

Public

'Pause' in connection applications

Industry webinar –
20/01/25

Agenda

1. Case for change
2. Changes under the 'pause' period
3. Timeline overview
4. Q&A

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Case for change

Rationale for a 'pause'
period

Case for change

As we near the implementation of Connections Reform (subject to authority approval), a smooth transition period is needed between the business-as-usual processes and Connections Reform.

A 'pause' is needed to create a stable platform for the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process.



Provide customer clarity

Distinct pause, deadlines, and clear guidance on requirements for new connections process



Focus on delivering reform

Enables smooth transition to new connections process



Enable offers to be re-issued in Q4 2025

as part of the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process

Changes under the 'pause' period

Changes under 'pause' period

There are three main elements to the 'pause' period as approved by Ofgem.

1

Existing **transitional offer** process now applies only to **new directly connected demand projects from 29 Jan 2025**

2

A **'pause' in accepting any other connection applications received from 29 Jan 2025**

3

An **exceptions process** to the 'pause' to continue issuing full offers for certain modification applications

Transitional offer process for new directly connected demand projects

- Transitional offer process will now only apply to **new directly connected demand projects**, and no longer applies to new directly connected *generation* projects
 - This is to align with Government's strategic direction as set out in its Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (CP30).
- **This will be applicable from 29th January 2025** until Connections Reform is implemented, or Ofgem states that it is not proceeding with the reforms (whichever happens first).
- All new directly connected demand applications can continue to be made until **21st March 2025**. These applications will also need to be clock started by 4th April in order to be processed by the networks and accepted by customers in time for inclusion in the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process.
- Please note that embedded demand applications will continue to be processed by I/DNOs throughout this period as they are out of scope for connections reform.

'Pause' in accepting any other connection applications

- A 'pause' in connection applications will be applied to both transmission and distribution applications, including
 - new applications,
 - modification applications,
 - BEGA and BELLA applications, and
 - Project Progressions.
- I/DNOs will continue to receive and process applications, but these will not be passed through to NESO for the transmission impact assessment process.
- **This will be applicable from 29th January 2025** until Connections Reform is implemented, or Ofgem states that it is not proceeding with the reforms (whichever happens first).
- NESO and the TOs will take all reasonable endeavours to clock-start applications submitted before 29th January 2025. **All applications will need to be 'clock-started' by 12th February 2025** in order to be processed in time for inclusion in the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process.

Exceptions to the pause

- **An exceptions process to the 'pause'** will be in place to continue issuing full offers for limited and critical modifications applications submitted after 29th January 2025 that:
 - a. are linked to circumstances where NESO/TO considers that the modification application will not have material impact on the G2TWQ process; or
 - b. relate to the safety and security of the network (e.g., asset replacements); or
 - c. are delivery-critical modification applications for customers who are connecting before the end of 2026; or
 - d. are excepted on a case-by-case basis, against a set criterion* determined by NESO and the TOs, which will cover:
 - i. possible impact against the overall project programme.
 - ii. committed spend.
 - iii. impact on other projects;
 - e. or are excepted on a case-by-case basis, where NESO/TO considers that failure to process the modification application at this time could have detrimental impact on the safety and operation of the network.
- Agreement variations and Notices required to be triggered by the TOs will continue throughout the 'pause' period as under BAU.

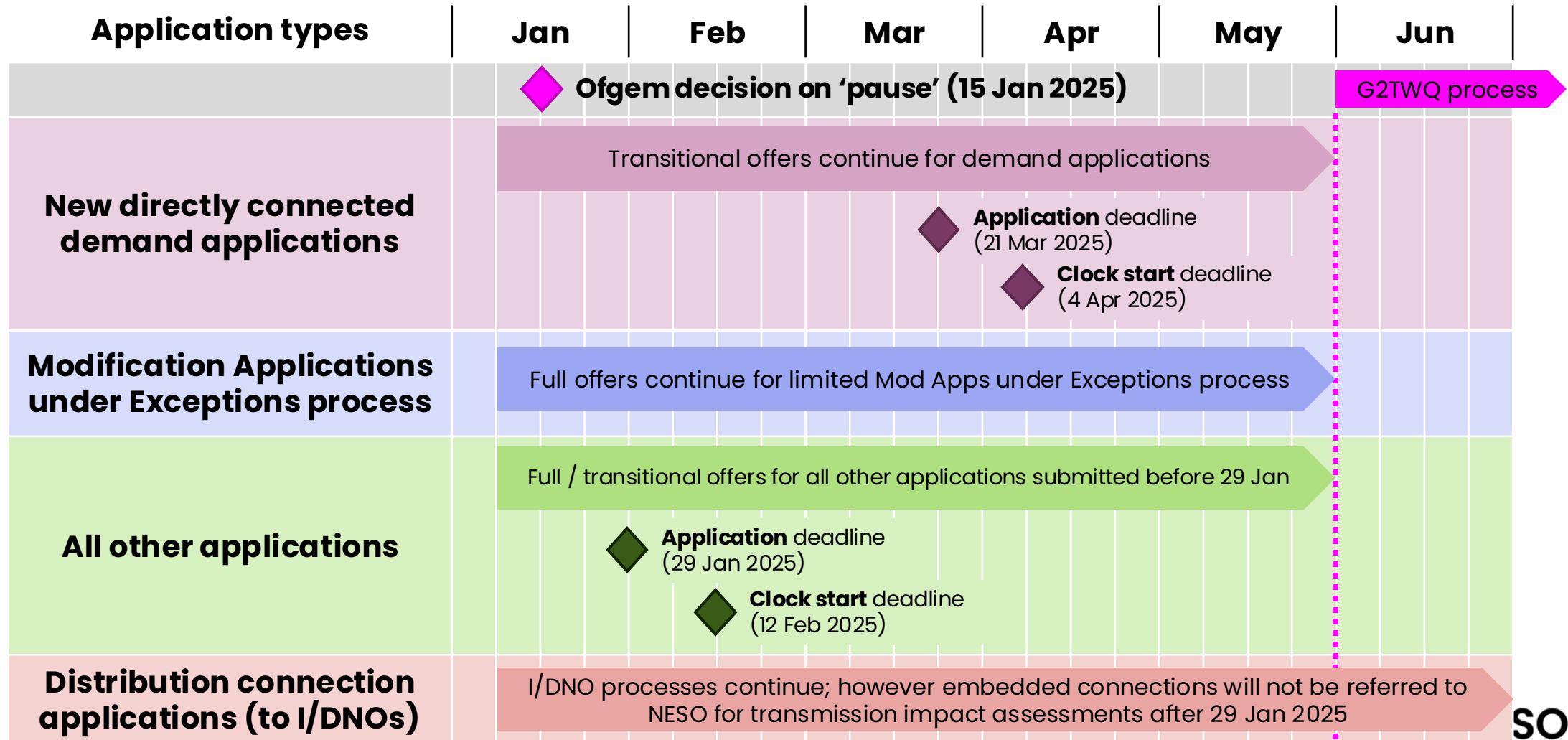
* NESO and TOs will further specify this set criteria, and agree this with Ofgem, before the implementation date of 29th Jan.

What does this mean for customers?

Application type	New directly connected demand applications	Mod Apps that qualify under Exceptions process	All other applications to NESO	Embedded connections (i.e. applying to I/DNOs)
Offer type	Transitional offer	Full offer	Transitional offer for new BCA applications; full offer for all others	I/DNO offer
Application deadline	21st March 2025	No deadline	29th January 2025	I/DNO processes continue, i.e. no pause from I/DNOs. However, I/DNOs will not pass on distribution connections to NESO / TOs for transmission impact assessments (TIA) from 29 th Jan.
Clock start deadline	4th April 2025	No deadline	12th February 2025	
Customer acceptance deadline	Before start of G2TWQ process	Before start of G2TWQ process	Before start of G2TWQ process	

Overview of timelines

Timeline overview



Gate 2 evidence window for existing queue



Q&A

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