

## Research RES LEGAL – Grid issues

Country: United Kingdom

### 1. Overview

<b>Overview of grid issues</b>	In the United Kingdom, access of renewable energy systems to the grid is subject to the general legislation on energy. Renewable energy sources are not given priority.
<b>Connection to the grid</b>	System operators are contractually entitled to connection to the grid by the grid operator. The grid operator is not obliged to give priority to renewable energy when connecting systems to the grid.
<b>Use of the grid</b>	A given system operator is contractually entitled against the grid operator to use the grid. The grid operator is obliged to enter into this contract without discriminating against certain system operators. The grid operator has no obligation to give priority to renewable energy like, for example, an obligation to purchase electricity.
<b>Grid expansion</b>	A given system operator may be contractually entitled to a grid expansion by the grid operator. The grid operator is obliged to enter into this contract without discriminating against certain system operators. Electricity from renewable energy sources is not given priority.
<b>Statutory provisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Electricity Act 1989 (EA 1989)</li><li>• The Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC)</li></ul>

## 2. Basic information on legal sources

<b>Name of legal source (original language)</b>	The Electricity Act 1989, c.29	The Connection and Use of System Code	
<b>Name of legal source (full name)</b>			
<b>Name (English)</b>			
<b>Abbreviated form</b>	EA 1989	CUSC	
<b>Entry into force</b>	27.07.1989	18.09.2001	
<b>Last amended on</b>	31.08.2010	28.01.2011	
<b>Future amendments</b>			
<b>Purpose</b>	The act opens the electricity and gas markets in Great Britain.	Regulating the conditions for the use of the British grid.	
<b>Relation to renewable energy</b>	Sections 32, 32 A-C of the Act authorise the issuing of the Renewables Obligation Orders and thus the introduction of the quota obligation and the certificate system. Furthermore, the Act includes general provisions on the access of electricity to the grid.	Producers of electricity from renewable sources have to become a party to the CUSC in order to be entitled to conclude bilateral connection agreements according to the guidelines of the standard form agreements.	
<b>Link to full text of legal source (original language)</b>	<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents</a>	<a href="http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Codes/systemcode/contracts/">http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Codes/systemcode/contracts/</a>	
<b>Link to full text of legal source (English)</b>			

### 3. Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
<b>Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) – regulatory authority</b>	<a href="http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/">http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/</a>		+44 207 901 72 95	
<b>National Grid – transmission grid operator</b>	<a href="http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk">http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk</a>		+44 192 665 30 00	

#### 4. Connection to the grid

<b>Abbreviated form of legal sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Electricity Act 1989, c.29 (EA 1989)</li> <li>• The Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC)</li> </ul>	
<b>Overview</b>	<p>System operators are contractually entitled to connection to the grid by the grid operator. The grid operator is obliged to enter into these contracts (sec. 16 par. 1 EA 1989 in connection with sec. 1.3 CUSC).</p> <p>A claim for connection arises on the date on which a given connection agreement is concluded (sec. 1.3 CUSC).</p> <p><b>Entitled party.</b> The persons entitled are the system operators.</p> <p><b>Obligated party.</b> The person obligated is the grid operator in charge (sec. 16 par.1 EA 1989 in connection with sec. 1.3 CUSC).</p>	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Procedure</b>	<p>System operators are contractually entitled to connection to the grid by the grid operator. The grid operator is obliged to enter into these contracts (sec. 16 par. 1 EA 1989 in connection with sec. 1.3 CUSC).</p> <p>A claim for connection arises on the date on which a given connection agreement is concluded (sec. 1.3 CUSC).</p>
	<b>Deadlines</b>	Time limits on connection depend on the terms of a given connection agreement (sec. 2.13.4 CUSC).
	<b>Obligation to provide information</b>	
<b>Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)</b>	( ) Priority to renewable energy ( x ) Non-discrimination	The grid operator is obliged to connect systems to his grid according to non-discriminatory criteria. Electricity generated from renewable energy sources is not given priority.
<b>Capacity limits (quantitative criteria)</b>	A given system operator must not exceed the connection entry capacity specified in the connection agreement (sec. 2.2.4 CUSC).	
<b>Funding</b>		
	<b>State</b>	
	<b>Consumers</b>	
	<b>Grid operator</b>	
	<b>System operator</b>	The costs of the connection of a system to the grid are borne by the system operator (sec. 19 par. 1 EA 1989 in conjunction with sec. 2.14.1 CUSC).
	<b>Distribution mechanism</b>	

## 5. Use of the grid

<b>Abbreviated form of legal sources</b>	The Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC)	
<b>Overview</b>	<p>System operators are contractually entitled against the grid operator to use the grid. The grid operator is statutorily obliged to enter into such contracts (sec. 1.3 CUSC).</p> <p>The claim arises when the agreement is concluded (sec. 3.2.2 CUSC).</p> <p><b>Entitled party.</b> The persons entitled are the system operators.</p> <p><b>Obligated party.</b> The obligated party is the grid operator.</p>	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Procedure</b>	<p>System operators are contractually entitled against the grid operator to use the grid. The grid operator is statutorily obliged to enter into such contracts (sec. 1.3 CUSC).</p> <p>The claim arises when the agreement is concluded (sec. 3.2.2 CUSC).</p>
	<b>Deadlines</b>	
	<b>Obligation to provide information</b>	
<b>Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)</b>	<p>( ) Priority to renewable energy</p> <p>( x ) Non-discrimination</p>	The grid operator is obliged to grant access to the grid without discriminating against certain users. Electricity from renewable sources is not given priority.
<b>Grid stability</b>	A given system operator must not exceed the connection entry capacity specified in the connection agreement (sec. 2.2.4 CUSC).	
<b>Funding</b>		
	<b>State</b>	
	<b>Consumers</b>	
	<b>Grid operator</b>	
	<b>System operator</b>	The costs of the connection of a system to the grid are borne by the system operator (sec. 3.9.1. CUSC).
	<b>Distribution mechanism</b>	

## 6. Grid expansion

<b>Abbreviated form of legal source</b>	The Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC)	
<b>Overview</b>	<p>A given system operator may be contractually entitled to the expansion of the grid by the grid operator. This system operator has to file with the grid operator a request for the expansion of the grid. The grid operator is obliged to make a "modification offer". If the offer is accepted by the system operator, the connection agreement will be varied to include the terms on which the grid will be modified (6.9.2 CUSC).</p> <p><b>Entitled party.</b> The persons entitled to the expansion of the grid are the system operators (6.9.2 CUSC).</p> <p><b>Obligated party.</b> The grid operator is obliged to expand the grid (6.9.2 CUSC).</p>	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Procedure</b>	A given system operator may be contractually entitled to the expansion of the grid by the grid operator. This system operator has to file with the grid operator a request for the expansion of the grid. The grid operator is obliged to make a "modification offer". If the offer is accepted by the system operator, the connection agreement will be varied to include the terms on which the grid will be modified (6.9.2 CUSC).
	<b>Enforcement of claims</b>	A claim for the expansion of the grid arises when a given connection agreement is varied to include the terms on which the grid will be modified (6.9.2.4 CUSC).
	<b>Deadlines</b>	The scope and the limits of a claim for grid expansion depend on the provisions set out in a given connection agreement (6.9.2.4 CUSC).
	<b>Obligation to provide information</b>	
<b>Incentives for grid expansion</b>		
<b>Funding</b>		
	<b>State</b>	
	<b>Consumers</b>	
	<b>Grid operator</b>	
	<b>System operator</b>	.
	<b>Distribution mechanism</b>	Grid expansion and reinforcement costs are grouped under the Transmission Network Use of System Charge (TNUoS). TNUoS are split between generators (i.e. system operators) (27%) and suppliers (73%) (Ch.1, Sec. 14 CUSC).
<b>Grid studies</b>		

