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ESO Operational Transparency Forum

3 July 2024

Introduction | Sli.do code #OTF

To ask questions live & give us post event feedback go to Sli.do event code #OTF.

- **Ask your questions as early as possible** as our experts may need time to ensure a correct answer can be given live.
- **Please provide your name or organisation.** This is an operational forum for industry participants therefore questions from unidentified parties will not be answered live. If you have reasons to remain anonymous to the wider forum please use the advance question or email options below.
- **The OTF is not the place to challenge the actions of individual parties** (other than the ESO) and we will not comment on these challenges. This type of concern can be reported to the Market Monitoring team at: marketreporting@nationalgrideso.com
- **Questions will be answered in the upvoted order whenever possible.** We will take questions from further down the list when: the answer is not ready; we need to take the question away or the topic is outside of the scope of the OTF.
- **Sli.do will remain open until 12:00**, even when the call closes earlier, to provide the maximum opportunity for you to ask questions. After that please use the advance questions or email options below.
- **All questions will be recorded and published.** Questions which are not answered on the day will be included, with answers, in the slide pack for the next OTF.
- **Ask questions in advance** (before 12:00 on Monday) at: <https://forms.office.com/r/k0AEfKnai3>
- **Ask questions anytime** whether for inclusion in the forum or individual response at: box.NC.customer@nationalgrideso.com

Stay up to date on our webpage: <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/OTF> (OTF Q&A is published with slidepacks)

Future deep dive / focus topics

Today

No deep dives today

Future

Pathfinders – 10th July

Fault Ride Through – 31st July

Mandatory services – TBC

If you have suggestions for future deep dives or focus topics please send them to us at:
box.NC.customer@nationalgrideso.com and we will consider including them in a future forum

Transparency Roadmap

The new Transparency Roadmap for 2024-25 was published on 28th June and can be found [here](#).

The Transparency Roadmap for the new financial year is published in June and refreshed in December.

The roadmap contains a high-level overview of ESO activities that aim to increase transparency over the next year, along with a list of newly published datasets.

We always welcome feedback so please contact us at box.NC.Customer@nationalgrideso.com

The Future of the Operability Strategy Report (OSR)

The Operability Strategy Report (OSR) has focused on our strategy for meeting the challenges of running the electricity system at zero carbon for short periods of time in 2025.

As we look ahead to operating a net zero electricity system, we are exploring how we might improve the OSR to ensure it best communicates operability challenges and forward strategy.

We are seeking your views on the future of the OSR

We are seeking feedback from OSR users to support our work to improve the OSR. In particular, we are keen to understand:

- What do you find most useful about the current OSR?
- What would you like to see in future OSR publications?
- Are there any parts of the OSR that you do not find useful?
- Can you easily find the OSR on the ESO website?



If you would like to share your thoughts on the future of the OSR please complete this short [survey](#) by Friday 5th of July

Quick Reserve Phase 1 Consultation Webinar

The Reserve team will be holding a consultation webinar on 8th July 2024 at 11:00. During this session we will cover some of the new aspects of the design for phase 1 and the team will be available to answer any questions on all aspects of the service design and consultation process.

[Sign up here](#)

Response Release 3 and Quick Reserve (Phase 1) Consultations – NOW LIVE!



If you would like a 1-2-1 with either of the teams during the consultation period please contact us at box.futureofbalancingservices@nationalgrideso.com

Frequency Measurement Standards Questionnaire

- ESO is working on establishing a best practice framework for measuring frequency, outlining the minimum requirements that Balancing Service providers must meet to deliver dynamic frequency response services.
- A questionnaire will be shared with existing providers to gain insights into the current state of the industry. This will assist us in shaping the standard, taking into account current capabilities and service requirements.
- The questionnaire will be made available in accordance with the Response Reform consultation timelines, commencing on the **27th of June 2024** and remaining open until the end of the consultation period, **29th July 2024**.
- Link to questionnaire accessible from 27th of June 2024: <https://forms.office.com/r/bzpgmhjB3y>

Future Event Summary

Event	Date & Time	Link
Quick Reserve Phase 1 Consultation Webinar	8 th July 2024, 11:00-12:30pm	Click here to register
Enhancing Energy Storage in the BM	24 th July 2024, 13:00-14:30pm	Click here to register



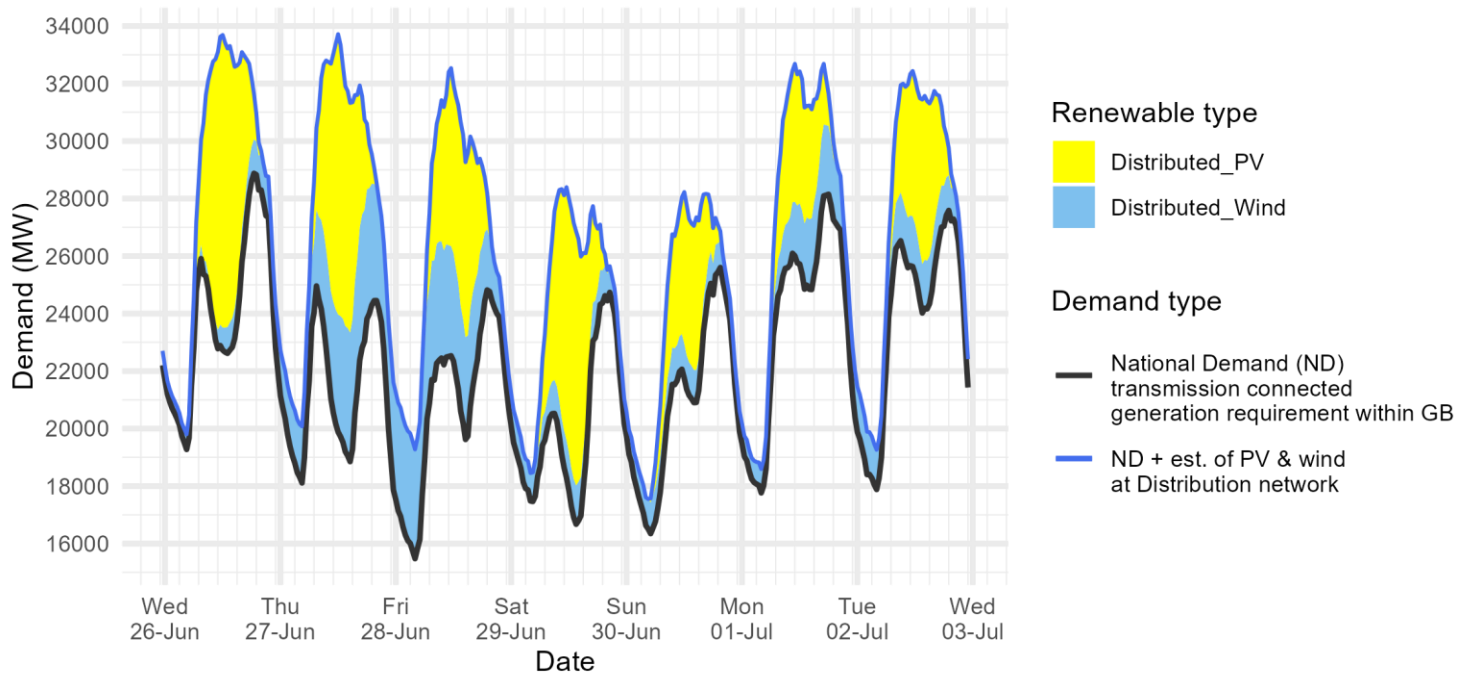
Annual Voltage Control Tests - Notification

- Yearly testing of voltage control will occur over the next few weeks.
- The tests are carried out to validate the volume of demand reduction we could expect and assure the operational process.
- This involves the DNOs reducing their voltage in one or two stages.
- Each voltage reduction stage will be between 2 and 4 percent, which is expected to deliver around 1.5 percent demand reduction;
- Testing will occur during the month of July, with groups of DNOs being instructed to reduce voltage on the dates indicated.
- Additional notifications will go out on BMRS on the day of testing
- Customers may potentially notice a change in their electricity supply, e.g. dimming of lights but they should be otherwise unaffected during these tests.

DNO	Previous Test Date (2023)	Next Test Date (2024)	Testing happening
Scottish Power Distribution (SPD)	13 th July	9 th July	Stage 1 and 2
SP Manweb plc	18 th October	9 th July	Stage 1 and 2
Eastern Power Networks plc (UKPN)	18 th July	11 th July	Stage 1
London Power Networks plc (UKPN)	19 th July	11 th July	Stage 1
South Eastern Power Networks plc (UKPN)	20 th July	11 th July	Stage 1
National Grid Electricity Distribution (South Wales) plc	3 rd August	16 th July	Stage 1 and 2
National Grid Electricity Distribution (South West) plc	1 st August	16 th July	Stage 1 and 2
National Grid Electricity Distribution (West Midlands) plc	13 th September	16 th July	Stage 1 and 2
National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc	12 th September	16 th July	Stage 1 and 2
Northern Powergrid (Northeast) Limited (NPG)	24 th August	30 th July	Stage 1 and 2
Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc (NPG)	17 th August	30 th July	Stage 1 and 2
Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc	4 th October	30 th July	Stage 1 and 2
Electricity North West Limited (ENW)	30 th August	31 st July	Stage 1
Southern Electric Power Distribution plc (SSE)	6 th September	31 st July	Stage 1 and 2

Demand | Last week demand out-turn

ESO National Demand outturn 26 June-02 July 2024



The black line (National Demand ND) is the measure of portion of total GB customer demand that is supplied by the transmission network.

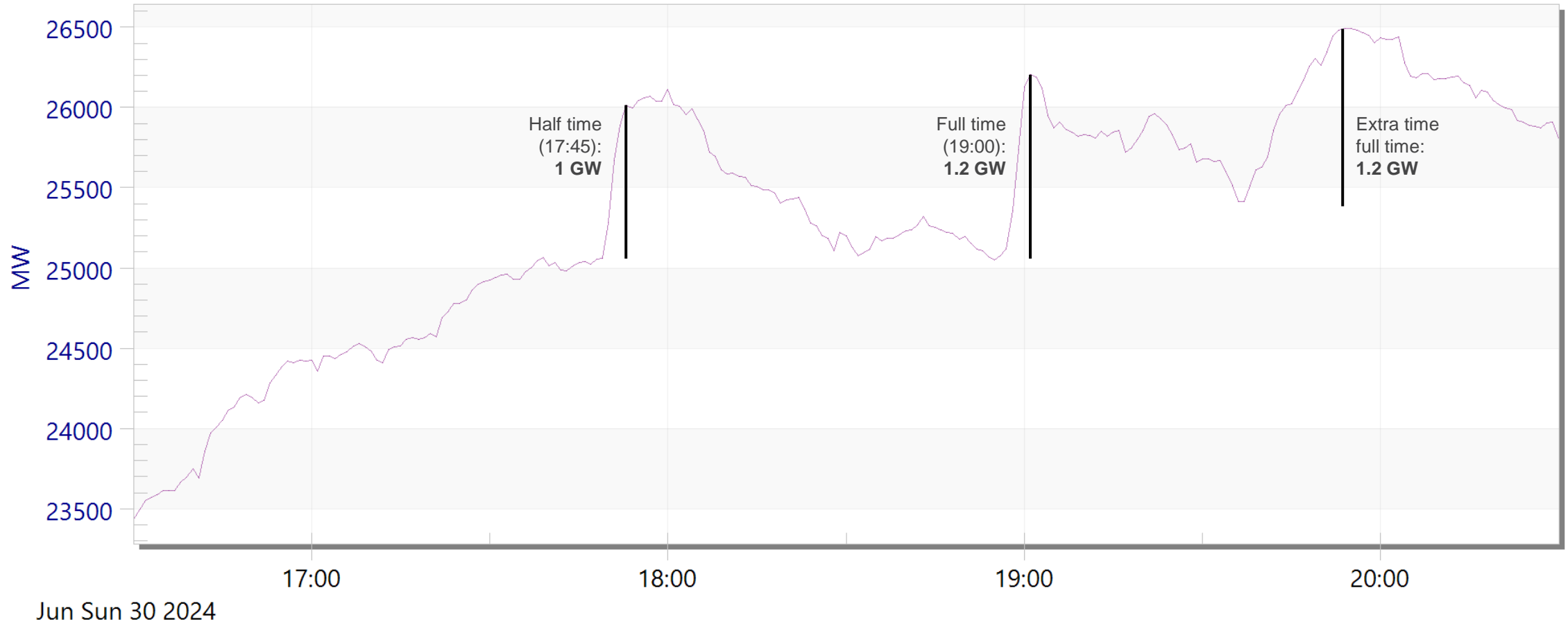
ND values do not include export on interconnectors or pumping or station load

Blue line serves as a proxy for total GB customer demand. It includes demand supplied by the distributed wind and solar sources, but it does not include demand supplied by non-weather driven sources at the distributed network for which ESO has no real time data.

Historic out-turn data can be found on the [ESO Data Portal](#) in the following data sets: [Historic Demand Data](#) & [Demand Data Update](#)

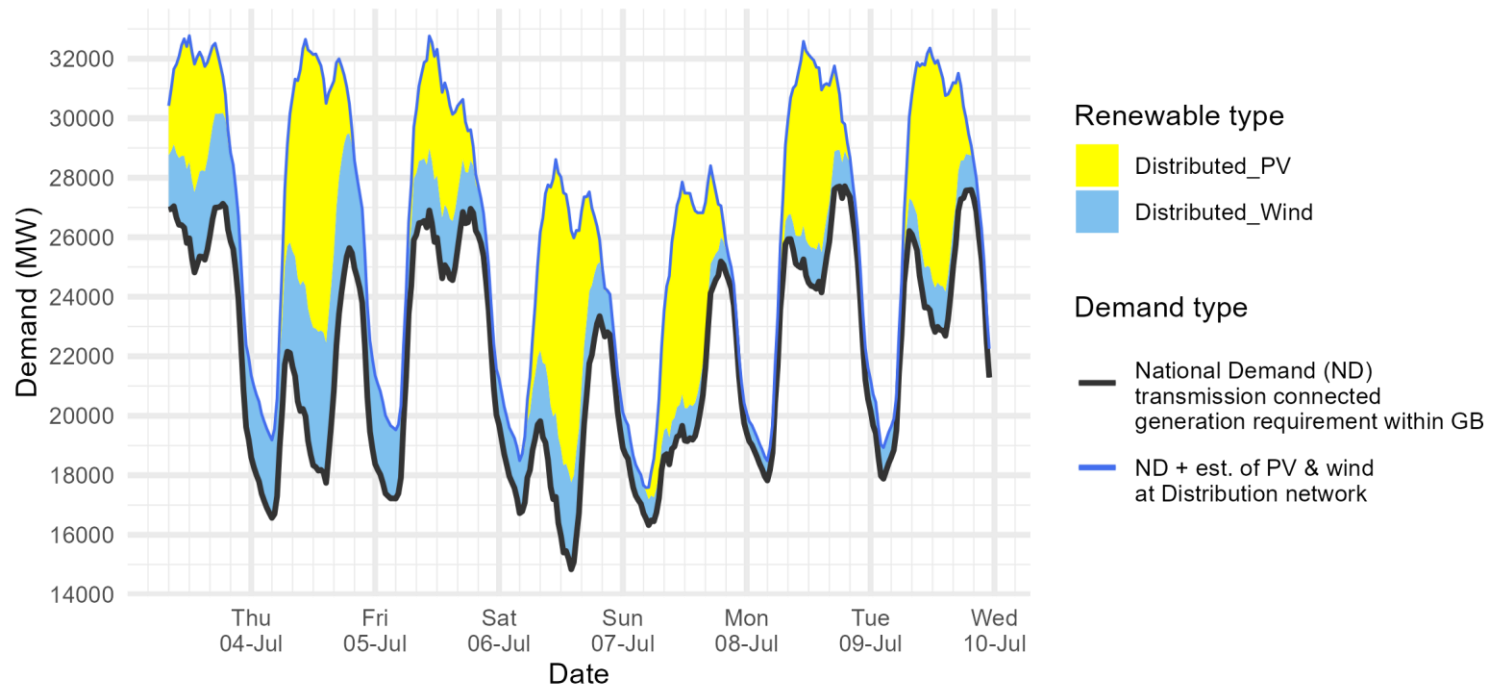
Date	Forecasting Point	FORECAST (Wed 26 Jun)			OUTTURN		
		National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)	Dist. PV (GW)	National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)	Dist. PV (GW)
26 Jun 2024	Afternoon Min	23.4	0.9	9.8	22.6	0.9	9.7
27 Jun 2024	Overnight Min	18.2	1.8	0.2	18.1	1.9	0.1
27 Jun 2024	Afternoon Min	20.6	4.5	7.7	18.9	4.5	8.0
28 Jun 2024	Overnight Min	15.8	3.6	0.0	15.5	3.8	0.0
28 Jun 2024	Afternoon Min	19.5	3.7	7.4	19.6	3.6	6.1
29 Jun 2024	Overnight Min	16.7	1.2	0.5	17.5	1.0	0.1
29 Jun 2024	Afternoon Min	17.5	1.4	8.0	16.7	1.4	8.8
30 Jun 2024	Overnight Min	16.4	0.9	0.1	16.3	1.1	0.1
30 Jun 2024	Afternoon Min	18.2	1.2	7.9	20.9	1.1	5.0
01 Jul 2024	Overnight Min	17.3	0.9	0.0	17.8	0.8	0.0
01 Jul 2024	Afternoon Min	22.6	1.9	6.8	24.8	2.5	3.8
02 Jul 2024	Overnight Min	17.8	1.4	0.0	17.9	1.4	0.0
02 Jul 2024	Afternoon Min	21.3	2.1	7.6	24.0	1.7	5.7

Demand | EURO 2024: England vs Slovakia



Demand | Week Ahead

ESO Demand forecast for 03-09 July 2024



The black line (National Demand ND) is the measure of portion of total GB customer demand that is supplied by the transmission network.

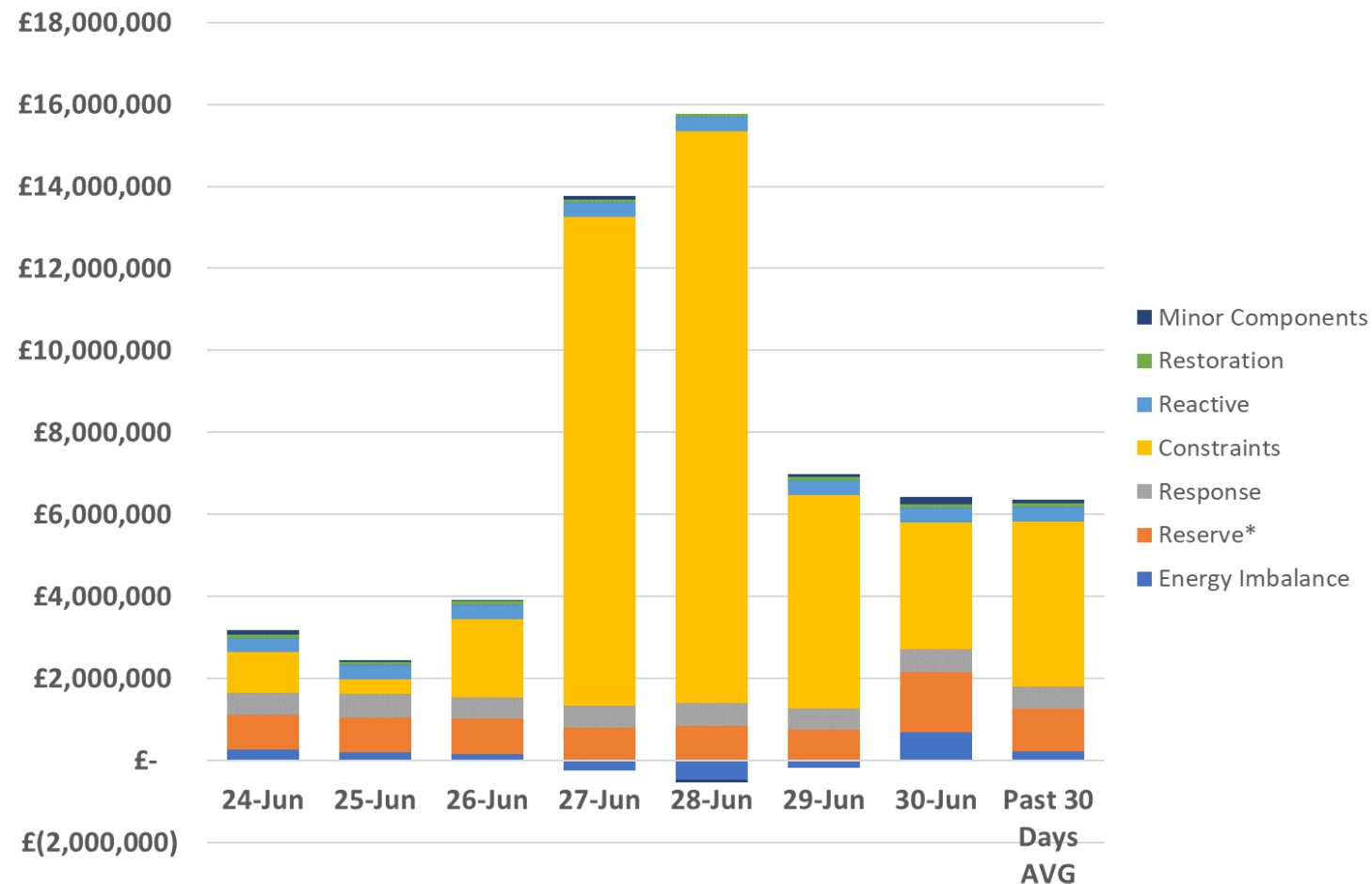
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Date	Forecasting Point	FORECAST (Wed 03 Jul)		
		National Demand (GW)	Dist. wind (GW)	Dist. PV (GW)
03 Jul 2024	Afternoon Min	24.8	2.7	4.3
04 Jul 2024	Overnight Min	16.6	2.6	0.0
04 Jul 2024	Afternoon Min	17.7	4.7	8.0
05 Jul 2024	Overnight Min	17.2	2.3	0.0
05 Jul 2024	Afternoon Min	24.6	2.0	3.6
06 Jul 2024	Overnight Min	16.7	1.8	0.0
06 Jul 2024	Afternoon Min	14.8	2.9	8.5
07 Jul 2024	Overnight Min	16.3	0.9	0.4
07 Jul 2024	Afternoon Min	19.1	1.1	7.2
08 Jul 2024	Overnight Min	17.8	0.7	0.0
08 Jul 2024	Afternoon Min	24.1	1.4	5.5
09 Jul 2024	Overnight Min	17.9	1.0	0.0
09 Jul 2024	Afternoon Min	22.7	1.5	6.6

ESO Actions | Category costs breakdown for the last week



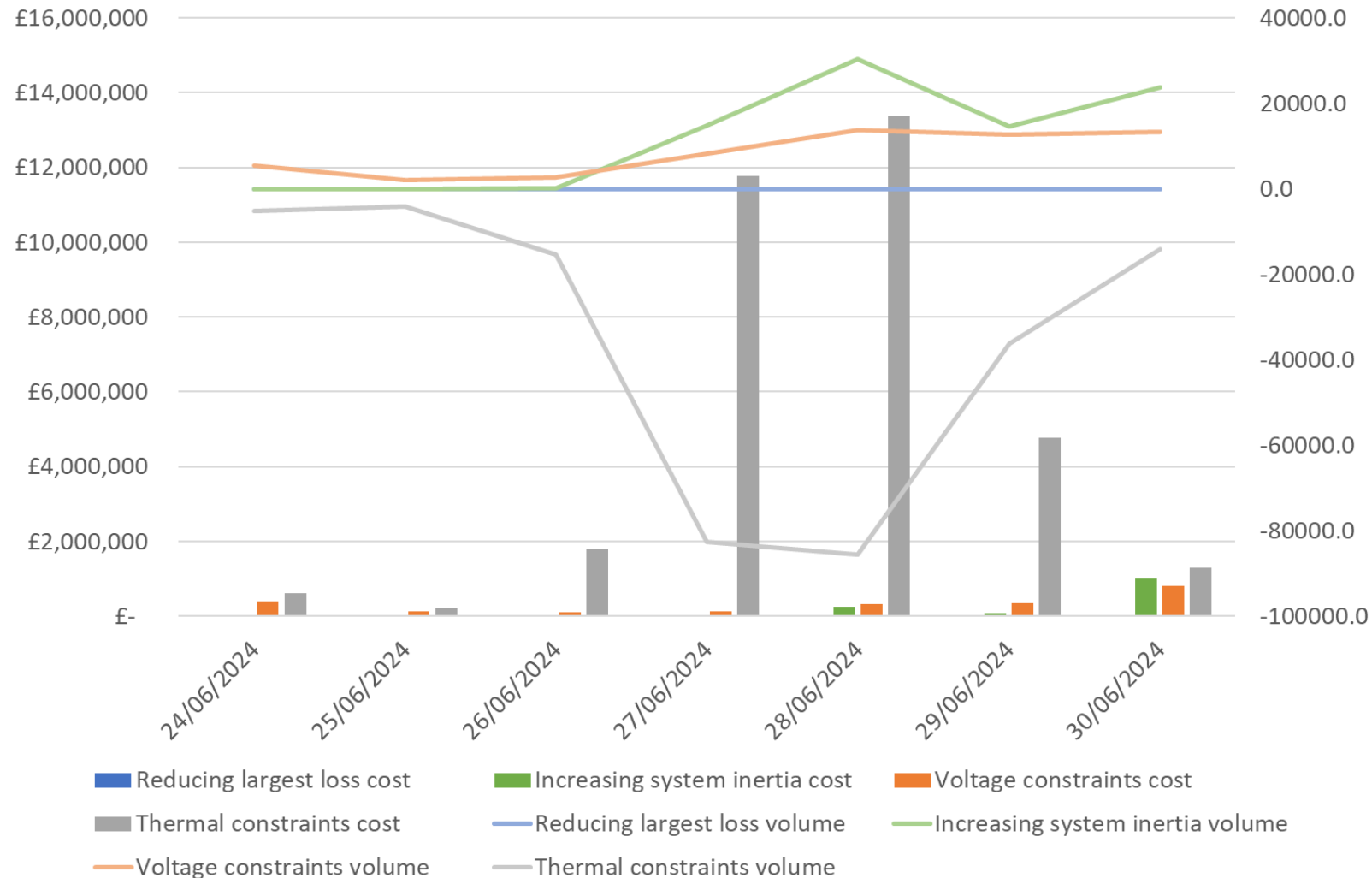
Date	Total (£m)
24/06/2024	3.2
25/06/2024	2.5
26/06/2024	3.9
27/06/2024	13.5
28/06/2024	15.2
29/06/2024	6.8
30/06/2024	6.4
Weekly Total	51.5
Previous Week	30.1

Constraints and Reserve costs were the key cost component for the week.

Please note that all the categories are presented and explained in the MBSS.

Data issue: Please note that due to a data issue on a few days over the last few months, the Minor Components line in Non-Constraint Costs is capturing some costs on those days which should be attributed to different categories. It has been identified that a significant portion of these costs should be allocated to the Operating Reserve Category. Although the categorisation of costs is not correct, we are confident that the total costs are correct in all months. We continue to investigate and will advise when we have a resolution.

ESO Actions | Constraint Cost Breakdown



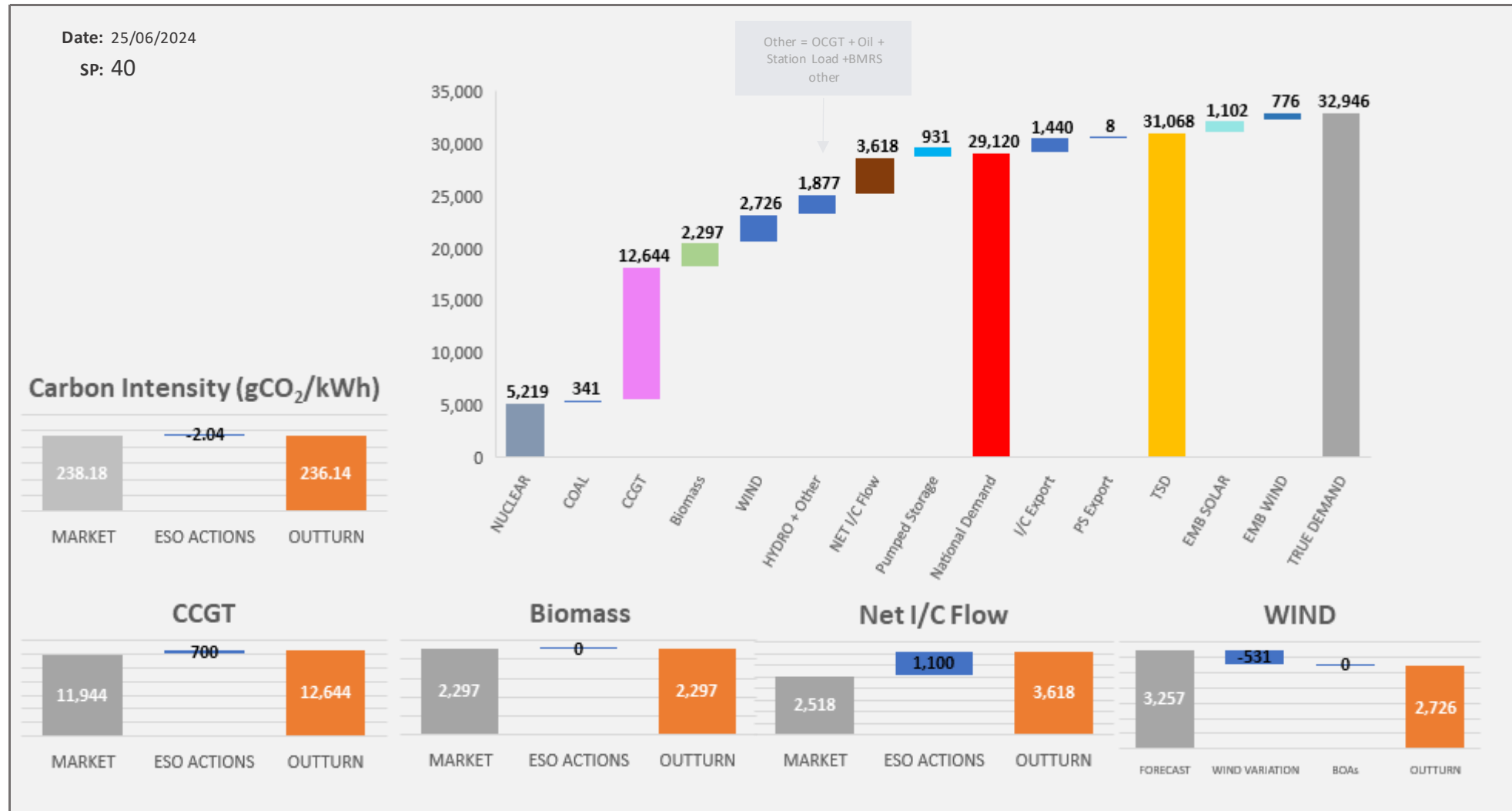
Thermal – network congestion
Actions were required to manage thermal constraints throughout the week.

Voltage
Intervention was required to manage voltage levels throughout the week.

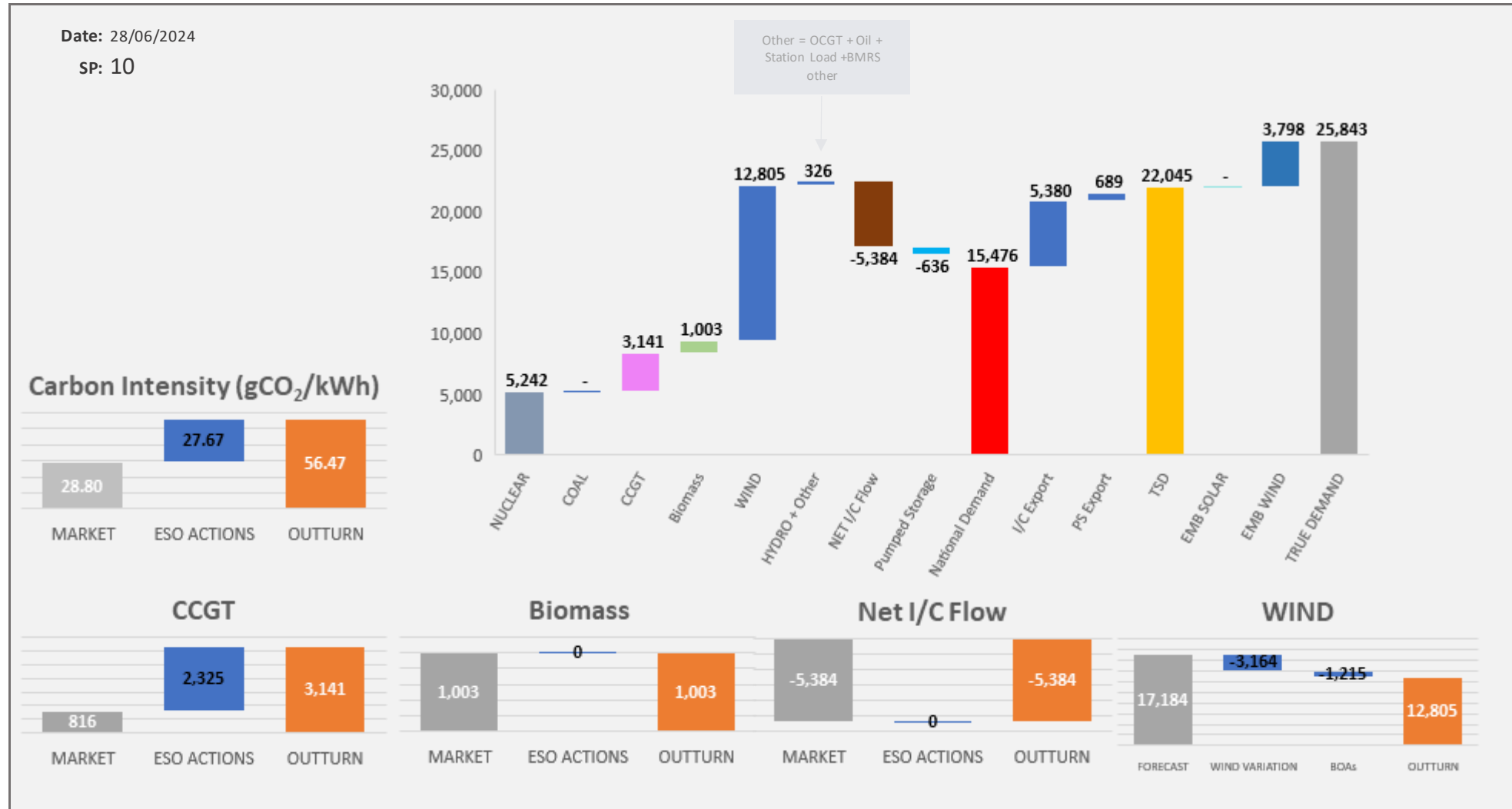
Managing largest loss for RoCoF
No intervention was required to manage largest loss.

Increasing inertia
Intervention was required to manage System Inertia throughout the week, except on Monday and Tuesday.

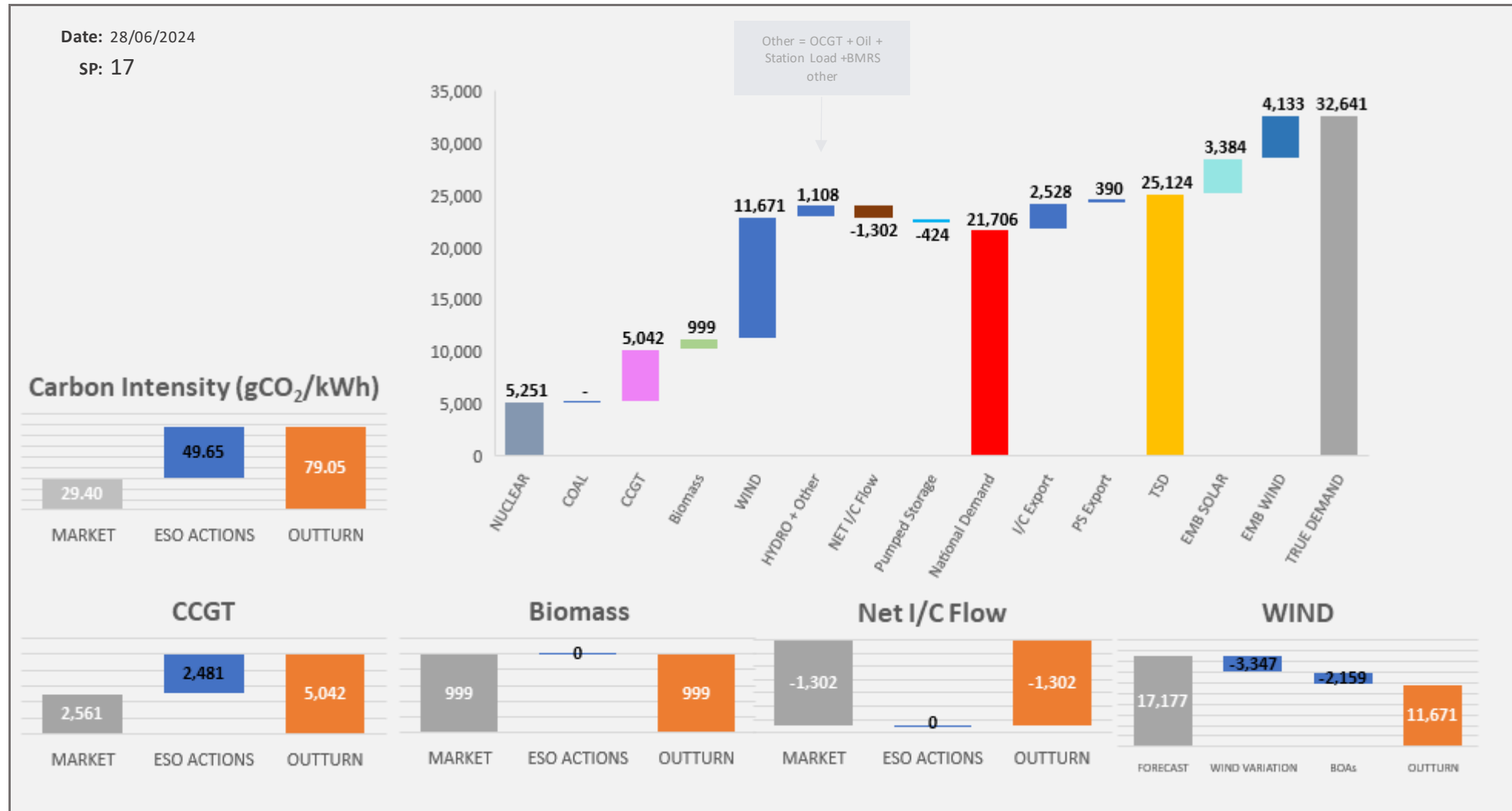
ESO Actions | Tuesday 25 June – Peak Demand – SP spend ~£117k



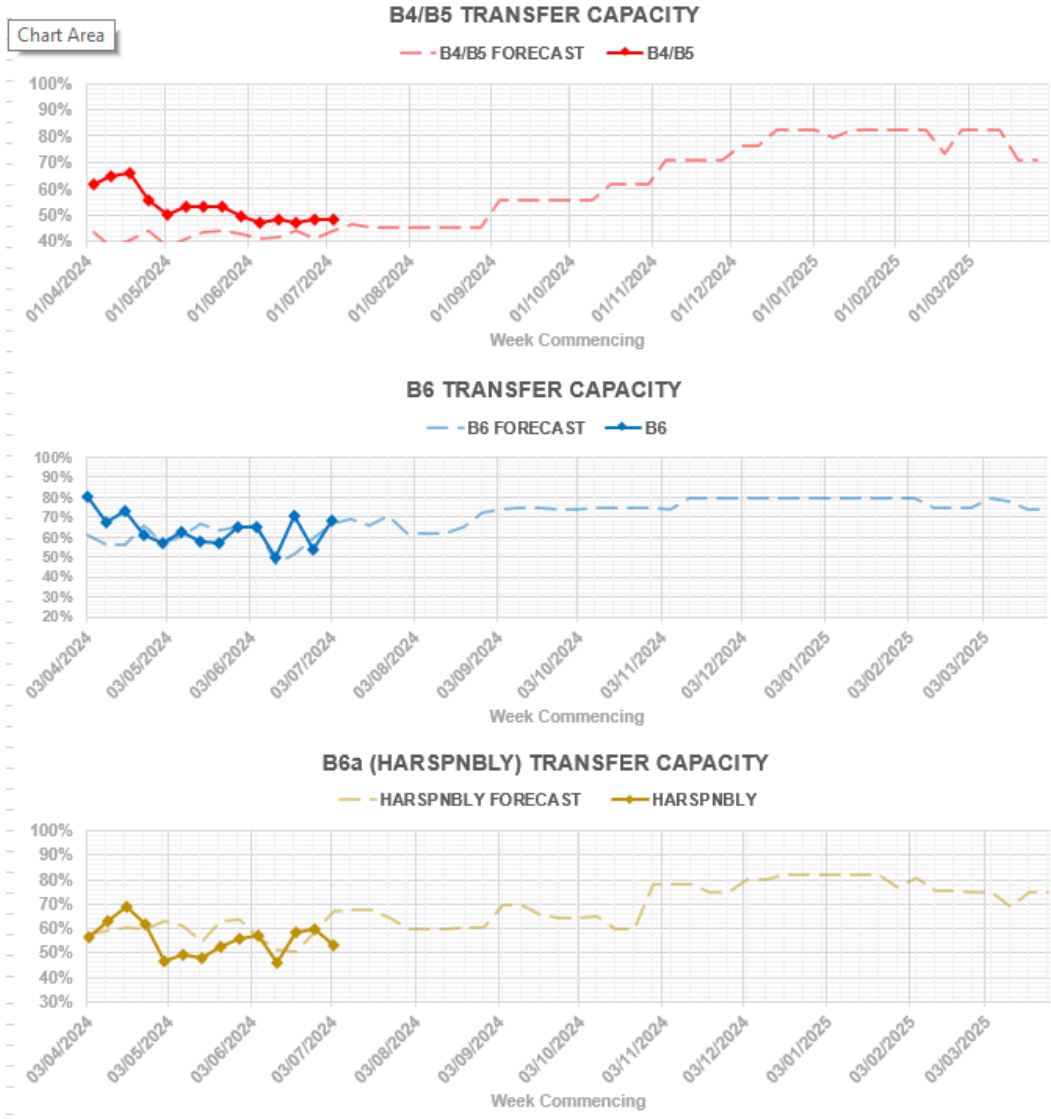
ESO Actions | Friday 28 June – Minimum Demand – SP Spend ~£220k



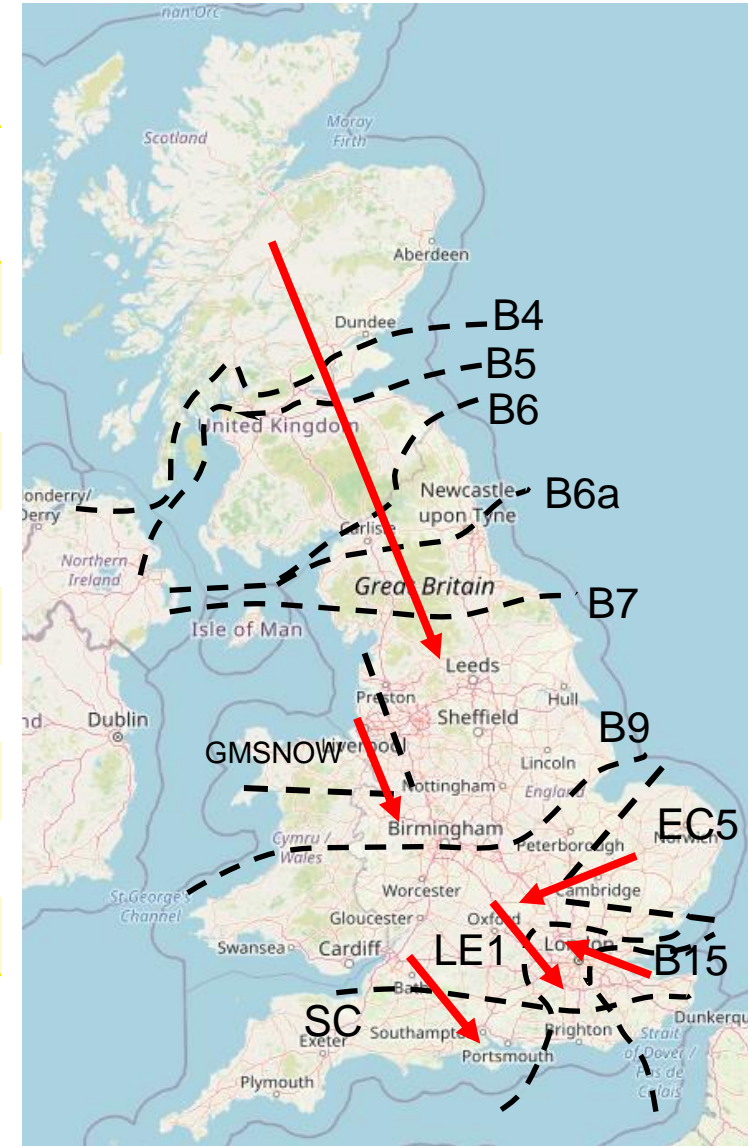
ESO Actions | Friday 28 June – Highest SP Spend ~£436k



Transparency | Network Congestion



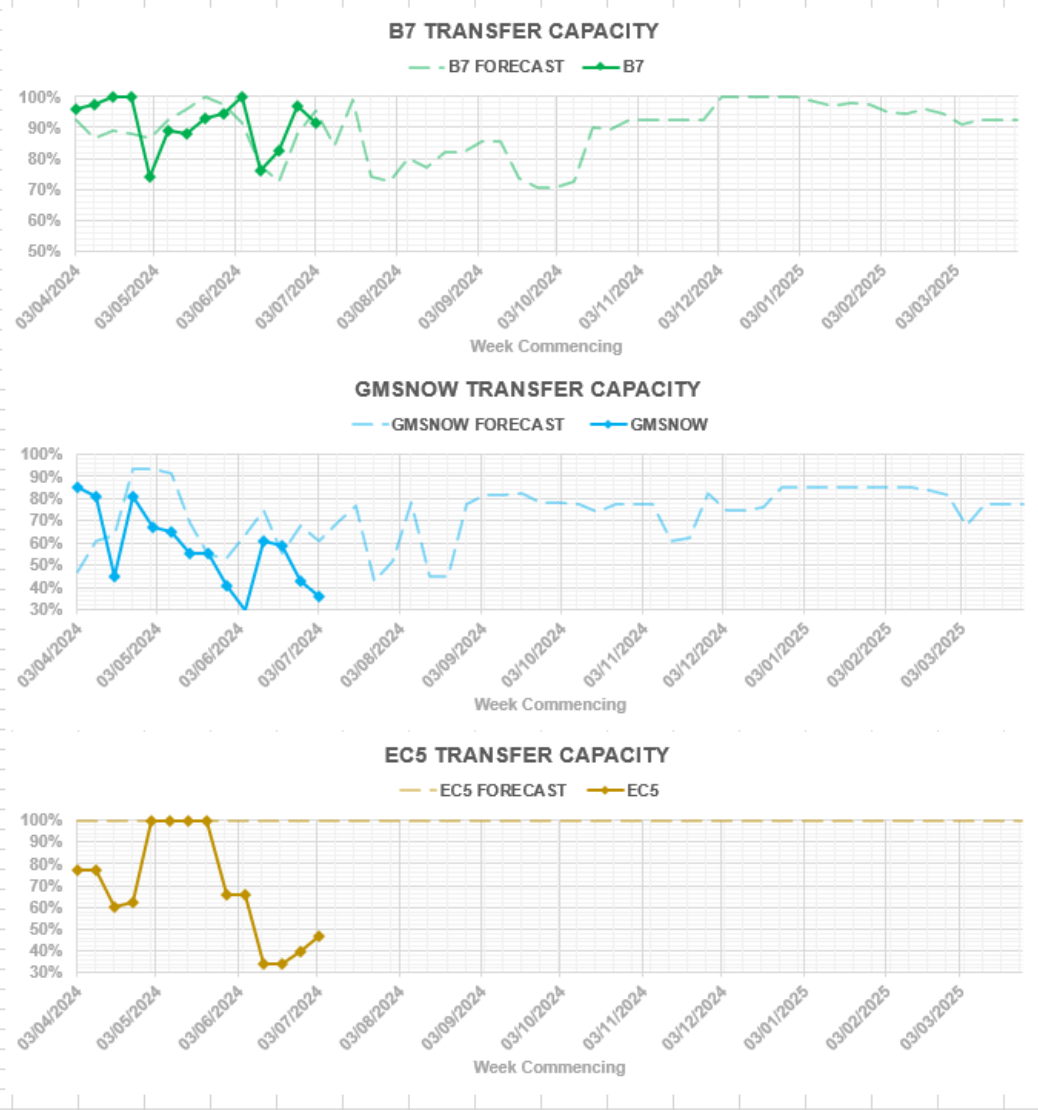
Boundary	Max. Capacity (MW)	Current Capacity (%)
B4/B5	3400	49%
B6 (SCOTEX)	6800	68%
HARSPNBLY	8000	53%
B7 (SSHARN)	8325	91%
GMSNOW	4700	36%
EC5	5000	47%
LE1 (SEIMP)	8500	68%
B15 (ESTEX)	7500	63%
SC	7300	100%



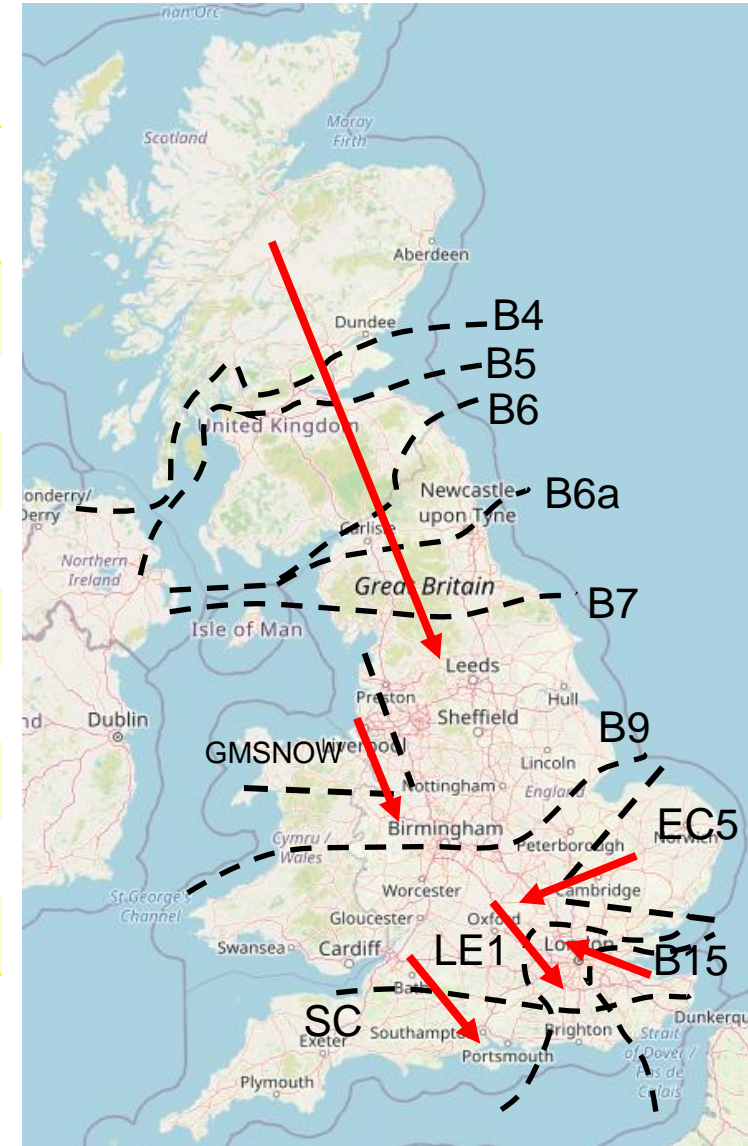
Day ahead flows and limits, and the 24-month constraint limit forecast are published on the ESO Data Portal:

[Constraints Management](#)

Transparency | Network Congestion

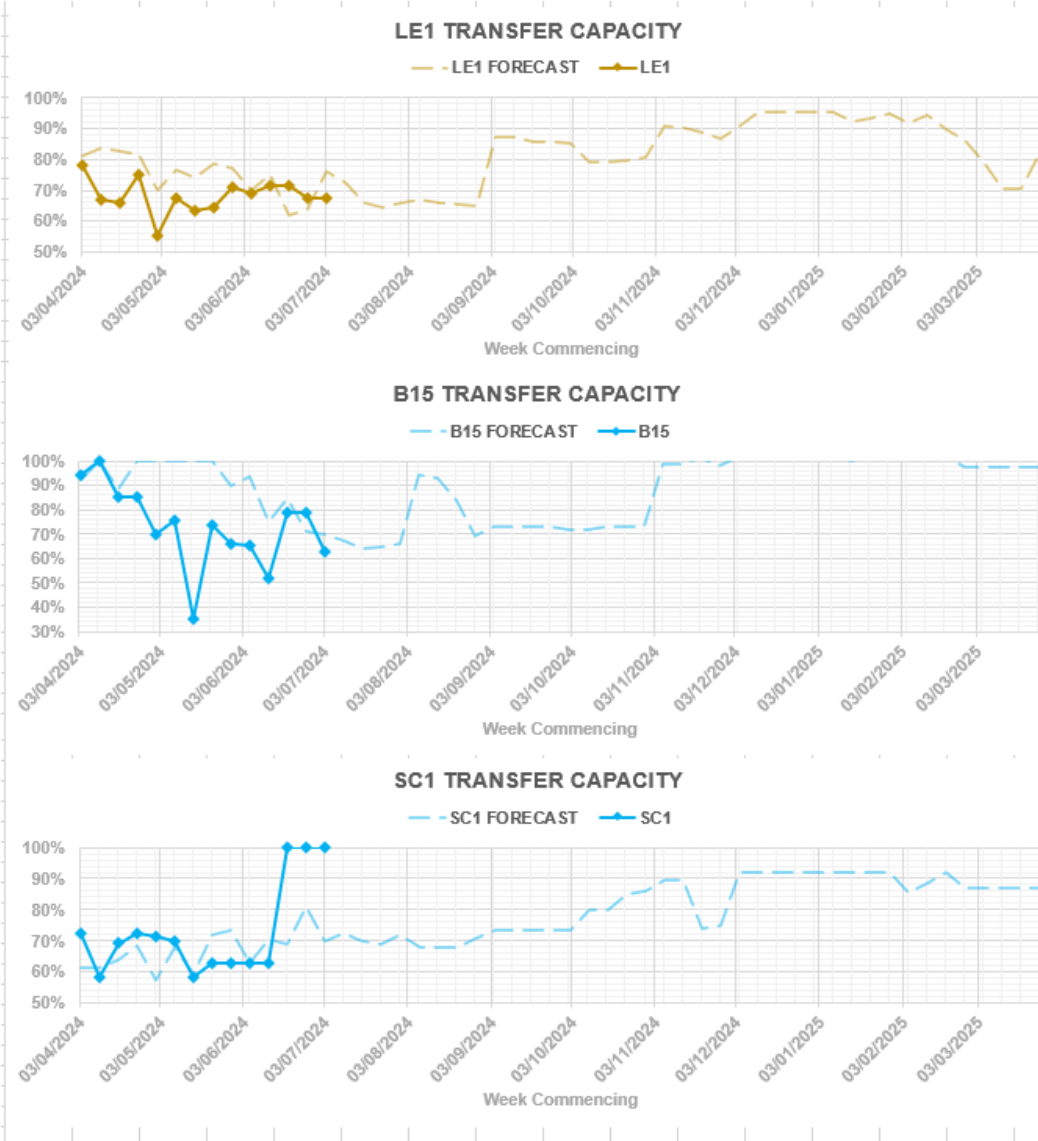


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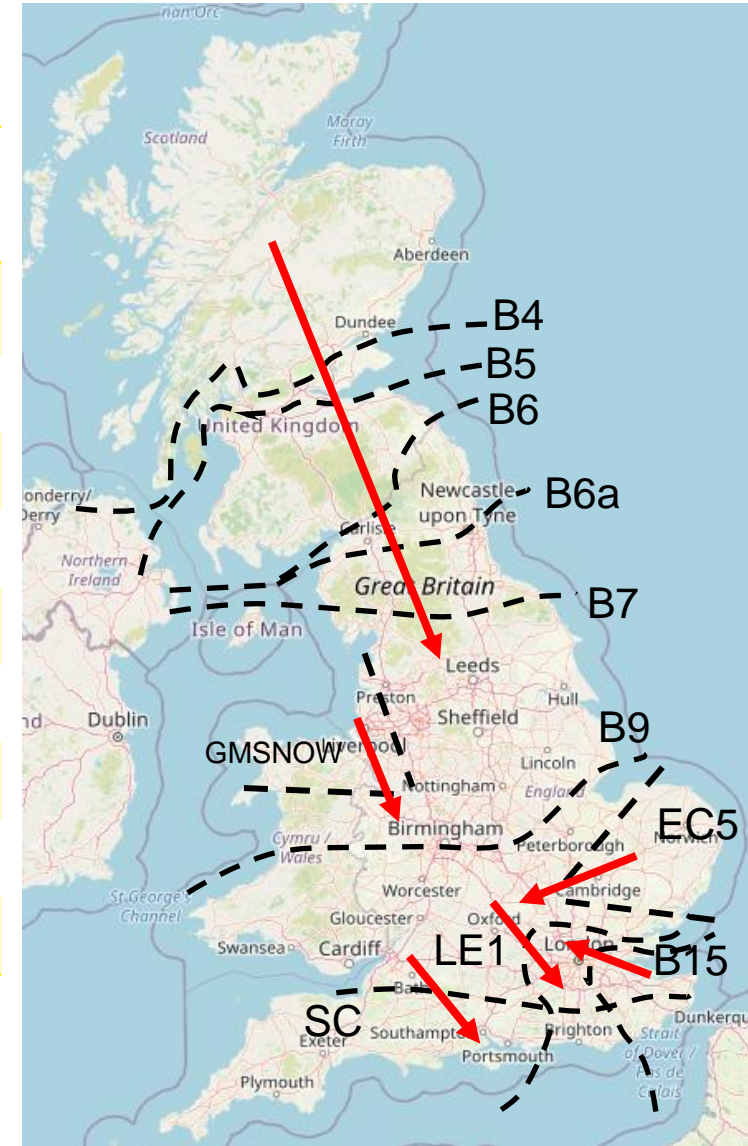


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Transparency | Network Congestion



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SC	7300	100%



Day ahead flows and limits, and the 24-month constraint limit forecast are published on the ESO Data Portal: [Constraints Management](#)

Previously asked questions

Q: Regarding trades made on the Moyle interconnector at the weekend: they are on BMRS as a £0 trade and system flagged. Is this really the case? Is its price likely to change in future settlement runs?

A: These were not trades in which ESO is directly involved. As referenced in the OTF on 8th March 2023, there is a service between ESO and the Irish System Operators (SOs) called Coordinated Third Party Trading (CTPT). Whilst this is a SO-SO service where the Irish SO requests a change of flow on a specific GB-IE interconnector and ESO accepts or rejects the request, the change of flow is achieved through a 3rd party trading on the interconnector on behalf of the Irish SO. As the trading is carried out by the 3rd party pre-gate-closure, any rebalancing actions required in GB are achieved through renominations by the market party with whom the 3rd party traded. Therefore, there is no remuneration cost for ESO but as we have agreed the trade volume, ESO must report the SO-SO activation via BMRA and does so as a £0 trade and a system flag so as not to cause any change in cash out or relevant system prices.

Q: For the IFA1 outage that occurred on the 24th June 2024, could you provide some information around why it took almost 10 minutes for the frequency to recover? or any other information about the outage?

A: The IFA fault at 18:32 on the 24th June 2024 coincided with a large reduction in generation instructed on wind units due to network constraints. The ramp back of the wind had already caused the frequency to reduce slightly but still within limits and the remaining reduction was planned so as not to cause a breach of those limits. The IFA fault caused the frequency to deviate significantly but due to the network constraints at risk of overload, the ramp back of wind could not be delayed, thus further increasing the volume of positive generation required to arrest and recover the frequency.

Previously asked questions

Q: It is interesting to see recent REMIT messages of some units entering preservation states rather than sit available incurring house load costs with no chance of running. I would expect other out of the money units to follow suit. Is the ESO concerned this could cause a lack of options in summer?

A: Thanks for your question. We regularly update our assessments of margin adequacy and system operability using the latest unit availability data. Alongside this we monitor market developments to assess any potential impacts to system operations. We continue to expect available supply to be sufficient to meet peak demand at all times this summer and are confident we have sufficient tools to reliably operate the system.

Q: Please can you give feedback on the voltage control test outcomes. This seems important when considering what demand reduction could be seen in a CM style stress event.

A: Previously we have provided feedbacks our observations with the DNOs including any trends we have seen and lessons we have identified at the E3C Electricity Task Group. We will consider how we can provide feedback more widely to the industry.

Previously asked questions

Q: Ref change in STOR some background analysis to the change would be good? Perhaps a deep dive into wider reserve holding, utilisation rates, interaction with BR, interaction with “free” reserve in the BM, etc.

A: Thank you for your suggestion. The changes in STOR requirement is proposed following the recent review of STOR requirement only. Before Balancing Reserve was launched in March, we held series of webinars including one called “Buy Order Information” in February 2024. In the webinar, we included a session talking through reserve requirement setting and methodologies we currently use. Please refer to the link for details.

https://players.brightcove.net/867903724001/default_index.html?videoId=6346285260112

Hope you find it relevant and useful to your questions about reserve. We will also consider more workshops in the future.

Q: NGENSO has previously questioned high priced assets in Positive Balancing Reserve (PBR). However low priced PBR assets are often skipped for much higher priced non-PBR assets when the system is under stress. This implies that PBR assets should be charging a high premium, as they will likely only be used as a last resort.

A: Thanks for the feedback, we are not keeping Balancing Reserve (BR) assets as last resort so this should not be the case. There are many factors that the ESO use when assessing which instruction to use which we have set out in our Dispatch Transparency Analysis work, please get in touch with the team directly via

box.futureofbalancingservices@nationalgrideso.com if there are any particular instances you would like to flag to us.

Previously asked questions

Q: ESO has been manipulated in the past via anonymity, eg the Canterbury Club. Sock-puppet attacks don't create market integrity. In-person Ops Forums were never anonymous. Now that OTF is always online, isn't it reasonable to insist that people clarify who they are and who they represent?

A: As mentioned in the OTF survey report, we require full names or organisations when asking questions via Slido. If any parties wish to remain anonymous to the OTF audience, they can contact us via email or use the advance question form. For both of these methods we will not share individual's names in the OTF but we (ESO) will be able to see who has asked the question and should therefore be able to identify the source/owner of all questions.

Q: As a counterpoint to demands for names, we'd note that in our experiences, the people who push most for names in the OTF are also the most likely to send lobbyists and vexatious legal threats against whistle-blowers. I'm safe, but not all my peers are

A: Thank you for the comment – we recognise that some people would prefer to remain anonymous and we therefore we offer two alternative methods for asking questions and we have committed to not sharing the names of individuals who ask questions in this way.

Q: How will the ESO protect whistleblowers from lobbyist harassment and vexatious legal threats resulting from raising issues in the OTF?

A: We recognise that some people would prefer to remain anonymous and we therefore offer two alternative methods for asking questions at the OTF, and we have committed to not sharing the names of individuals who ask questions in this way.

If there are any concerns about market participant behaviour, whistle-blowers can confidentially contact our Market Monitoring team on marketreporting@nationalgrideso.com, and they will investigate. They commit to investigate every case reported confidentially inclusive of any reports regarding ESO behaviour.

Outstanding questions

Q: On the topic of the high level of outages of ESO dispatch systems (PAS ASDP for fast reserve) over recent weeks, are the estimated costs to customers of ESO system outages tracked? This could feed into a business case for the ESO for designing/maintaining systems with less down time.

Advanced questions

Q: We are seeing a lot of BSAD volume on the MOYLE interconnector priced at 0 GBP, but this doesn't appear to be NGESO forward trades - are these prices correct, if not, what/where are the correct prices? Thank you.

Reminder about answering questions at the ESO OTF

- **Questions from unidentified parties will not be answered live.** If you have reasons to remain anonymous to the wider forum please use the advance question or email options. Details in the appendix to the pack.
- **The OTF is not the place to challenge the actions of individual parties** (other than the ESO) and we will not comment on these challenges. This type of concern can be reported to the Market Monitoring team at: marketreporting@nationalgrideso.com
- **Questions will be answered in the upvoted order whenever possible.** We will take questions from further down the list when: the answer is not ready; we need to take the question away or the topic is outside of the scope of the OTF.
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- **All questions will be recorded and published** All questions asked through Sli.do will be recorded and published, with answers, in the Operational Transparency Forum Q&A on the webpage: <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/what-we-do/electricity-national-control-centre/operational-transparency-forum>
- **Takeaway questions** – these questions will be included in the pack for the next OTF, we may ask you to contact us by email in order to clarify or confirm details for the question.
- **Out of scope questions** will be forwarded to the appropriate ESO expert or team for a direct response. We may ask you to contact us by email to ensure we have the correct contact details for the response. These questions will not be managed through the OTF, and we are unable to forward questions without correct contact details. Information about the OTF purpose and scope can be found in the appendix of this slide pack

slido

Audience Q&A is disabled

ⓘ Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.

Feedback

Please remember to use the feedback poll in sli.do after the event.

We welcome feedback to understand what we are doing well and how we can improve the event for the future.

If you have any questions after the event, please contact the following email address:
box.NC.Customer@nationalgrideso.com

Publicly available

Appendix

Participation in the Operational Transparency Forum

Thank you to everyone who participates in the OTF, whether you join weekly, monthly, on specific occasions or follow up with the webinar recordings and published slides. We hear from participant feedback and our ESO colleagues that all of us value the opportunity to share information, ask questions and share the answers.

One of the reasons this format works so well is the professional courtesy we see demonstrated every week.

However, in recent weeks there have been some Slido questions and comments in the Q&A session directed at specific market participants suggesting their actions are not appropriate. This is concerning because:

- The statements are being made in a public forum without the opportunity to reply
- The negative comments may impact these businesses directly, or indirectly e.g.: through social media, etc.
- The individuals asking questions could not be traced using the details provided in Slido

The OTF is not the place to challenge the actions of individual parties (other than the ESO) and we will not comment on these challenges. This type of concern can be reported to the Market Monitoring team at:

marketreporting@nationalgrideso.com

Remember, if you have reasons to remain anonymous to the wider forum, or have concerns your question may not be one to ask in public, you can use the advance questions or email options.

Purpose and scope of the ESO Operational Transparency Forum

Purpose

The Operational Transparency Forum runs once a week to provide updated information on and insight into the operational challenges faced by the control room in the recent past (1-2 weeks) and short term future (1-2 weeks). The OTF will also signpost other ESO events, provide deep dives into focus topics, and allow industry to ask questions.

Scope

Aligns with purpose, see examples below:

In Scope of OTF

Material presented i.e.: regular content, deep dives, focus topics
ESO operational approach & challenges
ESO published data

Out of Scope of OTF

Data owned and/or published by other parties
e.g.: BMRS is published by Elexon
Processes including consultations operated by other parties e.g.: Elexon, Ofgem, DESNZ
Data owned by other parties
Details of ESO Control Room actions & decision making
Activities & operations of particular market participants
ESO policy & strategic decision making
Formal consultations e.g.: Code Changes, Business Planning, Market development

Managing questions at the ESO Operational Transparency Forum

- OTF participants can ask questions in the following ways:
 - Live via Slido code #OTF
 - In advance (before 12:00 on Monday) at <https://forms.office.com/r/k0AEfKnai3>
 - At any time to box.NC.Customer@nationalgrideso.com
- **All questions asked through Sli.do** will be recorded and published, with answers, in the Operational Transparency Forum Q&A on the webpage: [Operational Transparency Forum | ESO \(nationalgrideso.com\)](#)
- **Advance questions** will be included, with answers, in the slide pack for the next OTF and published in the OTF Q&A as above.
- **Email questions** which specifically request inclusion in the OTF will be treated as Advance questions, otherwise we will only reply direct to the sender.
- **Takeaway questions** – we may ask you to contact us by email in order to clarify or confirm details for the question.
- **Out of scope questions** will be forwarded to the appropriate ESO expert or team for a direct response. We may ask you to contact us by email to ensure we have the correct contact details for the response. These questions will not be managed through the OTF, and we are unable to forward questions without correct contact details. Information about the OTF purpose and scope can be found in the appendix of this slide pack

NESO Information Request Statement

The Energy Act 2023 and the power to request information.

Section 172 of The Energy Act 2023 provides NESO, as the Independent System Operator and Planner, with the power to require information, from anyone carrying out a relevant activity, to allow it to carry out any of its functions. This power will come into effect once NESO is operational.

In advance of this we are consulting on what the Information Request Statement will contain and what an Information Request issued by NESO may look like.

The Information Request Statement and Notice.

The Statement will be available on our website and will contain sections on why a request has been issued, the process of responding to a request, what happens if a recipient does not provide the information and how we will manage any data provided. A draft template of an Information Request Notice is also shared on our website.

The Consultation

We are running a consultation from **May 3rd to May 31st** which can be found at <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/what-we-do/how-we-operate/information-request-statement-consultation> and would welcome feedback from across industry to make sure we develop a statement which is clear and accessible.

Following the consultation period Ofgem will determine if the draft Statement is approved or if any changes are necessary.