

Public

NESO Customer Connections Seminar Edinburgh

2 April 2025

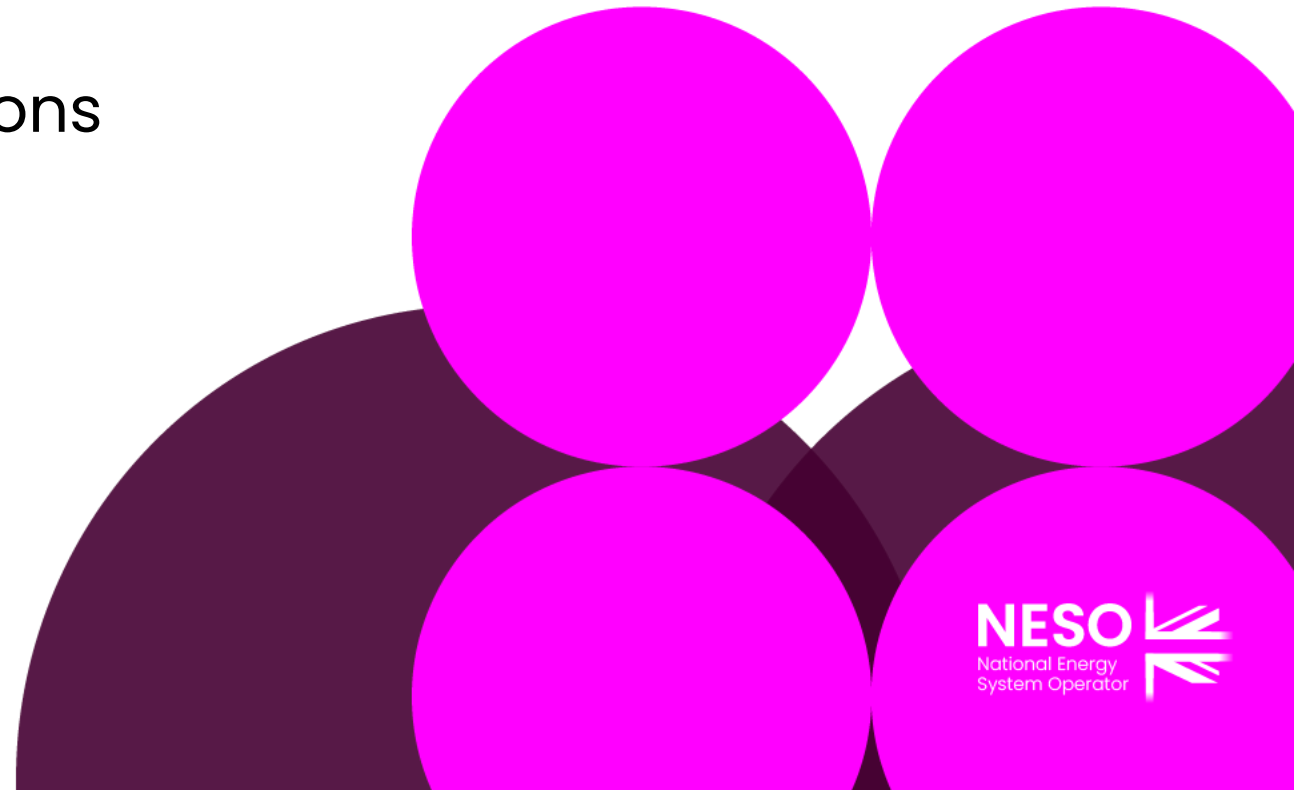
Welcome and NESO Update

9:30 – 9:15



Rich Westwood

GB Offshore Connections
Operations Manager



House Keeping

Fire Safety

No planned fire alarms today. In the event of the fire alarm activation which is a “two tone electronic sounder” all Delegates shall be directed to the Assembly Points by EICC Staff & Hosts using the nearest Emergency Exits.

Restrooms and lifts

Located on every floor

Refreshments and Lunch

Coffee Breaks 11:30 – 12:00 and 2:15 – 2:45, served in Strathblane Hall .

Lunch 12:30 – 13:15, served in Strathblane Hall .

Wi-Fi Username: Delegate

Password: Haymarket

Public

Agenda

2. Welcome, NESO update, SSEP	9:30 – 10:00
3. Connections Reform with NESO and DESNZ	10:00 – 11:00
4. Evidence Submission and Readiness Criteria	11:00 – 11:30
5. Break	11:30 – 12:00
6. Breakout Session 1 (Choice of 4)	12:00 – 12:30
7. Lunch	12:30 – 13:15
8. Breakout session 2 (Choice of 4)	13:15 – 13:45
9. Breakout Session 3 (Choice of 4)	13:45 – 14:15
10. Break	14:15 – 14:45
11. NESO, ENA and Networks panel	14:45 – 15:45
12. Closing Remarks	15:45 – 16:15
13. Networking	16:15 – 17:30
* Visit our Networking Stands	11:30 – 15:45

Agenda

Breakout Sessions: choice of three throughout the day

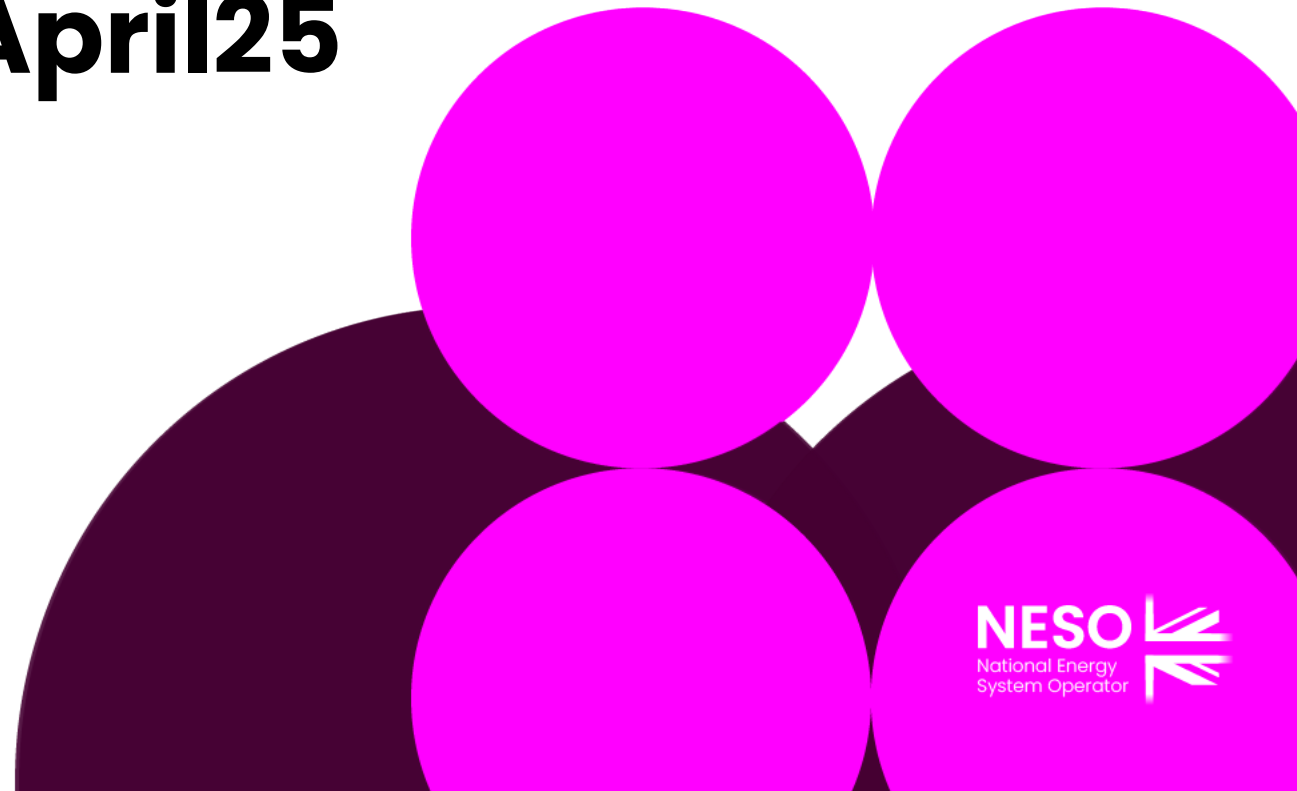
- Customer Journeys – Transmission generation customers
- Customer Journeys – Demand customers
- Customer Journeys – Embedded / DNO connected customers
- Connections Reform Surgery

Networking stands: 11:30 – 15:45

NESO team stands	Customer stands
Contract managers & Operability team	National Grid Energy Transition
E&CS Customer Strategy	SP Energy Network
Digital	SSE Transmission
Policy & Change	
Strategic Spatial Energy Planning	

Share your day on LinkedIn

#NESOconnectionsApril25





Matt Magill

Engineering and Customer Solutions Director

Public

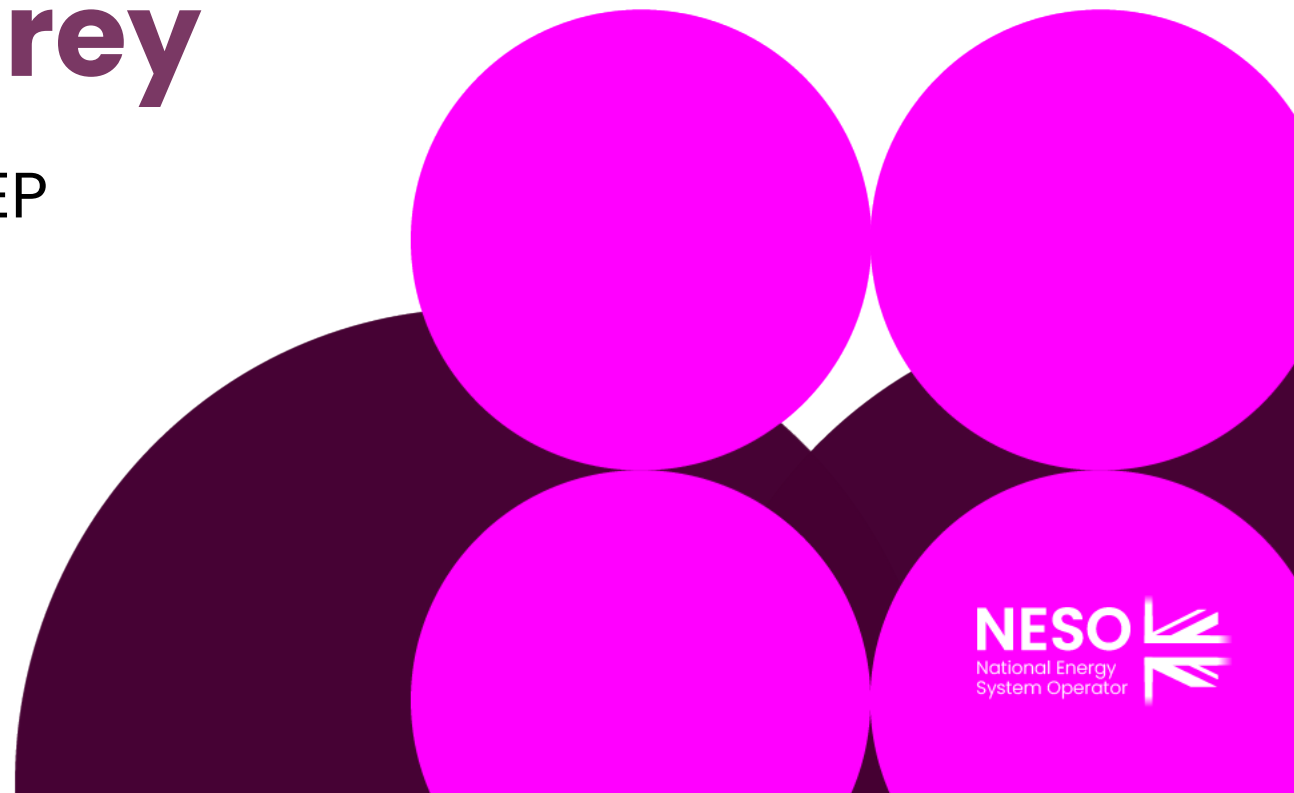
Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP)

9:45 – 10:00



Charon Balrey

Senior Manager, SSEP





Strategic Energy Planning

For the first time in industry, we will **coordinate system design and planning efforts across the whole energy industry** so planning and investment decisions can be optimised to deliver GB's net zero objectives at the most equitable cost to consumers.

Our three overarching roles are the following:

- **Strategic Spatial Energy Planning**
- **Centralised Strategic Network Planning**
- **Regional Energy Strategic Planning**



Facilitate Net Zero target while ensuring energy security



Deliver regional and national whole energy solutions



Consider the impact on communities



Consider the impact on the environment



Consider costs to consumers and deliver economic strategies

SSEP explained

What is the SSEP?

A GB-wide plan that will map potential zonal locations, quantities and types of electricity and hydrogen generation and storage over time, modelled across a range of plausible futures.

Purpose

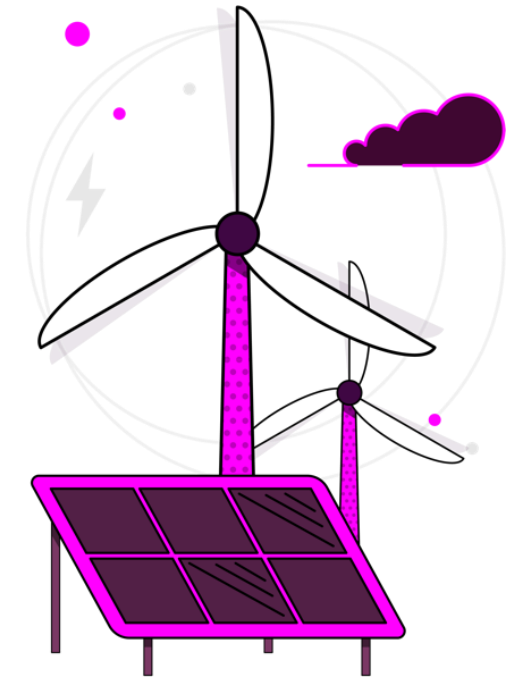
The SSEP will help accelerate and optimise the transition to **clean, affordable** and **secure energy** in Great Britain. It is part of a set of strategic energy plans that will help us achieve **net zero by 2050**. The SSEP was recommended in the Electricity Network Commissioner's 2023 Report.

Commission

We were jointly commissioned by UK, Scottish and Welsh governments in October 2024 to create an SSEP for the energy system, land and sea, across Great Britain.

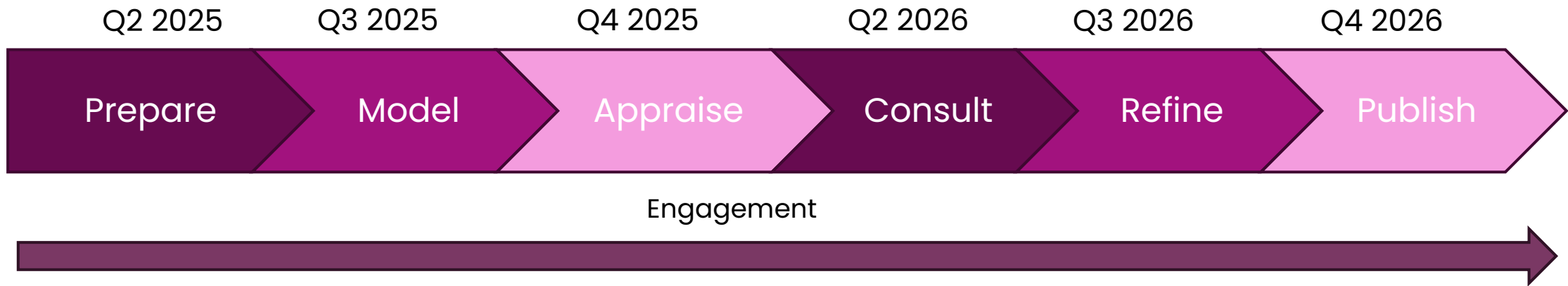
Pathway options

We will develop 4-6 options for how the energy system could look in the future. These will be presented to the UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who will confirm to NESO which pathway should be taken forward for public consultation.



How we will deliver the SSEP

The SSEP will be delivered through a phased approach across a two-year period and will be underpinned by our delivery principles to ensure robust and comprehensive engagement, assurance and governance.



Stakeholder engagement



Environment

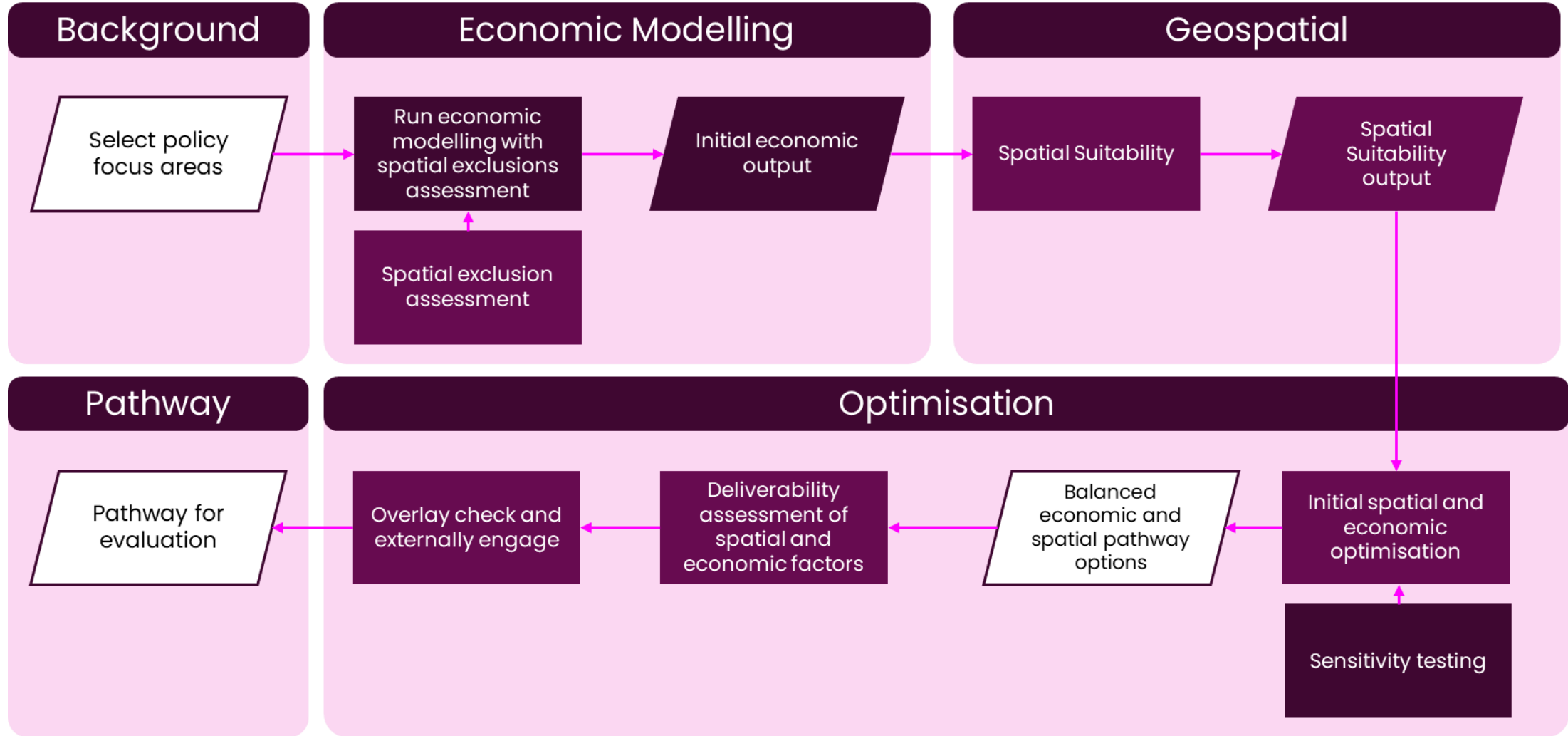


Assurance

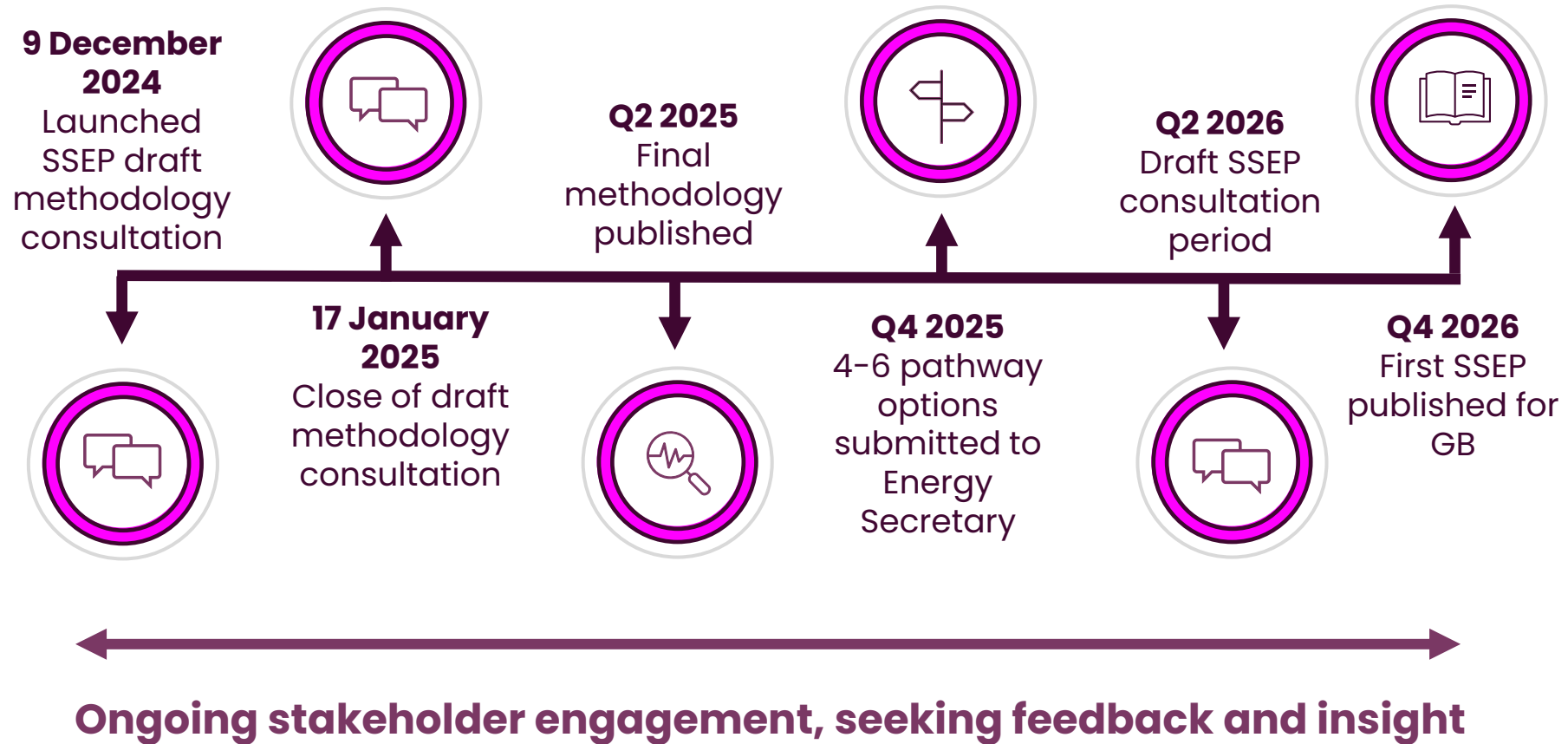


Governance

Modelling flow



Key dates and milestones



Public

How did you find this session?



Public

Connections Reform

with NESO and DESNZ

10:00 – 11:00

Q&A



Slido Code:
#NESOreform



James Norman
NESO Head of Connections Strategy



Paul Hawker
DESNZ Head of Electricity Network Connections



Rachael Eynon
NESO – Q&A lead Senior Connections Design Lead

Update on changes to the connections methodologies

We published minor updates to the 3 connections methodologies on 21/03/25.

4 categories of updates:

A	B	C	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ofgem minded to consultation related changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean Power 2030 Action Plan related changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarificatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Typographical changes

The 3 updated connections methodologies are now with Ofgem for decision.

A. Ofgem minded to consultation related changes

Introduction of 'WACM1' for CMP435 and 'WACM7' for CMP434 – additional 'Pause' stage and associated additional activities by NESO, network companies and Users.

Also, a minor change to Ofgem's role on Project Designation.



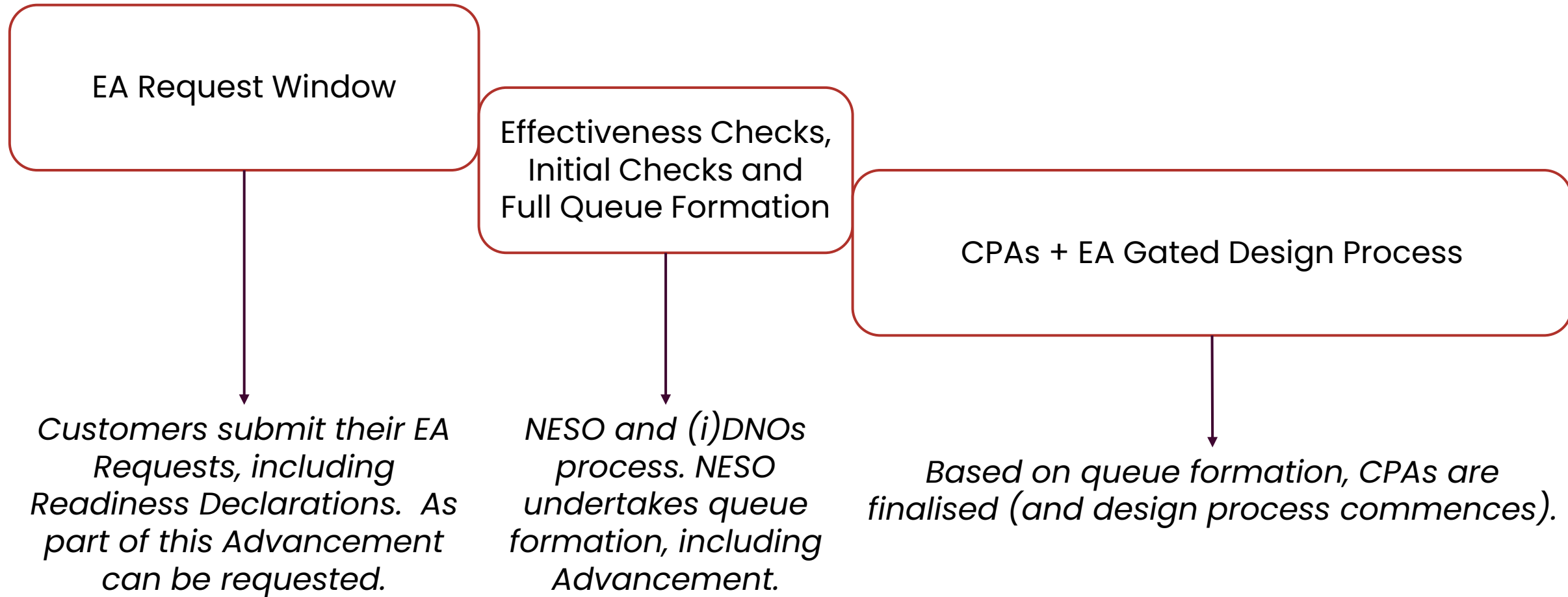
The 'Pause' (CMP435)

As soon as reasonably practicable after the application window closes and at least 10 Business Days prior to the start of the Gate 2 to Whole Queue design process, there will be a 'Pause' in which NESO will publish the 'EA Information' (as defined below) on a new one-off register for Gate 2 to Whole Queue.

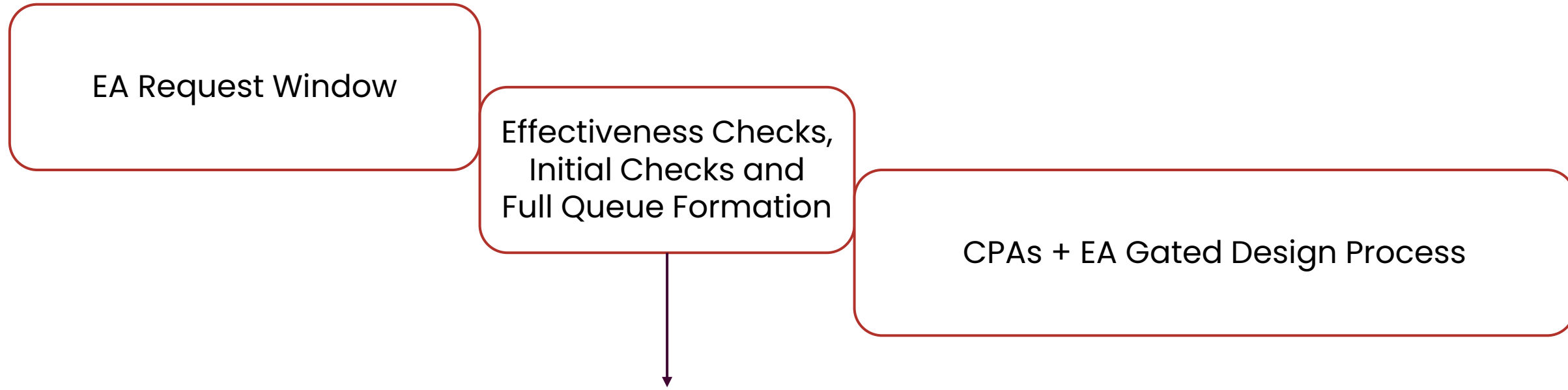
<p>"EA Information"</p> <p><i>*Some of the EA Information is existing published information, but some is new information.</i></p>	<p>the following information:</p> <p>(1) which Existing Agreements for a Project are Effective and by reference to these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) what are the Connection Points and Completion Dates; (b) what is the Installed Capacity and technology types. <p>(2) Which Existing Agreements for a Project which are to be given the status of Existing Gate 1 Agreements have expressed interest in Reservation.</p>
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Within the 'Pause' the developers who have submitted effective 'EA Requests' can request Advancement (or amend their Advancement request), or withdraw from the process (to become a Gate 1 Project).

Current Planned Process (without 'Pause')



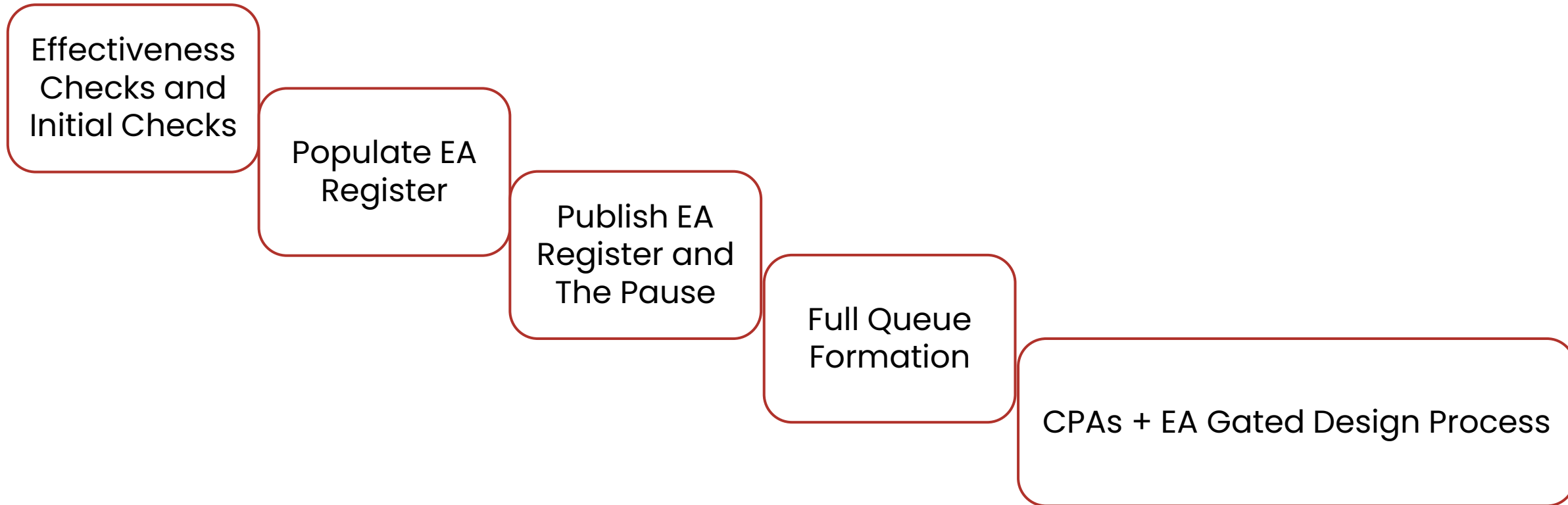
Introducing the 'Pause' (1 of 2)



The Pause occurs in this period.

Following the Pause, developers have the opportunity to withdraw or (re)request advancement.

Introducing the 'Pause' (2 of 2)



Developers will learn which projects have submitted an Effective EA Request (and which have become Gate 1 Existing Agreements), the Installed Capacity / technology type of those who have done so, and, to the extent known at the time, whether any projects are being considered for Reservation.
(Connection Points and Completion Dates are already known.)

B. Clean Power 2030 Action Plan related changes (1 of 2)

Strategic alignment criteria in the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology (also referenced in the CNDM) are closely aligned to Government's CP30 Action Plan.

Long duration energy storage

- 11th March 2025 – Government and Ofgem published “LDES Technical Decision Document”:
- We will use this wording to define LDES for the purposes of connections reform.
- We have also included “holding a live LDES Cap and Floor arrangement” within scope of protection clauses 2a and 2b of Strategic Alignment Criteria (a).

“To be considered LDES, an asset must be capable of discharge at full power for at least eight hours, and full power must be at least 50MW or 100MW (depending on technology maturity).”

For the purposes of the CP30 Action Plan pathway which will be used for connections, lithium-ion electricity storage projects will be treated as batteries. This does not affect their eligibility for the LDES cap and floor regime, should they otherwise be eligible.”

B. Clean Power 2030 Action Plan related changes (2 of 2)

Working with Government, we have identified two small scale additional 'clean' technologies that are not in scope of the CP30 Action Plan:

- 'geothermal generation' and
- 'run-of-river hydropower'.

'Geothermal generation' and 'run-of-river hydropower' projects will be deemed to have met the strategic alignment element of the Gate 2 criteria (under Strategic Alignment Criteria (d)).

Projects in these technologies would still need to meet the Gate 2 readiness criteria. This would not reduce the permitted capacities available for other technologies.

C & D: Clarificatory & Typographical changes

We have made clarificatory & typographical changes to ensure the methodologies are clearly understood.

Key changes:

- Protection clauses (Gate 2 strategic alignment criteria).
- Gate 2 readiness criteria (Original Red Line Boundary & DNOs/Transmission Connected iDNOs checks).
- Removed a large part of the Readiness Declaration section within the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology.
 - Will be replaced by Readiness Declaration.



Next steps and implementation

slide 1 of 2

Key **indicative** steps after Ofgem decision (assuming decision is to approve the codes / methodologies / licences):

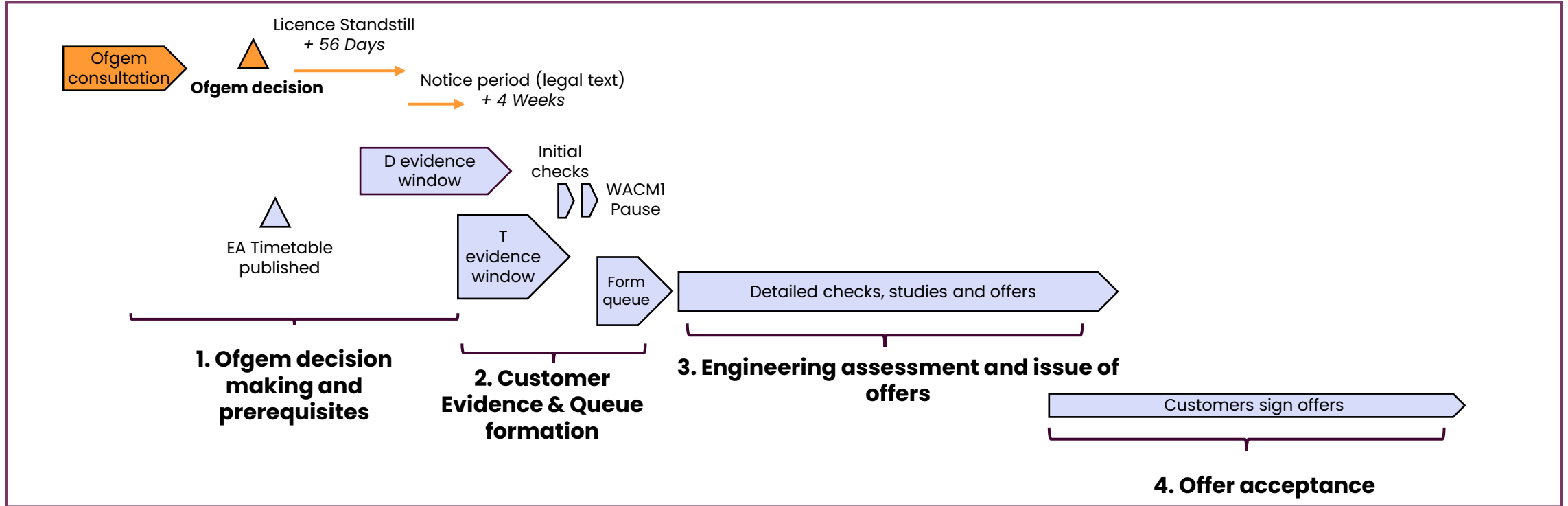
- **56-day period** before code, methodologies and licence changes go live
- G2TWQ evidence window for dx-connected projects opens during this period
- G2TWQ evidence window (for tx-connected projects) opens – **no less than 4 weeks after 56 day period**
- G2TWQ evidence window (for tx-connected projects) closes – **no less than 2 weeks after it opens**

Next steps and implementation

slide 2 of 2

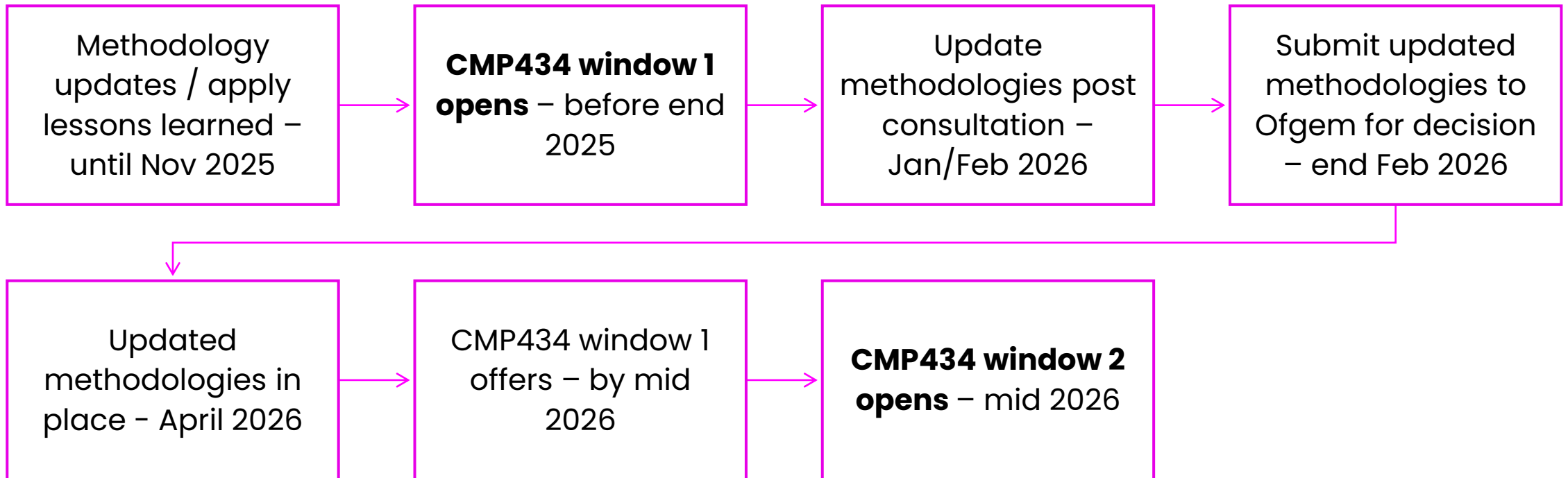
- NESO / (I)DNOs carry out effectiveness and initial readiness checks
- NESO Publish EA Register and The Pause [WACM1]
- NESO undertakes Full Queue Formation exercise
 - Determines which projects are Gate 1 / Gate 2 and within Gate 2, which are Phase 1 / Phase 2
 - NESO and (I)DNOs update individual developers of the above after queue formation
- NESO / (I)DNOs carry out detailed readiness checks
- NESO / (I) DNOs issue Gate 1 offers
- NESO / TOs carry out engineering assessment to determine Gate 2 offer content
- NESO / (I) DNOs issue Gate 2 offers

Indicative G2TWQ Plan



- Implementation timelines dependent on Ofgem’s decision
- NESO and Networks working together closely to optimise processes to deliver offers at pace for G2TWQ
- EA timetable will be published in Q2 2025 providing clarity on key dates for evidence submission and receipt of offers

Year ahead indicative plan



Q&A



Slido Code:
#NESOreform



James Norman
NESO Head of Connections Strategy



Paul Hawker
DESNZ Head of Electricity Network Connections



Rachael Eynon
NESO – Q&A lead Senior Connections Design Lead

Public

How did you find this session?



Public

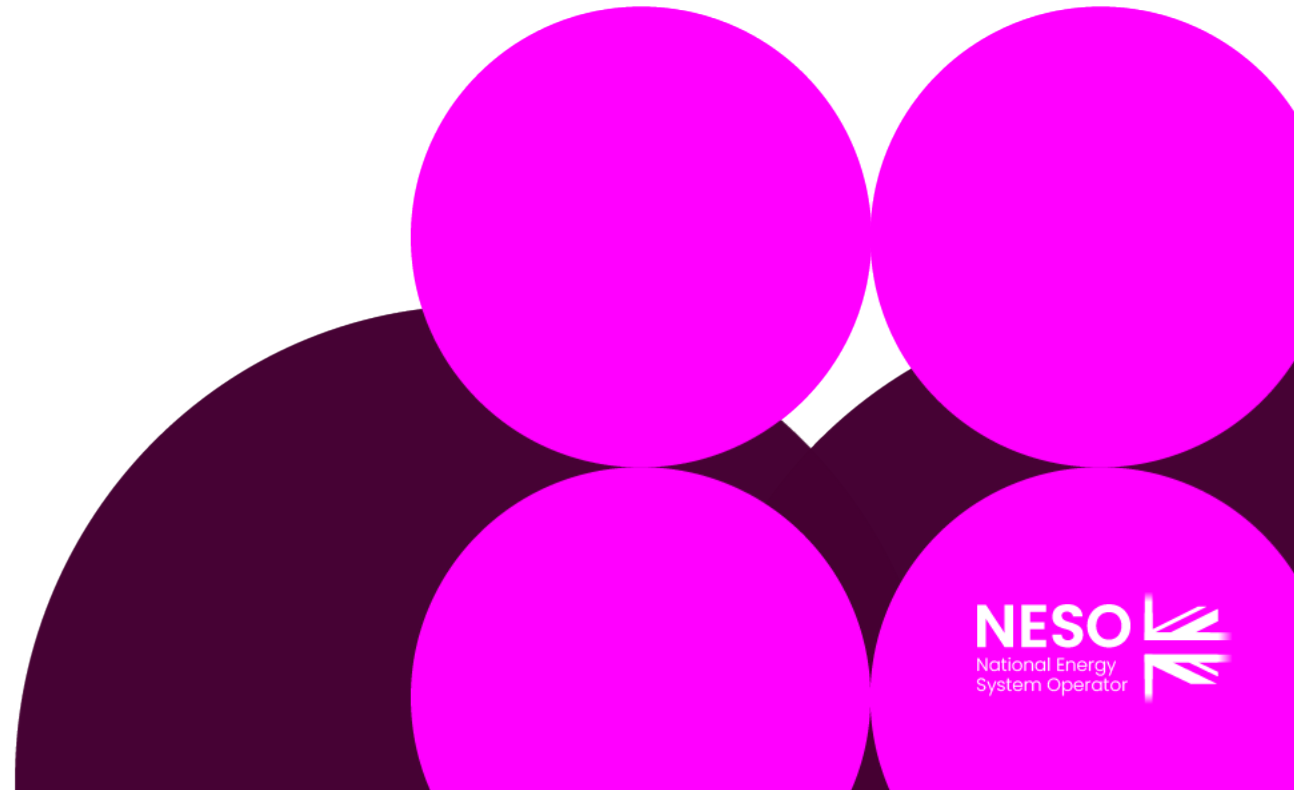
Evidence submission and Readiness Criteria

11:00 – 11:30



Izzie Sunnucks

Policy & Change Management Team
Manager



We plan to share the draft Readiness Declaration template in early April

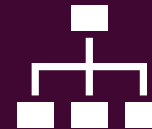
What is the Readiness Declaration?



How has it been developed?



Structure and content summary



Next steps





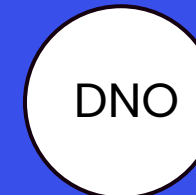
What is the Readiness Declaration and why is it important?

- Declaration is **where customers provide information NESO & DNOs need** to verify Gate 2 Readiness
- **Code requirement** to fill in the Readiness Declaration to apply for a Gate 2 Contract
- **Signed by a Director** of the User/ Applicant, or person authorised to make this declaration on their behalf

Entity Checking



Directly
Connected/ Large
Generation &
Demand



Small/ Medium
Embedded
Generation



The Readiness Declaration has been designed to help customers through the G2WQ evidence submission process

- 1 **Consistent:** Common content across Transmission & Distribution
- 2 **Detailed:** Precise requirements to help Users/Applicants
- 3 Can be **systemised**
- 4 **Legally robust:** proofed to enable Director commitment



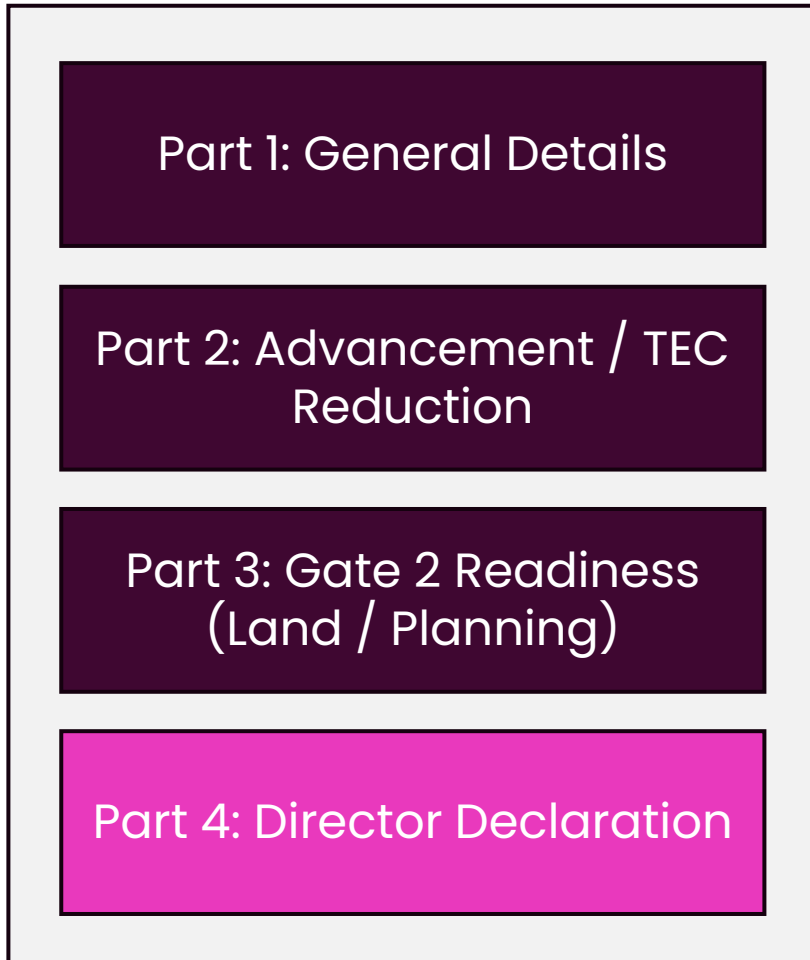
Readiness Declaration - Structure



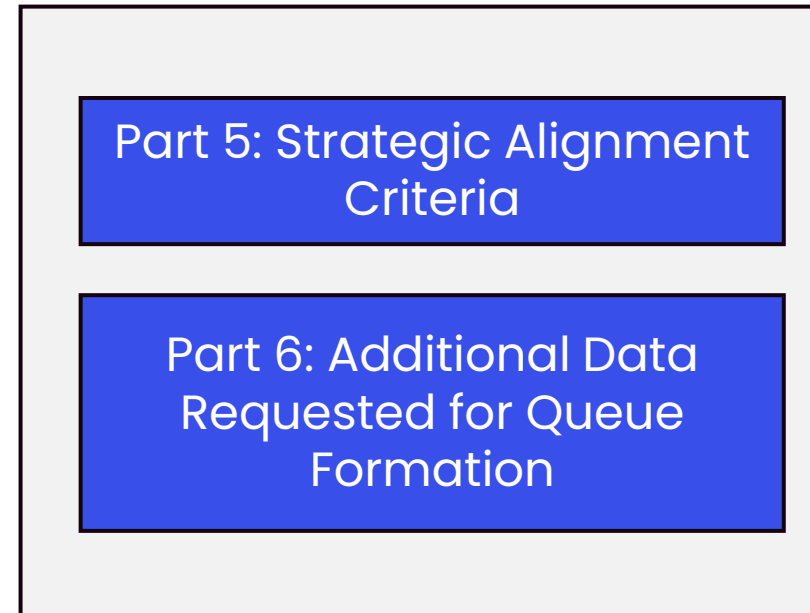


Parts 1-4 are mandatory to meet Gate 2 Readiness; but applicants are strongly encouraged to complete the whole form

Mandatory to meet Gate 2



Not mandatory, but if incomplete, risk not being Protected or lower queue position





We are sharing the draft early to support evidence preparation – further supporting materials will be published in due course

Intended for early April:

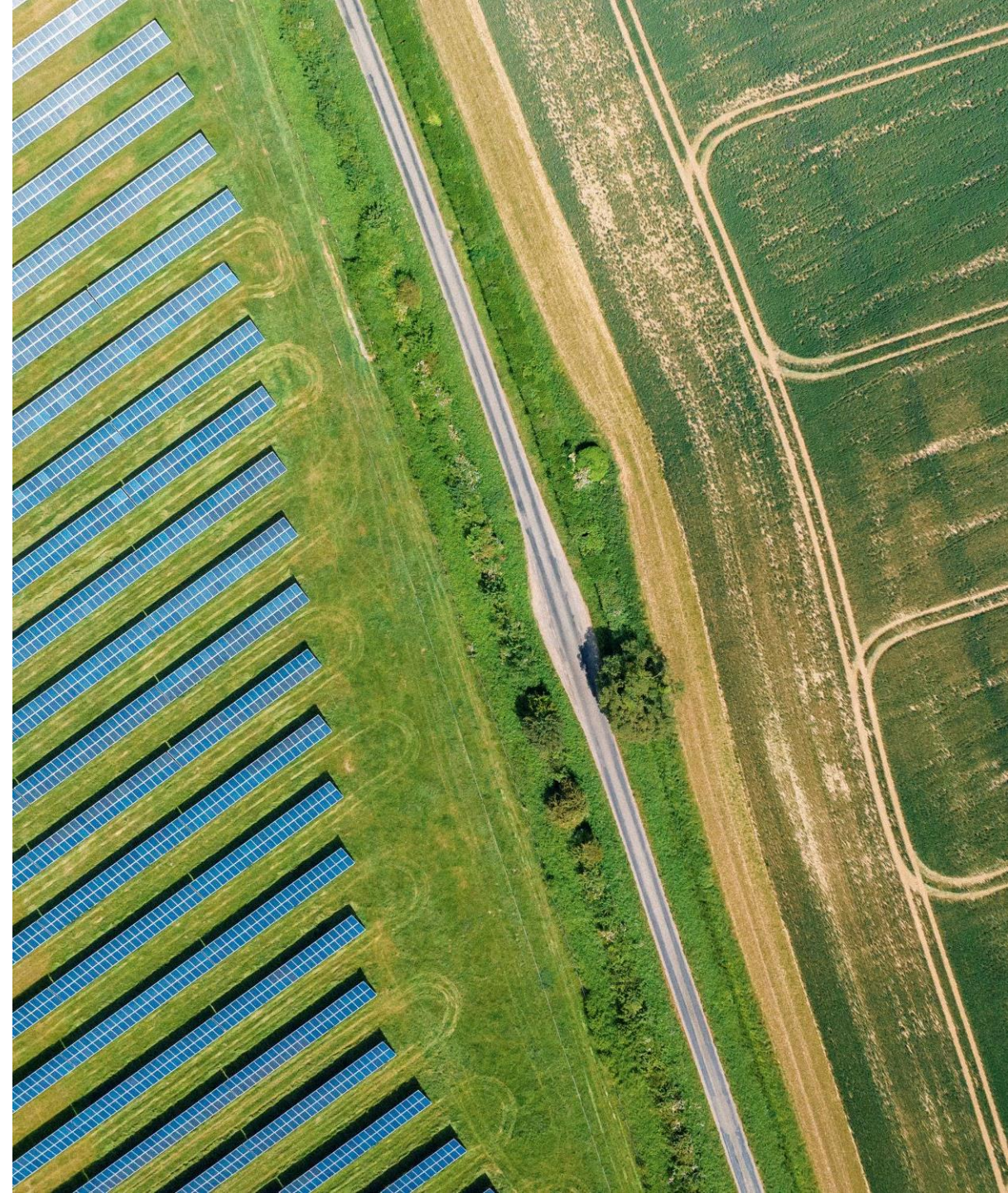
1. **Draft Readiness Declaration Template** – sharing before potential Ofgem decision, to help customers prepare G2 evidence submission
2. **Relevant updated Guidance (draft)**
 - Updated Letter of Authority guidance, which includes revised energy density tables
 - Updated Queue Management guidance

Please note:

- **Further support** is planned to help customers submit their declaration (handbook, webinars)
- We have consulted on the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology and customised the Declaration in response
- While we will not be actively consulting further, important queries can be sent to box.connectionsreform@nationalenergy.gov.uk

Public

How did you find this session?



Public

Break

11:30 – 12:00

Times for breakout sessions

Times	Breakout session
12:00 – 12:30	Session 1
12:30 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 13:45	Session 2
13:45 – 14:15	Session 3

PA announcements and NESO team members will guide you when it's time to move sessions

Public

Break

14:15 – 14:45

Public

NESO, ENA and Networks

Panel

14:45 – 15:45

Q&A



Slido Code:
#NESOnetworks



Nicola Bruce
NESO Head of Connections Operations



James Norman
NESO Head of Connections Strategy



Paul Lowbridge
National Grid Electricity Transmission
Head of Customer Management



Lynne Bryceland
SP Energy Networks
Head of Transmission Commercial and Policy



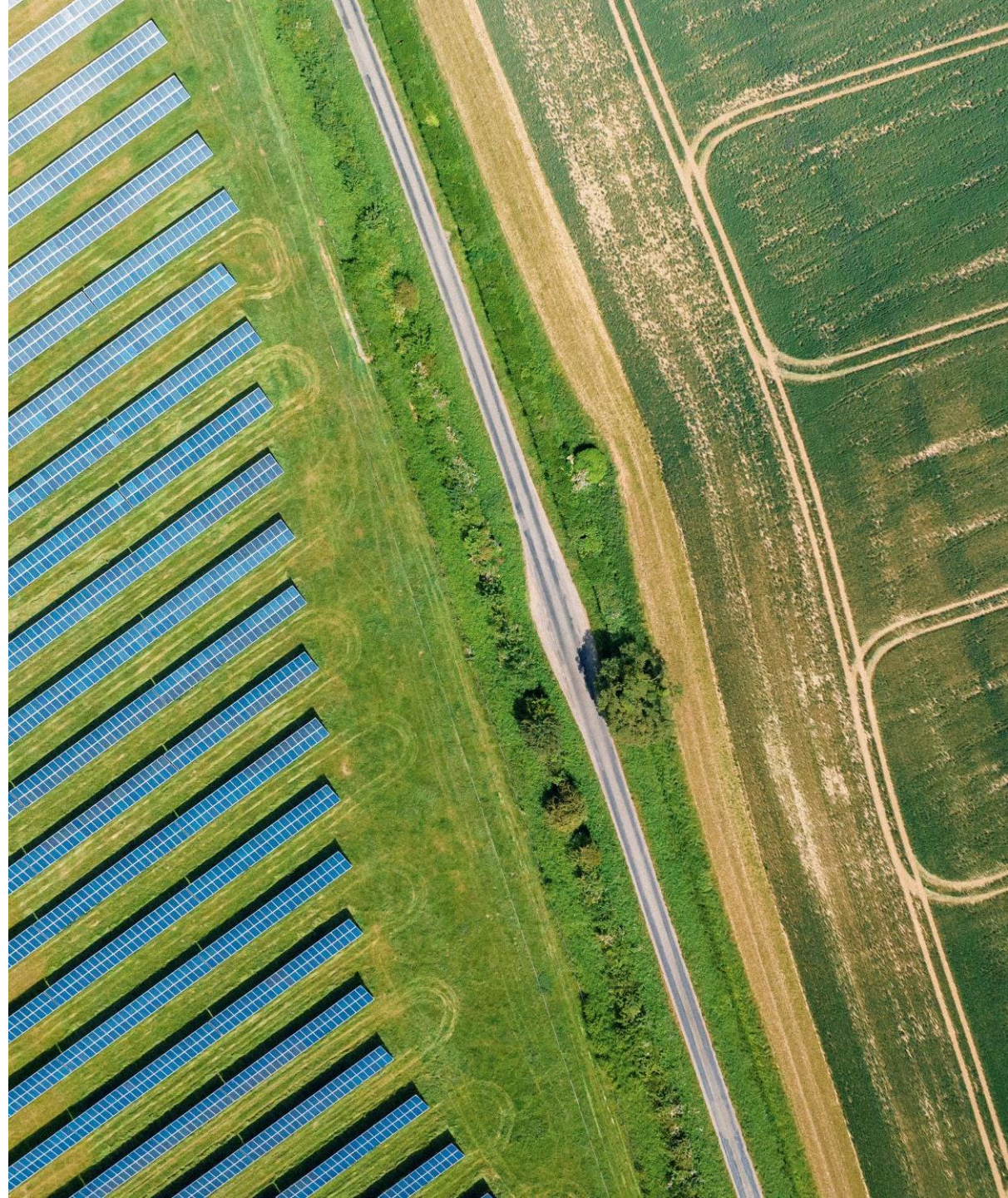
Annette Sloan
SSEN-T Head of Connections Reform and Strategy



David Boyer
ENA Director, Electricity Systems

Public

How did you find this session?



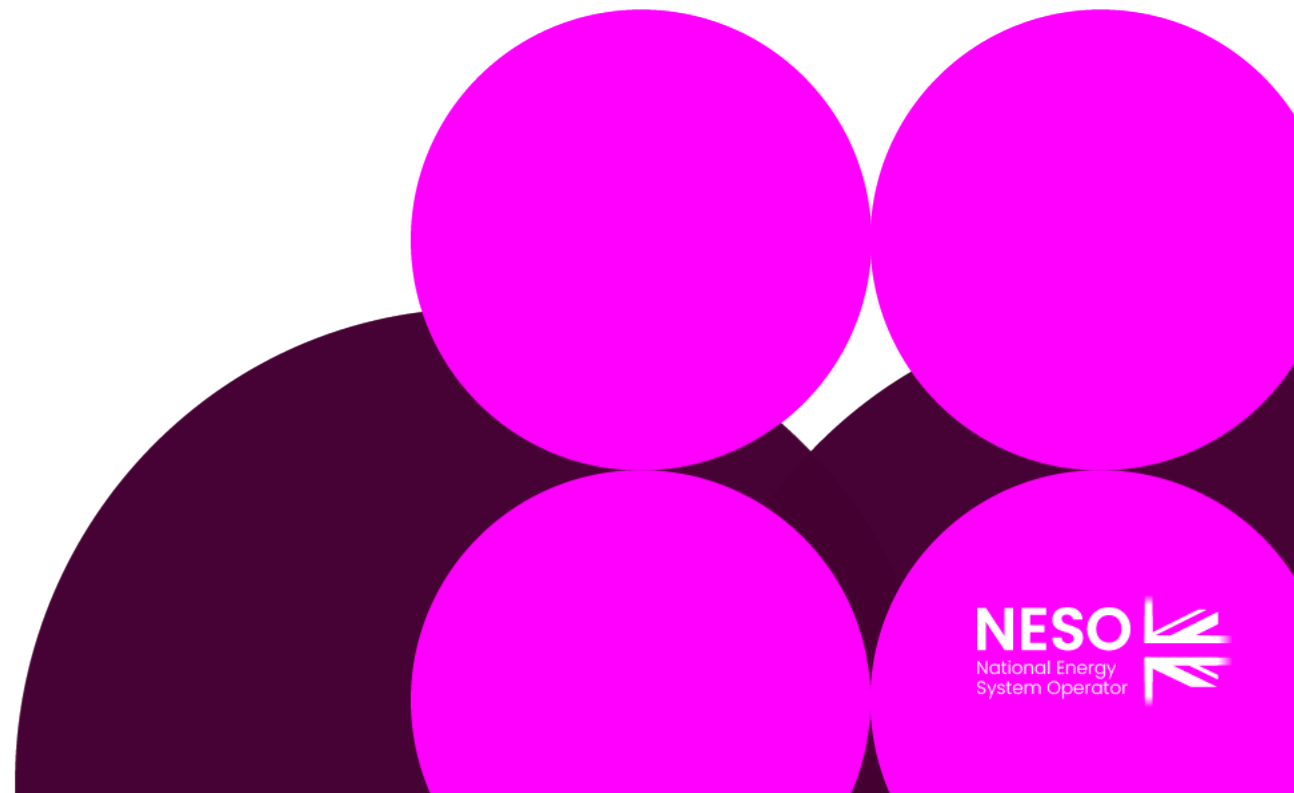
Closing remarks

15:45 – 16:15



Matt Magill

Engineering and Customer Solutions Director



Share your feedback

Please fill in our short post-event survey to improve future events

Connections Seminar Edinburgh
2025 post-event survey



Public

Networking

16:45 – 17:30

Internal slide

Breakout slides

1. Transmission and Demand sessions to use the same presentation
2. Embedded / DNO

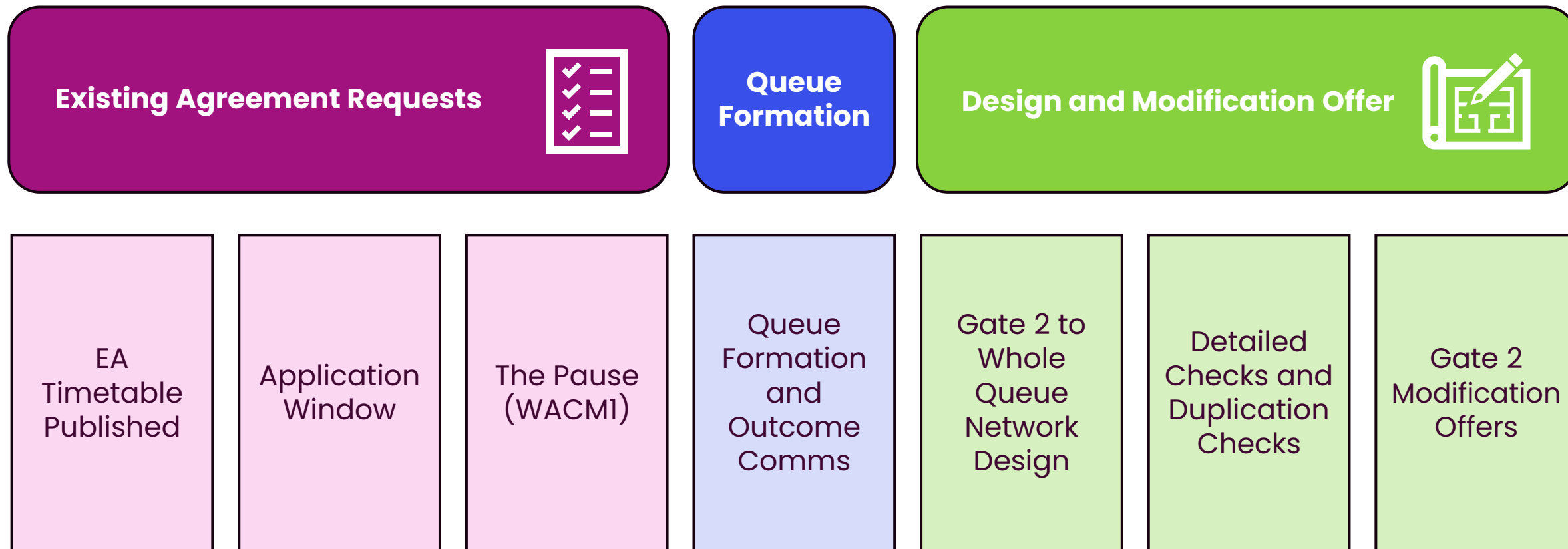


Public

Gate 2 to Whole Queue Customer Journey

2 April 2025

The Gate 2 to Whole Queue Process can be divided into 3 high-level phases...



Existing Agreement Requests

EA Timetable Published

Within the next few weeks NESO will publish the EA Timetable to set out the start dates, end dates and durations of the Gate 2 to Whole Queue Process steps, including the application window opening date and closure date.

Application Window

In the Application Window, developers with Existing Agreements need to submit EA Requests for Projects i.e. a Readiness Declaration, Original Red Line Boundary and (where required) Modification Application. As part of this Advancement (amongst other things) can be requested.

The Pause (WACMI)

Shortly after the application window closes, there will be a Pause in which developers can take limited further action in respect of Withdrawal or Advancement.

Developers who nominate as Gate 1 projects, do not submit an EA Request or fail initial checks will in most cases be provided with a Gate 1 AtV.

Queue Formation

Queue Formation & Outcome Communications

For those passing initial checks, queue formation will be undertaken. Once done, developers will be informed whether they are in the new queue and if so whether they are allocated to Phase 1 or Phase 2. Those allocated to Phase 1 will be provided with a Gate 1 AtV.



Design and Modification Offer

Gate 2 to Whole Queue Network Design

The Gate 2 to Whole Queue Network Design exercise will be undertaken. This includes considering requests for Advancement (due to the removal of Gate 1 Projects).

Detailed Checks and Duplication Checks

In parallel to the network design exercise, NESO and DNOs / Tx Connected IDNOs will undertake detailed checks and NESO will undertake duplication checks. Developers may be contacted in relation to such detailed/duplication checks.

Gate 2 Mod Offers

Gate 2 Modification Offers will be made to confirm/amend connection date and site e.g. in relation to Advancement. Contracts will be updated to include any new rights and obligations in respect of being Gate 2 Projects.

Developers who fail detailed/duplication checks or do not accept their Gate 2 Mod Offer will in most cases be provided with a Gate 1 AtV.

What do Customers need to do?

- ✓ Where in scope, ensure Projects meet Gate 2 Readiness Criteria in accordance with the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology
- ✓ Submit a Readiness Declaration in the Gate 2 to Whole Queue Application Window (with the relevant evidence)
- ✓ If Required, submit the Project Original Red Line Boundary and/or a Modification Application

Further information on the above items will shortly be published.

Thank you

**Any
questions?**

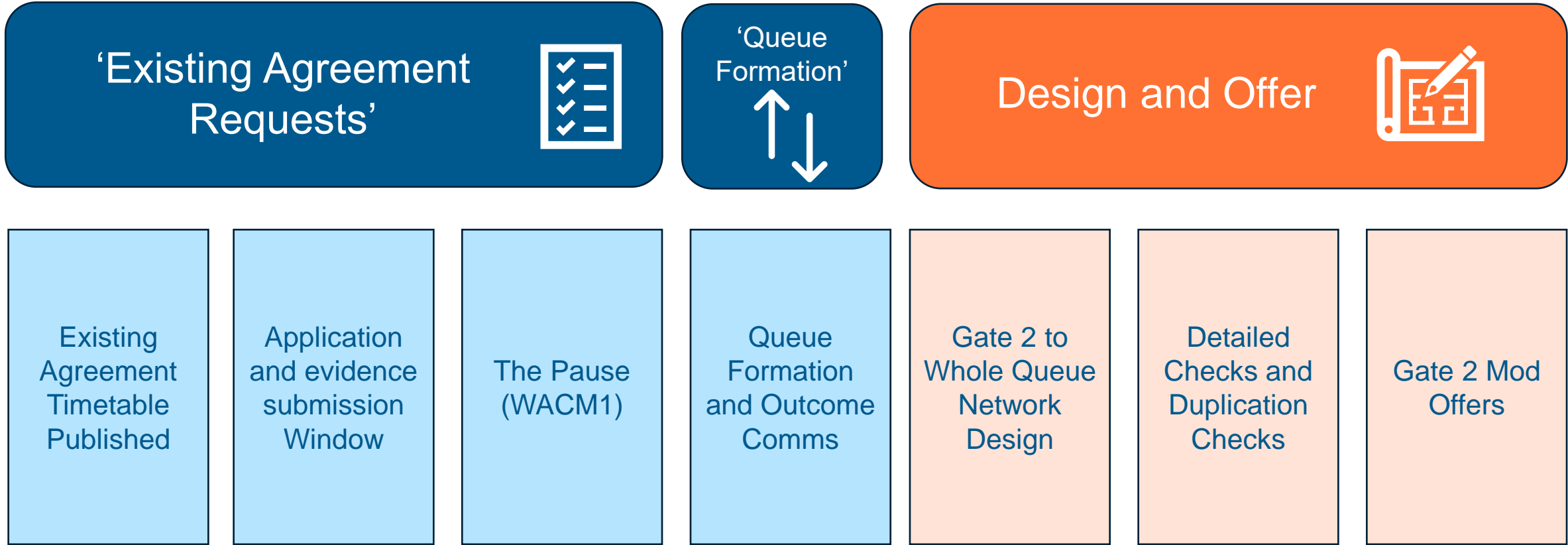


Public

Gate 2 to Whole Queue - DNO Customer Journey

2 April 2025

DNO - Gate 2 to Whole Queue Process



Existing Agreements



Existing Agreements (EA) Timetable Published

Within the next few weeks NESO will publish the EA Timetable to set out the start dates, end dates and durations of the Gate 2 to Whole Queue Process steps, including the application window opening date and closure date.



Application Window for Distribution connected projects

(Small and medium embedded only, large embedded are to apply to NESO)

DNOs will open an application window soon after Ofgem's decision and will close the same date as the T window, this will allow projects to submit evidence over a longer duration period and allows for a customer feedback loop where evidence may be missing.

Each project will need to submit EA Requests including as a minimum a Readiness Declaration, Original Red Line Boundary and (where required) Modification Application.

As part of this submission a project can request advancement, amongst other changes.

Your relevant DNO will be in touch with you with instructions as to how to submit evidence

Gate 2 Methodology- DNO process

<p>Small & Medium Embedded Projects → Submit Evidence to DNO</p>	Gate 2 Evidence	Checks by DNO
	Verification of Director(s) that signed the Readiness Declaration Letter	✓
	Secured land rights	✓
	Red line boundary	✓
	Secured Land Rights meet minimum parameters	✓
	Alignment with 2030 pathway (Recommendation Only, Confirmation to be carried out by NESO)	✓
	Designated project status (set out within Methodology)	✗

NESO to carry out the following:

Duplication checks on red line boundary

Strategic Alignment

Large Embedded submit Gate 2 evidence to NESO for checks to be carried out.

Embedded demand is out of scope of TMO4+

Queue Formation

Queue Formation and Outcome Comms.

For projects passing initial checks carried out by the DNO, strategic alignment and queue formation will be undertaken by NESO. Once completed, developers will be informed whether they are in the new queue and if so whether they are allocated to Phase 1 (by 2030) or Phase 2 (2031-2035)

Work is ongoing with DNOs as to the nature of a project which does not receive a Gate 2 position, current discussions are that these projects would be provided with a Distribution Gate 1.



Projects that do not meet Gate 2

What happens to a project which does not meet Gate 2 requirements?

As part of Connections Reform, projects will need to proceed through Gate 2 and be “ready” and strategically aligned, therefore, a project that does not meet Gate 2 and is embedded within a DNO network would vary to a Distribution Gate 1 (under the current indicative proposals), we believe this will closely follow the transmission Gate 1 process.

This ensures that those projects which are “first ready and needed” can proceed to connection. We will continue to keep you updated as this progresses

What would be included in this type of agreement?

This would align with Transmission Gate 1 and provide a customer with an indicative PoC and indicative Date of Connection. Any previous costs would also be indicative.

How could a customer receive a Distribution Gate 1?

1. Does not submit Gate 2 evidence
2. Does not meet the Gate 2 criteria (both readiness and/or strategic alignment)
3. Opts to receive a Gate 1 Agreement instead of signing Gate 2 offer.

Design and Offer

Gate 2 to Whole Queue Network Design

The Gate 2 to Whole Queue Network Design exercise will be undertaken. This includes considering requests for Advancement (due to the removal of Gate 1 Projects).

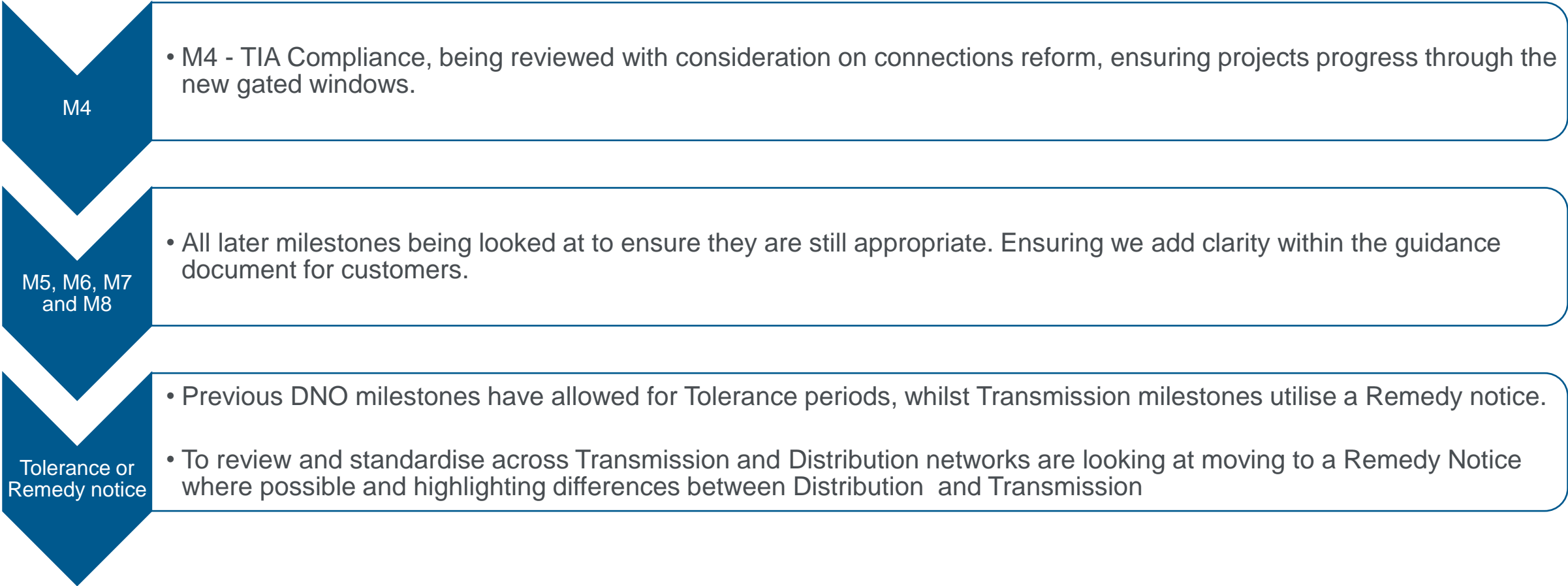
Detailed Checks and Duplication Checks

In parallel to the network design exercise, NESO and DNOs / Transmission Connected IDNOs will undertake detailed checks and NESO will undertake duplication checks. Developers may be contacted in relation to such detailed/duplication checks.

Gate 2 Offers

Gate 2 Modification Offers will be made to DNOs from NESO to confirm/amend connection date and site e.g. in relation to Advancement. DNO Customer Contracts will then be updated to include the above changes and any new rights and obligations in respect of being Gate 2 Projects.

Milestone Management for Gate 2 projects (ENA Queue Management Guidance)



What do Customers need to do?

1. Where in scope, ensure Projects meet Gate 2 Readiness Criteria in accordance with the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology
2. Submit a Readiness Declaration to your relevant DNO including required evidence and any advancement requests
3. If required, submit evidence of protected status

Further information on the above items will shortly be published.

Thank you

**Any
questions?**

