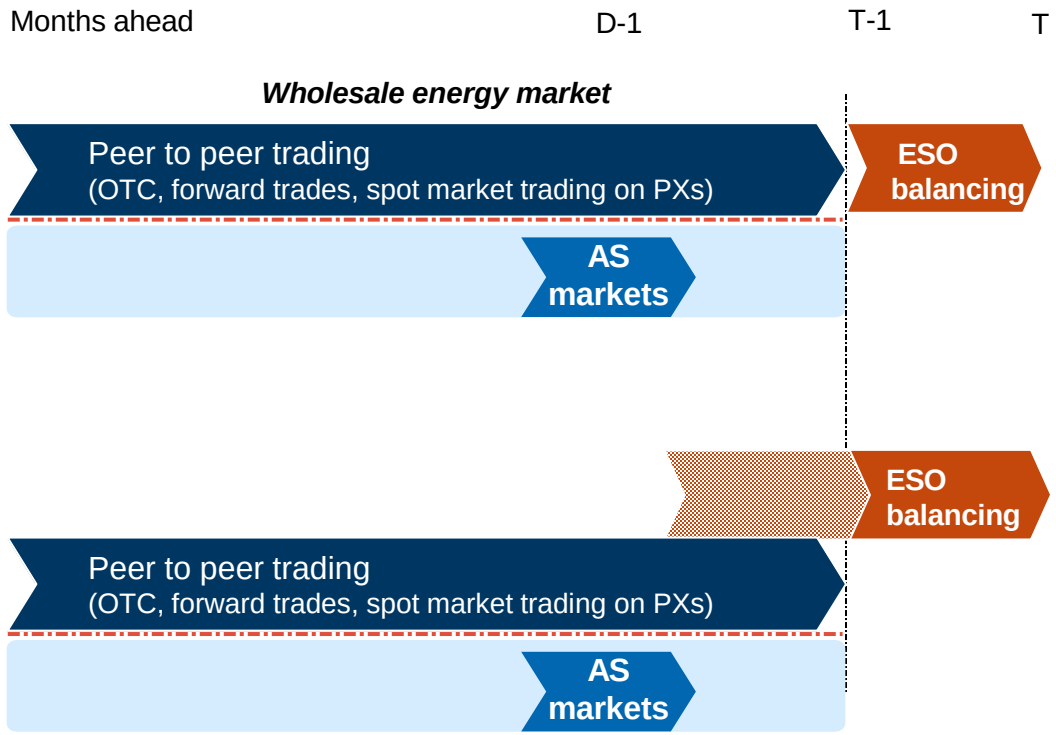
As operating the system becomes more challenging, we are concerned that ESO is becoming a ‘Central Scheduler’, contrary to its intended role

Theoretical GB market design

The GB market was designed assuming the ESO only intervenes at the last minute

De facto GB market operation

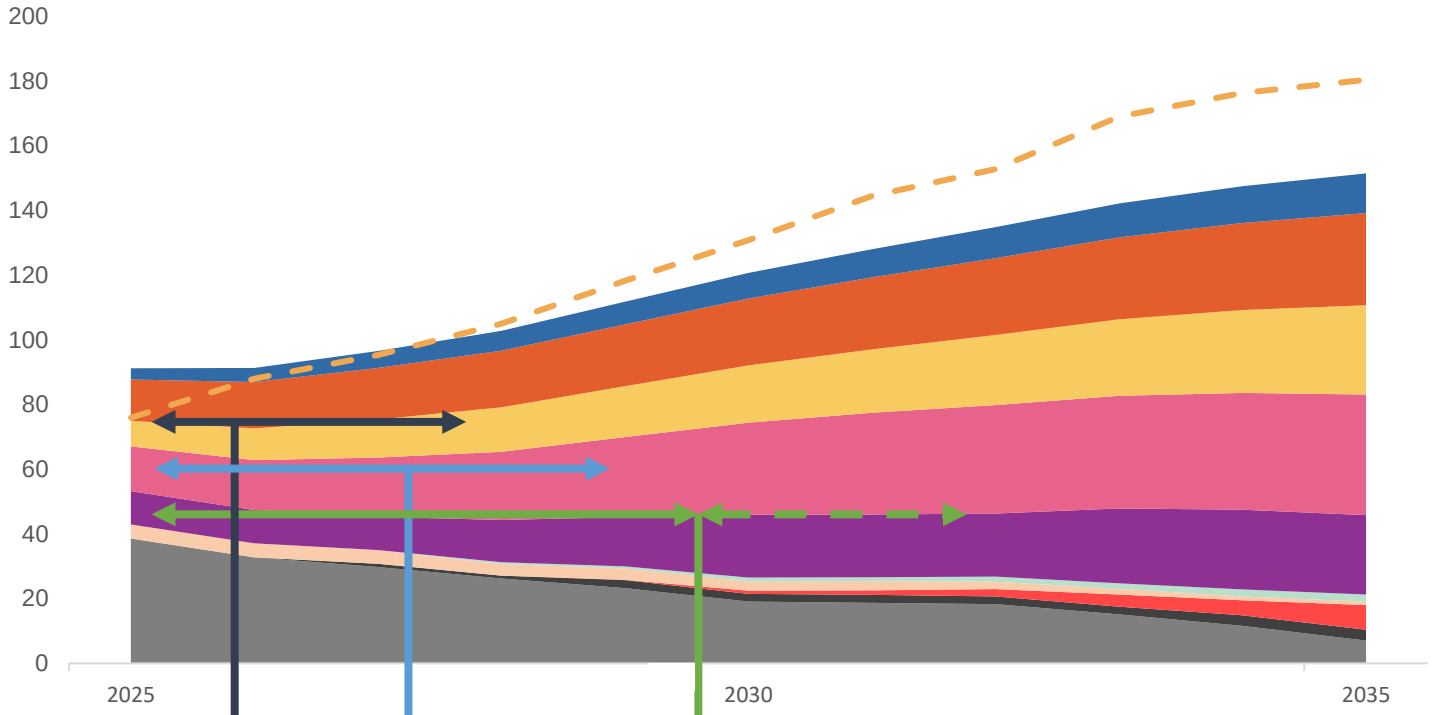
As optimising the system becomes harder, ESO is overlapping with the wholesale market, creating confusing price signals



Assessment Framework

Our analysis will use DESNZ' assessment criteria as described in REMA's second consultation

How does this work fit with other ESO programmes?



Key:

- Electrolysis
- DSR
- V2G
- Storage
- Interconnectors
- BECCS
- Biomass
- Hydrogen
- Gas CCUS
- Gas
- Renewables

Wholesale market design and implementation

Wholesale market implementation complete depending on design

Balancing Programme — Development of the Open Balancing Platform

Flexibility Strategy — Low/non regrets reforms to promote the growth of zero carbon flexibility

REMA — Enduring electricity market arrangements to support net zero system in 2035

Systems development

Market Reforms

Note: Year ranges represent illustrative implementation dates

Breakout activities after each section will follow the same structure:

To what extent do you think the issues identified provide a Case for Change?

What are the impacts of these issues on your organisation?

Are you aware of particular impacts on other parties?

Next Steps

Public webinar – June date TBD

Establish the case for change

Build shared understanding of what issues should be addressed with scheduling & dispatch reform, including implications for BM

Identify possible solutions

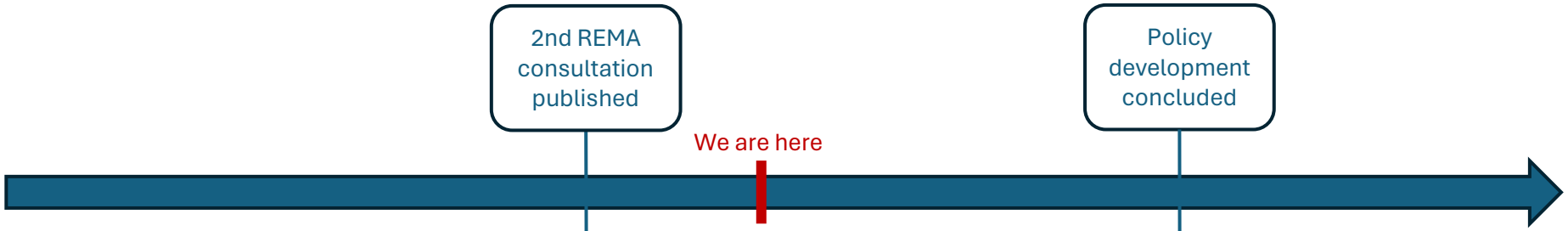
Work with industry, within REMA programme timescales, to identify options for reforming dispatch arrangements

Develop solutions for REMA evaluation

Identify shortlist of dispatch options and support DESNZ to assess within the broader REMA programme

ESO

Dispatch work across the REMA phases



REMA phase 1

- DESNZ commissioned Arup to look at centralised dispatch
- Concluded that centralised dispatch could have benefits but challenging to implement

REMA phase 2

- ESO leading development of dispatch options due to expertise in this area
  - Case for change (supported by Afry)
  - Identify possible options
  - Develop options for REMA evaluation
- DESNZ working closely with ESO, and final decision will be with DESNZ

REMA phase 3

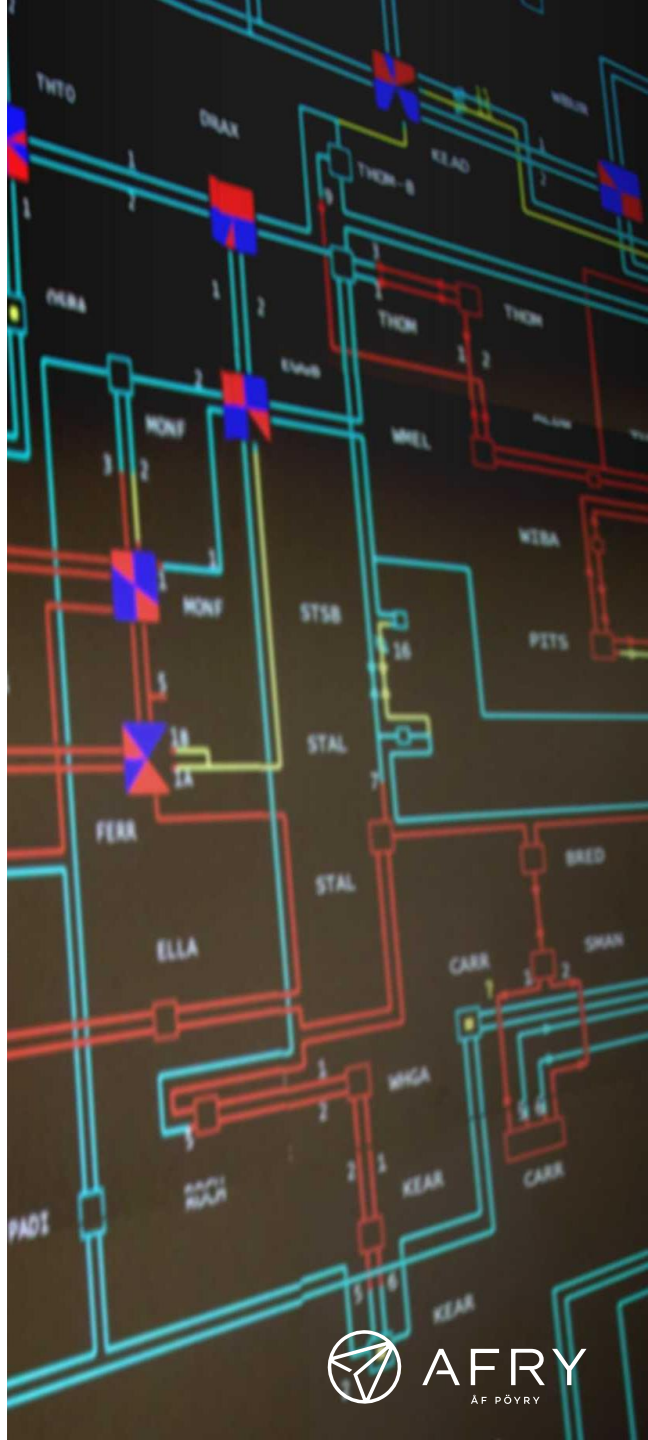
- Implementation of preferred options following options assessment

ESO scheduling and dispatch

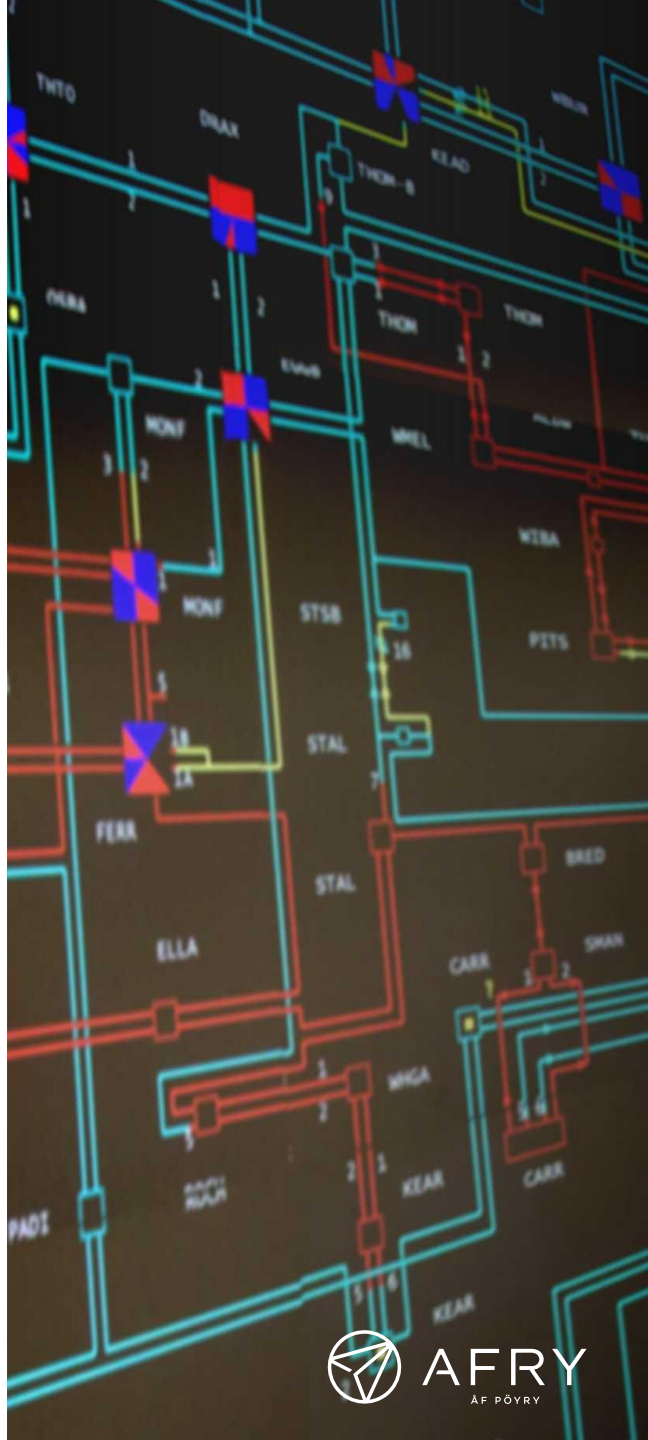
A case for change

AFRY MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

Content



Content



AFRY
ÅF PÖYRY

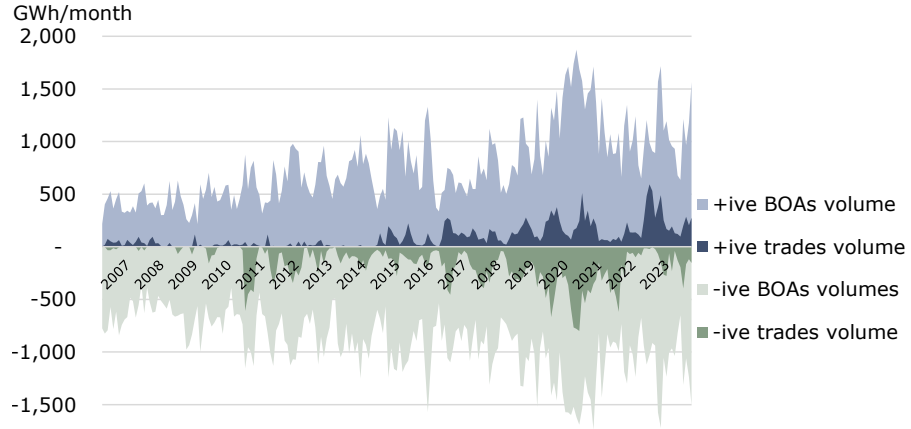
A lot has changed since the introduction of NETA

ESO is increasingly acting as a central scheduler in a market environment designed for a residual balancer

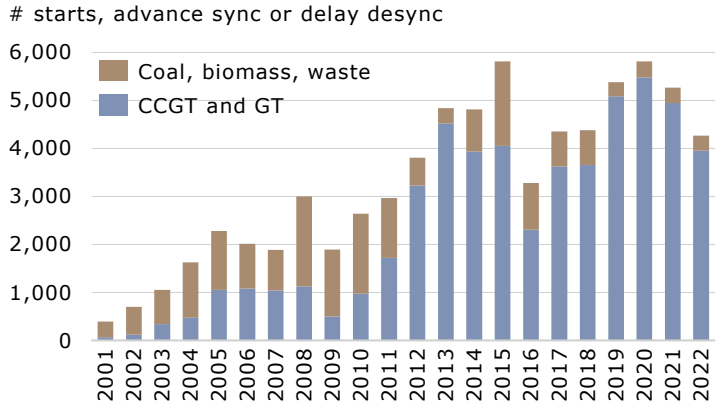
While the need for balancing actions grows, ESO faces an increasing level of uncertainty and variability, compounding the difficulty and the potential for inefficient decisions

There is a greater need for forward-looking decisions, and the BM was not designed to optimise over multiple timeframes or to deliver transparent forward-looking prices

MONTHLY BALANCING VOLUMES (BOAS AND TRADES), 2006-2023



NUMBER OF UNIT COMMITMENT DECISIONS THROUGH THE BM, 2001-2022



AFRY
ÅF PÖYRY

There is a clear case for change of the ‘status quo’ as the underlying conditions have changed since NETA was introduced

What are the key limitations of the ‘status quo’ scheduling and dispatch regime?

1. **Incentives** — The energy markets do not provide scheduling incentives in line with system needs and operational requirements
2. **Visibility and access** — Incomplete ESO visibility of market outcomes and limited access to some resources impacts coherence between wholesale market and balancing
3. **Intertemporal issues** — The current dispatch mechanism does not facilitate effective optimisation of costs and unit constraints over time

In addition to network capacity challenges, the limitations of the current market design challenge system operation and can result in inefficient dispatch

		Reason for ESO actions			
		Energy balance	Network congestion	Reserve	Other system needs
Limitations of the current market design and processes	**Incentives**: The energy markets do not provide scheduling incentives in line with system needs and operational requirements				
	Visibility and access: Incomplete ESO visibility of market outcomes and limited access to some resources impacts coherence between wholesale market and balancing				
	Intertemporal issues: The current dispatch mechanism does not facilitate effective optimisation of costs and unit constraints over time				

While each aspect is potentially manageable individually, the combination of the three creates the current limitations of the scheduling and dispatch processes

Solving the underlying reasons for ESO action is another way to limit potential difficulties

AFRY

What is less clear is what to change to …

There are two high-level approaches:

Giving market participants **better incentives** and better information to support system operation

This may include some or all of the following:

- shorter imbalance settlement intervals
- smaller zone size
- improved signals for ancillary services
- improved information sharing between market participants and ESO

Formalise ESO de facto role by giving **greater control earlier**

Effectively allowing ESO to coordinate unit commitment decisions and operation of energy-limited units, as well as within-day positions

Ongoing changes are expected to mitigate some specific manifestations of the issues

Recent or planned changes potentially mitigating identified issues

Incentives

- **Ongoing network capacity expansion**
- **Thermal Constraints Collaboration Project**
- **Balancing Reserve will pre-contract some resources to provide reserve availability**
- **Half-hourly settlement**
- **Ofgem compliance engagement with storage regarding TCLC**

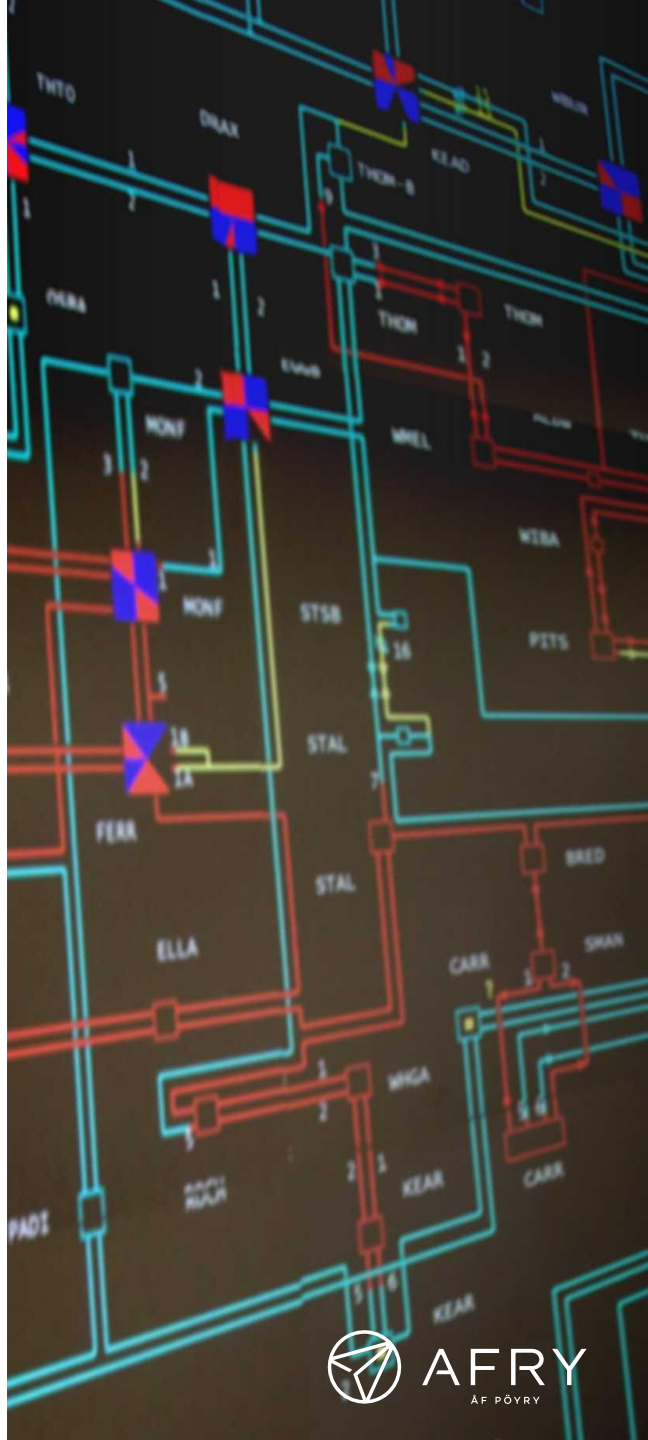
Visibility and access

- **GC117 proposal to reduce BMU threshold to 10MW**
- **Local constraint market (pilot for B6) will allow ESO access to more resources**
- **DER/CER Visibility project**

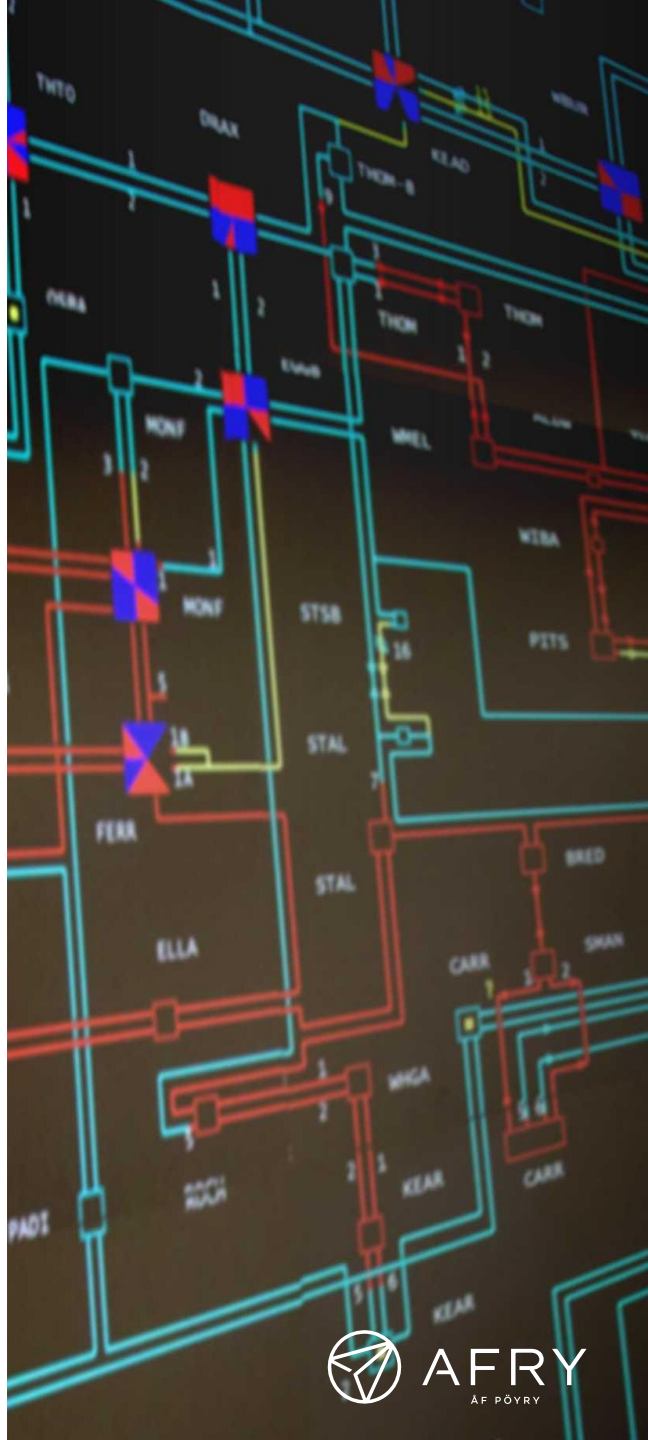
Intertemporal issues

- **Balancing reserve will reduce the need for pro-active scheduling actions in the BM**
- **Potential submission of data on energy limited units**
- **Ofgem inflexible offers licence condition**

Content

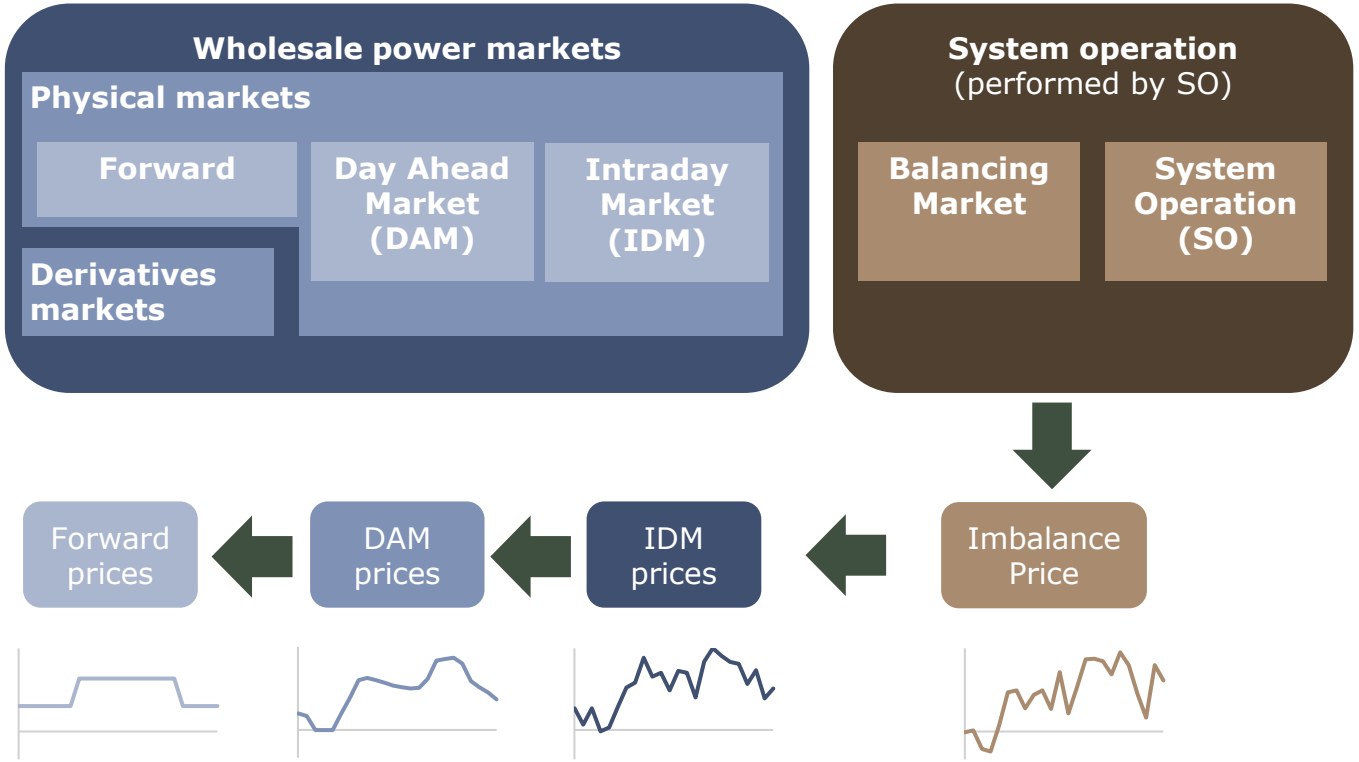


Content



AFRY
ÅF PÖYRY

Through the Imbalance Price, market participants are incentivised to balance their portfolio against their traded positions



- **Market actors have balance responsibility** and manage this through market trading and portfolio balancing
- Collectively, the **market is incentivised** to support national supply and demand balance through **exposure to the Imbalance Price**
- There are no obligations for individual participants to balance their own positions
- Participants may continue to use non-BMU resources after GC for portfolio balancing or NIV chasing

INCENTIVES

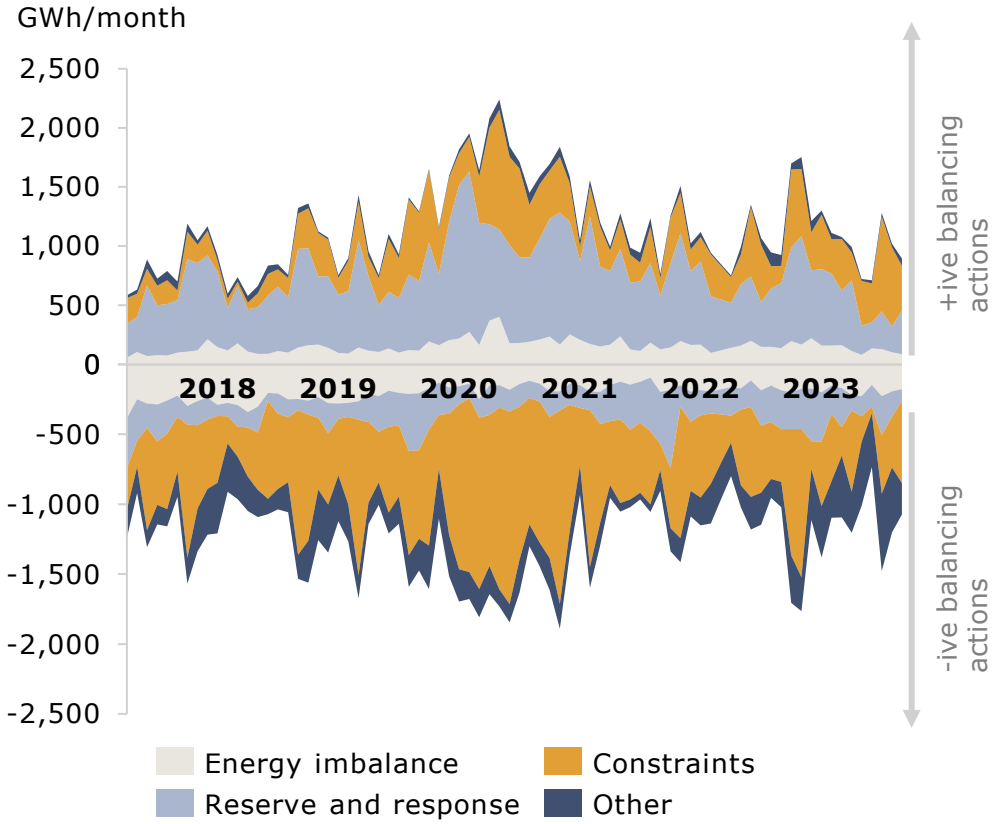
Energy markets don’t provide scheduling incentives in line with system needs and operational requirements

1. **‘Unconstrained’ market incentives:** Incentive provided by national Imbalance Price does not align with network constraints and other system needs
2. **‘National’ imbalance price:** Portfolio level balancing and national Imbalance Price lead to dispatch/NIV chasing in ‘wrong’ location
3. **Potential missing signals for real time reserve procurement:** Market is not incentivised to provide reserve capacity where and when needed

INCENTIVES

The volume of balancing actions for system constraints and reserve is now significantly greater than the volume of pure balancing energy actions

HISTORICAL MONTHLY BALANCING VOLUMES BY TYPE OF ACTION



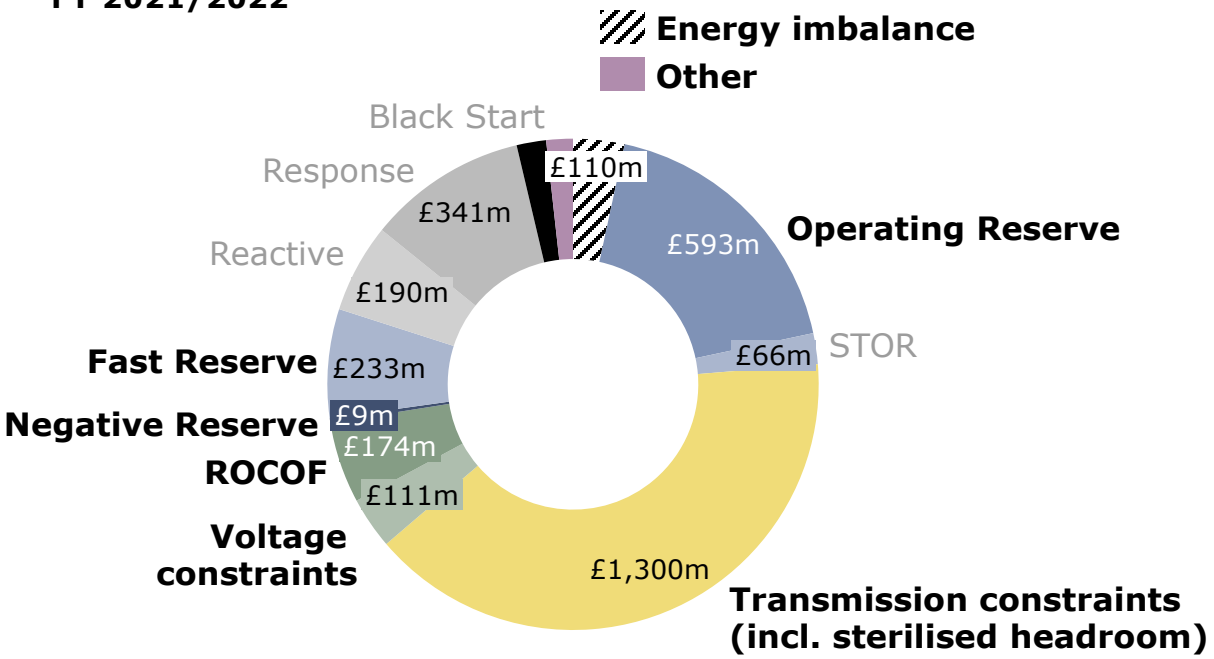
Note: 'Constraints' in this chart include transmission constraints and other system needs (e.g. inertia and voltage)
Source: Daily BSUoS volume Data, AFRY analysis

- Electricity is traded in the ex-ante markets assuming away network constraints and some other key system needs
- ESO starts from the 'unconstrained' PNs, and redispatches units to **manage system constraints and ensure sufficient operating reserves**
- There are now significantly greater volumes for managing system constraints and for reserve than for energy balancing

INCENTIVES

It is not only the volume of BM actions for reserve and constraints that is high, but also the associated costs

TOTAL BALANCING AND ANCILLARY SERVICES COSTS FY 2021/2022



Almost exclusively managed through the BM or trades

Managed/procured through separate arrangements (e.g. auctions, mandatory provision)

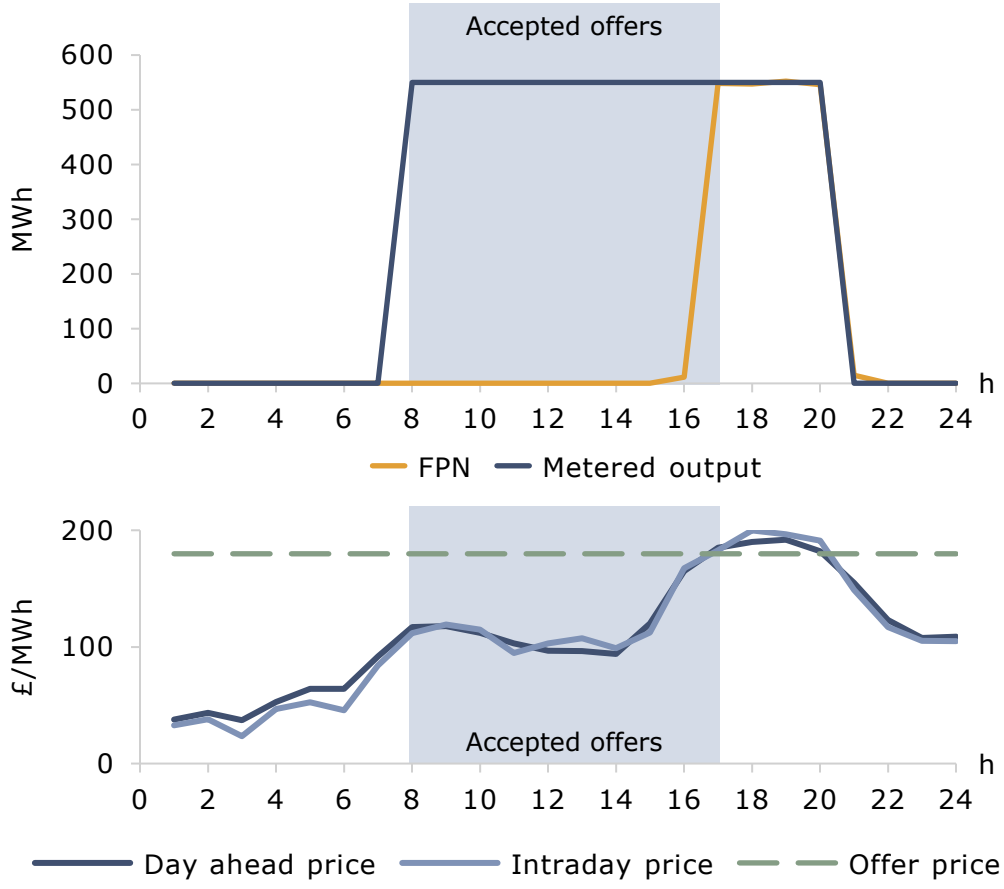
- Over time, the **procurement of system services has evolved** (Enduring Auction Capability platform, Pathfinders, Balancing Reserve…)
- However, the **Balancing Mechanism remains ESO's primary tool** to maintain energy balance, procure sufficient operating reserve, manage transmission constraints, and ensure system stability
- The costs associated with managing transmission constraints and procuring Regulating Reserve are high

Source: MBSS

'UNCONSTRAINED' MARKET INCENTIVES

Incentive provided by national imbalance price does not align with network constraints and other system needs [1/2]

ILLUSTRATIVE FPN AND BOAS FOR THERMAL GENERATION LOCATED IN FRONT OF A CONSTRAINT

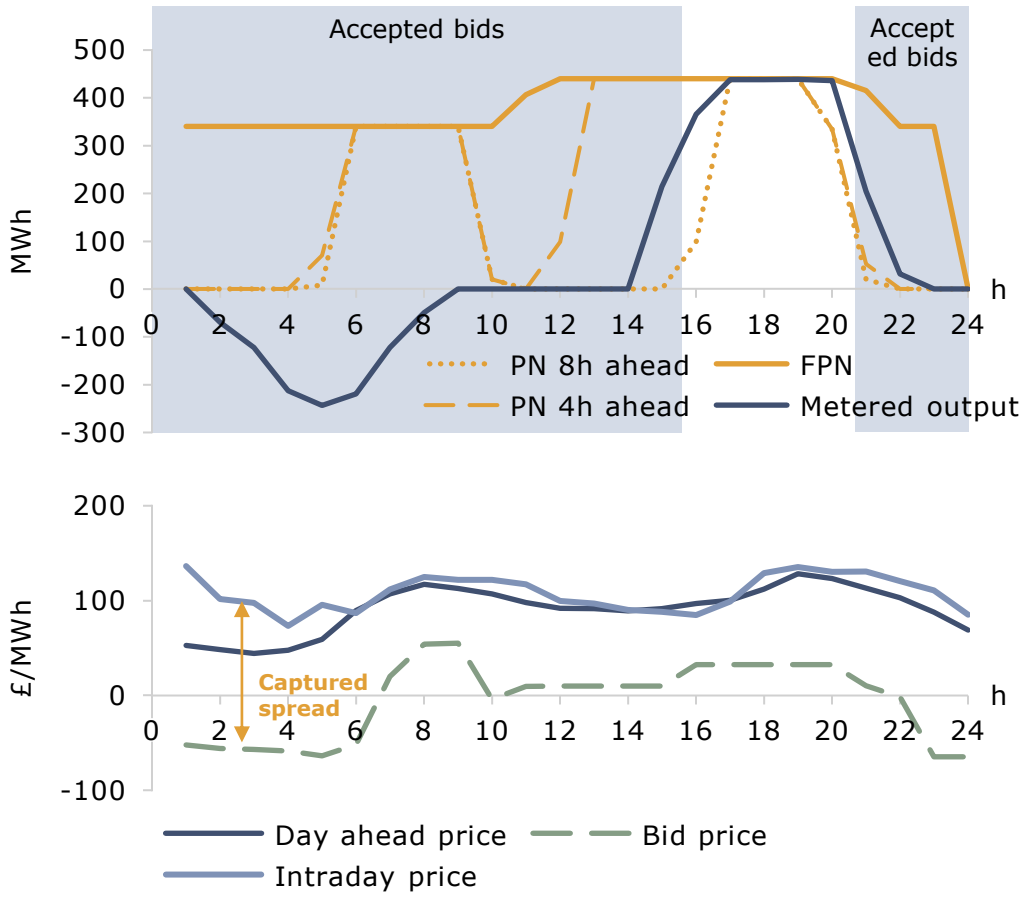


- A unit in an import-constrained location trades volumes in the ex-ante 'unconstrained' markets and submits a positive FPN over the evening peak periods
- Market prices are, however, below its short-run cost of operation in the morning and in the afternoon, and the unit is not scheduled to generate
- ESO issues BOAs to synchronise the unit earlier to relieve the import constraint
- The national System Imbalance Price does not provide a signal for the unit to synchronise in the morning

'UNCONSTRAINED' MARKET INCENTIVES

Incentive provided by national imbalance price does not align with network constraints and other system needs [2/2]

FPN AND BOAS FOR PUMPED STORAGE ON THE 12/04/2023



- A unit in an export constrained location trades volumes in the markets and submits a positive FPN
- ESO has to bid down this unit for most of the settlement periods to relive the export constraint
- The resulting output broadly follows the underlying market fundamentals in this case. In other situations, even the resulting dispatch may be inefficient and flexible resources may be used in a suboptimal way

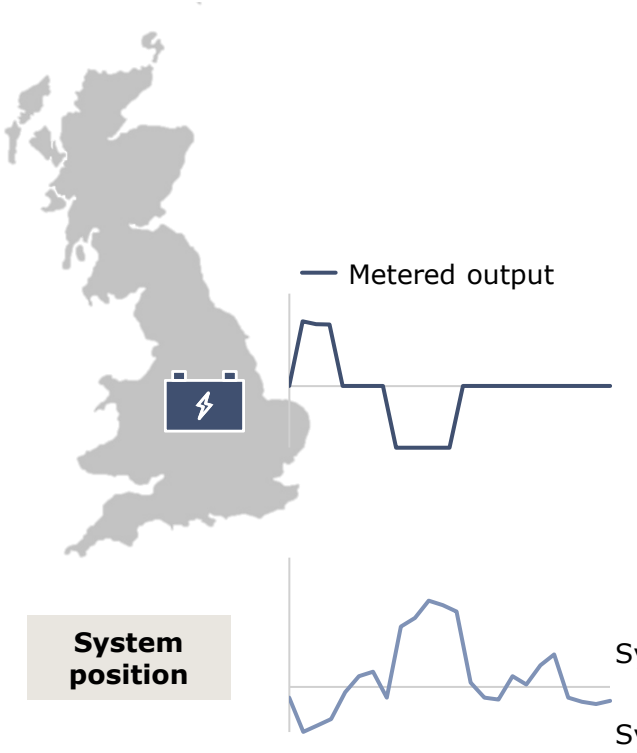
KEY IMPACT

- **Greater volume of actions than could be necessary, increasing costs to consumers**
- **Misallocation of flexible resources**

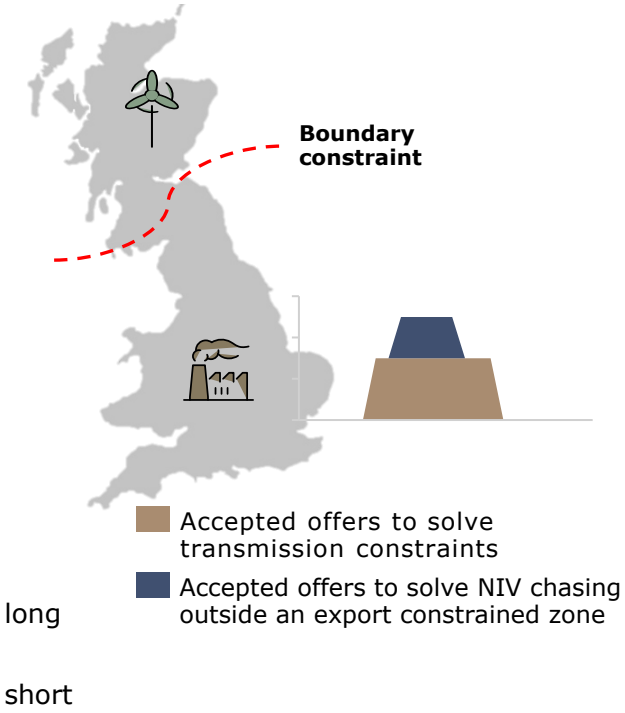
'NATIONAL' IMBALANCE PRICE

National System Imbalance Price can lead to NIV chasing in 'wrong' locations, exacerbating constraints instead of supporting system operation

A 'NIV chasing' unit's imbalance is opposite to the direction of the total system imbalance



In case of transmission constraints, ESO takes actions to both:
- resolve congestion; and
- ensure energy balance, effectively replacing the volumes from NIV chasing units located outside an export constrained zone



- Market participants respond to a national System Imbalance Price ignoring locational factors
- NIV chasing can support total system balance
- However, in the presence of transmission constraints, NIV chasing can lead to an increase in balancing actions

KEY IMPACT

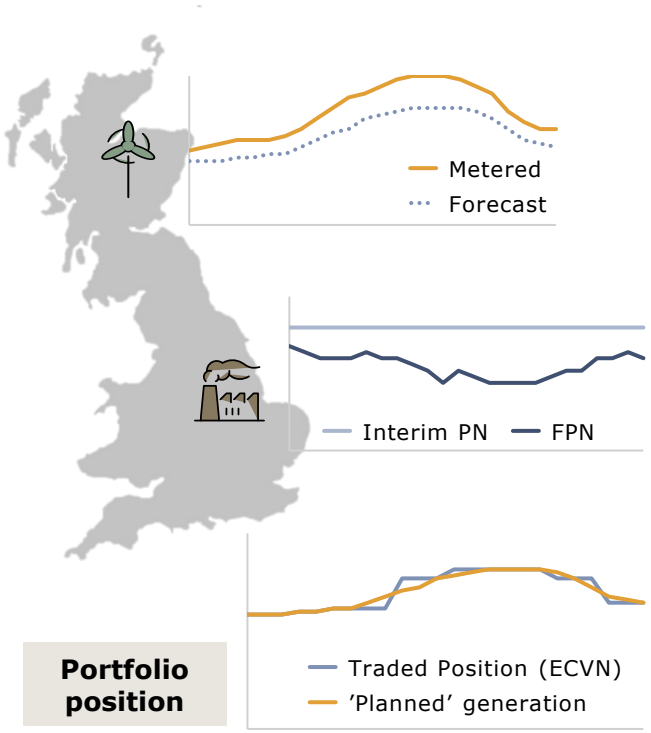
- **Greater volume of actions than could be necessary, increasing costs to consumers**
- **Misallocation of flexible resources**

AFRY

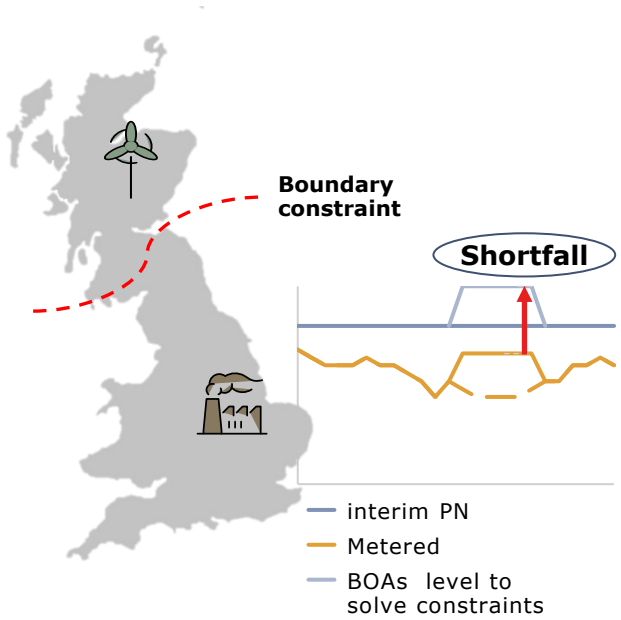
'NATIONAL' IMBALANCE PRICE

Portfolio level balancing can lead to dispatch decisions increasing network constraints instead of supporting system operation

A portfolio manager chooses to reduce output from a thermal unit as there is more potential from the wind asset



In case of network constraints, the lower FPN from the thermal unit increases the ESO balancing action needs



- There is no incentive to consider transmission constraints with portfolio level balancing in a single price zone
- The imbalance mechanism at portfolio level can lead to an increase in balancing actions in the presence of transmission constraints

KEY IMPACT

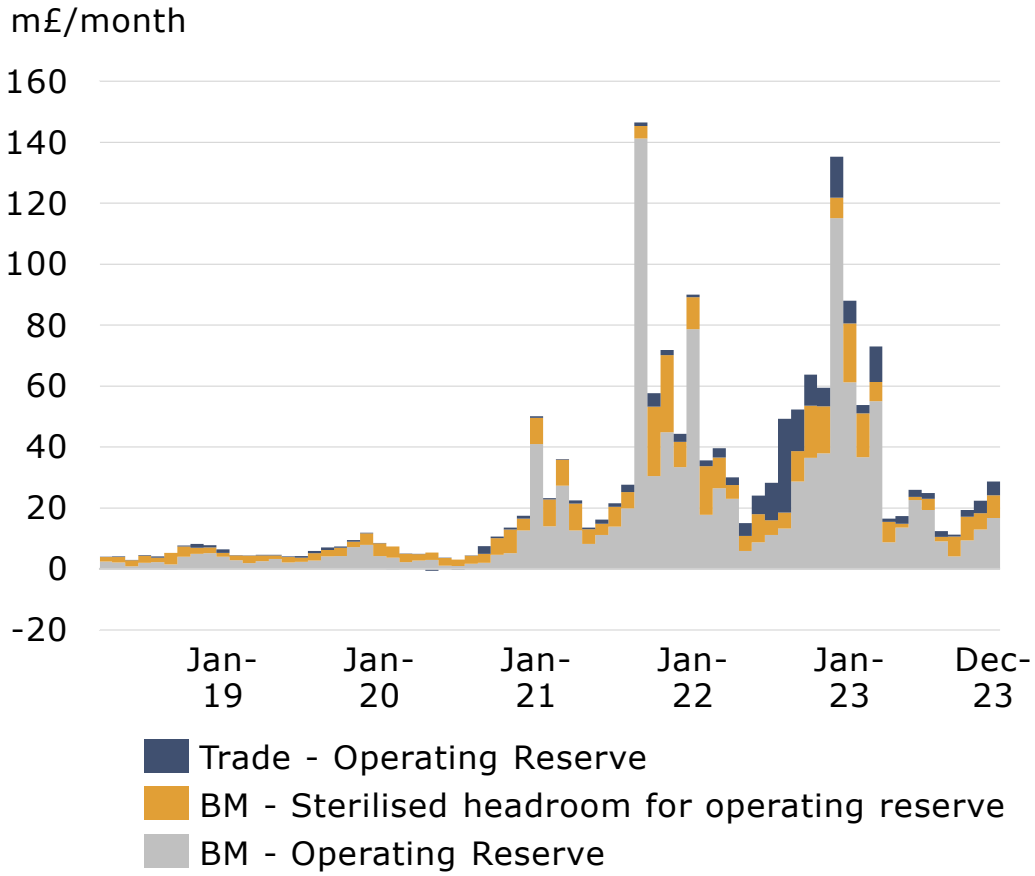
- **Greater volume of actions than could be necessary, increasing costs to consumers**
- **Misallocation of flexible resources**

AFRY

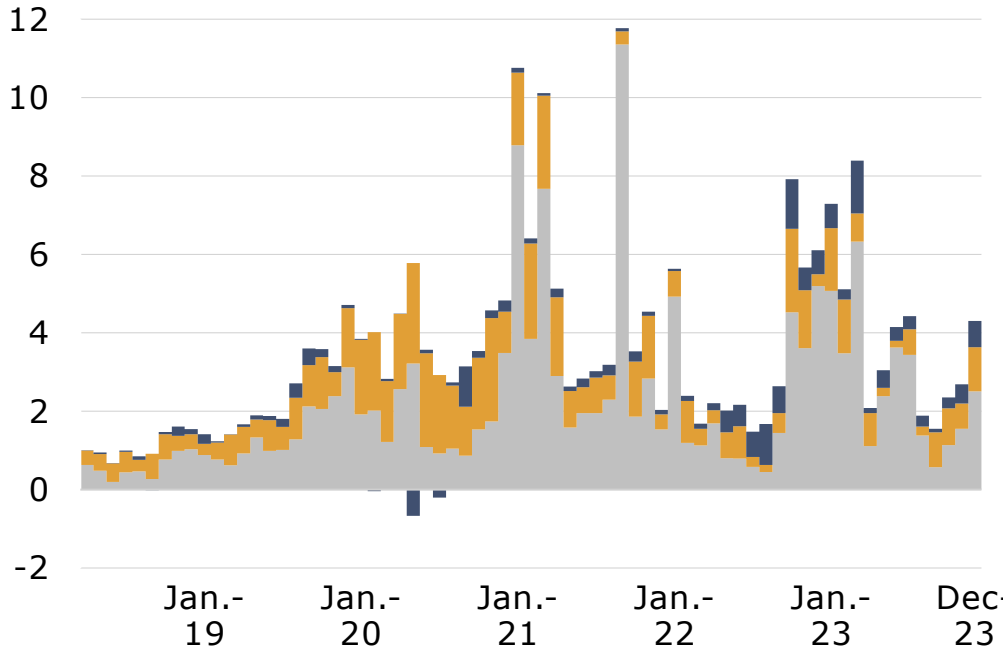
MISSING SIGNALS FOR REAL TIME RESERVE PROCUREMENT

Costs of procuring operating reserve have grown markedly in recent years – beyond the impact of the rise in commodity prices

MONTHLY OPERATING RESERVE COSTS - ABSOLUTE



NORMALISED BY MONTHLY GAS PRICES



- Monthly costs for operating reserve procurement divided by monthly spot NBP gas prices
- Indexed to April 2018 = 1

Source: MBSS, AFRY analysis

AFRY ÅF PÖYRY

NO EXPLICIT RESERVE MARKET

Potential missing signals for operating reserve in near real time

SITUATION

The BM secures reserve as well as energy

- The amount of headroom provided by the market is not always enough to meet ESO Regulating Reserve requirements

ESO has introduced a new market for regulating reserve

- Regulating Reserve is used to manage real-time imbalances and replace activated reserves.
- In March, ESO introduced a new day-ahead auction for Regulating Reserve ('Balancing Reserve') which allows it to compensate directly for the service

But procuring at day-ahead risks over/under procurement

- It is likely that the BM would continue to be used to refine the procurement of reserve in real time.
- Any reserve procured in the BM will still suffer from a missing price signal for this flexibility.

KEY IMPACTS

ESO needs to synchronise units to ensure there is sufficient operating reserve continuously

The Balancing Reserve product is national, and there is potential for **'sterilised headroom'**

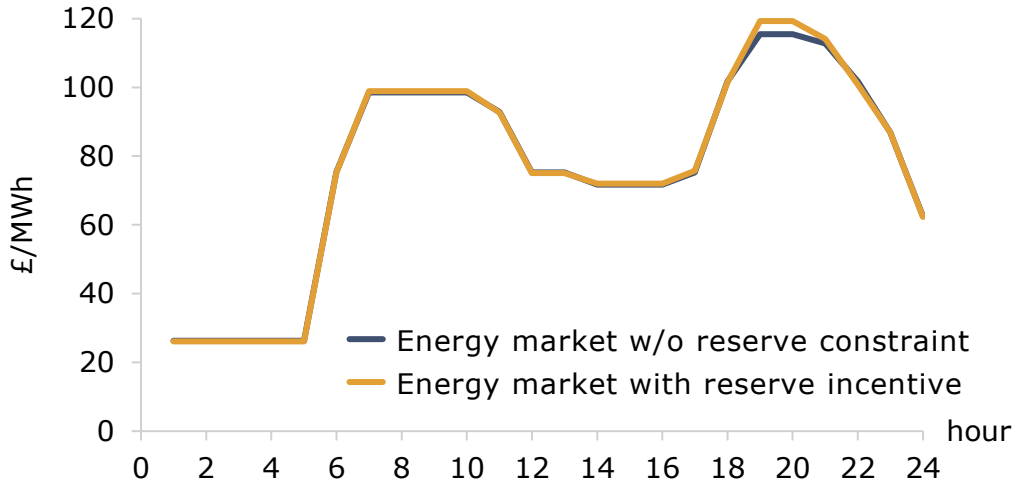
Transparency on what is an energy and what is a reserve action is limited

MISSING SIGNALS FOR REAL TIME RESERVE PROCUREMENT

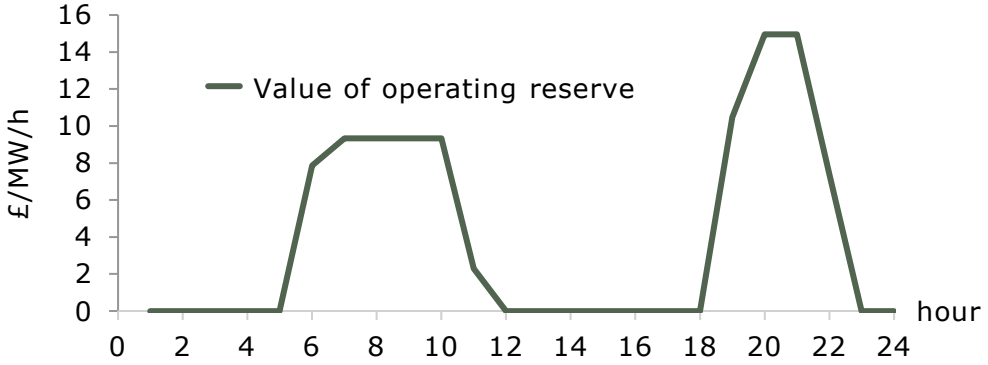
Market is not incentivised to provide reserve capacity where and when needed

MODELLED RESULTS 12/04/2023

WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICE



OPERATING RESERVE PRICE



- As part of the analysis, AFRY has modelled :
  - a) an ex-ante market assuming no reserve requirement
  - b) an ex-ante market assuming a signal for real-time operating reserve provision
- On one of the modelled days, we see the following:
  - Ex-ante wholesale prices would have been higher in some periods if the market was incentivised to deliver the required reserve
  - There is a value in 'reserving' capacity during the morning ramp and the 'peak' – in all other periods reserve is practically 'free'

KEY IMPACT

- **Transparency on what is an energy and what is a reserve action is reduced, limiting understanding of underlying value by market participants**

AFRY

Discussion

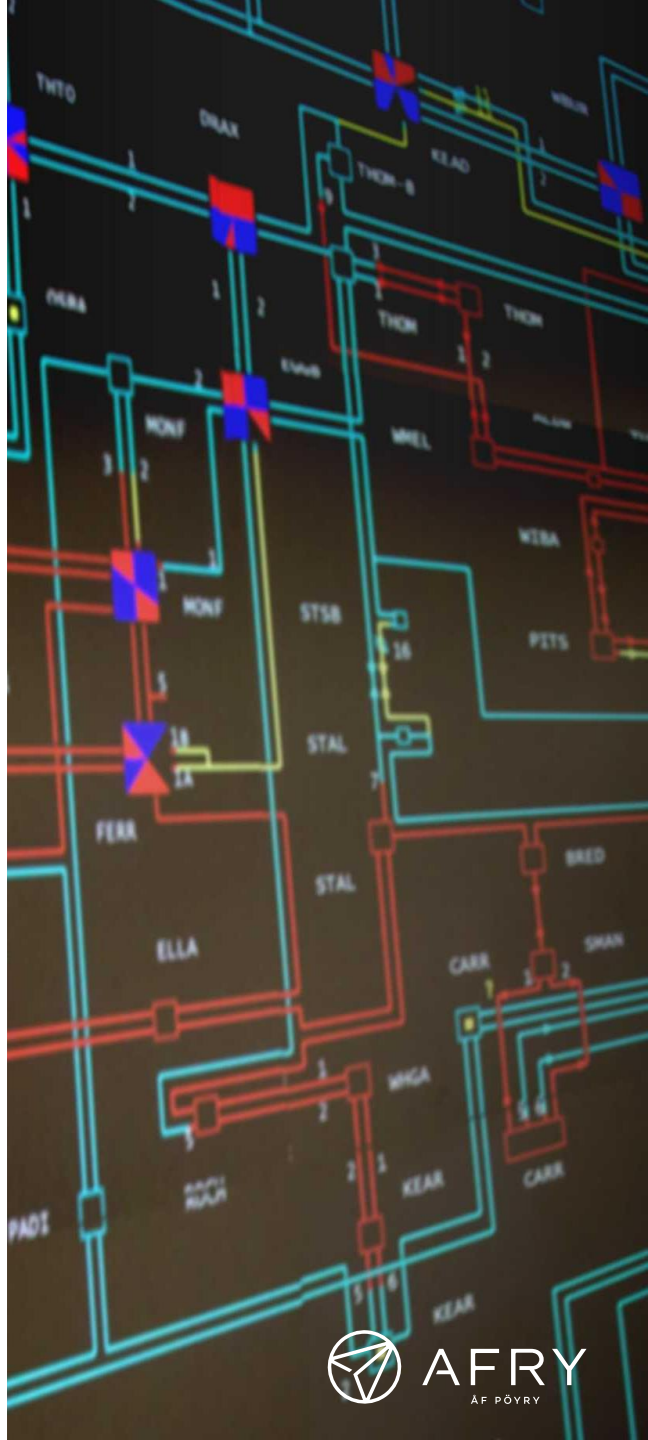
Instructions for breakouts

- Each group will have a lead and a scribe from ESO/AFRY.
- Groups will operate under Chatham House Rule.
  - Comments and ideas can be quoted but not attributed to any individual or organisation.
- Each group will have time to discuss two themes:
  - To what extent do you agree with what has been identified?
  - Are there additional impacts from these issues to be aware of?
- Each session will last 15 minutes. The first 13 minutes will be for discussion. The last 2 minutes will be for the lead to summarise the discussion.
- There will be a notice when there are 5 minutes left to encourage people to close their arguments.
- And a second notice will mark the beginning of the summary.

BREAK

- **Back at 10:30**

Content



AFRY
ÅF PÖYRY

Embedded generation and flexible capacity is on the rise

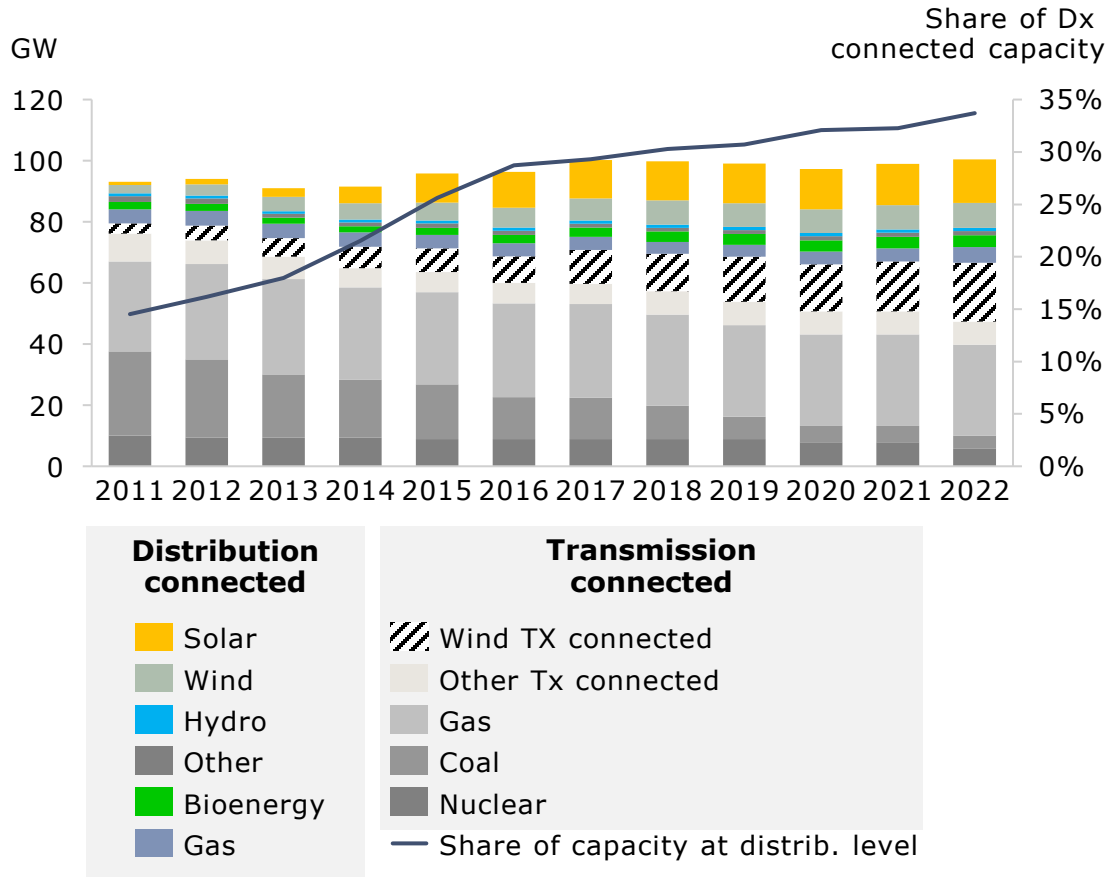
INCREASE IN EMBEDDED GENERATION

- In the early 2000s, the electricity generation fleet in Great Britain consisted primarily of controllable thermal plants connected at the transmission level
- Since then, embedded generation has been steadily increasing

INCREASE IN FLEXIBLE RESOURCES, BUT NOT ALWAYS SUPPORTING SYSTEM BALANCE

- Flexible resource capacity is also on the rise. However, this resource is not all visible to or accessible by ESO
- The introduction of the single Imbalance Price gives incentives to the market to manage system imbalance, but from an ESO perspective this adds an additional layer of uncertainty as non-BMU resources are acting in ways which ESO finds hard to predict

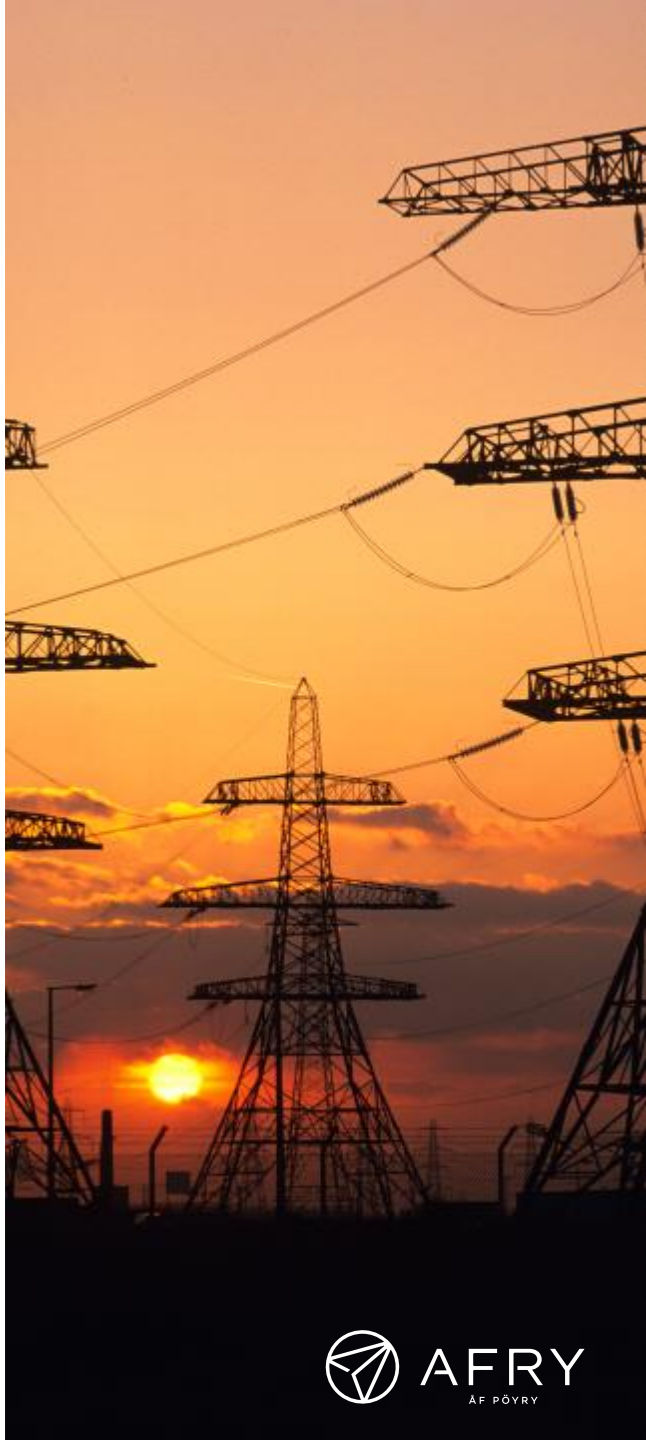
HISTORICAL INSTALLED CAPACITY IN GB, BY CONNECTION LEVEL



VISIBILITY AND ACCESS

Incomplete ESO visibility of market outcomes and limited access to some resources impacts coherence between wholesale market and balancing

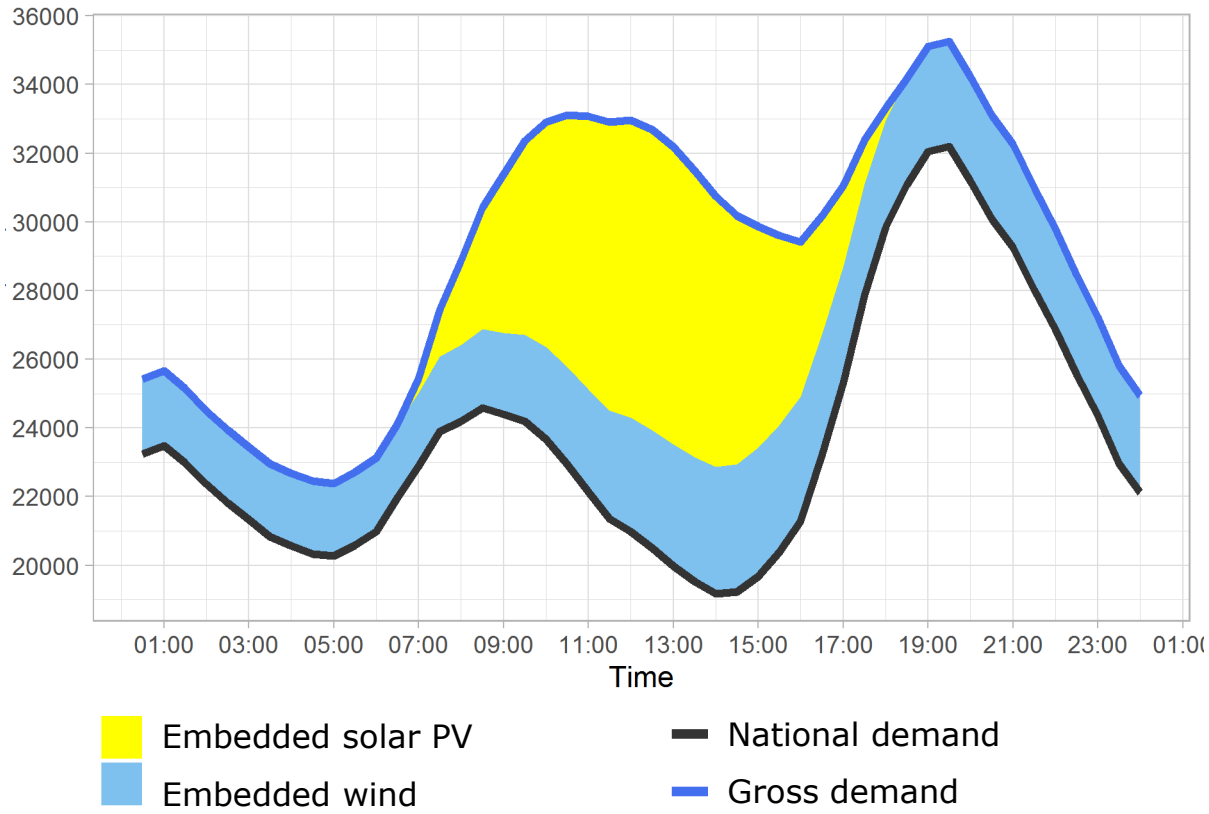
1. **Incomplete coverage:** Coverage of FPNs is incomplete, particularly for the growing share of flexible non-BM resources, meaning ESO has limited visibility of full market schedules when doing contingency planning
2. **Behaviour:** Uncertainty on the expected level of system support for balancing by flexible non-BM resources (e.g. NIV chasing or response to retail tariffs)
3. **Inaccurate information:** Schedules change significantly before gate closure meaning ESO decisions are taken with inaccurate information
4. **ESO access to resources:** Key resources respond to wholesale market signals but are not dispatchable by ESO in balancing timeframes
5. **Coordination:** Sequential procurement of balancing services adds uncertainty to decision making for both ESO and market participants



INCOMPLETE COVERAGE

Coverage of FPNs is incomplete meaning both ESO and the market are dealing with poor information

NATIONAL DEMAND FORECAST 19/03/2022, MW[1]



- ESO forecasts total 'gross' demand, and subtracts embedded RES generation forecasts to obtain national demand
- Reaction to market prices by controllable embedded generation and demand response cannot be considered in the published national demand forecast according to the Grid Code
- This can have an impact on the market expectations and price formation

Estimated flexible embedded capacity not participating in BM[2]

Type	Estimated capacity
Biomass	2.5GW
Engines (gas and diesel)	1.5GW
Batteries	0.8GW

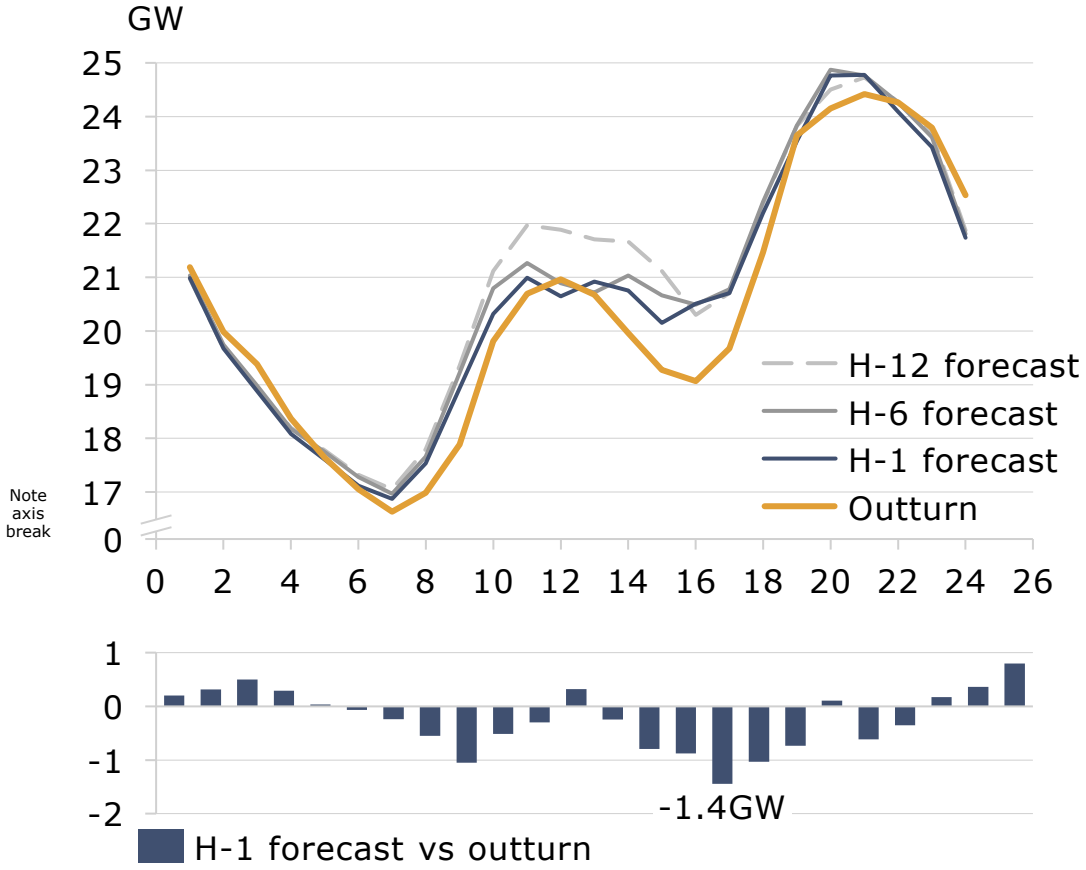
1. Source: ESO; 2. Source: AFRY analysis based on data from (a) Capacity in the BM, (b) AFRY analysis, and (c) Capacity Market Register.

AFRY ÅF PÖYRY

INCOMPLETE COVERAGE

Coverage of FPNs is incomplete, meaning ESO has limited visibility of full market schedules when doing contingency planning

NATIONAL DEMAND FORECAST AND OUTTURN ON 09/07/2023



- When the market was set up, aggregate FPNs were a good indication of the overall market position
- **Aggregate PNs are no longer a meaningful indication of the system position** with more than 30% of overall installed capacity now being embedded
- Price responsive embedded generation makes national demand forecacting even more complex

KEY IMPACT

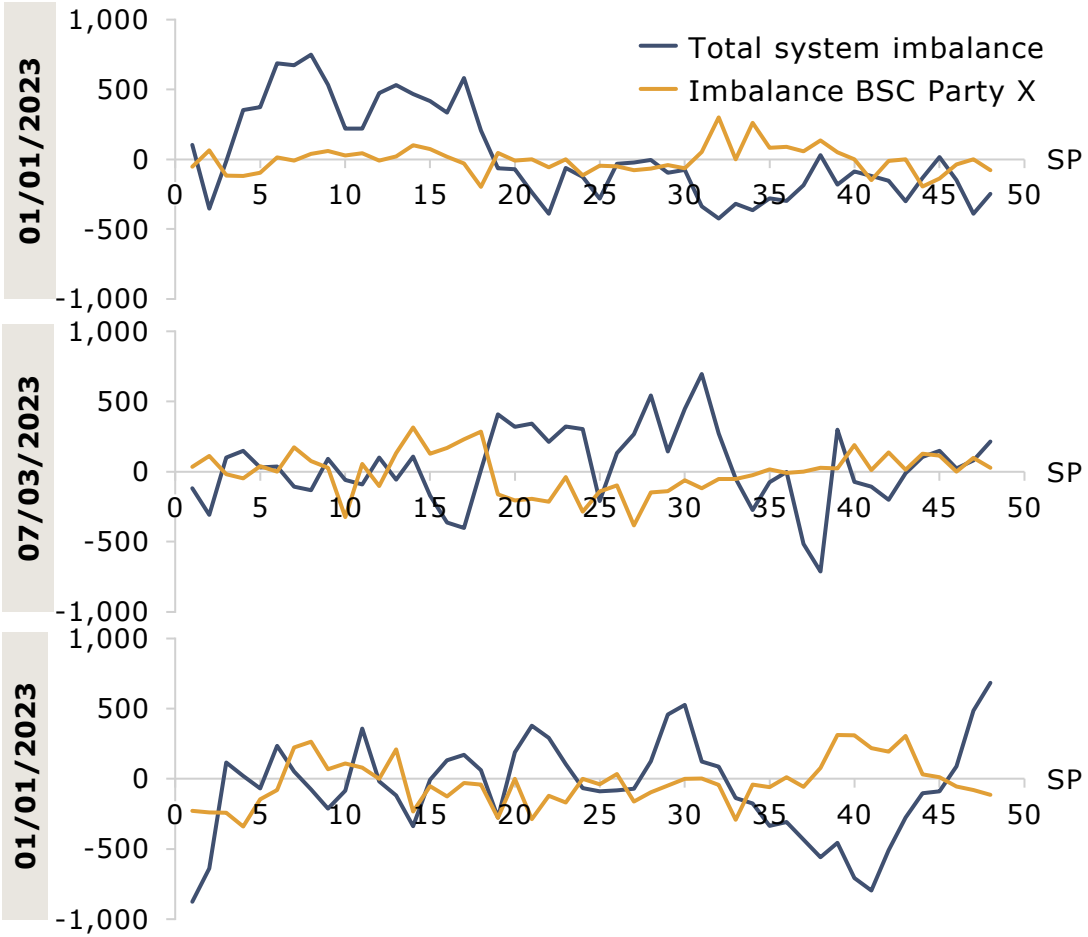
- **Over- and under-procurement of energy and reserve**
- **Potential for inefficient dispatch decisions**

AFRY ÅF PÖYRY

BEHAVIOUR

Uncertainty on the expected level of system support for balancing by flexible non-BM resources (e.g. NIV chasing or response to retail tariffs)

BSC PARTY IMBALANCE VS. SYSTEM POSITION, MWH



- NIV chasing can support total system balance
- However, ESO has no visibility on the potential level of NIV chasing and cannot formally rely on it when making balancing decisions

KEY IMPACTS

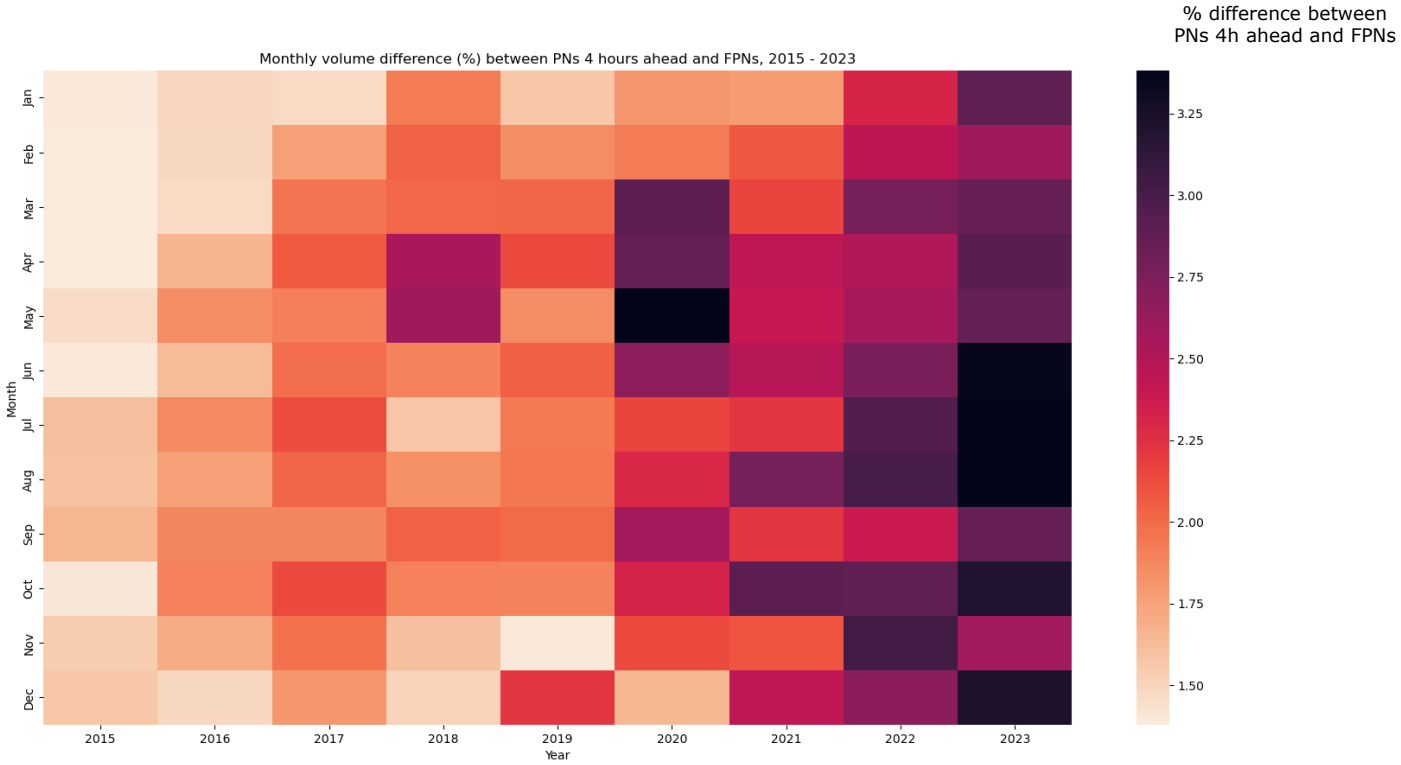
- **Over- and under-procurement of energy and reserve**
- **Potential for unnecessary actions**

AFRY
ÅF PÖYRY

INACCURATE INFORMATION

Schedules change significantly before gate closure

MONTHLY VOLUME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PNS 4H AHEAD AND FPNS, %



- Changes in PNs as we approach real-time are increasing
- ESO needs to take decisions with increasingly inaccurate information

KEY IMPACT

- **Unnecessary risk mitigation**
- **Potential for inefficient dispatch decisions**

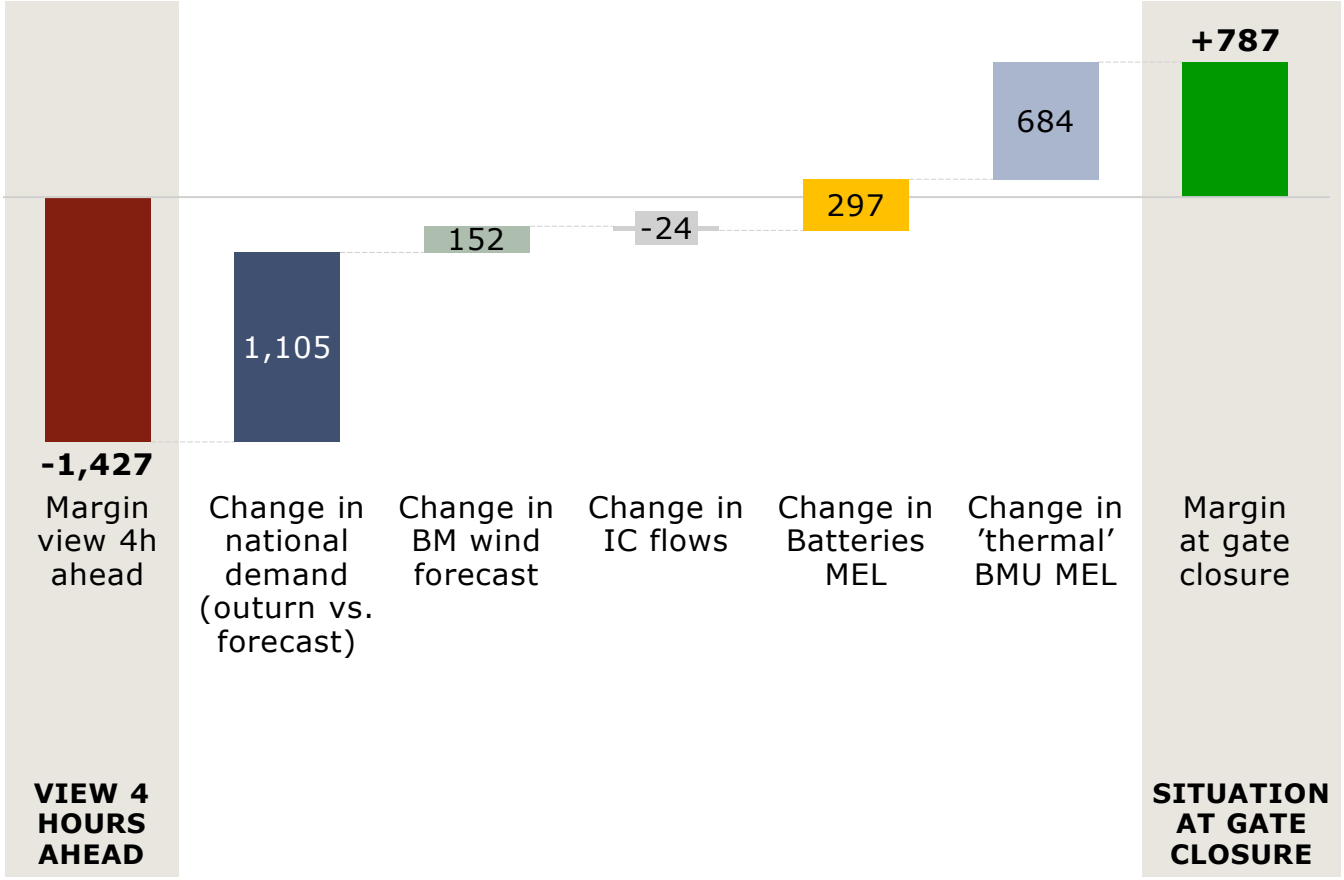
Source: ESO analysis, monthly average of % difference between PNs 4h hours ahead and FPNs for each settlement period. Only generator PNs.

AFRY ÅF PÖYRY

INACCURATE INFORMATION

ESO takes scheduling decision based on inaccurate information [2/2]

OVERVIEW OF THE MARGIN FOR DARKNESS PEAK AT 5:40 PM (01/01/2023)



- On 01/01/2023, ESO was expecting a margin shortfall for the evening peak based on information 4h hours ahead
- This led to the synchronisation of several units during the afternoon to ensure sufficient margin
- Compared to the view 4 hours ahead, at GC:
  - National demand didn't reach the forecast level
  - Several BMUs with an interim PN=0 at the peak self-scheduled in the afternoon, resulting in an increase in the overall headroom
  - Outturn battery contribution at the peak was higher than the operating plan estimate
  - Wind generation slightly higher than forecast

MEL= Maximum Export Limit, SOP=System Operating Plans

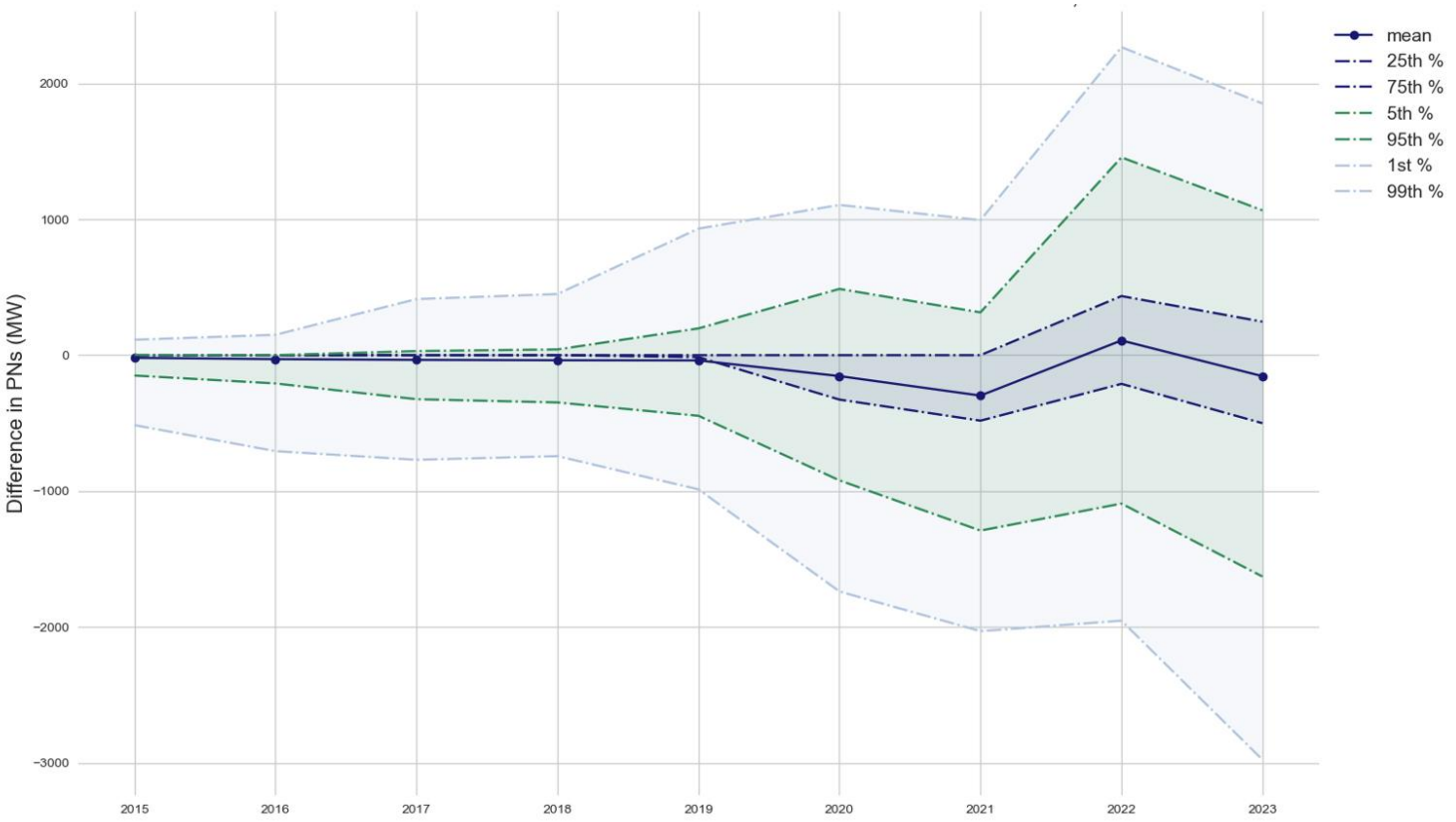
AFRY ÅF PÖYRY

INACCURATE INFORMATION

Large changes in interconnector schedules before gate closure are becoming increasingly frequent

DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENCE IN PNS 4H AHEAD AND FPNS FOR INTERCONNECTOR SCHEDULES

Difference in sum of I/C schedules, MW



Source: ESO analysis

- Interconnector capacity between GB and other European countries has increased over the last few years
- They have now become the single largest source of change in schedules close to real-time
- Predicting changes in interconnector schedules is challenging, as it typically reflects the relative price evolution in two markets

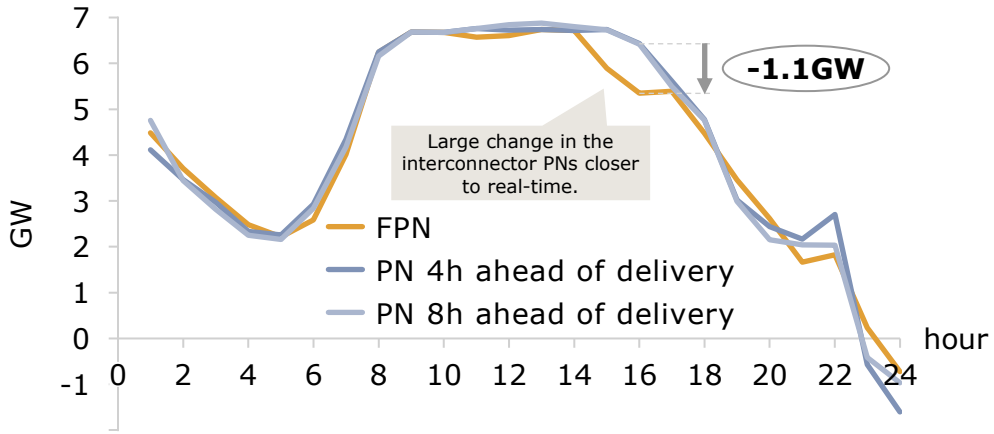
AFRY ÅF PÖYRY

INACCURATE INFORMATION

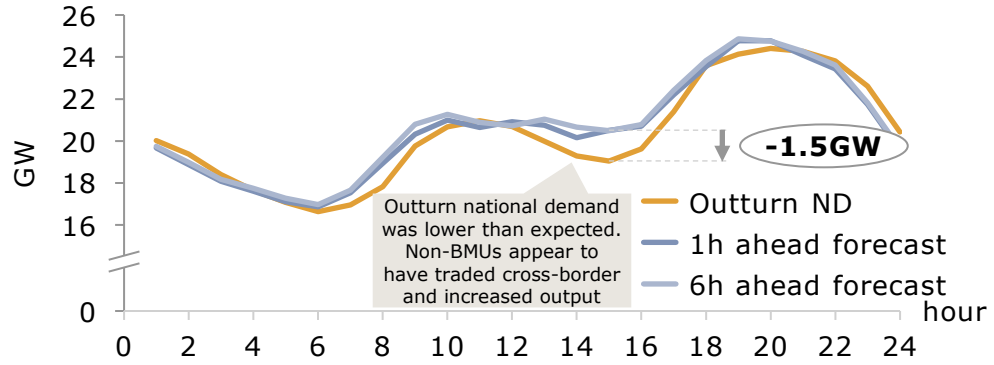
Changes in interconnector schedules close to delivery are particularly significant

EVIDENCE FROM 09/07/2023

TOTAL INTERCONNECTOR PHYSICAL NOTIFICATION (NET IMPORTS TO GB)



NATIONAL DEMAND FORECAST AND OUTTURN



- Interconnector schedule swings typically come alongside a corresponding change in generation (embedded or otherwise), and should therefore not lead to a large energy imbalance. However:
  - changes in interconnectors flows can have an impact on the level of available reserve and on transmission constraints; and
  - such large, sudden changes can still be a risk for system operation from an ESO perspective

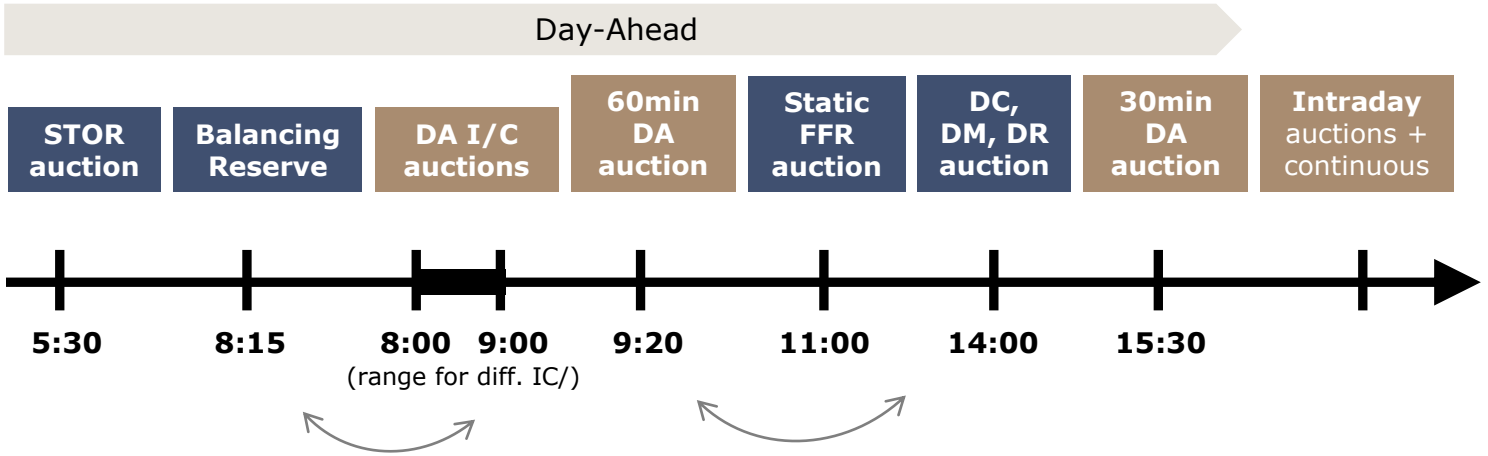
KEY IMPACT

- **Need to react fast to large changes, leading to operational difficulties and expensive actions**

AFRY

COORDINATION

Sequential procurement of balancing services adds uncertainty to decision making for both ESO and market participants



Pro/cons of procuring Balancing reserve before the DA auction

- \+ Allows market to trade out its position for scheduling units
- − Difficulty for market participants if their estimate of the DA price is wrong

Pro/cons of response products after the DA auction

- \+ Allows ESO to determine response requir. based on largest loss (I/C)
- − Less opportunity for market participants to trade out their position

Reserve and AS procurement

Energy markets

- Balancing services are procured at different times
- Market players need to take decisions in different timeframes against a moving intraday target
- For some services, ESO does not procure the entire volume (e.g. headroom for reserve) in advance

KEY IMPACT

- **Market players face conflicting incentives and risk forecast errors when bidding**
- **Potential for inefficient dispatch**
- **Reduced competition**

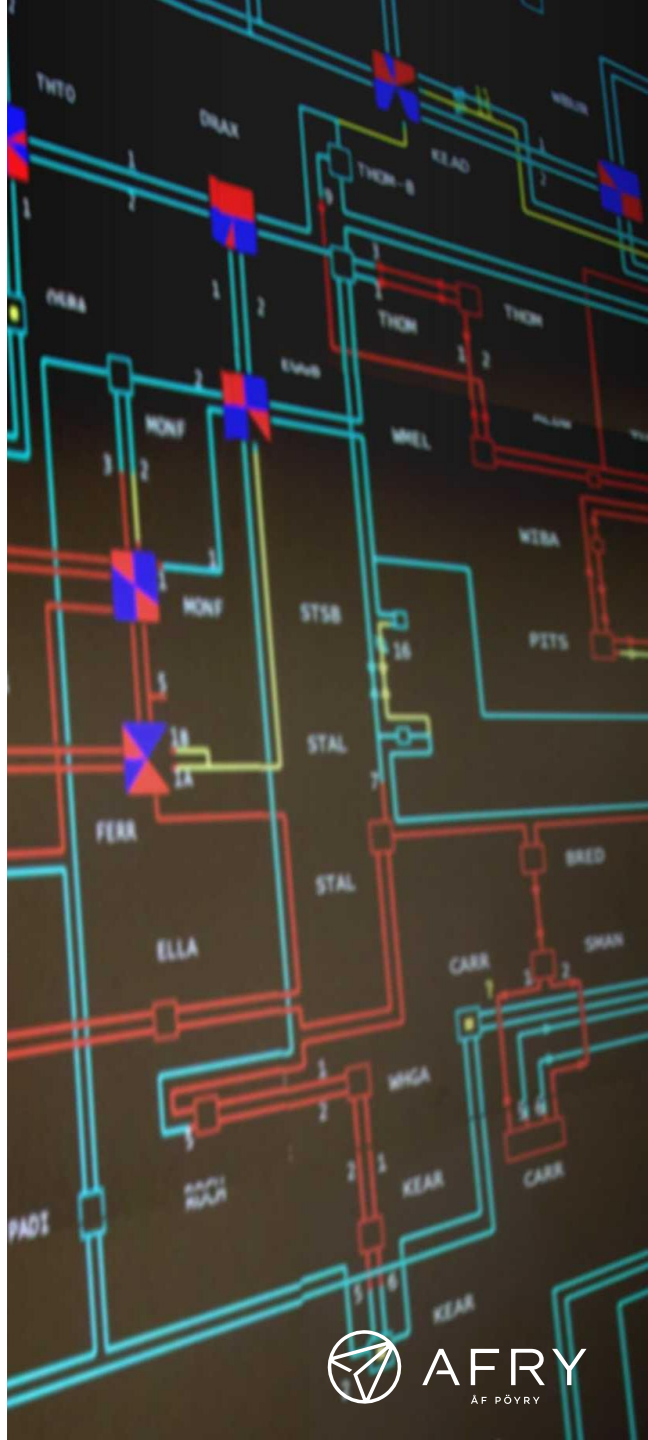
AFRY ÅF PÖYRY

Discussion

BREAK

- **Back at 11:30**

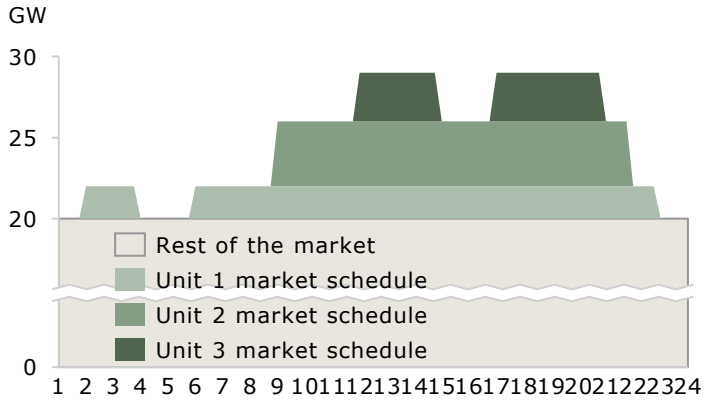
Content



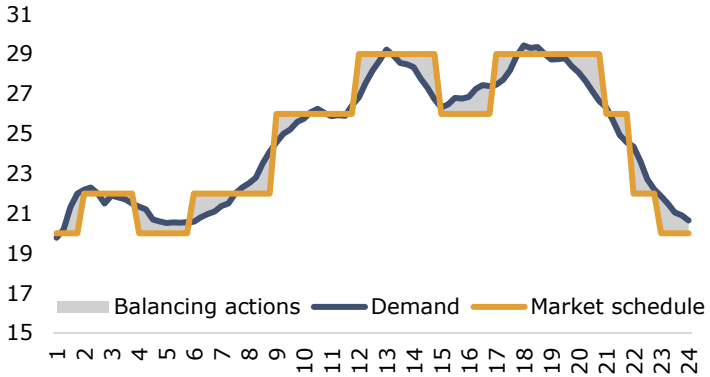
The market is intended to make unit commitment decisions with ESO dealing only with residual balancing – however, this is not what happens in practice

In theory …

UNIT COMMITMENT

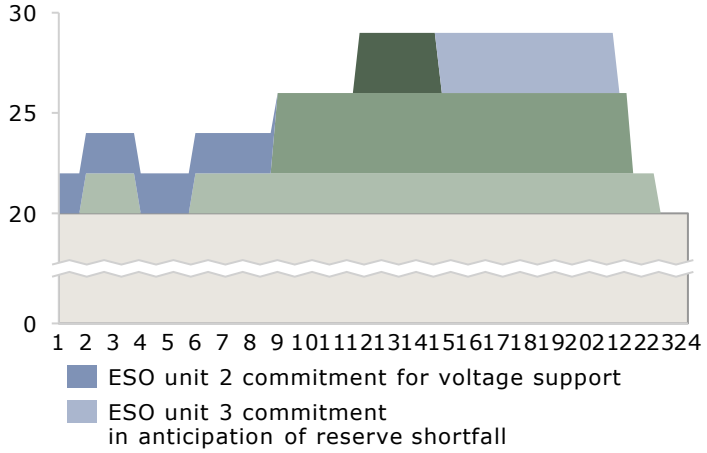


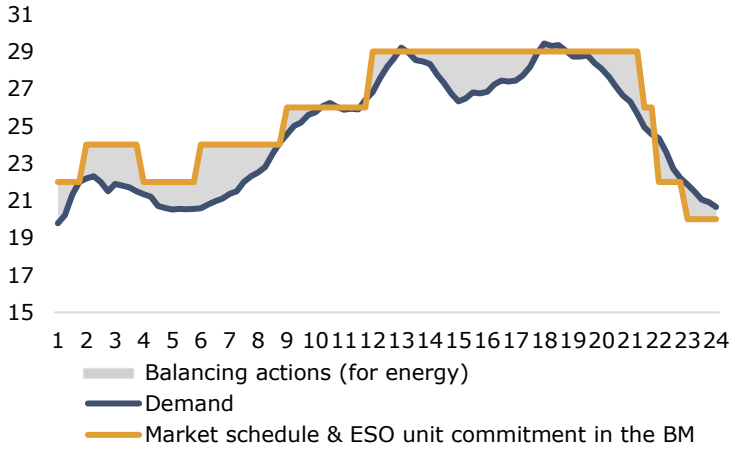
ILLUSTRATIVE BALANCING ACTIONS



- Unit commitment decisions should be taken by market participants in response to expected market prices
- The role of the SO is 'residual' ensuring energy balance within SP

In practice …





- This, however, does not happen in practice
- ESO ends up taking unit commitment decisions for:
  - other system needs; but also
  - reserve margin and energy balance

AFRY
ÅF PÖYRY

INTERTEMPORAL ISSUES

The current dispatch mechanism does not facilitate effective optimisation of costs and unit constraints over time

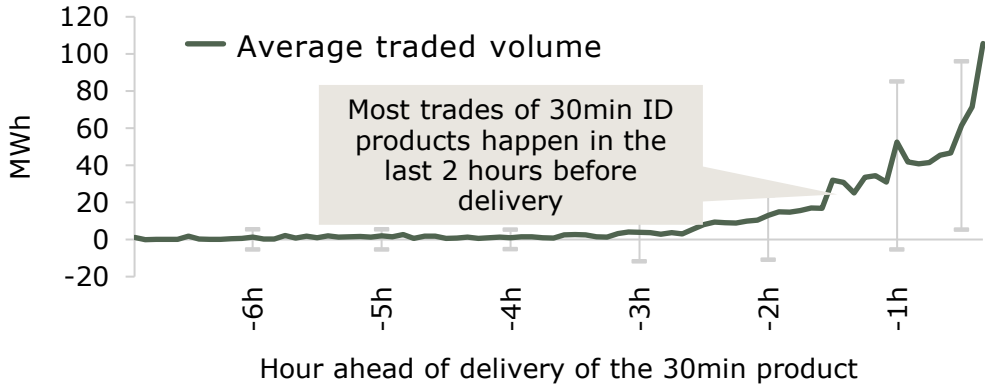
1. **Timing:** ESO is obliged to take proactive decisions with consequences for future periods beyond Gate Closure, which overlaps with the operation of the intraday market
2. **Information:** ESO takes decisions with inter-temporal consequences based on imperfect and incomplete forward-looking data
3. **Transparency:** Beyond-the-wall protocols and advance commitments cloud transparency and may distort imbalance pricing, making it harder for market participants to predict and interpret

TIMING

ESO is obliged to take proactive decisions with consequences for future periods beyond Gate Closure, which overlaps with the operation of the IDM

- ESO typically needs to take actions for energy and Regulating Reserve 4-5 hours before Gate Closure given CCGT minimum on and off times
- Most of the intraday trading, however, happens over the two hours before Gate Closure
- This means the system may look short when ESO needs to decide whether to secure margin

TRADED VOLUMES FOR 30MIN PRODUCT ON THE GB CONTINUOUS INTRADAY MARKET



Impact:

- The market may expect that ESO will intervene ahead of time to ensure sufficient margin
- Do ESO actions drive poor liquidity in the intraday market or is it that the intraday market is not facilitating effective repositioning?
- In any case, market players face conflicting incentives, with a lack of coordination between ESO actions and market scheduling decisions

Average dynamic parameters across the CGGT fleet:

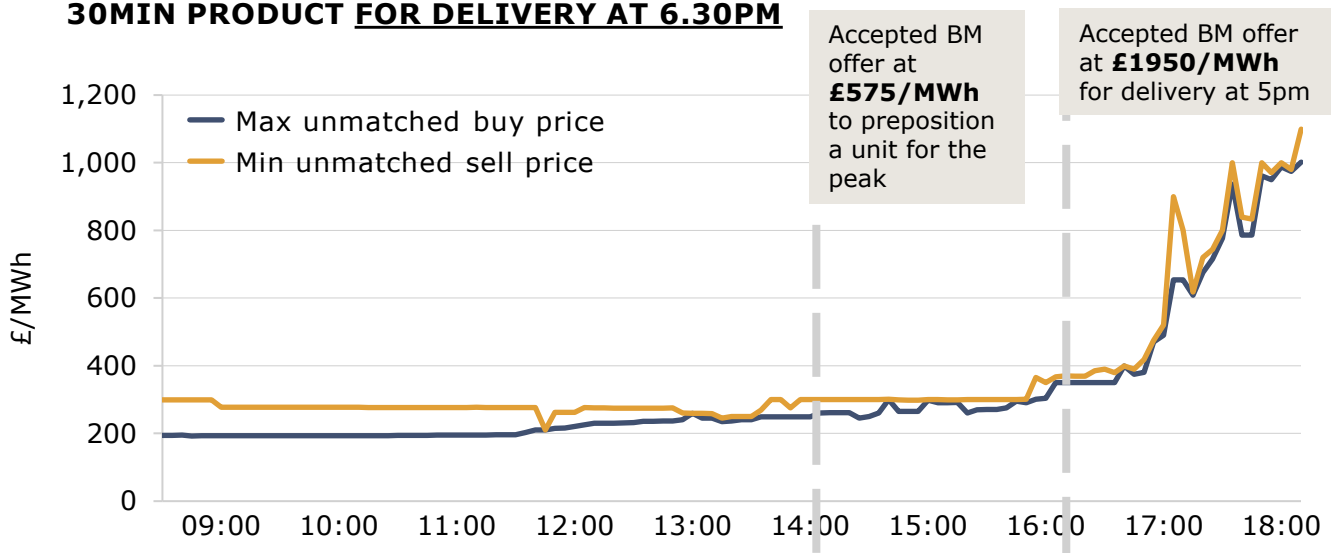
	Notice to deviate from zero	Time to full load (based on run up rate)	Min. nonzero time
CCGT	1.5h	1.5h	4.5h

Notes: Analysis based on 18 days in 2023, based on key study days
Source: EPEX, AFRY analysis

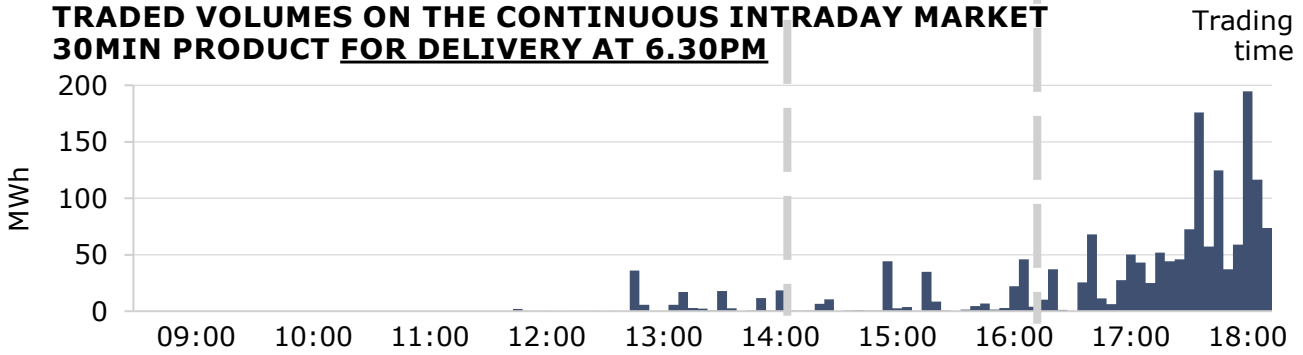
TIMING

ESO is obliged to take proactive decisions with consequences for future periods beyond GC, which overlaps with the operation of the IDM

ORDERS ON THE CONTINUOUS INTRADAY MARKET 30MIN PRODUCT FOR DELIVERY AT 6.30PM



TRADED VOLUMES ON THE CONTINUOUS INTRADAY MARKET 30MIN PRODUCT FOR DELIVERY AT 6.30PM



Source: EPEX

- On 03/07/2023, ESO accepted expensive BM offers through the afternoon in anticipation of the peak
- The intraday order data for delivery at 18.30 show limited market activity through the afternoon with intraday prices converging closer to delivery time
- Intraday prices were high, but not as high as the Imbalance Price
- The **BM appears to be supplanting the ID market** because of ESO risk management

KEY IMPACT

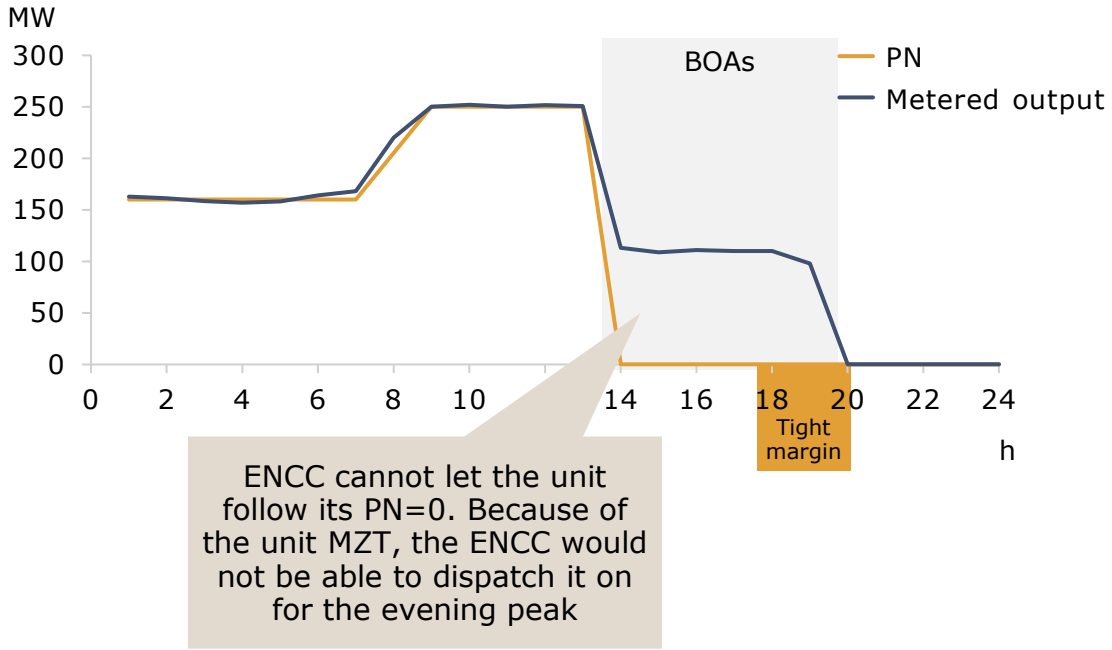
- **Market players face conflicting incentives, with a lack of coordination between ESO actions and market scheduling decisions**

AFRY
ÅF PÖYRY

INFORMATION

When taking long notice scheduling actions in the BM, forward-looking data available to ESO is incomplete and non-firm

DELAY DE-SYNC EXAMPLE WITH MIN-ZERO TIME OF 6H

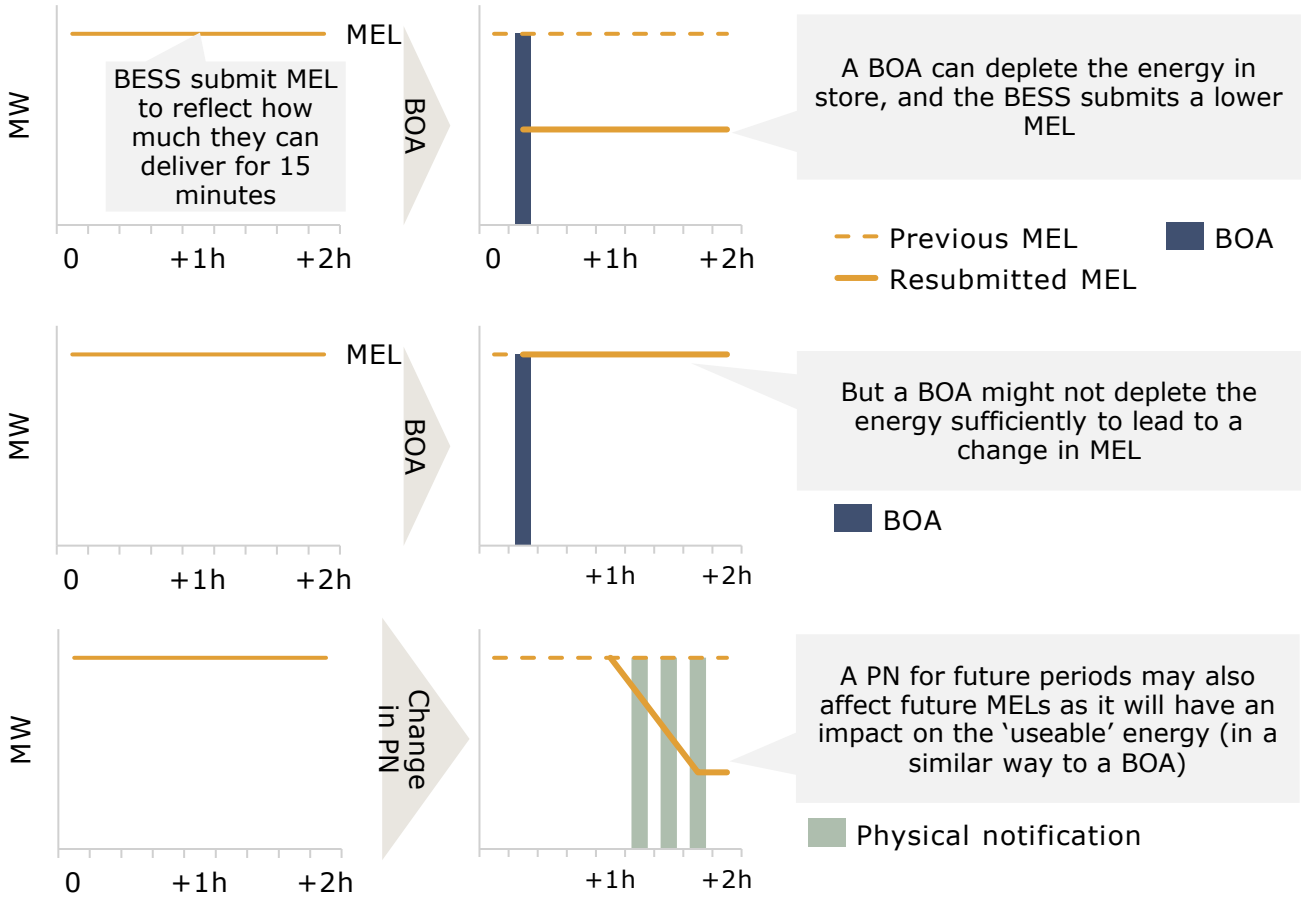


- In this example, ESO expects a deficit at the evening peak based on information available in the afternoon
- ESO keeps a CCGT synchronised through the afternoon to be able to use it at the peak
- This **unit commitment decision is taken at a time when other BMU PNs are not firm, and BOD have not been finalised**

INFORMATION

Energy-limited asset capability is uncertain when ESO is making 'advance' scheduling decisions

CURRENT APPROACH FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BATTERIES IN THE BM



MEL = Maximum Export Limit

- ESO has **no information about the State of Charge of energy-limited units**
- The '30 minute' rule is used as a compromise: MEL submissions reflect capabilities for the next 30 minutes

- Even if ESO had clear visibility of the State of Charge of energy-limited assets, it **cannot be certain about the 'usable' energy for future settlement periods**
- Energy-limited assets can change their PNs until gate closure as trading continues

AFRY ÅF PÖYRY

INFORMATION

ESO takes decisions with inter-temporal consequences based on imperfect and incomplete forward-looking data

Impact of dynamic parameters of thermal assets

- Long notice scheduling decisions need to be made by ESO in the BM
- Unit commitment decisions reduce uncertainty for ESO and are in most cases unavoidable, but **they have inter-temporal consequences**

Impact of energy limited nature of storage units

- **Energy-limited unit capability is uncertain for future settlement periods**
- ESO cannot 'commit' energy limited assets in anticipation of future needs

KEY IMPACTS

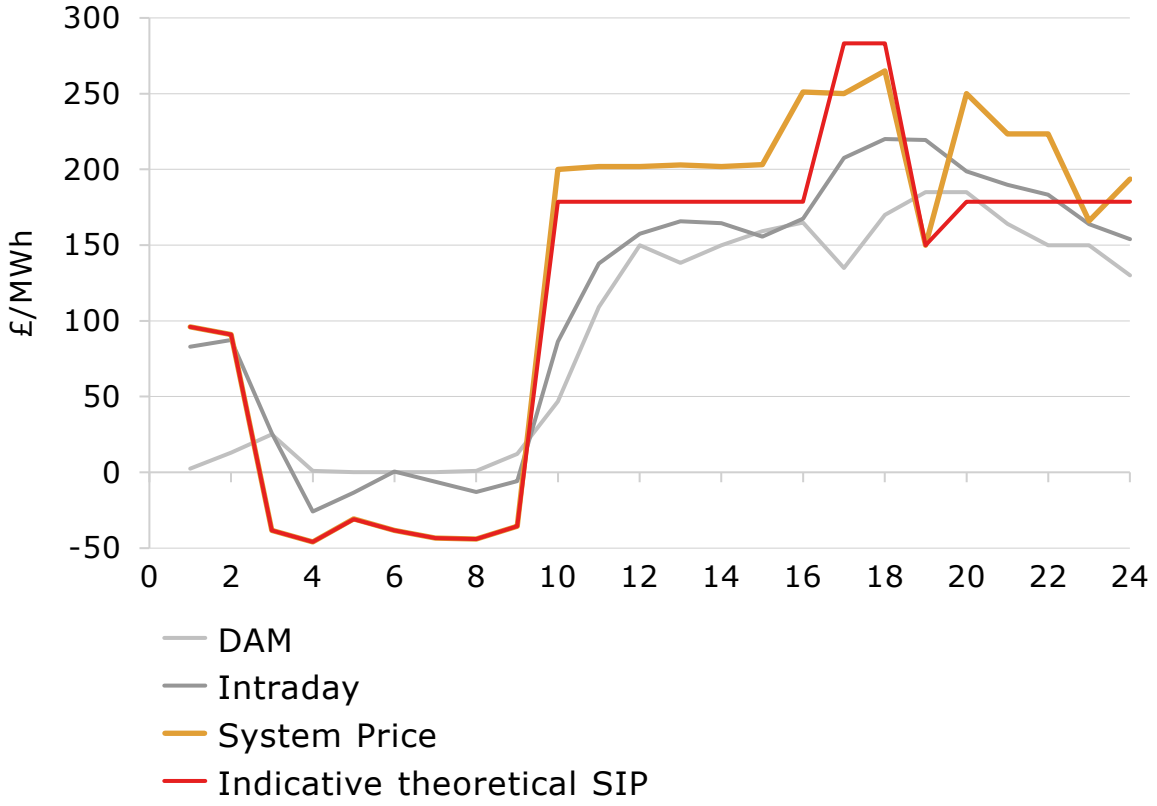
- **Inefficient dispatch**
- **Under-utilisation of energy-limited assets**

AFRY ÅF PÖYRY

TRANSPARENCY

Beyond-the-wall actions and advance commitments cloud transparency and may distort imbalance pricing

THEORETICAL SYSTEM PRICE ON THE 01/01/2023 ASSUMING START-UP COSTS OF UNITS SYNCHRONISED FOR IS RECOVERED DURING THE PEAK



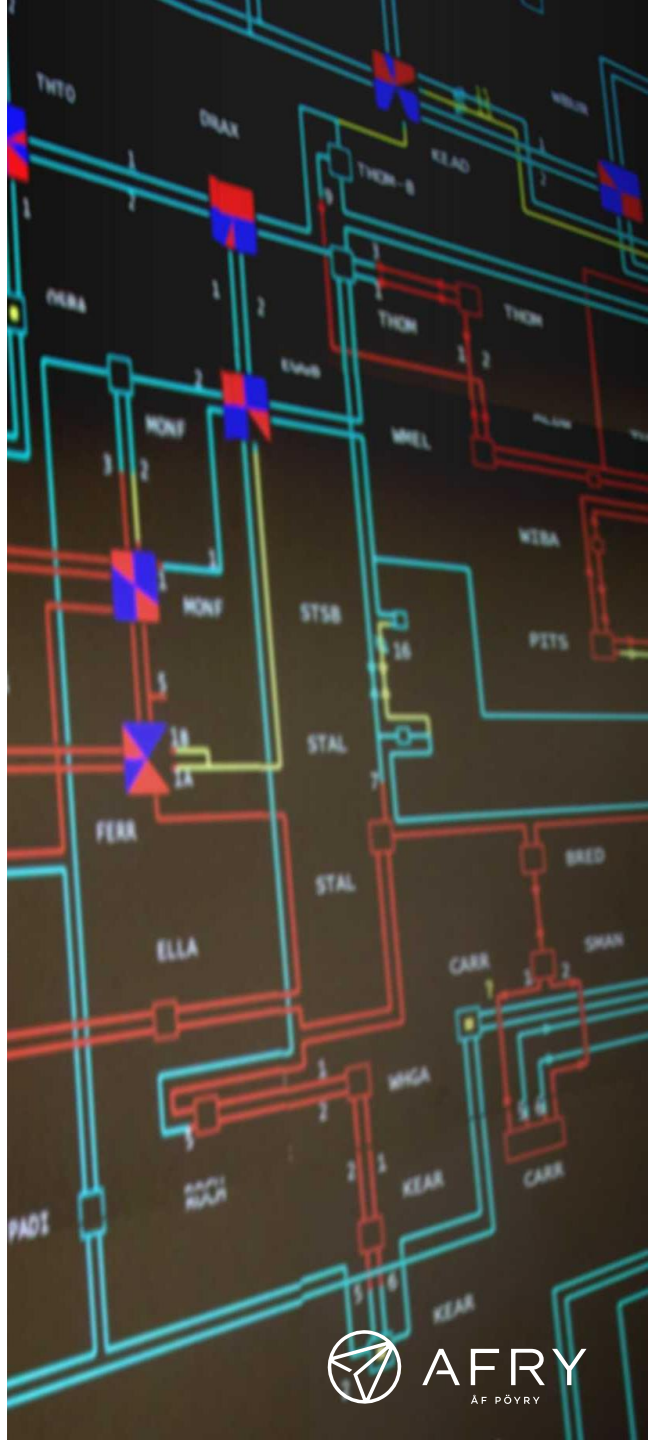
- On 01/01/2023, actions were taken:
  - in the morning for inertia and voltage; and
  - in the early afternoon to cover for the evening peak
- Part of the cost of the 'early' actions is allocated to those early periods when the need is actually for the evening peak period
- Market participants embed their start-up costs in their offer price
- Imbalance Price formation is unclear, potentially impacting incentives for market participants to support system level energy balance

KEY IMPACT

- **Cross-subsidisation between periods**
- **Dampened incentives for market participants to support system energy balance**
- **Under-utilisation of flexible assets**

AFRY ÅF PÖYRY

Content

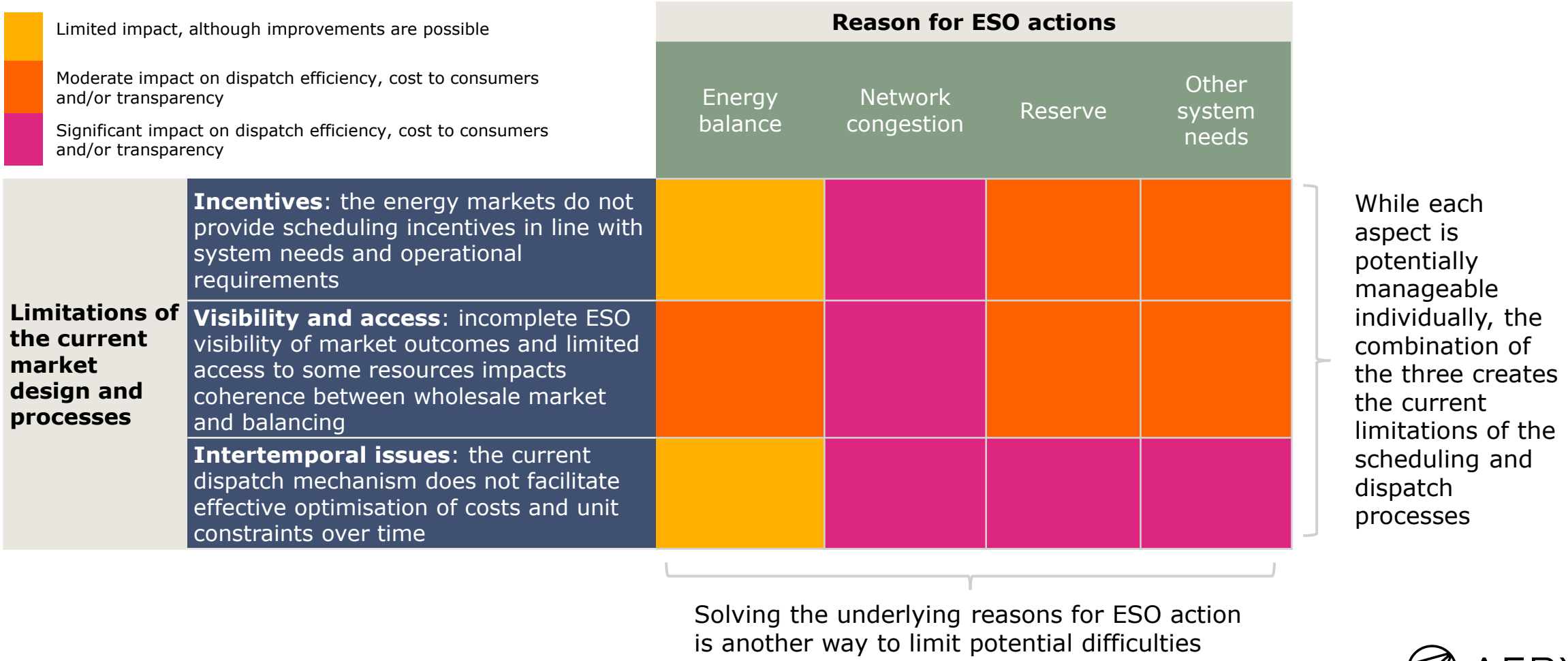


There is a clear case for change of the ‘status quo’ as the underlying conditions have changed since NETA was introduced

What are the key limitations of the ‘status quo’ scheduling and dispatch regime?

1. **Incentives** — The energy markets do not provide scheduling incentives in line with system needs and operational requirements
2. **Visibility and access** — Incomplete ESO visibility of market outcomes and limited access to some resources impacts coherence between wholesale market and balancing
3. **Intertemporal issues** — The current dispatch mechanism does not facilitate effective optimisation of costs and unit constraints over time

In addition to network capacity challenges, the limitations of the current market design challenge system operation and can result in inefficient dispatch



AFRY

What is less clear is what to change to …

There are two high-level approaches:

Giving market participants **better incentives** and better information to support system operation

This may include some or all of the following:

- shorter imbalance settlement intervals
- smaller zone size
- improved signals for ancillary services
- improved information sharing between market participants and ESO

Formalise ESO de facto role by giving **greater control earlier**

Effectively allowing ESO to coordinate unit commitment decisions and operation of storage, as well as within-day positions


Q&A

Next steps

Next Steps

Public webinar – June date TBD

Establish the case for change

Build shared understanding of what issues should be addressed with scheduling & dispatch reform, including implications for BM

Identify possible solutions

Work with industry, within REMA programme timescales, to identify options for reforming dispatch arrangements

Develop solutions for REMA evaluation

Identify shortlist of dispatch options and support DESNZ to assess within the broader REMA programme

Where can you find information and materials on our work?

Feedback form:

- Please let us know what you think of the Case for Change.

Net Zero Market Reform webpage:

- Scheduling & dispatch case for change overview
- Materials from workshops we are running with industry on the Case for Change:
  - Pre-read & presentation materials
  - Workshop summary notes
- Q&A document – provides more information on the status of our assessment within DESNZ' REMA programme

ESO Market Strategy email:

- Please get in touch with any queries on our case for change material presented so far
- Share your ideas for dispatch reform options to address the identified issues

box.Market.Strategy@nationalgrideso.com

Glossary

Glossary

- **BMU**: A Balancing Mechanism Unit (BMU) is a unit which participates in the balancing mechanism and exports or imports electricity. and to ensure the security and quality of electricity supply across the transmission system. These services include reserve, frequency control and voltage control.
- **non-BMU**: A unit whose output or usage cannot be changed by ESO in the Balancing Mechanism timescales
- **System Imbalance Price**: The System Imbalance Price is the price used to settle the difference between contracted production (and consumption) and the amount actually generated (or consumed) in each settlement period
- **PN:** A Physical Notification (PN) is the best estimate of the level of generation or demand that a participant in the BM expects a BM Unit to export or import, respectively,
- **FPN:** A Final Physical Notification (FPN) is the Physical Notification, which is submitted to the System Operator by Gate Closure for each Settlement Period and used in Settlement calculations.
- **NIV:** The Net Imbalance Volume (NIV) is the volume of the overall System energy imbalance, as a net of all System and energy balancing actions taken by the ESO for the Settlement Period
- **Operating reserve:** headroom or footroom capacity that can be called on with short notice to correct energy imbalances (differences between generation and demand) on the GB power system. Currently, operating reserves consist of 'regulating reserve' procured continuously and via the newly introduce 'Balancing Reserve' service and STOR (Short term operating reserve)


AFRY
ÅF PÖYRY