

Improving our Flexibility Data

Actioning your feedback

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DSO

nationalgrid
electricity distribution

Introduction

On 25 September 2024, National Grid DSO held an online stakeholder workshop focused on its approach to flexibility services. The purpose of the event was to inform prospective providers of flexibility, how to enter our markets and also to seek feedback from stakeholders on the accessibility of flexibility data we currently publish. The Workshop was attended by 53 stakeholders who represented a range of flexibility provider types such as domestic aggregators, commercial aggregators and large generation owner/operators, as well as wider industry stakeholders from academia and industry bodies.

This document outlines the feedback we received from this workshop in relation to our provision of flexibility data, it also outlines actions we have already taken and presents a roadmap for ongoing actions. Understanding stakeholder perspectives enables us to enhance our flexibility programme by removing barriers, increasing accessibility to relevant data and ensures that we deliver developments that reflect our stakeholders' priorities.

What You Told Us	What We Have Done	Status
Historic requirement data is useful. Archiving Flexibility Requirement Data leads to confusion as it becomes difficult to locate. Additionally, moving data locations can break any APIs that stakeholders have built to automate access to the data.	We have published a new cumulative dataset that details all previous and upcoming flexibility Trade Opportunities . The location of this dataset will not change so that it can be found easily. This static location can also be consistently be accessed via API, without risk of breaking links.	Complete
Estimating the potential earnings from flexibility participation is difficult for flex providers that don't have resource to engage with complex data sets.	We have introduced a Revenue Calculator tool which will give new market entrants a simple way to understand what their potential earnings could be if their flexible assets provide flexibility in our weekly short-term market. We are also publishing our historic dispatch data (a registered account is required to view this data, register here), with this flexibility providers can see how often we have instructed the utilisation of flexibility in each flexibility location. We have also begun publishing this information weekly.	Complete
It is not clear when new data will be published or when existing datasets will be updated with new flexibility opportunities.	We currently publish our flexibility Trade timelines and data in line with our yearly timelines for flexibility procurement and signpost these dates in our procurement timetable . Previous trade rounds have seen us change these dates to accommodate the roll-out of functionality to our procurement Platform, Market Gateway. Now we have fully digitised our Market Gateway trading functionality we hope to keep timelines consistent.	Complete
Data formatting isn't consistent across HV and LV flexibility opportunity data.	We will explore ways in which we can adapt the data to use the same format and style ahead of our next tranche (round) of LV procurement in Autumn 2025.	Ongoing
The Connected Data Portal (CDP), where much of the flexibility is held, is not intuitive and it can be difficult for stakeholders to find what they need.	We have been actively working to improve the data locations and the supporting data descriptions on the CDP. To date we have ensured that all relevant data sets are located in the same folder and that our data descriptions accurately describe what the data is telling stakeholders. Further improvements	Ongoing

	will continue throughout 2025 and we encourage stakeholders to raise any issues they encounter with us so we can look to action.	
Matching postcode data for assets is useful but it is not easy to then translate matches across the other data sets that describe pricing.	Our newly developed Revenue Calculator incorporates a postcode checker, which will inform flexibility providers if the postcode where their asset is located is a potential match with a flexibility location. The calculator will then produce potential revenue forecast.	Complete
A consolidated dataset showing what flexibility is upcoming for procurement would save flexibility providers time and effort looking across and interpreting multiple data sets.	Our new Trade Opportunities dataset has a consolidated view of our Annual Long Term flexibility procurement opportunities, providing zonal information on pricing, volumes and requirement windows. In addition, we have published a separate Short-Term Trade dataset which we will update on a three-monthly basis to ensure we are giving visibility of our weekly procurement needs that we procure in our Short-Term Market.	Complete
Much of the data published is intended to be machine readable, however this reduces the accessibility of the data from a human readable perspective.	While we continue to publish machine readable datasets, we are committed to producing supporting PDFs that are simple and support human readability. We have published a Proof of Concept for these and encourage stakeholders to feedback back to us in their suitability.	Ongoing

Additional Feedback

In addition, we received feedback from stakeholders around their market onboarding experience and how they have found using the Market Gateway, our qualification and trading platform. Improvements were suggested that fell into two themes;

1. Improving the visibility of opportunities within the [Market Gateway](#),

- We have moved our flexibility map, which contains interactive trade opportunity data, to the Market Gateway. This avoids stakeholders having to separately access the CDP to view this information.
- As postcode checks can only indicate a potential location match, we have enabled the ability for prospective flexibility providers to register assets ahead of completing full commercial qualification. This means that prospective flexibility providers can submit MPAN data to confirm if their assets are located in a flex location.

2. Developing functionality that enables the editing and archiving of asset data.

- We have scoped these improvements and will delivery over the course of this year together with our internal and external digital partners.

Next Steps

National Grid DSO remain committed to delivering ongoing improvements, and will continue to engage with stakeholders through webinars, events and wider industry forums. As we progress, we will keep all stakeholders informed on key developments ahead of the next Long-Term High Voltage and Low Voltage procurement round which opens in Autumn 2025.

Get in touch

For any questions, feedback or suggestions, please contact the National Grid Flexible Power Commercial Team at; nged.flexiblepower@nationalgrid.co.uk

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