

Public

Ref: FOI/24/0020

National Energy System Operator

Faraday House

Gallows Hill

Warwick

CV34 6DA

InformationRights@nationalenergyso.com

nationalenergyso.com

17 January 2025

Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information relating to correspondence between NESO and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) which we have considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Request

You originally asked us:

I would like to make the following request under the Freedom of Information Act and also under the Environmental Information Regulations.

On 5 November, NESO published its advice on achieving clean power by 2030. This followed from a letter dated 23 August from the Secretary of State and Chris Stark asking for this advice to be produced.

In the intervening ten weeks or so, I understand there was significant close working between NESO staff and DESNZ officials, including on assumptions to underpin the work, questions of technical feasibility, and on the presentation of the report.

I would like to request copies of all correspondence between NESO staff and DESNZ officials in the period 23 August to 5 November 2024 relating to the clean power 2030 advice. This should include emails, records of telephone calls and records of video call meetings.

We refused this request on the grounds that we estimated that compliance would exceed the appropriate cost limit (Section 12 of the FOIA) due to the breadth of searches required and advised that you could refine your request.

You came back to us with a request limited to email correspondence between NESO and six named DESNZ staff. We have treated this as a new request.

Our response

We originally classified your request as a Freedom of Information request. Based on the results of the search we have reached the opinion that the correspondence does generally fall under the Freedom of Information Act but some of the attachments to those emails contain environmental information as set out in the definition at Regulation 2(1) of the EIR.

We ran a search for information across our Microsoft tenant based on the names and date range that you provided, and conducted email threading and de-duplication processes, resulting in 953 items consisting of emails and attachments. We then added subject searches for "Clean Power", "CP30", and "CP2030" which produced a sub-set of 286 items from the 953. We have reviewed all 286 items and extracted the items which fall within the scope of your request. We have not reviewed the remaining 667 items as part of the data search and extraction processes as we estimate that this would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450 which equates to 18 hours of staff time. We are applying the cost limit at Section 12 of the FOIA to any further searches of this information.

The National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) was part of the National Grid PLC group of companies until 30 September 2024 and was not subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. 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).

Regulation 14 of the [Energy Act 2023 \(Consequential Amendments\) Regulations 2024 \(SI 2024/706\)](#) amended Part 6 of Schedule 1 (other public bodies and offices: general) of the FOIA, inserting the following:

"The Independent System Operator and Planner designated in accordance with section 162 of the Energy Act 2023 in respect of information held by it as a result of the exercise of its functions under, or as a consequence of, that Act."

The FOIA only applies to information held by NESO as the Independent System Operator and Planner (NESO). We have therefore limited our response to emails and attachments dated after 1 October 2024 when NESO came into existence.

Many of the 286 items were not within the scope of your request, including emails to or from another organisation that NESO or the named DESNZ staff were copied into, out of office

messages, and meeting requests and acceptances with no accompanying notes or agendas. There was also still a considerable amount of duplication, particularly in terms of the email attachments.

We have attached copies of the emails and attachments extracted from the search results which fall within the scope of your request with the exception of a small number of attachments. These attachments comprise draft data and analysis which we judge to fall within the definition of environmental information at Regulation 2(1)(b), i.e. factors likely to affect the elements, and at Regulation 2(1)(e), i.e. cost-benefit and other economic analyses and assumptions.

The EIR exception at Regulation 12(4)(d) allows us to refuse to disclose information to the extent that “the request relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data”.

The ICO’s guidance on this exception does confirm that “a draft version of a document is still an unfinished document, even if the final version of the document has been published.”

All EIR exceptions are 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 policy and costs. We are mindful of the EIR’s presumption in favour of disclosure.

NESO does not believe, however, that there is a public interest in releasing draft and unfinished data which may lead to confusion of versions and public misinformation, particularly where third parties may use the information as the basis for commercial or policy decision-making. NESO has published the final version of its Clean Power 2030 report with the complete analyses and advice and provided further data and analysis which informed the report. This suite of documents provide a complete and accurate set of data, analysis and advice which is easily accessible and available to everyone.

We have concluded that the public interest lies in maintaining the exception at Regulation 12(4)(d) and withholding these attachments.

Where the attachments of the emails contain the final version of the report and related documents, we have not provided copies of the attachments in line with the exemption at Section 21 of the FOIA (Information accessible to applicant by other means). The full report and associated documents are published on our website (see links below).

The emails have also been redacted to remove:

- a) Information that did not fall within the scope of your request, e.g. internal emails that formed part of the email thread returned in our searches and emails to or from other organisations which were copied to NESO or a named DESNZ employee;

b) the personal data of:

- NESO employees who are not members of the Executive Leadership Team
- Employees of DESNZ not named in your request and therefore falling outside the scope of your request and/or not deemed sufficiently senior to warrant disclosure
- Employees at other organisations.

Personal data is exempt from disclosure under the exemption at Section 40(2) of the FOIA and our decision to redact personal data is based on the scope of your request, the seniority of the individuals concerned, and the likely expectations of the individuals.

Advice and assistance

Further information about our Clean Power 2030 Report is available:

- We have published a comprehensive set of information relating to our Clean Power 2030 Report and analysis on our website: [Clean Power 2030 | National Energy System Operator](#).
- We have published additional data in response to FOI and EIR requests relating to Clean Power 2030. The responses are available via our [Disclosure Log](#).
- Our press release is available on our website here: [Our Clean Power 2030 advice to Government | National Energy System Operator](#).
- The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) have also published information about their policies and plans in relation to Clean Power: [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero - GOV.UK](#).

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)

RE: CP30 Senior Oversight meeting

From: Julian Leslie (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED] "Golding, Ben (Energy Security)" [REDACTED] ofgem.gov.uk>, [REDACTED] (Energy Security)" [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (Energy Security)" [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 02 Oct 2024 09:04:16 +0100
Attachments: CP2030 Trilateral plan 30 September 2024.pptx (1.45 MB)

Suggested agenda as follows:

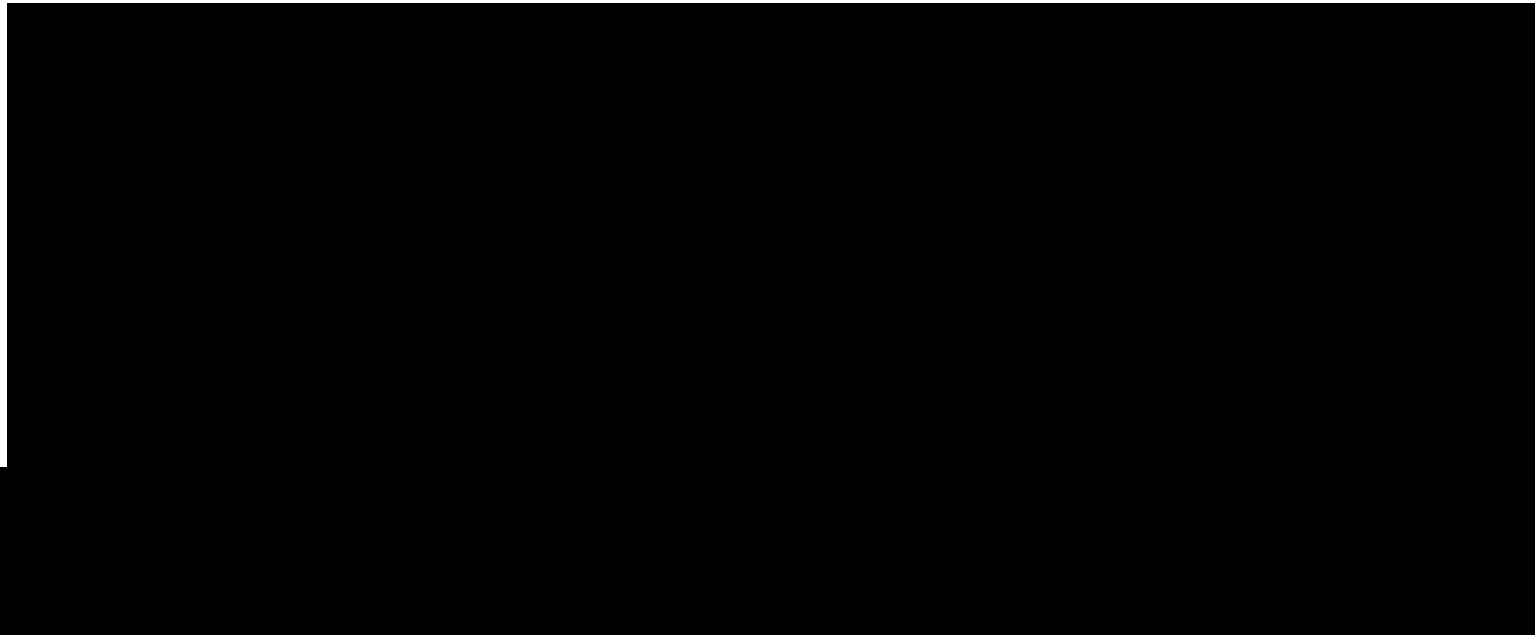
- Plan and timing  [CP2030 Trilateral plan 30 September 2024.pptx](#)
- Key questions:
 - Definition of clean power
 - Deliverability
 - Presentation of pathways & technologies (this will tee up discussion on granularity/location at the next meeting on 14th)
- Update on other issues:
 - Stakeholder forum and planned engagement;
 - Updates on discussions at last meeting: Zonal (scope to model); info gathering (the TOs data request point)
 - Connections
 - DESNZ and Demand Alignment

Julian Leslie

Director of Strategic Energy Planning and Chief Engineer



M: [REDACTED]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA





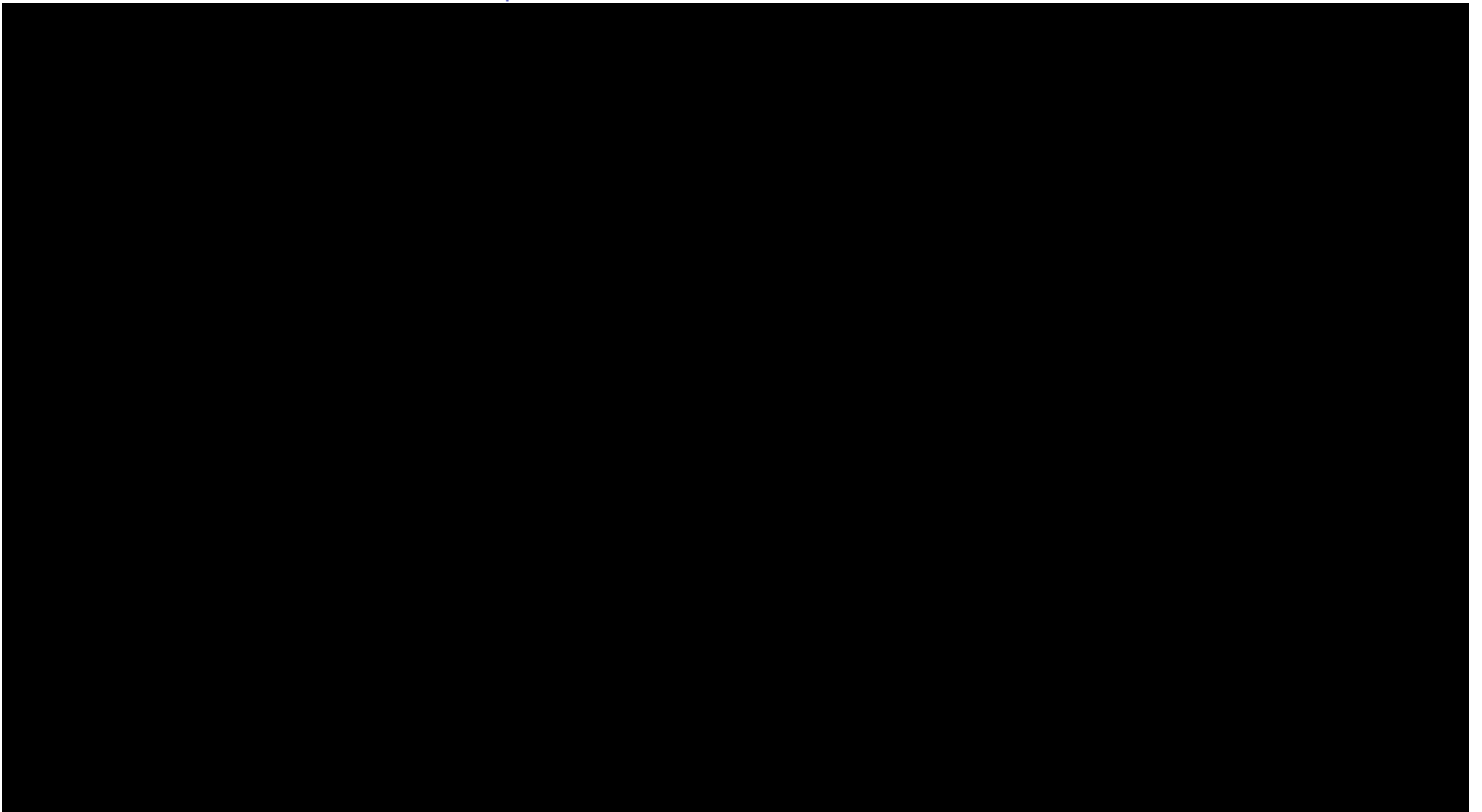
CP30 catch up

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting
When: Fri Oct 04 10:30:00 2024 +01:00
Until: Fri Oct 04 11:00:00 2024 +01:00
Organisers [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED]

Required Attendees: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] energysecurity [REDACTED]

-
- NESO networks analysis
 - Mission Control next steps

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)



Deliverability Assumptions meeting

From: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: Julian Leslie (NESO) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ofgem.gov.uk>, "[REDACTED] (Energy Security)"
[REDACTED] (Energy Security)"
"Golding, Ben (Energy Security)"
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ofgem.gov.uk>, [REDACTED] (NESO)
[REDACTED] (NESO)
Date: Sun, 06 Oct 2024 20:05:48 +0100
Attachments: Director Trilat - CP30 Policy Enablers.pdf (1.64 MB)

Good evening,

We've got a slot tomorrow morning which was intended for a discussion on CP30 deliverability assumptions ahead of the first meeting with the commissioners which is in the calendar for Thursday. Unfortunately calendar constraints mean we've only got 30 mins, so I propose we use the time to:

1. Orient ourselves around the attached slide pack (hot off the press!) which starts to set out the 'so what' of our analysis. We won't have time to get into the detail, but can set out what the pack is / what it does etc and agree areas where we know we're going to need further engagement at all levels
2. Align on areas of likely interest for the meeting with Commissioners on Thursday and further discussions needed ahead of that session.

Please treat the attached slides as draft and sharing only as needed (they have not yet been widely tested within NESO and will likely evolve).

Thanks, K



RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Draft CP30 report

From: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: "Golding, Ben (Energy Security)" [REDACTED] Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED] (Energy Security)" [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 16 Oct 2024 11:23:38 +0100

Super, thanks Ben. We'll be asking for comments back by 9am Tuesday 22nd.

It's likely that the cost chapter will be missing in the version we send to you today as that's the last bit of analysis still ongoing to ensure we're crystal clear on the key msgs before we say anything. If that is the case we will be able to share early next week at the latest and would be happy to do a senior call on it then as well as sharing draft text.

Thanks, K

Kayte O'Neill
Chief Operating Officer



[REDACTED]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



From: Golding, Ben (Energy Security) [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 October 2024 11:07
To: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED] energysecurity [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Draft CP30 report

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If you suspect this email is malicious, please use the 'Report Phish' button.

Hi Kayte,

I'd suggest sending it to:

- Me and [REDACTED]
- Chris Stark
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Theresa Chambers
- Paul Bailey
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

If possible, it would be great to share a draft more widely at some point so that we can get relevant experts outside of our central teams to offer their input (within reason, recognising it's an independent report), but absolutely fine if that needs to be the next iteration, after you've had input from your board.

As discussed, we'll aim to offer a single set of consolidated views from this group in response – let me know when you'll need those by.

Thanks,
Ben



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Ben Golding
Director, Clean Power 2030
Tel: [REDACTED]
3-8 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2EG
www.gov.uk/desnz

From: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 October 2024 10:23
To: Golding, Ben (Energy Security) [REDACTED] (Energy Security)
Subject: Draft CP30 report

Hi Ben,

We're looking forward to sending across the draft CP30 report later today. Given the draft confidential nature of the document we are keen to manage circulation carefully. Would you be able to send us a list of people you would like to receive the draft? We will then send to those individuals specifically and ask that the document is not forwarded on.

Thanks, Kayte

Kayte O'Neill
Chief Operating Officer



M: [REDACTED]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



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[EXTERNAL] RE: DRAFT AND CONFIDENTIAL: NESO CP30 Advice

From: "Golding, Ben (Energy Security)" [redacted]
To: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [redacted]
Date: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 16:25:13 +0100

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If you suspect this email is malicious, please use the 'Report Phish' button.

Thanks Kayte – very much enjoying the read. I've realised that one critical person I missed off my list of people to share with was [redacted], our Director of Analysis. Are you OK if I forward it to her?

Ben

From: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [redacted]
Sent: 16 October 2024 17:21
To: Golding, Ben (Energy Security) [redacted] (Energy Security)
[redacted] Stark, Chris (Energy Security) [redacted]
[redacted] energysecurity. [redacted] energysecurity. [redacted] (Energy Security)
[redacted] Chambers, Theresa (Energy Security) [redacted] Bailey,
Paul (Energy Security) [redacted] (Energy Security)
[redacted] (Energy Security) [redacted]
Cc: Claire Dykta (NESO) [redacted] (NESO) [redacted] Fintan Slye (NESO) [redacted]
Subject: DRAFT AND CONFIDENTIAL: NESO CP30 Advice

Dear all,

Attached is a first draft of our advice to Government on pathways to achieving clean power by 2030. **Please treat this as confidential and not for onward circulation.** We would welcome your feedback by 9am on Tuesday 22nd Oct. We are keen to get views on the messaging, tone and structure (overall and for the main sections) as well as anything that you think is missing and anything you strongly dislike or can't live with! Detailed text markup is not needed, as this is a working draft and wording will be tightened up and revised as we continue to edit. Numbers remain in square brackets and subject to change as we complete full data assurance this week.

This draft has undergone quite a significant structural change from our earlier internally reviewed versions, to reduce the size of the main report and to move the detail into a series of annexes. The attached ~50 page report will be supplemented with a number of annexes including more detail on our analysis and the associated stakeholder feedback on the core elements of the advice including 1) demand, supply and flex; 2) networks and connections; 3) operability and operations; 4) cross cutting enablers; 5) costs and benefits; 6) actions; 7) key projects. We will also have annexes covering stakeholder feedback and our assurance approach. I haven't included the annexes here as we need to refine to ensure they stand alone, but could potentially share the core ones early next week if useful.

On Costs and Consumers (Section 5.4) we are finalising analysis and therefore this section has some gaps. We will have analysis and msgs on operating costs and system costs by early next week and would be happy to share at that point and set up a call to walk through it with you.

Enjoy the read and look forward to receiving your consolidated feedback next week. If you'd like to discuss in the meantime please do get in touch with me or the team.

Thanks, Kayte

Kayte O'Neill
Chief Operating Officer



M: [REDACTED]

Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



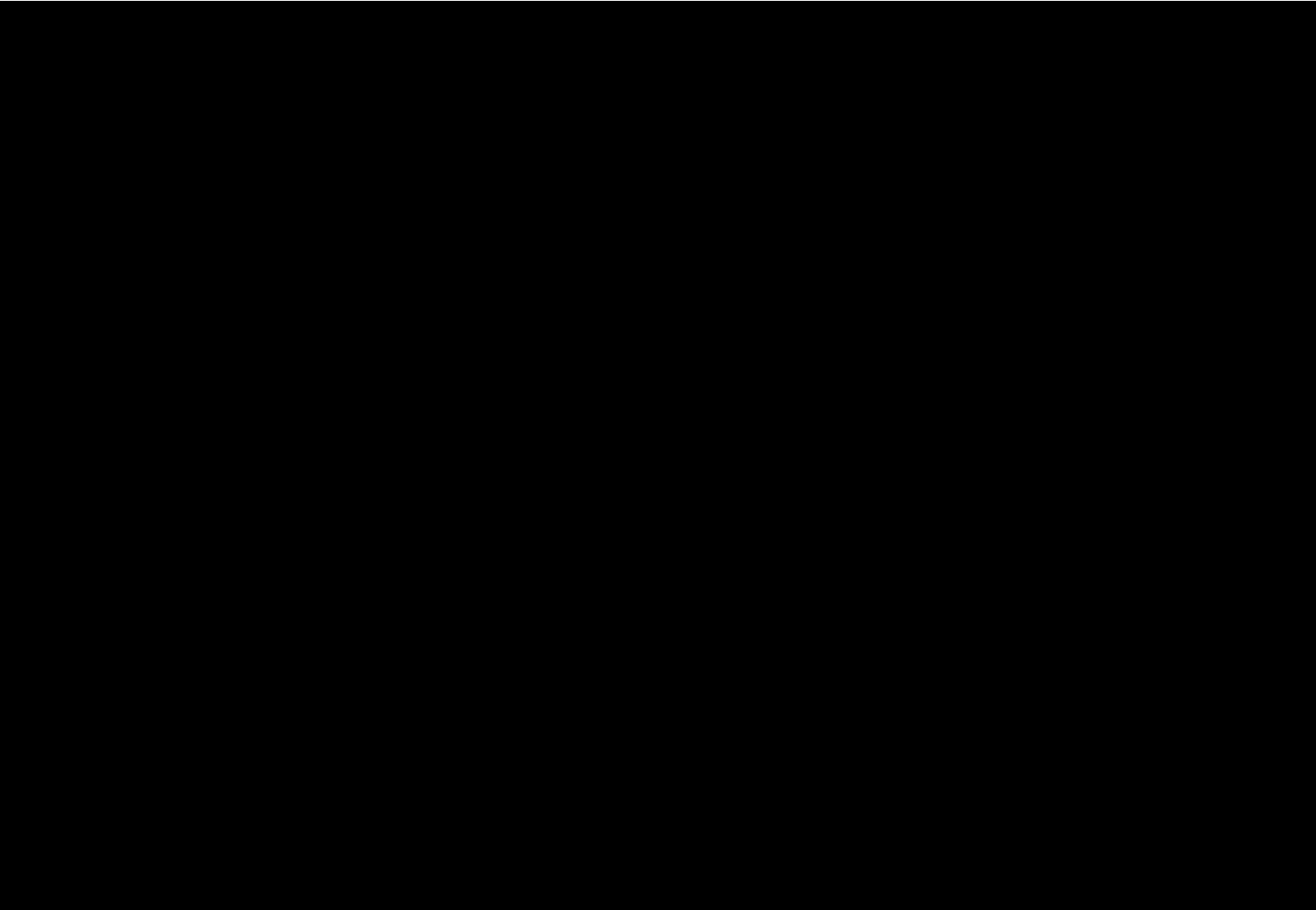
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RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: CP30 - Data sharing and publishing



From: Golding, Ben (Energy Security) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 17 October 2024 17:17
To: [REDACTED] (NESO) <[REDACTED]> Energy Security) <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] Energy Security) <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED] (NESO) <[REDACTED]> (NESO)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: CP30 - Data sharing and publishing

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If you suspect this email is malicious, please use the 'Report Phish' button.

[REDACTED]

Alignment across this sounds excellent. I'm looping in [REDACTED], who are closer than me on the existing discussions on sharing of data, for their views on the most effective way to join up our collective thinking here.

Ben



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Ben Golding
Director, Clean Power 2030
Tel: [REDACTED]
3-8 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2EG
www.gov.uk/desnz

From: [REDACTED] (NESO) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 17 October 2024 16:44
To: Golding, Ben (Energy Security) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED] (NESO)
Subject: CP30 - Data sharing and publishing

Hi Ben

As previously mentioned we are currently doing our data due diligence and keen to ensure understanding between us, on what we will publish, and what we might share privately. Good to have a conversation to align expectations at this stage. I think there are working level discussions happening, but you mentioned you could loop us in with the right person, and I am keen to triangulate.

One other thing – we are conscious that there have been a few key (and welcome) announcements during the period of drafting CP30 – CCUS, LDES, CM. If there is anything else on the horizon pre-publication date that might impact our drafting or make something immediately out of date, it would be great to have that conversation and perhaps link in with teams. As far as is appropriate. I will leave that with you to mull on that risk and what might be doable.

Speak soon

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



M: + [REDACTED]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



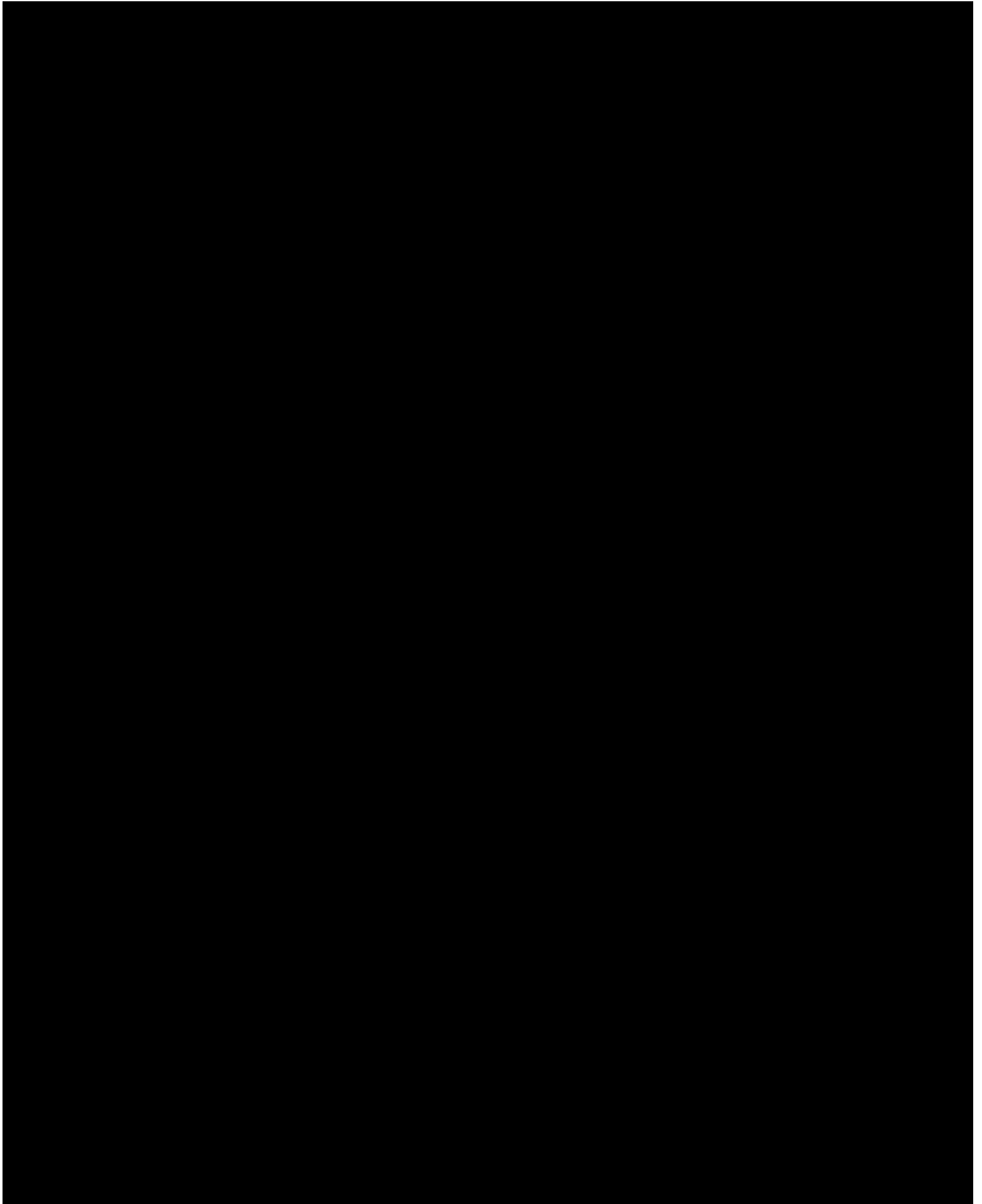
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RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: NESO CP30 advice - pre publication check in



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2024 10:44
To: [REDACTED] (Energy Security)
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] theccc.org.uk; [REDACTED] ofgem.gov.uk;
permanentsecretaries (Energy Security)
Cc: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED] (Energy Security)
[REDACTED]

Subject: NESO CP30 advice - pre publication check in

Good morning all

Fintan would like to set up a meeting with Jeremy, Jonathan and Chris, to check in ahead of the publication of NESO's CP30 advice to Government (planned for 5th November). The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the key messages in the advice and to align on comms and engagement plans linked to publication. Suggested timing would be w/c 28 November.

[REDACTED] and I have had a quick look at calendars for Fintan and Kayte and can offer the following:

29 October	2.30 – 3 or 3 – 3.30
30 October	9.30 – 10
1 November	2pm onwards

If none of these work, perhaps we could have a quick call to align diaries?

Thanks

PA to Kayte O'Neill, Chief Operating Officer



M: [REDACTED]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



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CONFIDENTIAL: CP30 Economics pack

From: [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: "Ben Golding ([REDACTED] (Energy Security))", "Stark, Chris (Energy Security)" ([REDACTED] (Energy Security))", [REDACTED] (Energy Security)", [REDACTED] (Energy Security)", "Chambers, Theresa (Energy Security)" ([REDACTED] (Energy Security))", "Bailey, Paul (Energy Security)" ([REDACTED] (Energy Security))", [REDACTED] (Energy Security)", [REDACTED]@energysecurity.[REDACTED] (Energy Security)", [REDACTED] (Energy Security)"
Cc: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) <[REDACTED]> (NESO), Julian Leslie (NESO) ([REDACTED]), Claire Dykta (NESO) ([REDACTED] (NESO))
Date: Wed, 23 Oct 2024 08:32:13 +0100
Attachments: CONFIDENTIAL - NESO CP30 Economics pack.pptx (6.91 MB)

Good morning

Attached here is a short set of slides outlining the outputs of the economic work we have been doing to support CP30. [REDACTED] spoke to these in the senior meeting on Monday and as mentioned we will be following up with working level meetings to walk through and test.

I am sharing to the previously agreed wider list to aid consideration your end.

Please do get in touch with any questions.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]



M: [REDACTED]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



[REDACTED]



CP30 updated costs messaging

From: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [redacted]
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@ofgem.gov.uk>, [redacted] (Energy Security) [redacted] energysecurity [redacted] Fintan Slye (NESO) [redacted] <[redacted]@ofgem.gov.uk>, [redacted] <[redacted]@ofgem.gov.uk>, [redacted] (Energy Security)"
Cc: [redacted] (NESO) [redacted] "Golding, Ben (Energy Security)" [redacted] Claire Dykta (NESO) <[redacted]@ofgem.gov.uk>, [redacted] (NESO) [redacted]
Date: Tue, 29 Oct 2024 14:15:47 +0000
Attachments: Draft 8 CP30 Annex 4.pdf (1.86 MB); Draft 8 CP30 Main Report.pdf (3.22 MB)

Dear all, as requested on the CP30 call just now, please find the very latest draft report and costs annex which include the updated narrative and visuals on cost.

Do let me know if a walkthrough would be useful. In any case we will ensure the 3 orgs are aligned on lines to take on costs.

Thanks,
Kayte

Kayte O'Neill
Chief Operating Officer



M: [redacted]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



CP30

From: Fintan Slye (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: "chris.stark" [REDACTED]
Cc: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, 31 Oct 2024 08:10:02 +0000
Attachments: Draft Confidential CP30 Main Report 30 Oct 24.pdf (3.91 MB)

Chris,

I just wanted to follow-up from your discussion with Kayte yesterday and ensure you had the most up-to-date draft of our main report - this is attached here for your information. Note that final checks etc. are ongoing as we finalize ready for publication (so we expect some minor tweaks).

Any queries just give me a call.

Fintan

Fintan Slye
NESO



M: [REDACTED]

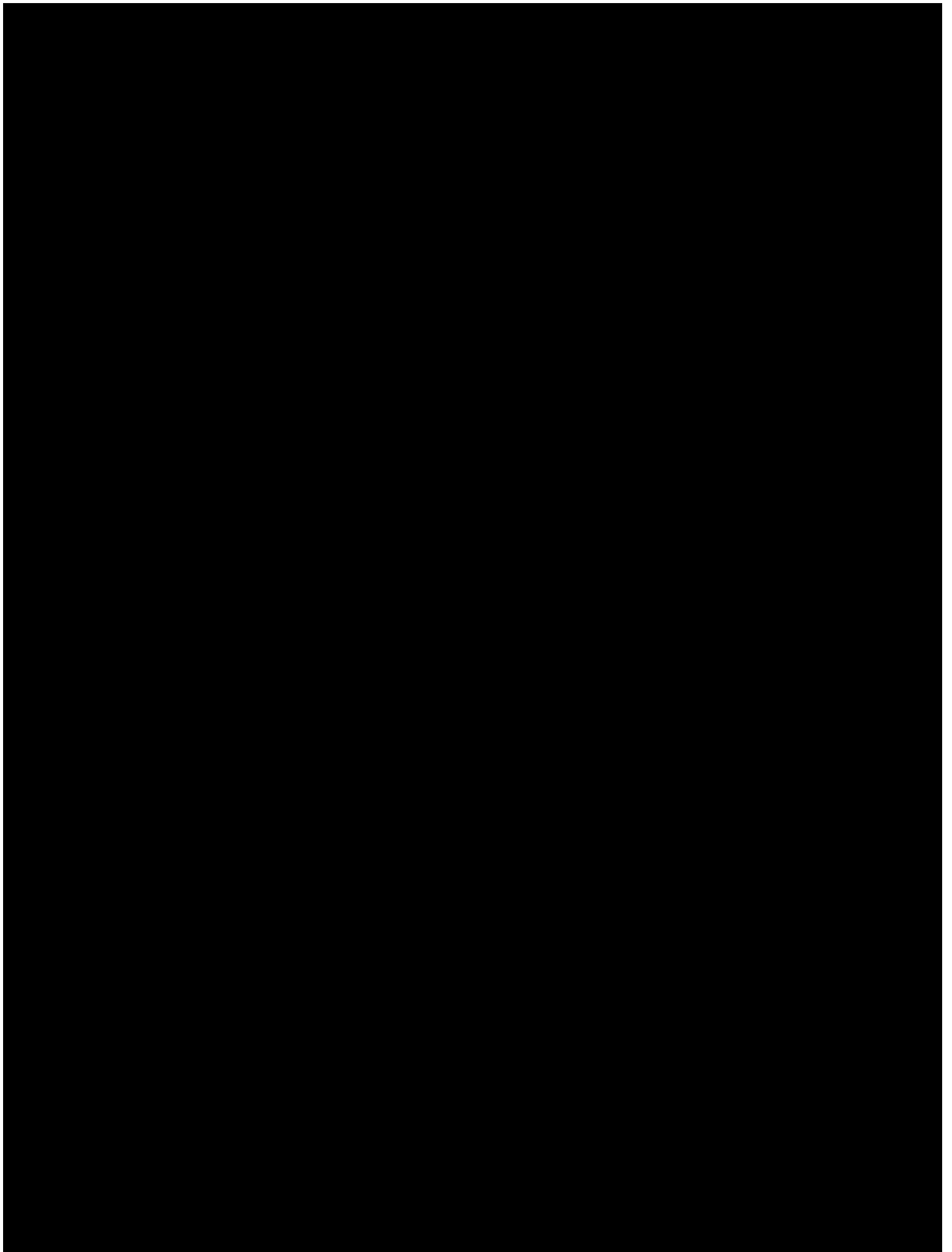
Pronouns: he / him / his

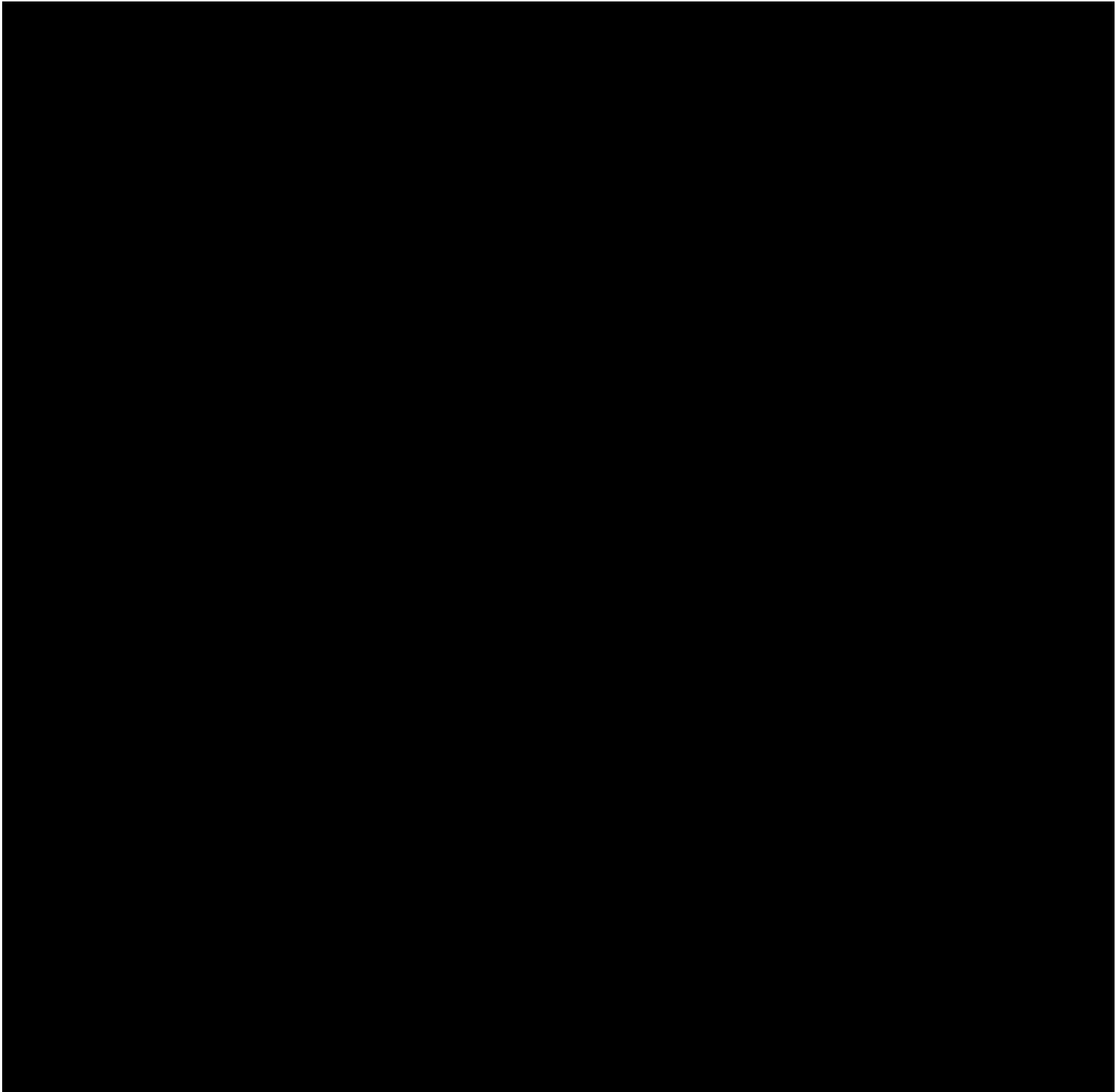
Draft PR

From: [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: tobias.garnett [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, 31 Oct 2024 09:12:11 +0000
Attachments: Draft press release CP30 draft for FS.docx (32.54 kB)

Hi I'm still wordsmithing to reduce length but wanted to get you this asap.

[REDACTED]





OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [redacted]
Sent: 16 October 2024 17:21
To: Golding, Ben (Energy Security) [redacted] (Energy Security)
[redacted] Stark, Chris (Energy Security) [redacted]
[redacted] @energysecurity [redacted] (Energy Security)
[redacted] Chambers, Theresa (Energy Security) [redacted]
[redacted] Bailey, Paul (Energy Security) [redacted]
[redacted] (Energy Security) [redacted] (Energy Security)
[redacted] @energysecurity [redacted]
Cc: Claire Dykta (NESO) [redacted] (NESO) [redacted];
Fintan Slye (NESO) [redacted]
Subject: DRAFT AND [redacted] e

Dear all,

Attached is a first draft of our advice to Government on pathways to achieving clean power by 2030. **Please treat this as confidential and not for onward circulation.** We would welcome your feedback by 9am on Tuesday 22nd Oct. We are keen to get views on the messaging, tone and structure (overall and for the main sections) as well as anything that you think is missing and anything you strongly dislike or can't live with! Detailed text markup is not needed, as this is a working draft and wording will be tightened up and revised as we continue to edit. Numbers remain in square brackets and subject to change as we complete full data assurance this week.

This draft has undergone quite a significant structural change from our earlier internally reviewed versions, to reduce the size of the main report and to move the detail into a series of annexes. The attached ~50 page report will be supplemented with a number of annexes including more detail on our analysis and the associated stakeholder feedback on the core elements of the advice including 1) demand, supply and flex; 2) networks and connections; 3) operability and operations; 4) cross cutting enablers; 5) costs and benefits; 6) actions; 7) key projects. We will also have annexes covering stakeholder feedback and our assurance approach. I haven't included the annexes here as we need to refine to ensure they stand alone, but could potentially share the core ones early next week if useful.

On Costs and Consumers (Section 5.4) we are finalising analysis and therefore this section has some gaps. We will have analysis and msgs on operating costs and system costs by early next week and would be happy to share at that point and set up a call to walk through it with you.

Enjoy the read and look forward to receiving your consolidated feedback next week. If you'd like to discuss in the meantime please do get in touch with me or the team.

Thanks, Kayte

Kayte O'Neill
Chief Operating Officer



M: [REDACTED]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



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The registered information on National Energy System Operator Limited can be found on our Contacts Page.

Near-final CP30 report

From: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] (Energy Security)" [REDACTED] "Stark, Chris (Energy Security)" [REDACTED] (Energy Security)" [REDACTED] (Energy Security)" [REDACTED] (Energy Security)" [REDACTED] (Energy Security)"
Cc: Claire Dykta (NESO) [REDACTED], Fintan Slye (NESO) [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, 31 Oct 2024 11:05:51 +0000
Attachments: Draft Confidential CP30 Annex 1 30 Oct 24.pdf (1.8 MB); Draft Confidential CP30 Annex 2 30 Oct 24.pdf (2.46 MB); Draft Confidential CP30 Annex 3 30 Oct 24.pdf (851.29 kB); Draft Confidential CP30 Annex 4 30 Oct 24.pdf (1.88 MB); Draft Confidential CP30 Main Report 30 Oct 24.pdf (3.91 MB)

Dear colleagues

Please find attached the largely final copy of our CP30 report and technical annexes which is scheduled to be officially delivered to the Secretary of State next week. Thank you for all of your engagement and input over the last few weeks and months. We hope you will see that your feedback and comments have been incorporated wherever possible and at this stage we are not looking for further input as we move to publication; however notwithstanding this please do get in touch if there are any residual concerns copying [REDACTED] and Claire (in cc above).

Please do still treat this as highly confidential at this stage and do not forward on.

Kayte

Kayte O'Neill
Chief Operating Officer



M: [REDACTED]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



[No Subject]

From: [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: tobias.garnet [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, 01 Nov 2024 18:05:57 +0000
Attachments: Draft Press Release NESO publishes Clean Power 2030 Advice to Government 31.10.24 v1 mt (AutoRecovered).docx (45.62 kB)

PR and Report

From: [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: tobias.garnet [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (Energy Security)" [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, 02 Nov 2024 12:19:13 +0000
Attachments: NESO_Clean_Power_2030_Report.pdf (14.3 MB); Clean Power - Press Release - FINAL.docx (45.75 kB)

Dear Tobias [REDACTED]

Here are the final report and PR (which is still with the Board).

[REDACTED]

FW: UNDER EMBARGO - NESO Press Release: NESO publishes Clean Power 2030 Advice to Government - UNTIL 00.01 NOVEMBER 5, 2024

From: [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: tobias.garnett [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 11:46:59 +0000

From: [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2024 09:48
To: [REDACTED] (NESO) [REDACTED]
Subject: UNDER EMBARGO - NESO Press Release: NESO publishes Clean Power 2030 Advice to Government - UNTIL 00.01 NOVEMBER 5, 2024

From: .box.pressoffice <pressoffice@uk.nationalenergyiso.com>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 9:18:23 AM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
To: .box.pressoffice <pressoffice@uk.nationalenergyiso.com>
Subject: UNDER EMBARGO - NESO Press Release: NESO publishes Clean Power 2030 Advice to Government - UNTIL 00.01 NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Good morning,

Please see below an under embargo press release from the National Energy System Operator (NESO) setting out our Clean Power 2030 Advice to Government.



EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 NOVEMBER 5, 2024

05.11.2024

NESO publishes Clean Power 2030 Advice to Government

National Energy System Operator (NESO) has today released comprehensive and independent analysis of how to achieve Clean Power in 2030 (CP30 Report).

This advice was commissioned by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, as part of the Government's mission to make Britain a clean energy superpower.

The analysis concludes that Clean Power is a huge challenge but is achievable for Great Britain by 2030.

The report sets out both the challenging hurdles that need to be overcome and the benefits to consumers, the economy and society, including Britain's energy security that doing so could deliver.

The analysis shows that overall systems costs should not increase for a clean power system. Other factors could reduce electricity bills in 2030, including a reduction in legacy policy costs (as contracts expire) and energy efficiency improvements. Government policy decisions could also reduce bills by 2030.

Significant investment in making Great Britain's energy system clean and fit for the future is needed. With this investment Great Britain could also become a world leader in first-of-a-kind technologies.

Delivering a Clean Power system by 2030 increases the amount of domestic energy production and significantly reduces Great Britain's exposure to potential energy price shocks from spikes in international gas prices.

The analysis shows that clean sources can produce at least as much power as Great Britain consumes in total in 2030.

The CP30 Report concludes that a clean power system would be operable and maintain the world-class reliability standards for a secure energy system expected in Great Britain.

Delivering Clean Power by 2030 requires swift action from industry, regulators, government, and NESO, necessitating significant changes in approach. The right supply, demand, networks and flexibility all need to be developed. A key challenge will be making sure all deliver simultaneously, in full and at maximum pace, in a sustainable way to set Great Britain on the right path beyond 2030.

Fintan Slye, Chief Executive, National Energy System Operator said:

“There’s no doubt that the challenges ahead on the journey to delivering clean power are great. However, if the scale of those challenges is matched with the bold, sustained actions that are outlined in this report, the benefits delivered could be even greater.

“A clean power system for Great Britain will deliver a backbone of home-grown energy that breaks the link between volatile international gas prices; that is secure and affordably powers our homes and buildings; that decarbonises the transport that we take to school and work; that drives the businesses of today and catalyses the innovations of the future.”

Next steps

Government will now consider the advice in developing its clean power action plan later this year.

Alongside this report, NESO is publishing a consultation on the methodologies which create the architecture for grid connections reform. The consultation proposes specific criteria and processes for reducing and reordering the connections queue. It marks a shift from the current “first come, first served” approach to grid connections, to prioritise those projects which are ready to proceed, and which align to the locational and technological mix needed for the future energy system. Reforming grid connections to align with plans for the future energy system is a critical step identified in the Clean Power 2030 report.

ENDS

About NESO

The National Energy System Operator, NESO, is an independent, public corporation at the centre of the energy system taking a whole system view to create a world where everyone has access to reliable, clean and affordable energy.

For media enquiries please contact:

E: pressoffice@nationalenergyso.com

M: 07866 897151

Notes to editors:

A link to the full Commission from the Secretary of State and Head of Mission Control for Clean Power 2030 can be found here: [SoS and Chris Stark letter to ESO providing advice on achieving clean power by 2030 for Great Britain](#)

As outlined in the formal commission to NESO, our analysis includes:

- Energy generation and demand mixes.
- Key requirements for the transmission network.
- Consideration of criteria that could support connections reform.
- View of actions needed to enable delivery.
- High level assessment of costs and benefits, opportunities, challenges and risks.

Note: Clean power sources include renewables, nuclear, CCS, hydrogen.

Key features of a clean power system in 2030

Pathways

Power sector emissions of greenhouse gases have fallen by 65% since 2010. In 2023, clean electricity sources met 62% of Great Britain’s demand setting a good foundation to build on for clean power.

We have developed two primary pathways that deliver Clean Power. These offer challenging, but realistic and cost-effective, routes based on our assessment of the project pipelines and stakeholder feedback.

We have also developed two wider sensitivities, which offer more stretching levels of deployment of key technologies – more renewables or more dispatchable power.

These, along with further exploratory sensitivities, have allowed us to examine a range of possibilities and explore the relative importance of specific elements of the clean power system.

Supply & Demand

Demand Flexibility and Markets: A growth in demand flexibility and the development of flexibility markets is needed, increasing from 2 GW in 2023 to 10-12 GW by 2030.

Offshore Wind Expansion: Building on GB's leading position in offshore wind by contracting more capacity in the next two years than in the past six years by building an additional 28-35GW, up from today's 15GW.

Onshore renewables: The pathways see a doubling of onshore wind capacity from 13 GW in 2023 to 27 GW by 2030 and a trebling of solar from 15 GW to 47 GW by 2030. These can deploy at a faster rate than offshore wind and include smaller community-scale projects.

Nuclear: 3.5-4.1 GW by 2030 with scope for more if SMRs are possible by 2030.

Expansion of Storage: Our analysis sees battery capacity increase from 5 GW in 2023 to 23-27 GW in 2030. Long-duration energy storage (LDES) is also key and grows from 3 GW in 2023 to 5 – 8 GW in the pathways.

Innovative Technologies: The delivery of first-of-a-kind carbon capture and storage (CCS) and plants producing power from low carbon hydrogen.

Gas fired generation: Across both pathways the existing gas fired generation fleet remains available (strategic reserve) but with significantly reduced running (less than 5%).

Network infrastructure

- More network infrastructure will need to be built, more than four times faster than in the last decade, with a focus on speeding up delivery to reduce system costs. Current plans for network expansion are sufficient but must overcome many barriers to deliver on time and some vital projects need to be accelerated to deliver by 2030.
- More than twice as much transmission network needs to be built in the coming five years than the previous ten, along with accompanying enabling works, connections and distribution network strengthening.

Connections

- Delivery of a clean power system in 2030 will require an installed generation and storage capacity of around 210-220 GW and significant levels of new demand connections to the electricity network across transmission and distribution. The report considers the reforms that are required to connections processes (both for queue management and wider network related reforms) to deliver the right technology, in the right location at the right time.
- As such we have also published today, for consultation, details on how we propose to align the reformed connections process with strategic energy plans (initially Government's plan for clean power by 2030, and then the first Strategic Spatial Energy Plan, SSEP). The scope of our connections reform proposals includes all projects connecting at transmission level, and any generation or storage projects connecting to the distribution networks that impact upon the transmission system.
- Consideration will also be given to the treatment of demand connections with regards to the queue processes and the interaction with the generation connections.
- We set out in the consultation our view that the connections process and reformed connections queue should align with the technology, capacity and regional requirements for clean power as will be set out within Government's clean power plan (at both a transmission and distribution level), and then with subsequent strategic plans like the SSEP.
- Alignment with the Government's clean power plan will help ensure the efficiency of the new connections queue and that 'ready' and strategically aligned projects are connected efficiently to achieve clean power. This could be achieved through including capacity requirements by location/region for different technologies connecting at transmission and distribution networks.

Other Critical enablers

Urgent Action Required: The pathways require swift action from industry, regulators, government, and NESO necessitating significant changes in approach. The right supply, demand, networks and flexibility all need to be developed for the pathways to be met. A key challenge will be making sure all deliver simultaneously, in full and at maximum pace, in a sustainable way and sets Great Britain on the right path beyond 2030.

Planning Overhaul: A radical reduction in consenting times and an overhaul of the planning process.

Markets and investment: Various market arrangements and investment support schemes are in the process of, or will need, reform to reach clean power and operate the system efficiently. Decisions must provide stability and confidence to underpin the large amount of investment required, while supporting innovation and efficient operation of the system.

Digitalisation is necessary to enable changes needed: To enable a flexible energy system in the future digitalisation initiatives need to be consolidated into a unified sector-wide prioritised plan, with expedited data sharing and enhanced decision making driven through rapid adoption of artificial intelligence.

Supply Chains Need Certainty: Policy certainty, visibility of the future market and swift funding decisions are needed to ensure developers can mobilise the supply chains and workforce needed. Over the medium term, greater strategic coordination

can enable delivery whilst supporting the growth of domestic supply chains and a skilled workforce to meet the growing pipeline of projects.

Costs and benefits

While some factors, including the level of investment in a Clean Power system, will involve new costs, there will be direct savings offsetting these (e.g., less gas burnt in power generation).

In addition, in a clean power system, gas will set the price less frequently which will tend to reduce wholesale prices.

Further reductions in legacy support costs will occur between now and 2030 (e.g., from expiry of older ROCs and FITs contracts)

There are also additional opportunities to reduce bills further through energy efficiency.

Reducing exposure to price shocks

- The move away from gas as the predominant price setter for electricity would reduce the risk of major price spikes. Price spikes are passed on to consumers, as seen during the energy crisis of 2022, when energy bills increased dramatically due to high gas prices.
- The analysis shows that if gas use for power generation remained at the levels of 2023 and gas prices were raised to the peak levels seen in 2022 (300p/therm on average), this would add around £12 billion to annual electricity system costs in Great Britain. However, in the Clean Power Pathways the effect of such a price shock would be significantly reduced.

Bill impacts

- The translation of clean power costs into bill impacts depends on policy choices, including how and when costs are reflected in prices and how they are distributed among different consumers. We therefore have not modelled impacts on bills.

Thank you.

Best wishes,

Stephen

Head of Media
External Affairs



Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



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RE: [EXTERNAL] URGENT: definition of clean power

From: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED]
To: "Golding, Ben (Energy Security)" [REDACTED] Kayte O'Neill (NESO)
Date: Mon, 04 Nov 2024 17:57:59 +0000

Hi Ben, apologies for the late reply. To close the loop on this, we have inserted the following line as a footnote in the main document on pages 7 and 14. This was the cleanest way we could incorporate without making a bigger deal than necessary of it in supporting materials, but not impacting the typesetting in the final document from the designers.

"This is the description of Clean Power used in this report. Government will set out how it is defining Clean Power 2030 in due course."

Hopefully that satisfies everyone as all materials are now fully locked.

Thanks, Kayte

Kayte O'Neill
Chief Operating Officer



M: [REDACTED]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA

From: Golding, Ben (Energy Security) [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2024 14:48
To: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] URGENT: definition of clean power

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OFFICIAL

Thanks Kayte – totally understand on the document, and had flagged to HMT already I thought that was likely the case. Let me know what might be possible in supporting materials.

Ben

OFFICIAL

From: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2024 14:15
To: Golding, Ben (Energy Security) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] URGENT: definition of clean power

OFFICIAL

Hi Ben, thanks for the note. I'm afraid this isn't going to be possible for the document at this late stage – both from a timing and governance perspective. I'll come back to you on whether / how it can be factored in to supporting materials – we're in back to back media briefings so not quite as easy to discuss internally as it normally would be – I'll get back to you asap this afternoon.
Thanks, K

Kayte O'Neill
Chief Operating Officer



M: [REDACTED]
Faraday House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA



OFFICIAL

From: Golding, Ben (Energy Security) [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2024 13:30
To: Kayte O'Neill (NESO) [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] URGENT: definition of clean power

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OFFICIAL

Hi Kayte,

I've had a last minute request from HMT colleagues for us to request that you add some clarifying text to your report around the definition of clean power, along the lines of the blue highlighted bit below:

*A clean power system is one where demand is met by clean sources (mainly renewables), with gas-fired generation used only rarely to ensure security of supply, primarily during sustained periods of low wind. For the analysis in this report, we have described this as: by 2030, clean sources produce at least as much power as Great Britain consumes in total and unabated gas should provide less than 5% of Great Britain's generation in a typical weather year. **This is an illustrative level of clean power and higher or lower levels are also possible. Government will set out how it is defining Clean Power 2030 in due course.***

Let me know if (a) you are happy to add some wording along similar lines (it's your report, but hopefully something like this is uncontroversial); and (b) if it's feasible to do that in the report itself at this stage, or if more realistic do to that in supporting materials. I'm entirely conscious that typesetting timetables might mean it's too late for the document!

Ben



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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