

## Public

EIR/24/0008

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15 January 2024

Dear requester

### Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by the Information Rights team on 12 December 2024.

You submitted your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The exemption at Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) covers information that a public body is obliged to consider under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) and has the effect of routing all requests for environmental information via the EIR rather than the FOIA.

Your request has therefore been considered under the EIR as we believe that the requested information falls within the definition of environmental information as provided by Regulation 2(1)(c).

### Request

In your email dated 12 December 2024 you stated:

*On Page 3 of your Beyond 2030 Technical Report you state*

*"In developing the Beyond 2030 report, we have collaborated closely with Transmission Owners (TOs) and engaged with a range of interested parties including government department, the regulator (Ofgem), wind farm developers and environmental and community representatives".*

...

*Accordingly, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would wish to be provided with the names and dates of the meetings of the meetings you have had with environmental and community representatives and the organisations they represent as you undertook to do."*

## Our response

We can confirm that we hold information which falls within the scope of your request. Information on stakeholder engagement can be found in the Stakeholder Approach, Engagement and Feedback Report, published on NESO’s Beyond 2030 website: [Beyond 2030 | National Energy System Operator](#).

Information about the Central Design Group (CDG) and the Environmental Subgroup (ESG) is available on pages 12 and 13 of the Stakeholder Approach, Engagement and Feedback Report.

The meetings with the Central Design Group (CDG) and Environmental Subgroup (ESG) in the table provided below were held during the Holistic Network Design Follow Up Exercise (HNDFUE) and Transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan (tCSNP2) process as part of the development of the Beyond 2030 Report.

For information, prior to publication of the Beyond 2030 Report, NESO also undertook engagement with politicians, including with Ministers, MPs, MSPs, MSs, on behalf of the regions and communities they represent. This engagement was not related to the development of the content of the Beyond 2030 Report.

CDG was attended by a Community Representative who attended on behalf of the Local Government Association (LGA) Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG), representing 57 local authorities who are members of the LGA Coastal SIG.

The ESG, a subgroup of the CDG, brought together environmental stakeholders to provide advice on environmental impacts of technically viable options being considered when developing the HNDFUE. Membership of the ESG was:

ESG Member Organisations
SSEN-Transmission
SP Energy Networks
National Grid Electricity Transmission
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Ofgem
Scottish Government
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
DEFRA
JNCC - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (also attended the CDG)
Natural England
NatureScot
Natural Resources Wales
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Historic Environment Scotland
Historic England

The Wildlife Trusts
The Crown Estate

Meeting	Date	Environmental / Community representative
Central Design Group (CDG)	23/09/2022	Environmental / Community
Environmental Subgroup (ESG) - see member organisations list above	28/09/2022	Environmental
CDG	04/11/2022	Environmental / Community
ESG	10/11/2022	Environmental
CDG	06/12/2022	Environmental / Community
CDG	15/12/2022	Environmental / Community
ESG	18/01/2023	Environmental
CDG	23/01/2023	Environmental / Community
CDG	20/03/2023	Environmental / Community
ESG	20/04/2023	Environmental
CDG	27/04/2023	Environmental / Community
ESG	04/05/2023	Environmental
ESG	27/06/2023	Environmental
CDG	06/07/2023	Environmental / Community
Community Representative (on behalf of LGA Coastal SIG) – follow up to CDG meeting.	10/07/2023	Community
ESG	12/07/2023	Environmental
CDG	25/07/2023	Environmental / Community
ESG	17/10/2023	Environmental
ESG	15/11/2023	Environmental
ESG	01/01/2024	Environmental
ESG	20/02/2024	Environmental
Feedback	Window Date	Stakeholders
Holistic Network Design Follow Up Exercise (HNDFUE) Methodology	Oct-22	ESG
Environmental and community BRAG (Black, Red, Amber, Green) ratings	Oct-22	ESG
ScotWind HNDFUE Feedback	Dec-22	Developers and ESG
Shortlisted Designs	Feb-23	ESG
Onshore Reinforcements	Mar-23	ESG
Options Appraisal Summary Tables (OASTs)	Apr-23	Developers and ESG

Onshore Environmental and community Methodology	May-23	ESG
Onshore Appraisals	Jun-23	ESG
CDG Consultative Board FB on Designs	Jul-23	CDG
Onshore Reinforcements	Jul-23	ESG
Environmental & Community Appraisals	Nov-23	ESG

## Conclusion

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](http://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)