

Respondent Details

Company Name:	RBF Wind Energy Ltd
Respondent Name:	Gavin Forkan
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No.	Question	Your response	Consent to Publish Response (Y/N)
Q1	How would you define 'contestability'?	Contestability is the right for a third party connecting to the grid to plan, design and construct all or part of their grid connection. The network owner retains responsibility for the specification of standards.	y
Q2	What do you see as the main benefits of introducing contestability in new connections: A) To the consumer? B) To your company?	A) reduced capital cost of connection and reduced timeframe for connection is expected to translate into reduced wholesale electricity prices. B) reduced capital cost of grid connection allows the company to deliver a greater number of projects in total	y
Q3	What is the nature of your company's business?	The development of wind energy generation stations in NI and ROI.	y
Q4	What is your role in making new connections to the electricity network... A) At present? B) In the future?	A) applicant for grid connections for wind energy at 250kW scale B) applicant for future grid connections at 250kW and larger scale wind energy	n
Q5	What past experience do you have in making new connections to the electricity network... A) in Northern Ireland? B) or elsewhere? (Please state location)	A) RBF has applied for a number of grid connections since 2013 for wind energy projects. B) RBF has investigated grid connections in ROI but has yet to make an application for connection.	n
Q6	What type of connections are you interested in?	No response	y
Q7	Should contestability be applied to: A) Transmission and distribution connections? B) Onshore and offshore connections?	Yes to both	y
Q8	To what extent should different rules apply to Transmission Network Operators and Distribution System Operators?	No response	Y
Q9	To what extent should different rules apply to offshore connections and onshore connections?	No difference should apply	y

No.	Question	Your response	Consent to Publish Response (Y/N)
Q10	What industry codes would require updating to facilitate contestable connections?	No response	y
Q11	What works should be deemed as non-contestable?	System safety and protection assets	y
Q12	How should operations and maintenance be managed during the lifetime of a contestable asset?	No response	y
Q13	Should different degrees of contestability be introduced for each connection type?	Contestability should be introduced for dedicated and shared connection assets at all voltage levels.	y
Q14	What are the barriers to introducing contestable connections?	Contestability is available in GB and ROI and has been delivered on the Slieve Kirk project in NI. There are no significant technical barriers. Resource allocation within NIAUR and NIE are expected to be the primary barrier to the timely delivery of contestability.	y
Q15	What is the current impact of not having contestability in the connections market?	The high cost of connection means a generation project in NI is more expensive to deliver than in GB. Projects in NI require more time to achieve revenue generation resulting in less attractive investment cases in NI as compared to GB.	y
Q16	What is your view of best practice in regard to contestable connections?	No response	y
Q17	What type of arrangements would achieve the right balance between contestable and non-contestable works?	No response	y
Q18	What problems could arise from the introduction of contestability?	No response	y

No.	Question	Your response	Consent to Publish Response (Y/N)
Q19	How much of a factor is the cost/timing of a new connection in regards to setting up a business/generator?	It is the single most significant factor for investment decisions in the small and medium wind sector. Extreme costs and long lead times have led to NI being very far behind GB in installation at this scale.	y

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I1-1	Describe your issue		
I1-2	How often does this issue arise?		
I1-3	Where does the issue arise?		
I1-4	What more could be done to deal with the issue?		
I1-5	Why can't the issue be dealt with or what are the barriers to implementing change?		
I1-6	How has delivery of your connection been affected by this issue?		

No.	Question	Your response	Consent to Publish Response (Y/N)
I2-1	Describe your issue		
I2-2	How often does this issue arise?		
I2-3	Where does the issue arise?		
I2-4	What more could be done to deal with the issue?		
I2-5	Why can't the issue be dealt with or what are the barriers to implementing change?		
I2-6	How has delivery of your connection been affected by this issue?		

No.	Question	Your response	Consent to Publish Response (Y/N)
I3-1	Describe your issue		
I3-2	How often does this issue arise?		
I3-3	Where does the issue arise?		
I3-4	What more could be done to deal with the issue?		
I3-5	Why can't the issue be dealt with or what are the barriers to implementing change?		
I3-6	How has delivery of your connection been affected by this issue?		