

Research RES LEGAL – Grid issues

Country: United Kingdom

1. Overview

Overview of grid issues	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.
Connection to the grid	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.
Use of the grid	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.
Grid expansion	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.
Statutory provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Electricity Act 1989 (EA 1989) • The Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC)

2. Basic information on legal sources

Name of legal source (original language)	The Electricity Act 1989, c.29	The Connection and Use of System Code	
Name of legal source (full name)			
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	EA 1989	CUSC	
Entry into force	27.07.1989	18.09.2001	
Last amended on	22.04.2011	29.09.2011	
Future amendments			
Purpose	The act opens the electricity and gas markets in Great Britain.	Regulating the conditions for the use of the British grid.	
Relation to renewable energy	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.	
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents	http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Codes/systemcode/contracts/	
Link to full text of legal source (English)			

3. Further information

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

4. Connection to the grid

Abbreviated form of legal sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Electricity Act 1989, c.29 (EA 1989) • The Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC) 	
Overview	<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). A claim for connection arises on the date on which a given connection agreement is concluded (sec. 1.3 CUSC). Entitled party. The persons entitled are the system operators. Obligated party. The person obligated is the grid operator in charge (sec. 16 par.1 EA 1989 in connection with sec. 1.3 CUSC).</p>	
Procedure	Procedure	<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). A claim for connection arises on the date on which a given connection agreement is concluded (sec. 1.3 CUSC).</p>
	Deadlines	<p>Time limits on connection depend on the terms of a given connection agreement (sec. 2.13.4 CUSC).</p>
	Obligation to provide information	
Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority to renewable energy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-discrimination	<p>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.</p>
Capacity limits (quantitative criteria)	<p>A given system operator must not exceed the connection entry capacity specified in the connection agreement (sec. 2.2.4 CUSC).</p>	
Funding		
	State	
	Consumers	
	Grid operator	
	System operator	<p>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).</p>
	Distribution mechanism	

5. Use of the grid

Abbreviated form of legal sources	The Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC)	
Overview	<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>Entitled party. The persons entitled are the system operators.</p> <p>Obligated party. The obligated party is the grid operator.</p>	
Procedure	Procedure	<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>
	Deadlines	
	Obligation to provide information	
Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority to renewable energy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-discrimination	The grid operator is obliged to grant access to the grid without discriminating against certain users. Electricity from renewable sources is not given priority.
Grid stability	A given system operator must not exceed the connection entry capacity specified in the connection agreement (sec. 2.2.4 CUSC).	
Funding		
	State	
	Consumers	
	Grid operator	
	System operator	The costs of the connection of a system to the grid are borne by the system operator (sec. 3.9.1. CUSC).
	Distribution mechanism	

6. Grid expansion

Abbreviated form of legal source	The Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC)	
Overview	<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>Entitled party. The persons entitled to the expansion of the grid are the system operators (6.9.2 CUSC).</p> <p>Obligated party. The grid operator is obliged to expand the grid (6.9.2 CUSC).</p>	
Procedure	Procedure	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).
	Enforcement of claims	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).
	Deadlines	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).
	Obligation to provide information	
Incentives for grid expansion		
Funding	State	
	Consumers	
	Grid operator	
	System operator	
	Distribution mechanism	Grid expansion and reinforcement costs are grouped under the Transmission Network Use of System Charge (TNUoS). TNUoS are split between generators (Angaben in Klammern gelöscht) (27%) and suppliers (73%) (14.14 CUSC).
Grid studies		