

22/10/2026

Dear

ATISN 26-0074 - Strategic Spatial Energy Plan

Thank you for your request which we received on 19/10/2026. You asked for:

1. Request details about the Network Energy System Operators Strategic Spatial Energy Plan.

Our response

We hold information within the scope of your request. We are withholding the information identified below at this time under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which provides an exemption for information intended for future publication.

The intention to publish this information existed when your request was received. We consider it reasonable to withhold it until the planned publication, when it can be made available with the accompanying analysis and explanatory material.

The UK Government's Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero will decide which SSEP pathway should be taken forward. Following that decision, NESO plans to undertake a public consultation on the draft SSEP in early 2027, providing an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to consider and comment on the proposed approach.

Public interest assessment

Section 22 is a qualified exemption, and we have therefore considered the public interest in disclosing the information now against the public interest in withholding it until publication.

We recognise the strong public interest in transparency about strategic energy planning, including its implications for Wales, and in enabling informed scrutiny and public participation.

Against this, we have considered the public interest in making the information available through the planned publication process, alongside the supporting evidence and explanation needed to scrutinise it effectively.

On balance, we consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure at this time. This is a decision to withhold the identified information pending publication, rather than to withhold it permanently.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,