

Public

Ref: EIR/24/0009

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Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 9 December 2024. Your request was forwarded to the National Energy System Operator (NESO) by National Grid. Please note that National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) was part of the National Grid PLC group of companies until 30 September 2024. On 1 October 2024 we became the National Energy System Operator (NESO) under government ownership (the Independent System Operator and Planner as designated in the Energy Act 2023).

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as we judge that the information falls within the definition of environmental information set out in the EIR. Environmental information does not fall within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) as requests are managed under the EIR.

Request

You asked for information relating to a planning application for a datacentre proposed at Abbots Langley (Postcode WD5 0QB) by Greystoke Land Ltd/Pegasus Group and provided a link to the relevant planning application and other information. Specifically, you asked us to confirm, "if you have received any grid connection applications, and if you've had discussions with Greystoke Land Ltd or their agent Pegasus Group regarding this data centre project in Abbots Langley."

Our response

It appears from your emails that you are already aware of the TEC Register which NESO maintains and publishes. We also publish details of the [connections offer process](#), including the applications and offers processes which sets out the stages of the process and associated timescales. You will see that we list connections on the TEC Register once an agreement is in place and update the register each week. We are currently updating the connections application process as part of our [Connections Reform](#) project.

We are unable to provide information about projects that have received a connection offer beyond what we routinely publish in the TEC Register. Such information provided to NESO is provided to us in confidence on the understanding that we process it purely for the purposes of assessing a connection application and/or project progression in line with the relevant contract.

We are generally also unable to provide information about applications and offers that have not yet progressed to the agreement stage as information in the early stages of a project is commercially sensitive. We are, however, mindful that the project in question appears to be subject to a public enquiry and a significant amount of information is publicly available via the planning process.

We have searched our records and can find no application records for a project in Abbots Langley from the named companies that you referred to in your request. We confirm, therefore, that we do not hold recorded information that falls within the scope of your request.

This concludes our response to your request.

Advice and assistance

By way of context, you may find it helpful to note that NESO is responsible for the flow of electricity from generation to transmission and for planning and coordinating the design of electricity networks. This includes making sure there is enough supply to meet consumer demand and managing connections to the transmission network. Information on our operations is available here: [Operational information | National Energy System Operator](#).

NESO does not own or operate the electricity network infrastructure such as substations, cables or pylons, but moves high voltage electricity from where it's generated, such as a wind farm, through the energy system using the infrastructure owned by the three transmission companies. This high voltage electricity is passed onto the fourteen distribution network operators which own the local networks.

The TEC Register is supplemented by our Connections 360 portal which you can register to access: [Connections 360 | National Energy System Operator](#).

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)