



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Michael Shanks MP
Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HP

Fintan Slye, CEO
National Energy System Operator
Faraday House
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill
Warwick, CV34 6DA

20th October 2026

Dear Fintan,

I am writing in relation to the obligation on the National Energy System Operator (NESO), under condition C16.10 of the Electricity System Operator Licence, to submit a Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) to the Secretary of State by 31 December 2026 and by 31 December of every third year thereafter, unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of State.

As you are aware, the timetable for the first SSEP has been revised to allow modelling to reflect updated generation cost estimates, including cost of capital, more recent expectations for demand, and wider policy interdependencies. This additional time has helped to strengthen the robustness, transparency and credibility of the SSEP.

Accordingly, in exercise of the power in condition C16.10, I am directing that NESO must submit the first SSEP to the Secretary of State by 31 December 2027, instead of 31 December 2026.

For the avoidance of doubt, this direction applies only to the deadline for submission of the first SSEP. Ofgem intends to consult during 2027 on amendments to the relevant licences covering the timing of subsequent SSEP cycles and related strategic energy planning processes.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Shanks MP
Minister for Energy
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero