



Flexible Generation Connection Application Guide

This guide is to provide details of our flexible generation connections process. This includes details of what a flexible connection is, how to apply for a flexible generation connection, as well as other important information for you to know if you are considering applying for a flexible generation connection.

What is a flexible generation connection?

In constrained areas of the electricity distribution network, there may not be enough capacity to accommodate your connection without reinforcing the network, which can be costly and can mean that it takes longer for you to get connected. If you are able to consider a more flexible connection offering, either in relation to the times in which you can export, or the capacity that you can export then you may wish to consider applying for a flexible generation connection, which could in certain circumstances allow you to connect to the network sooner and/or at a lower cost. Flexible connections can be implemented as both enduring or temporary solutions.

Types of flexible generation connection

There are different types of flexible connections:

- The timed export connection offers the customer the possibility of connecting to the network but exporting during certain periods of the day or week only. The examples we currently support are where most generation in an area is PV then during non-daylight hours other types of generation such as wind can export freely.
- In areas where there are several, complex thermal constraints on our network affecting a number of customers over a long period of time, Active Network Management (ANM) systems can be implemented, where it is technically viable. The ANM systems continually monitor all the constraints on the network in real time and allocate the maximum amount of capacity available to customers in that area based on the date their connection was accepted.
- Single Generation Active Network Management (SGANM) is similar to a full ANM scheme above, except instead of managing multiple constraints and multiple generators it manages only one generator and up to two constraints.
- There are two types of 3rd party ANM connections for customers to consider - shared capacity and demand management, both of which are installed and managed by the customer.

Generation Connections

Find out more on our website or
contact us at FlexibleConnections@sse.com





Flexible Generation Connection

Application Guide

New, streamlined flexible generation connection process is in place and available for new applications from 18th April 2019.

Our new flexible connections process is available for generation connections above 50kW where there are thermal constraints leading to significant reinforcement works. In existing network areas where ANM schemes are already in place no other flexible option will be available. The main points of the new process:

- You can now apply directly for a flexible connection;
- If you apply for a standard quotation and significant reinforcement works are triggered, we will provide two network studies (standard and flexible) and give you the option to change your connection type;
- Available for all new generation connection applications from **18th April 2019**.

How to apply for a flexible generation connection

You have three different routes to apply for flexible generation connection:

- You can directly request a flexible connection
- You can apply for a standard connection and we will contact you during the application process if a flexible connection may be an option
- If you have received a standard quotation that includes significant reinforcement costs, you can ask for a temporary flexible connection

Direct flexible connection request

If you already know that the area of the network that you wish to connect to is constrained, you may wish to apply directly for a flexible connection. Our generation availability map (www.ssen.co.uk/NetworkCapacityInformation/) will help you to identify whether your area is constrained. If you are unsure how to check this or you have questions on this, please contact one of our dedicated Account Managers or the Flexible Solution team members. Please see the contact details of the Account Managers and the Flexible Solution Team on the following web page:

www.ssen.co.uk/GenerationConnectionsHome/

If you would like to apply directly for a flexible connection, please contact us, please complete the standard application form for generators, which is available from the website of ENA: www.energynetworks.org/assets/files/ENA_SAF_v2%20Jan%2019.pdf, please highlight that you require flexible connection in the form and the submit it to mcc@sse.com.

Following your application, our Flexible Solutions team will contact you to identify your connection requirements and discuss the available options for your connection. We will then progress your application and provide you with a quotation for a flexible connection.



Flexible Generation Connection

Application Guide

Standard generation connection request

If you do not know whether your connection request would trigger any reinforcement works or if you would like to compare the estimated costs of the reinforcement works and the estimated costs of a flexible connection, then this is best route for you.

Following your standard connection request, our designers will assess the network and identify if your connection requires reinforcement work. If this is the case and we estimate the likely costs of such works to be significant, we will also prepare a flexible network study. The flexible network study will show the possible flexible connection and the estimated costs of such a connection.

During the application process we will contact you to inform you of the different connection options you have and guide you through the differences between a flexible connection and a standard connection. We will also let you know about the estimated works and costs (non-contestable) of the different options. You will have 5 working days to select and let us know which option suit you best.

If you choose to progress with a flexible connection, this will be provided to you within the standard timescale, so long as we do not require to change the Point of Connection (POC). If we do need to change the POC, this will be treated as a material change and the timescale for issuing your quotation will be restarted.

If you are unable to come back to us within 5 days, we will provide you with a standard quotation including the cost of the reinforcement works. If you change your mind and would like to have a flexible connection, you can come back to us later at any time and we will provide you the flexible connection offer within the normal timescales. However, this may require an additional Connection Offer Expense.

Temporary flexible connection request

If you already have an accepted generation offer in place, and your connection is dependent significant reinforcement works, we may be able to offer a temporary flexible connection for you that allows you to connect prior to the reinforcement works being completed.

Or

During your standard non-firm application process, we provide you details regarding your reinforcement works and flexible connection costs and you may decide that you would like to have both types of connections. For example, until the reinforcement works are done you would like to connect your generator with flexible connection. In this case you would have to accept your standard offer and request a temporary flexible connection.

In any case, the temporary flexible connection request is an enhanced scheme (over above the minimum scheme), thus we apply Operation and Maintenance (O&M) charges. Please see our Connection Charging Methodology Statement (<https://www.ssen.co.uk/library/ChargingStatements/SHEPD/>)



Flexible Generation Connection Application Guide

We would like to draw your attention to the following points if you are interested in a flexible generation connection:

If you are interested in finding out more about flexible generation connections, please contact one of our Account Managers (www.ssen.co.uk/GenerationConnectionsHome/) or any member of Flexible Solutions team (FlexibleConnections@sse.com), who can organise a meeting with you to discuss your options and advise if there may be any suitable flexible options for your connection.

- In order to operate some flexible generation connections such as ANM, we are required to publish and share certain network information with third parties who will act on our behalf to help monitor and manage the network and flexible connection. Acceptance of this is a precondition of your acceptance of an offer.
- For some flexible connections such as ANM, we will use your data to help other applicants who are interested in flexible connections in the same area. We will send data to each Flexible Generation Connection/Active Network Management connection applicant, so that they will be able to quantify their electricity export. The data pack will include the size of all generators within that area, their location, their generation type and their connection date. If your flexible connection qualifies you will be required to give your consent to share your data with third parties in your application form.
- If you choose to accept a third-party Active Network Management scheme, timed connection or export limited flexible scheme, you must provide details of how your export management system will work to keep your export capacity within the limits across the scheme. We will approve your design following an assessment. Following the installation of such schemes witness testing is also required to ensure that all the equipment works as designed. Without the witness test the generator cannot export onto our network.

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