

4th June 2024

Update on Two Step Connections Offers

Dear All,

I am writing to provide a final update on the Two Step Offer process.

The Electricity System Operator (ESO) has worked in close partnership with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) to issue all Second Step Offers, delivering on the commitment to achieve this by 31st May 2024.

Thank you for your patience over the past few months, as we revised the network modelling assumptions to improve the overall connection dates offered compared to the initial Two Step process outputs.

The Two Step process was one of many initiatives introduced to help us manage the queue, improve connections dates through more realistic assessment and modelling, and create space to transition towards wider connections reform. It was never intended to be an enduring solution to the broad challenge of significant connection delays.

In April, the ESO published our proposed model for enduring connections reform, TMO4+, which would see significant action across the whole of the current queue, enabling earlier connection dates for viable projects which meet their milestones. Under the model, a combination of windows and gates will be used to optimise network design and allow both new and existing projects that are first ready to be first served to connect. Please click [here](#) for further details on TMO4+.

Our proposals for the TMO4+ model have been granted urgency through the code modification process, which is currently underway, with the aspiration that these will go live at the start of next year if approved by Ofgem. In advance of this we continue to work with Ofgem and Transmission Owners on proposals for transitional arrangements whilst the TMO4+ proposal is being considered.

We are looking into ways to use transitional arrangements to address barriers for developers that may arise around placing securities now for projects with a date in the 2030s and no fixed substation location. We will share a further update as soon as possible.

As all of these initiatives progress, we will keep you updated, and we would welcome any questions at the next ESO Connections Forum on 18th June.

Best Wishes,

Nicola Bruce

Head of Connections Operations

ESO