

SSEN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Consultation

1 May 2024



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks



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1. INTRODUCTION

This document summarises the consultation period, feedback, and responses to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Distribution's (SSEN-D) 2024 Draft Network Development Plan (NDP).

Ahead of publishing our final 2024 NDP by the 1st of May 2024, we released a consultation on our 2024 Draft NDP and all associated documents via our website, where we also provided instructions on how to respond. The consultation was open for a period of 28 days and aimed to engage stakeholders, including developers, local authorities and generators on how they use the NDP. The consultation also provided an opportunity for stakeholders to offer feedback on improvements they would like to see.

As part of our consultation period, we also offered the opportunity for one-to-one engagement with our stakeholders.

Our approach aimed to increase awareness of the NDP and how it fits into the information that third parties can access and use to inform investment decisions. We asked stakeholders the following set of questions:

1. To help us understand how to help you, could you outline how you plan to use the information contained in this plan.
2. Does the Network Development Plan provide the information you need to understand our development plans for the network out to 2034? If not, what future improvements could be made?
3. Is the methodology and assumptions used to prepare this plan clear? If not, have you any feedback for future iterations?
4. Is the proposed format for the Network Headroom Report clear? Can you easily identify areas where there is capacity and where there are constraints?

The non-confidential feedback that we receive is published here, along with our acknowledgement and response to this valuable feedback. We will continue to engage with third parties to make them aware of the NDP and continue to seek stakeholder feedback prior to any major revision of the NDP.

As part of our consultation period, we held a webinar on 10th April 2024 to provide an overview of our draft NDP and to collect further feedback from customers and stakeholders. Information on attendees can be found in Appendix 1.



2. CAPTURING YOUR FEEDBACK

In this section, we present the results of polls conducted during our consultation webinar along with formal responses we received to our consultation questions. This feedback has motivated the changes made to our NDP between draft and final publication.

2.1 Webinar poll results

During our webinar, we sought feedback via Slido poll on updates to the format and content of our 2024 Draft NDP as compared to our 2022 NDP.

2.1.1 Question One

Do you feel the proposed inclusion of outstanding contracted capacity to the Network Scenario Headroom Report adds value to the overall Network Development Plan? Please indicate 'Yes' if you would find this valuable or 'No' if you would not.

036

Yes



No

3 %

Our response

We are glad to hear that attendees find the addition of contracted capacity information to the NSHR helpful. We have carried this through to our Final 2024 NDP.

2.1.2 Question Two

As we evaluate updates to the Network Development Report (NDR) from its 2022 format. Would you prefer to see flexibility services listed in it's own section. Please indicate 'Yes' if you prefer a separate section or 'No' if you favor the current integrated format."

031

Yes



No

0 %



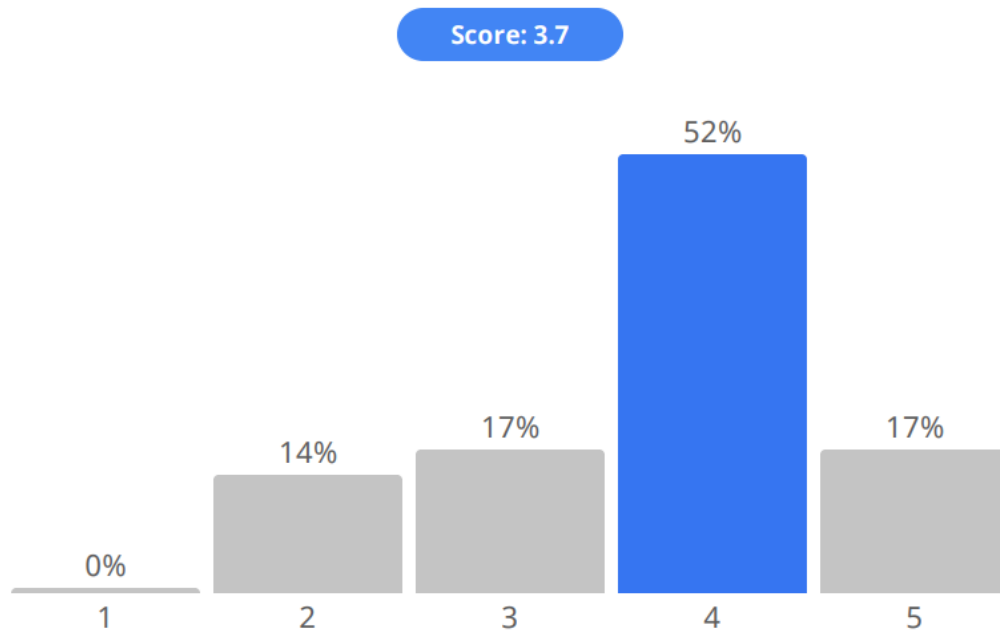
Our response

Following attendees' preference for displaying flexibility information in a separate section, we have carried this through to our Final 2024 NDP.

2.1.3 Question Three

In our latest edition of the NDR, we have transitioned from providing individual GSP maps to offering an overview of licence areas. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 represents 'not desirable at all' and 5 represents 'extremely desirable,' how would you rate this change?

0 2 9



Our response

We are glad to hear that the majority of respondents found the transition to licence area-wide GSP maps desirable. However, given the sizeable minority of respondents who responded 2 or 3 to this question, we decided to make some changes between Draft and Final 2024 NDP. Please see Section 2.3 for further details.

2.2 Consultation Responses

This section presents the formal responses we received to our consultation questions as laid out in the Introduction.

2.2.1 Stakeholder Response One

Consultation Question	Stakeholder Response	Our Follow-Up
To help us understand how to help you, could you outline how you plan to use the information contained in this plan?	To endeavour to understand whether there are any town planning implications associated with the NDP in terms of either consents/permissions	Thank you, it is helpful to understand how you are using the NDP to inform your local planning.



	required or impacts on existing or emerging policies and guidance.	
Does the Network Development Plan provide the information you need to understand our development plans for the network out to 2034? If not, what future improvements could be made?	It would be helpful if the document could be clarified in order to reference the town planning implications of the proposals so the relevance of the NDP to local authorities in this context is clear.	Noted – please see details below on improvements made between Draft and Final 2024 NDP based on this feedback.
Are the methodology and assumptions used to prepare this plan clear? If not, have you any feedback for future iterations?	Yes	-
Is the proposed format for the Network Headroom Report clear?	Yes	-
Can you easily identify areas where there is capacity and where there are constraints?	Yes	-

Our response to your feedback

We've made some improvements to our NDP that we think should help local authorities get more use out of the publication. In the final version of our NDP, we have split our Network Development Report into two – one for each licence area – and provided substantially more detail on each Grid Supply Point and the geographic area it covers. This should help local authorities to identify which GSPs and underlying Bulk Supply Points and/or Primary Substations may have town planning implications in their local areas. We're keen to hear if this restructuring has helped you make better use of the NDP, and we can look to action any further feedback in our next NDP. We will also look to pick up how better to highlight town planning implications through other more regionally focused planning documents we publish such as Distribution Network Options Assessment (DNOA) outcomes reports.

In addition to the NDP, we have further resources to support local authorities in their local planning endeavours. You can read more about our support for local area energy planning and the rollout of our Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator via the embedded links.

Our team of Net Zero Engagement Specialists is here to help local authorities and collaborate with you on your local strategic planning efforts. If there are specific pieces of information that you require to understand town planning implications of the information in our NDP, please get in touch with us at whole.system.distribution@sse.com so we can discuss further how best we can support you.



2.2.2 Stakeholder Response Two

Consultation Question	Stakeholder Response	Our Follow-Up
<p>1) To help us understand how to help you, could you outline how you plan to use the information contained in this plan?</p>	<p>For the origination of new generation (mainly PV) sites connecting into 33/132kV. For the review of accepted sites in terms of future upstream works and to analyse impact on curtailment for ANM connected sites.</p>	<p>Thank you, it is helpful to understand how you are using the NDP to inform your generation sites.</p>
<p>2) Does the Network Development Plan provide the information you need to understand our development plans for the network out to 2034? If not, what future improvements could be made?</p>	<p>Useful that the works listed under Appendix 2 & 3 refer back to the DNOA docs for status updates, often it's difficult to reference other docs and know whether it's the right one to review. Like having the existing and potential/new capacity listed in the App 2 & 3 tables. Include a Category section e.g. PSS, BSP, GSP so it's easily identifiable where the works are taking place. More clarification required under A2.3, "DNOA Assessment (Y/N)" – can you list the reason it's not been through DNOA e.g. is it triggering reinforcement from a connecting customer and therefore didn't go through DNOA process? What do the CV numbers mean under the "Driver" table under A2.3? It would be useful to state what has already been utilised from the "Updated Capacity (MVA)" in A2.1 and what that assumption is based on e.g connected or accepted schemes Where an OHL or U/G circuit is being reinforced, can more specific location details be updated e.g. reinforcement between poles X and Y. Ensure that comments under "Project Description" in App 2 & 3 are consistent e.g. all comments should state what transformers are being updated to, currently some don't have this detail.</p>	<p>Please see details below on improvements made between Draft and Final NDP based on this feedback, along with responses to questions.</p>



3) Are the methodology and assumptions used to prepare this plan clear? If not, have you any feedback for future iterations?	It would be good to go into more detail on what assumptions are made for export profiles e.g. how exactly is Battery storage modelled? The document suggests there are some generation profiles but it would be informative to know what these profiles entail.	Thank you for your feedback. We have included some further narrative in the Generator Profile Section 3.5 of the Methodology and Assumptions report.
4) Is the proposed format for the Network Headroom Report clear?	It's clear, however it would be useful to be able to download the tables in excel format so the data can be better analysed by those using it.	There should be a download option when you open the Excel spreadsheets from our website, but please let us know if you continue to have issues accessing this.
5) Can you easily identify areas where there is capacity and where there are constraints?	For ref, our sites generally range from 15-50MW generation at distribution level so we'd review the NDP Appendix 2/3 tables against other sources of SSEN's info (e.g ECR) to evaluate connected and accepted to connect sites against the new capacities rather than rely solely on the Network Scenario Headroom Report as it will quickly become out of date once published so we'd rather conduct our own analysis. Please do let us know if you have any queries, we're happy to discuss!	Thank you for this information. We've provided some further explanation as to alignment between our ECR, LTDS, and NDP publications in Question 3.2.7 below if that is of interest.

Our response to your feedback

- Including a PSS/BSP/GSP category in the NDRs: thank you for this suggestion. We have included a 'Primary/Secondary Voltage (kV)' column in the Network Development Report tables so that the voltage levels of the works are clear. We hope that this, combined with our new GSP-specific maps showing the Primary Substations and Bulk Supply Points within each GSP, will provide the information you're looking for.
- How much of the 'Updated Capacity (MVA)' column has already been taken by accepted to connect projects: we understand that this information is useful for customers. A new addition to this year's Network Scenario Headroom Reports is the 'Contracted Capacity' column for each substation, which provides more information to this end. We describe how we calculate these values in the NDP Methodology & Assumptions document. Going forward, we'll consider whether adding similar information to the Network Development Reports for each individual project would be a valuable addition.
- More detailed information about circuit reinforcement projects: we have provided as much information as is available at this juncture on the projects detailed in our Network Development Reports. As these projects progress and details are finalised, we will be able to share further information via our DNOA Outcome Reports.
- Consistency in project descriptions: thank you for this; we have updated many of the project descriptions between Draft and Final NDP publications. For some projects in initial assessment, information on, for example, capacity of new transformers is not yet known, so we do not have further details to provide. As



these projects progress and details are finalised, we will be able to share this information with you via our DNOA Outcome Reports.

Our response to your questions

- Why some projects have not been through our DNOA process: We describe the relationship between the network interventions listed in the NDR and our DNOA process at the start of Part 2 in both NDRs. Our DNOA methodology and reporting process was first published in March 2024 to provide improved transparency to customers and stakeholders on our network planning and decision-making process. Some of the projects in this year's NDP have not been through the DNOA process because they were underway before our DNOA process was established. As we continue to publish DNOA outcome reports regularly moving forward, there will be increasing alignment between those publications and the NDP. Given the confusion, we have modified the 'DNOA Status' column to instead be a 'Published DNOA' column so that readers can see which network interventions have a published DNOA outcome report that will provide further details.
- Meaning of CV numbers: CV stands for 'costs and volumes'. The CV categories are standard across all DNOs and describe key drivers for network expenditure. You will see in our NDRs that after each 'CV' number provided, we've also given the short descriptor that should provide information to readers on the key driver behind the project in question. You can read more about costs and volumes in Ofgem's [RIIO-ED2 Business Plan Data Template](#).

2.3 Changes made based on feedback

The webinar poll results and consultation responses we received provided valuable feedback that helped us to make several improvements to our 2024 NDP between draft and final publication. These changes are summarised below.

- We have divided the Network Development Report into two documents: one for each of our licence areas (SEPD in central southern England and SHEPD in northern Scotland). We have organised all network interventions into GSP-specific sections, which provide additional detail on the geographic area, network topology, and customers served by the GSP in question.
- We have updated project descriptions throughout the NDRs to provide clearer information on project details, where possible.
- We have simplified the 'DNOA Status' column to a 'Published DNOA' column with only 'Y' or 'N' as possible values. This should make clear to readers which network interventions have an associated DNOA outcome report from our March 2024 publication, which provide further details on individual projects.

3. ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

We have collated the comments and feedback received via Teams message and Slido during the NDP webinar and included our responses to them below. We have copied questions here as they were submitted in their original wording but have corrected some typos and left a '[...]' where earlier text from the attendee has been left out for concision. Questions marked with an asterisk "*" were addressed live during the webinar; responses written here may be summarised or modified versions of the live responses given.



3.1 Slido questions

3.1.1* How can SSEN help to achieve net zero before 2050 as many local authorities have set targets before this date & 2050 is too late to impact effectively.

This is a primary focus for SSEN's Whole System team, and we are working with local authorities to understand their decarbonisation ambitions, including if they diverge from national targets. Our new team of Net Zero Engagement Specialists is focused on this engagement and on collaborating with local authorities to understand local pathways to net zero. This is also reflected in our work with Regen in producing the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES). The DFES reflect the direction of travel and scale of ambition in local areas served by our network.

3.1.2 What adaptation work is SSEN including on its pathway to net zero? Increasing flood & temperatures are impacting on energy infrastructure & stability.

Our [Climate Resilience Strategy](#) outlines how we will adapt to the impacts of climate change, make use of adaptation pathways, and identify the steps we need to take in ED2 to improve our resilience to the effects and risks of climate change. Section 5 of this document outlines our adaptation priorities.

3.1.3* Is there collaborative work going on across DNOs/DSOs to urgently deliver more efficient, smarter, flexible & upgrade local grid infrastructure for renewables?

Yes, this is a key priority, and we are progressing numerous activities to this end. This includes the Technical Limits programme, developed collaboratively through the Energy Network Association's Strategic Connections Group. We are now working with the Transmission Owners National Grid Electricity Transmission and SSEN Transmission to allow projects to connect to the Distribution network while Transmission-level reinforcement works are still underway. This programme has already unlocked 7 Gigawatts of capacity across our two licence areas, and work is continuing. You can read more [here](#).

You can read about wider collaboration and coordination we carry out with fellow DNOs/DSOs and other industry partners in our [Whole System Coordination Registers](#).

3.1.4* When will the next NDP be ready and will it be available to the public?

The final version of our 2024 NDP will be published on our website on the 1st of May and will be available to the public. It will incorporate the feedback we've received during the consultation period.

3.1.5* Is SSEN also including biodiversity protection & enhancement in the infrastructure improvement works?

The Network Development Plan is primarily focused on network planning from a forecast load, constraints, and capacity perspective. However, we do have other publications that detail our commitments and actions in the environmental realm. Our [ED2 Environmental Action Plan](#) sets out our key environmental actions for the ED2 Price control and includes information on our biodiversity commitments including nature-based solutions for carbon removal and seagrass restoration.

3.1.6 When will the new updated version be available for use?

The final 2024 Network Development Plan will be published on our website by the 1st of May, 2024.

3.1.7* Is there likely to be visibility over upgrade / reinforcement status in addition to upgraded capacity?

The forecast completion date for projects is provided in the Network Development Reports where it is known and is also shown in our Long Term Development Statements, published each May and November. Going forwards further detail on specific projects will be found in our Distribution Network Options Assessment (DNOA) Outcome Reports.



3.1.8 What are your KPI's to assess whether your NDPs have been successful?

Our Network Development Plan is written and produced to meet the requirements of Ofgem's Standard Licence Condition 25B, applying the methodology and scope agreed in the Energy Networks Association's Form of Statement. We measure the success of our NDP based on its adherence to these guidelines and whether feedback from our consultation period confirms that it is user-friendly and helpful for our customers and stakeholders.

3.1.9 I couldn't access any draft Network Plan ahead of the webinar. Can you please put links to these in the Teams chat for easy access?

Our Final 2024 NDP can be found [here](#). Since the upload of our Final 2024 NDP, our draft 2024 NDP has been moved to our [Consultation Library](#).

3.1.10* How do you see LAEPs and RESPs interface with the NDP? In particular where they diverge from DFES?

Local Area Energy Plans come into play in the early stages of our strategic network planning process, which is described in our NDP Methodology & Assumptions document; LAEPs will help to inform our Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) forecasts of how load is evolving on the network to reach net zero. These DFES forecasts are then carried through the subsequent stages of our strategic planning process to identify network needs and conduct optioneering to identify the optimal solutions, which are then published in the NDP.

RESPs are an evolving area, and we are watching the development of this space. We are aware of the increasing need for coordination across boundaries – both across DNO boundaries and local authority boundaries, so welcome the role that RESPs may play in facilitating that coordination.

3.1.11 How will this methodology identify and alleviate localised network limitations which impede the rollout of renewables?

Our NDP Methodology & Assumptions document describes our strategic planning process; this process details how we are taking a more strategic view of system needs to accelerate toward net zero, including by identifying and alleviating local network limitations. The Network Development Reports and Network Scenario Headroom Reports then provide visibility to customers and stakeholders about the status of our network as we are following this strategic planning process. This, in conjunction with related publications and further resources detailed in the NDP Methodology & Assumptions, allows users of our network to see where there are opportunities to connect on our network today and where we are working to unlock future capacity.

3.1.12 While the head room reports don't account for any ANM in place. Can you please show where active management is in place at each substation (or on its feeders).

We are currently looking to add further information about our ANM schemes via our website. In the meantime, you can access data on our [Isle of Wight](#) and [Orkney](#) Active Network Management schemes via the embedded links or read more on [our webpage](#).

3.1.13 It sounds like there isn't a longterm commitment to flex – do you foresee any areas where flex is a permanent solution? If not, the business case is weak.

We follow a flexibility first approach in managing our network. Flexibility provides a great tool to accommodate the rapid growth in connections requests and installation of low carbon technologies, such as electric vehicles and heat pumps. We consider flexibility alongside traditional network investment, aiming to ensure all our decisions are economically efficient and deliver benefits to consumers. Our decisions are backed by sound cost benefit analysis and technical assessment to support our needs cases and business case for the flexibility services we deploy on our network. The services we are procuring in our May and August bidding rounds (as



shown in the NDP documents) are for specific network areas where load-related constraints have arisen in ED2 and already been assessed as they have been deemed urgent. In these cases, flexibility has been assessed as the most efficient option. Our assessment methodology (the Distribution Networks Options Assessment methodology) requires us to assess this requirement for each year of need. If load is continuing to grow on the network rapidly according to our DFES projections, flexibility may no longer be the economical solution. We do foresee some locations where constraints will be identified which can be entirely mitigated using flexibility services without the need for reinforcement. This will be particularly true in the long-term as we foresee demand growth will begin to slow, allowing us to use flexibility for more long timescales or potentially indefinitely in some areas. In addition to this, we do not only procure flexibility services for load-related constraints, we also procure services across both our licence areas which are used to help mitigate both planned and unplanned outages. We are committed to ensuring that the most cost-effective, sustainable, and secure network option is identified and deployed in a given network area, whether this is flexibility alone, flexibility combined with reinforcement, or reinforcement.

3.1.14 What are the qualifications for joining the flex pool of suppliers? Thinking of potential of community energy.

This question was reiterated via email to our Whole System address; please see responses provided in Question 2.3.2.

3.1.15 The flex first approach – how confident are you that your flex tenders will be fulfilled? Particularly to support constrained parts of your network?

Market liquidity in flexibility tenders has been historically very low which has meant that on several occasions, we have tendered for a certain volume of flexibility and this volume has not been met by the responses we have received. However, 2023/24 has been marked by a significant improvement in market liquidity in most areas. This year, we have received bids exceeding the volumes of our requirements in multiple zones for the first time, which shows significant progress in this area. Nonetheless, market liquidity is an important consideration for us when designing our procurement approach. We expect to complete long-term procurement when we have low confidence in the market liquidity and move to shorter term procurement where we have more confidence. This approach will allow us to maintain network security and reflects Flexibility Service Provider (FSP) feedback. That said, market liquidity is an important consideration for us when designing our procurement approach. We're planning to introduce an additional flexibility product for long term bidding. Long term procurement will be used when we have low confidence in the market liquidity. We'll also be using short term bidding from August 2024 in areas where we have under-procured and where we have more confidence that the capacity is needed.

3.1.16 How would the network cope with temperatures of 50 degrees?

Our [Climate Resilience Strategy](#) uses information taken from the UK Climate Projects 2018 (UKCP18), provided by the MET Office and approved by the government. UKCP18 is the latest generation of climate change information for the UK, and its projects are based on a methodology designed by the UK MET Office. UKCP18 reflects scientists' best understanding of how the climate system operates, how it might change in the future and allows a measure of the uncertainty in future climate projections to be included. We have considered two scenarios for assessing the risks of climate change; a 2020 baseline and a 2050 scenario based on climate projections from UKCP18 RCP 8.5 assumptions, as outlined in 'Energy Industry Specific Risk Assessment on Climate Change Impacts – Work Package 3 Report' published by the Met Office. Page 7 of the strategy covers temperature projections and the associated impacts on the network with our adaptation priorities outlined in section 5. We published [Climate Resilience Strategy Progress Report](#) in October 2023 which contains our progress against the strategy to date.

3.1.17 Do you plan to integrate your NDPs with data from National Grid to make the upstream transmission network constraints visible?



Yes, we approach National Grid Transmission and SSEN Transmission to get sight of Transmission constraints and when they expect to alleviate those constraints. This information is provided in our Network Scenario Headroom Reports as Earliest in Service Dates. These indicate whether existing capacity is available for significant demand or generation applications on the Transmission network and, if not, likely timescales for connection. Large connections requiring a Transmission study even if connected at Distribution level can request pre-application discussions with the relevant Transmission Owner.

3.2 Teams message questions

3.2.1* Have any Local Area Energy Plans been used to inform the NDP?

As per our response to Question 2.1.10, LAEPs are relevant in earlier stages of our strategic network planning process than the NDP. Local authority information has been used to inform our DFES forecasts, and local authorities are given the opportunity to share data and local insights for the data gathering process that supports DFES. The DFES forecasts are then used within our network planning process as described in the NDP methodology report. Going forward, as local authorities across our licence areas are developing LAEPs, we'll be looking to improve that process and incorporate the data within these wider sources of information.

We recently shared this year's DFES publications via our website, which you can access [here](#). We will also imminently be publishing dedicated local authority guides to help local authorities get the most out of our DFES.

3.2.2 Can you confirm if the works listed in the NDP are caused by triggering generation/demand or if their purpose is to 'release' capacity into the system for generation or demand customers.

The schemes listed within the NDP and LTDS are triggered by a number of different criterion including new connections but also on the basis of asset condition. Going forwards we are increasingly taking an approach to 'release' capacity into our networks as laid out in the strategic planning process described in the NDP methodology report.

3.2.3 You advised us to apply for POC's however these are heavily caveated and don't guarantee the connections or timescales. We are being charged for these assessments, do you think this is fair?

Dependent on the size of the connections you apply for, we need to ensure that our network can support your connection. This includes that any assets we are installing and upgrading to facilitate your connection are installed in a safe manner and have the proportionate legal protections so that your connection can be as resilient and reliable as possible. There can be challenges on certain connections that are dependent on a range of external factors that we do not have control over. We work with our customers when they proceed with their connection to keep them informed of timescales as they move through the customer journey.

If you apply for a large Generation or Demand project, we will charge you for the costs associated with issuing the Connection Quotation in accordance with the Electricity (Connection Offer Expenses) Regulations 2018.

If you'd like to discuss the details of your specific situation, please get in touch with our Business Relationship Managers at businessrelationships@sse.com.

3.2.4 Do DNOs work in collaboration on improved solutions to meet Net Zero eg in areas where multiple DNOs operate?

Yes, please see our response to Question 2.1.3.

3.2.5 Given the mind boggling temperature changes that are taking place in the oceans and Antarctic, do you have any thoughts about how you can further accelerate the roll out of renewables on the network?

This is a key priority area for us. Please see our responses to Questions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.



3.2.6 If flexible service offers are not taken up what happens? Will the DNO step in?

Our [Distribution Network Options Assessment](#) methodology outlines the decision making process we follow to identify the optimal solution for managing forecast constraints. Part of the DNOA process includes evaluating the status of the flexibility services market in the relevant local area, which then informs whether use of flexibility is part of the identified solution (see our response to Question 2.1.15). If the time approaches at which the forecast constraint becomes active and the flexibility required does not appear available, we will re-evaluate our proposed solution. We will publish any updates to DNOA outcomes in our Outcome Reports.

3.2.7* Where contracted demand and generation is included in the report - how will SSEN ensure that this matches their ECR and any other reference docs that SSEN publish? In addition, SSEN are yet to release a tool that shows the existing contracted generation queue for the Technical Limits process. Firstly, is there any update on this and secondly, will this also be in line with what's published in the Network Scenario Headroom Report?

We endeavour to align our various publications, and this is an area of ongoing improvement for us. It is important to note that contracted generation in the NSHR includes all generation currently accepted to connect to the network, along with a view of the future out to 2050. The ECR only shows generators greater than 50kW connected or contracted to connect but does not provide a view of future connections out with contracted capacity.

There is an ongoing reform of the LTDS which includes a requirement to align the LTDS and ECR publications. The NDP is closely linked to the LTDS and is designed to be a continuation out from the five-year outlook. The LTDS reform will therefore help in aligning the three publications, whilst bringing additional benefits such as bus node references to where generators are connecting in future. More information on the reform can be found on the [Ofgem website](#).

SSEN are actively progressing with implementing and rolling out Technical Limits in both our SEPD and SHEPD patches. SSEN will provide customers who are interested in technical limits with a curtailment assessment which provides them information of their contractual queue position as this does affect their curtailment. This information is not published externally as it is specific to the contracted party.

Within our [network heatmaps](#), we compile detailed information on contracted generation across all Grid Supply Points. Presently, we are engaged with our development team to enrich the heatmap's capabilities. This includes enhancing visibility into connected generation, contracted generation, and discerning whether contractual generation encounters Transmission or Distribution constraints. Moreover, our focus extends to providing comprehensive insights into the generation queue at the GSP level. The above changes and the data contained within the heat maps will be in line with the Network Scenario Headroom Report.

3.2.8 You mention Flexible Services what about Flexible Connections for generators including ANM?

Flexible connections are a helpful tool to facilitate generation and demand connections more quickly than would otherwise be the case. Some curtailable connections are facilitated through Access SCR driven by Distribution-level constraints. Other times, flexible connections are offered to customers looking to connect to the Distribution network when there is a Transmission-level constraint. An example of this is Technical Limits; you can read more about our Technical Limits programme on [our website](#) or about Regional Development Programmes in our [Whole System Coordination Register](#).

3.2.9 There is a question of scale at which net zero objectives are pursued. LAEPs may focus on local energy economies seeking to balance supply and demand within a geographic area e.g. an island. Will consideration be given to such an objective?



Our DFES development ingests both the ESO's national Future Energy Scenarios as well as local insights provided by Local Authorities and other regional stakeholders. Through taking this approach we are both accounting for national policies and also the local needs and aspirations. We expect that this will be further complemented through the establishment of RESPs.

3.2.10 [...] how do you see the long distribution queues impacting this forecasted capacity that is aiming to be released? For me, it feels like only contracted generation in the existing queue would benefit from the works.

The reinforcement works that we highlight in both the Network Development Report and Network Scenario Headroom Report release capacity for both demand and generation to connect to the Distribution network. The Headroom Report provides an indication of changing headroom in future years considering any released capacity from reinforcement works alongside the existing contracted background and our DFES projections.

3.2.11* Open data is good but there is the question of how data is used on a real-time basis at a local level to increase renewable penetration of local networks.

We have recently launched NeRDA, our [Near Real-time Data Access Portal](#). This portal makes available power flow information from our extra high voltage, high voltage, and low voltage networks. As described in the [NeRDA overview document](#), the launch of this portal developed out of feedback from stakeholders and industry organisations that near real-time data can serve as a key enabler in the net zero transition. We welcome feedback from customers and stakeholders on how they are using our data on a real-time basis, and if they have suggestions or feedback to improve useability.

2.2.12 Publishing headroom data is only useful if it can be relied upon, but I voted yes!

Noted.

3.3 Emailed questions

3.3.1 When the new LTDS is published in May where will I be able to find it please?

We publish the LTDS on our Data Portal and provide further information about it on our website - please see the resources below.

[Long term development statements \(LTDS\) - SSEN](#)

[SHEPD Long Term Development Statement - Data Asset - SSEN Distribution Data Portal](#)

[SEPD Long Term Development Statement - Data Asset - SSEN Distribution Data Portal](#)

3.3.2 Are there any community energy schemes involved in providing flexibility? Is flex only procured for constraint management zones or also elsewhere? What are the requirements for joining the pool of flex providers?

We don't currently have any community energy schemes providing flexibility, however we ran a trial in Oxfordshire known as Project LEO (Local Energy Oxfordshire), which involved several community energy schemes. You can find out more about it [here](#).

Flexibility is procured in constrained areas and we also procure flexibility services to address network abnormalities such as outages caused by faults on the network. We have different types of flexibility services depending on what we will use the service for. The services we use for managing peak network demands are procured only in CMZs, whereas services for managing outages are procured everywhere across both of our license areas.

In order to provide flexibility services, a provider will need to register with us on our dynamic purchasing system (DPS) and once successfully registered go through a Pre-qualification process which entails technical and



commercial evaluation. This is then followed by a mini-competition which involves accepting and signing our overarching agreement and some checks for financial stability.

Here's a [link](#) explaining what the DPS is.

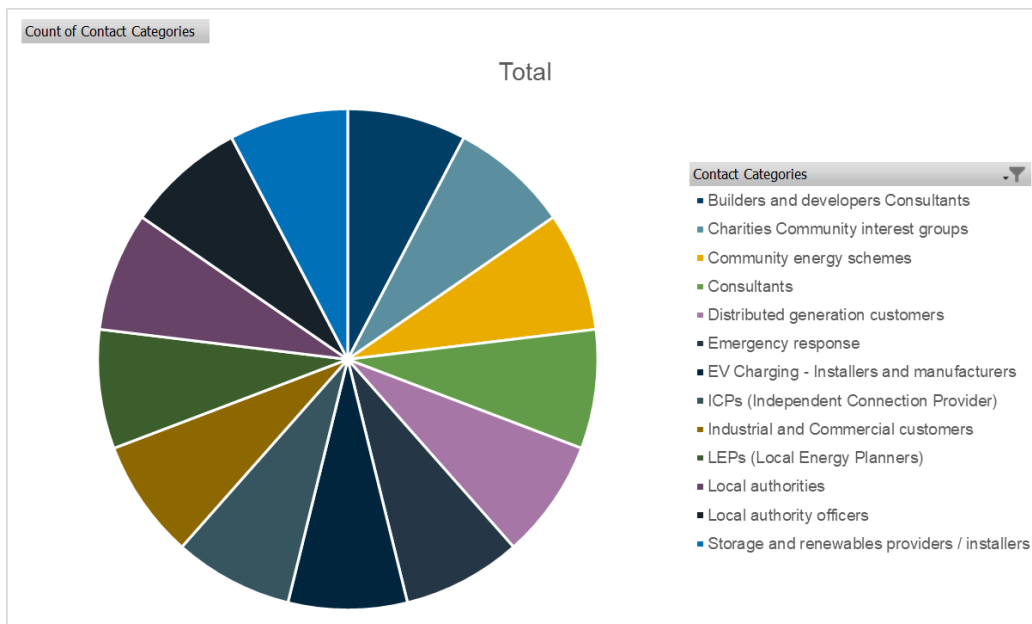
We've just transitioned from an old DPS to a new one and below are the links for registration. There's a DPS for each of our licence areas:

The links to the 2 new DPS are:

- SEPD: <https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Reading:-Electricity-distribution./786BVNRTZ2>
- SHEPD: <https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Perth:-Electricity-distribution./6F573T5MCY>

Our most recent Procurement statement is available in the Reports tab of [this webpage](#) and provides a timescale of our planned upcoming procurement activities (See pages 14 – 18 and Appendix 4). We'll be holding a webinar in May to explain our Procurement plans and the process to register with us and participate in flexibility services. If you're interested in attending, please reach out to us at flexibilityprocurement@sse.com.

APPENDIX



75 stakeholders representing 53 organisations attended our NDP webinar. These organisations spanned a wide range of sectors, including Local Authorities, Distributed Energy Resources, Consultants, National Government, Energy Suppliers, Charities, EV Installers, and storage and renewable providers, among others.

The full list of organisations who attended our NDP webinar is provided in Table 1 below.

NDP Webinar: Organisation Attendees

Aberdeenshire Council	European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC)	Premier Energy Services
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Accenture	GHR Ltd	Reading Borough Council
Angus Council	GLA	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Argyll and Bute Council	Green Switch Capital	S Lawry-White
Arran Community Council	Hampshire County Council	Savills
Basingstoke and Deane Council	Hart District Council	SMS-plc
BHA	High Voltage Systems & Services	Solesco
Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Council	HITRANS	Somerset Council
British Hydropower Association/Tidal Range Alliance	Infinis Energy Services Limited	Southampton City Council
Brookbanks	Leep Utilities	Stone Energy Engineering
Buckinghamshire Council	Low Carbon	Swarco
Cairngorms National Park Authority	MJA Consulting	Telford Homes
Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh agus Bhatarsaidh (Barra & Vatersay Community) Ltd	National Grid ESO	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
Community Energy Scotland	New Forest Energy	Warm Welcome Spaces
Countryside Renewables	Orsted	Wiltshire Police
City Centre & Harbour Community Council	Oxfordshire County Council	Winchester City Council
Dorset Council	Perth and Kinross Council	Wokingham Borough Council
eSmart Networks	Pkc	

Table 1. Organisations who attended our NDP Consultation webinar on 10th April 2024.





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