

Public

Ref: FOI/24/0027

National Energy System Operator

Faraday House

Gallows Hill

Warwick

CV34 6DA

InformationRights@nationalenergyso.com

nationalenergyso.com

9 January 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information






Thank you for your request for information. We have considered your request under the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

You asked us for information about projected annual balancing costs in £m for 2023/24 to 2029/30.

Our response

- We provide information about balancing costs on our website: [Balancing costs | National Energy System Operator](#).
- Our technical report on balancing costs and projections can be found [here](#). Slide 17 outlines our most recently published view on expected Balancing Costs out past 2030. This report should be caveated that it is based on modelling from [FES 2023](#) and our [Beyond 2030](#) report, both of which are now outdated, as they have been updated for 2024.
- Projection data can be found towards the bottom of the page:

	Name	Published ^
Work to Improve Information Accuracy >	 May 2024 Yearly BC Report - savings data	26 Jun 2024
2024 yearly balancing costs report >	 May 2024 Yearly BC report - projection data	11 Jun 2024
Balancing Costs Summer Report 2024 >	 May 2024 yearly BC report - webinar slides	17 May 2024
Balancing Costs Winter Report 2023/24 >	 May 2024 yearly BC report - technical report	17 May 2024
Clean Energy Package 2023 >	 May 2024 yearly BC report - key messages report	17 May 2024
Daily balancing costs >		
Balancing market review 2022 >		
Daily balancing costs archive >		
MBSS >		
MBSS archive >		

- We will be publishing an updated cost outlook around May 2025.
- Our most recent view on costs has been published in our Clean Power 2030 Report: [Clean Power 2030 | National Energy System Operator](#) . It does not, however, include detailed, year-by-year breakdowns of costs and is based on the assumption that clean power 2030 targets are achieved and the underpinning policies and plans are in place.

Given that NESO intends to publish an updated cost outlook in May 2025, we are not providing draft, unfinished or incomplete figures until these are finalised and in line with planned publication timescales. The exemption at Section 22 (information intended for future publication) of the FOIA allows us to withhold information where we are planning to publish that information.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption which means that it is subject to a public interest test.

NESO recognises that there is a general public interest in transparency and that there is a public interest in information about energy costs, particularly where these may be passed on to consumers.

NESO does not believe, however, that there is a public interest in releasing draft and unfinished data which may lead to speculation and public misinformation, particularly where third parties may use the information as the basis for commercial or policy decision-making.

Having weighed these public interest arguments, our opinion is that the balance of the public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and keeping to the planned publication timescales.

The information will be published on our website.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. If you want us to carry out a review, please let us know within 40 working days and quote the reference number at the top of this letter.

If you are still dissatisfied after our internal review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints. Alternatively, they can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the National Energy System Operator (NESO).

Regards,

The Information Rights Team

National Energy System Operator (NESO)