

Purpose

Interconnector Guidelines

This document provides clarity of the guidelines we apply to interconnector operation to manage situations where there is a risk of demand control in GB.

Context

There are a number of interconnectors between GB and other countries in Europe. These interconnectors have different operational procedures and countries have differing market arrangements. Decisions made about how one TSO approaches system operation will have an impact on neighbouring TSOs.

Interconnector Guidelines

1. Actions taken by the ESO should be transparent and visible to stakeholders within reasonable timescales.
2. We will utilise all market based solutions before emergency actions on the interconnectors. This includes SO-SO trades, Emergency Assistance.
3. In liaison with affected TSO Emergency Instruction can be used to reduce exports to OMW but cannot reverse the flow.
4. We are maintaining importance of operational liaison before and on the day to ensure mutual support is provided from and to neighbouring TSOs where possible.
5. We will make every effort possible to provide assistance to neighbouring TSOs provided it does not require disconnection of GB consumers.
6. On an occasional and exceptional basis we will use the Winter Contingency Coal units and the Demand Flexibility Service to support exports to the continent if a neighbouring TSO is at risk of demand control and the ESO is unable to assist under either market trades or emergency assistance. This option would not be available if the ESO had identified a potential need to run the coal plant for the benefit of GB customers i.e., to avoid demand disconnection.
7. In extreme scenarios (ESEC) the restriction of interconnector capabilities will be considered in liaison with affected TSOs to avoid disconnection of GB consumers