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Regional Development Programmes (RDP)

MW Dispatch (MWD) Service

FAQs

MW Dispatch is a National Energy System Operator (NESO) Transmission Constraint Management Service. Applicable to five Grid Supply Points in UK Power Networks’ South Eastern Power Networks Plc (SPN) region.

Captured below are some key common Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with associated answers which you may find useful to read in conjunction with the Service Terms and Participation Guidance documents.

General Questions about the Service

Question	Answer
When is the service due / expected to go live?	We anticipate starting registration for providers (DERs) from late January 2024 with a view to beginning the actual service following a live trial in the Autumn of 2024. These dates are subject to change, we will keep providers updated.
Can I take part in this service as well as the NESO Balancing Mechanism (BM) /Balancing Mechanism Wider Access also?	No. Providers can only take part in either the BM or the MW Dispatch Transmission Constraint Management Service currently, not both simultaneously. You will need to formally withdraw from BM to partake in MW Dispatch.
Do I have to take part in the service?	Requirements to provide the NESO with ‘Control & Visibility’ or ‘Connect & Manage’ have been written into customers Connection Offers/Agreements (Export capacity >1MW) in the relevant areas since 2017. If you have these Special Condition terms in your offer from UK Power Networks, then you can either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign up to the BM service (directly or via Wider Access) 2. Sign up to the MW Dispatch service.
Can those without the Special Condition of ‘Control and Visibility’ in their Connection Offer/Agreement take part?	In our initial go live and rollout, we are only looking to offer this service to providers with Control and Visibility terms in their Connection Offer/Agreement.
What technologies can take part?	MW Dispatch is open to all technology types. All technologies are expected to operate under the same rules.

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Will the service evolve in future?	We expect so. We anticipate the service evolving after the initial go live as we learn from our first participants, we also look to deliver more capability and more benefits in the future.
Will this be rolled out elsewhere?	Yes, the plan is to extend the service wider, subject to the success of the initial rollout, and are subject to operational needs.
Can I move from MWD to BM and vice versa?	Yes, you can, but you can only participate in one or the other at any one time. For more guidance on withdrawal to the service please go to Participation Guidance or contact commercial.operation@nationalenergyso.com
How does MW Dispatch interact with NESOs Dynamic Frequency Response service?	Registering for any Dynamic Frequency Response service means the service provider cannot sign up to MWD. MWD is intended to be used to manage thermal constraints only not frequency or voltage constraints.
Can I provide MWD alongside another ancillary service?	No. Providers are unable to stack MWD with any other NESO ancillary service.

Registration Questions

Question	Answer
How long will it take me to be registered and available to take part in the service from the point of application?	If the registration process runs smoothly, we expect it to take around 2 to 3 months to complete.
How far in advance of my expected Connection (Power On) or Completion date can I register for the service?	We wouldn't anticipate anyone registering for this service any earlier than twelve (12) months at the most in advance of their anticipated Connection or Completion date. You will need an Export and Import Meter Point Administration Number (MPAN) to complete the registration process. If this is not available when you commence the registration process, please contact commercial.operation@nationalenergyso.com for assistance.
Why do I need to submit a Utilisation Rate at the point of Registration? Can this subsequently be updated?	This is to ensure that all applications going through to completion have a confirmed Utilisation Rate following completion of the onboarding process. Providers can then subsequently change this rate in accordance with the Service Terms up to 16:00 at Day Ahead, for use from 05:00 on the next operational day.

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What do I need to do if I want to participate in Balancing Services Wider Access instead of the MW Dispatch service?	Please email commercial.operation@nationalenergyso.com and one of the team will explain the process.
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Dispatch Questions

Question	Answer
How will I be informed that I need to reduce my output?	NESO will send a dispatch instruction to service providers (DER) through UKPN Application Programming Interface (API) dispatch interface. UKPN will publish the API specification document once this has been reviewed by DER and approved for publication.
How long will I have to reduce output to the required level of zero MW?	Please refer to the MWD Participation Guidance (UK Power Networks' South Eastern Power Networks region) document, sections titled Response Time and Performance Monitoring.
What happens if I don't manage to make the reduction in time or if I do not stay at zero throughout the curtailment period?	Please refer to the MWD Participation Guidance (UK Power Networks' South Eastern Power Networks region) document, sections titled Dispatch and Performance Monitoring.
How long could my output be curtailed / held at zero?	There is no minimum or maximum curtailment period for this service – it will be deemed to have ended once the Cease Instruction is issued. Please also refer to the MWD Participation Guidance (UK Power Networks' South Eastern Power Networks region) document, section titled Dispatch.
How quickly after receiving an instruction to go to zero MW output (Dispatch Instruction) might I then be asked to cease curtailment (able to ramp my output back up if I so wish)?	Whilst contractually there is no minimum utilisation period for the service, NESO will endeavour to ensure instructions are not ceased within 15 minutes of the original dispatch instruction being enacted.
Once I receive a cease instruction, can I then begin exporting again if I so wish?	Yes. This is the point at which NESO no longer requires the Provider to curtail output and therefore you will be able to increase your output again if you so wish as you will be 'out of service'.
What's the minimum time after receiving a Cease instruction that I can expect to receive a Dispatch Instruction?	Whilst contractually there is no minimum time after one instruction has ceased that you may be asked to curtail again, we would aim to minimise or eradicate any short lead time cease and then re-dispatch requests, network conditions permitting.
Once I begin exporting again after receiving the Cease Instruction is there a minimum time or volume I need to return to?	No. You can increase your output as desired or remain at zero if you so wish as you will be 'out of service'.

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Can I import whilst being curtailed to OMW for Export?	Battery Energy Storage Solutions (BESS) can import during curtailment events but will not be paid to do so.
What outages do I need to make UKPN aware of? What is the expected response time / level of accuracy with the outage entries?	<p>We would appreciate being informed of as many outages as possible irrespective of the duration of those outages. Can you also please provide as much notice as possible and preferably 8 weeks in advance. This will allow us to try and align UKPN outages where possible with your outages.</p> <p>Additionally, NESO will need to have a reliable picture of your availability so that they know what impact they are expecting to see from enacting the service and curtailing DERs. This is important in allowing them to manage their constraints through this pre fault service.</p>

Settlements Questions

Question	Answer
At what point will I start being paid for reducing my output?	Please refer to the MWD Participation Guidance (UK Power Networks' South Eastern Power Networks region) document, section Performance Monitoring.
At what point will the payments for curtailing output stop?	Please refer to the MWD Participation Guidance (UK Power Networks' South Eastern Power Networks region) document, section Payment.
How often / when will I receive my curtailment payments for taking part in the service?	<p>NESO will send a Monthly Utilisation Statement to each provider no later than the end of the second month after any instruction was issued detailing the payment due.</p> <p>NESO will issue a self-billing invoice (Credit) to the Provider no later than eighteenth (18th) business day of the second month after an instruction was issued and will issue the associated payment no later than five (5) business days after this.</p> <p>As a provider, it is important (and your responsibility) to ensure that your payment details are correct in the Single Markets Platform (SMP).</p> <p>Visit: https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/balancing-services/single-markets-platform for further information.</p>
Is there any guide on what price I should set?	<p>NESO don't advise DERs on what pricing is suitable for the service.</p> <p>Attached are links to some publicly available data around BM pricing Detailed system prices Insights Solution (elexon.co.uk) [bmrs.elexon.co.uk] and also</p>

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	<p>Ancillary Services pricing from the NESO Data Portal (into which MWD would fit – please note this will be labelled as RDP_Negative)</p> <p>https://www.neso.energy/data-portal/non-bm-ancillary-service-dispatch-platform-asdp-instructions</p>
What data source will be used for Settlement?	<p>The generation output (MW) will be collated via UK Power Networks Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) at the substation and shared with NESO in 15 seconds intervals. NESO will use this data for both operational assessment and settlement purposes.</p>

Contacts

Who can I contact for more information?	<p>Please contact UK Power Networks, to discuss:</p> <p>MW Dispatch in general:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mwdispatchservice@ukpowernetworks.co.uk <p>Your Connection Offer: your allocated Project Manager (name and email address found on Connection Offer)</p> <p>Your Connection Agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connection.agreements@ukpowernetworks.co.uk <p>Distribution Flexibility Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flexibility@ukpowernetworks.co.uk <p>Please contact NESO, to discuss the transmission constraint management MW Dispatch service and any registration queries at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commercial.operation@nationalenergyso.com
Where can I find the documents?	<p>Please visit: NESO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.neso.energy/publications/regional-development-programmes-rdps <p>UK Power Networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MW Dispatch - UKPN DSO