

## ODFM - Frequently Asked Questions

### **How do I obtain Word versions of the documentation?**

Please email [commercial.operation@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:commercial.operation@nationalgrideso.com) to request these. One of our Account Managers will then get in touch with you.

### **How do I find the latest version of the Data Template?**

It can be found on our website here – [Data Template](#)

### **How many 'Related Entities' can I have?**

We ask Providers to consolidate these as much as possible. This helps to manage our workload associated with setting up new providers for payment.

### **How late can I leave submitting my forms to participate?**

Please ensure you submit in plenty of time and do not leave it until the last minute before the deadline in order to submit.

### **Aggregation can occur by 'GSP' is this referring to the few GSP zones i.e \_P, \_K, \_L or is it referring to the 350 or so GSP IDs?**

This refers to the GSP ID and references the name of the substation which the assets connect to.

### **Is ODFM pricing and volume published?**

Yes you'll find it [here](#) in the Market Information reports.

### **What capacity has signed up for ODFM?**

This information is published [here](#) in our Market Information reports.

### **Will plant owners be able to sign up for the ODFM scheme after 8th May?**

Yes.

### **Will NGESO share how much volume was dispatched for each participating asset in order for the industry to get a sense of the likely utilisation rate and link with price?**

ESO will publish a market report for each instruction of the service.

**Can we do this new service for ODFM together with Capacity Market?**

Yes, however it is not recognised as a 'relevant balancing service' under the CM rules. However, we do not expect a stress event to occur at the same time that we are using this service. Please raise any concerns with to: [commercial.operation@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:commercial.operation@nationalgrideso.com).

**If sites sign up for the ODFM scheme, from what date will the plants need to be available for the service?**

ASAP.

**What is the likelihood of the service being needed outside of non-working days and BH as the guidance document states?**

We flagged that there are scenarios where the requirement can be seen to be on any day. Please refer to our market requirements paper.

**Is this service open to large scale aggregation of domestic-scale loads?**

Under the service it is not possible to aggregate wider than a grid supply point.

**Could a supplier additional BMU participate in ODFM service even though it is not actively participating in the BM?**

Units are eligible to participate so long as they are not accessible through BM actions and can adhere to the other terms.

**How do providers inform NGENSO of the maximum possible delivery period for a unit?**

Availability is declared through the provider data template which can be submitted on a weekly basis.

**...and if they are how would you baseload for them?**

There are no baseline /forecasts required to be submitted prior to dispatch.

**Where will ODFM dispatch reporting be available? Will we see how much is demand turn up, vs. generation turn down, or will it be reported as the net effect of actions taken?**

Please look at the Market Information Report for details.

**What are min and max ramp rates?**

In order to understand the aggregate impact of the service on the system it is important for NGENSO to know the ramp rates of the unit when the service starts and stops.

Ramp rates are asked to be submitted as a MW per minute value (MW/minute). For some units, the ramp rate may be constant and so the maximum and minimum ramp rates could be very similar in value. For other units (e.g. renewables) the ramp rates are likely to be variable. To reflect this, we have asked for a maximum and minimum ramp rate of the unit to provide parties with an envelope to deliver so they can take into consideration variables such as weather and manual processes around ramping.

The maximum ramp rate (larger value) is the fastest MW/minute rate the unit may ramp at, and the minimum ramp rate (smaller value) is the slowest MW/minute rate the unit may ramp.

**Ramp rates – Can I use the same minimum & maximum values?**

Yes, however this offers very little tolerance for parties before deemed non delivery applies. We recognise that parties are likely to need an envelope as any delivery outside these ranges will incur non-delivery implications. The assessment considers the costs of ramping and so the service is designed to incentivise an accurate reflection of a unit's capability.

**Where can we find an example email dispatch? This will be helpful to see beforehand.**

This will be shared with parties when they receive their form C approval.

**Does the provider need to use Microsoft Outlook/macros for the email exchange? This was an issue with DTU as many parties do not use Microsoft?**

There are no macros associated with the dispatch of this email. Acknowledgement is via email with a CSV attachment. We have not received any feedback of issues with this to date but shall review

**What are the implications if generators register for the ODFM and are then unable to implement the shut-down?**

Non-payment disallowed to keep playing - see service terms.

**Are you still requiring generation goes to zero under ODFM?**

Yes.

**Are investors eligible for compensation, if they have not registered for ODFM and if are asked to shut down?**

No.

**Is there a maximum number of times a provider can fail to deliver the service (despite being contracted and having notified availability) before it is kicked out of the scheme?**

ESO will conduct performance monitoring in line with all our services and if parties fail to deliver, we do have the appropriate mechanisms available under the service terms. We seek to work with parties as much as possible especially when new services are introduced.

**I have seen the file results 10.05.20.csv has been uploaded together with a PDF. Has there been any other file uploaded?**

No - just a PDF and CSV - Not instructed last weekend so no report, however we are currently reviewing this to be more transparent.

**Will ODFM volumes feature in BSAD, and if so, in what timeframe?**

No, volumes will not be submitted via BSAD

**How will the costs of ODFM affect BSUoS and the imbalance price?**

The costs of ODFM are not passed onto Elexon so do not impact on the imbalance price. Therefore, the costs for these services will only feed into BSUoS.

**How will the market get visibility of the volume of ODFM being dispatched at the time that it is instructed?**

BMRS will inform of our usage.

**Will the ABSVD vols & prices of ODFM be fed in to BM Reports via a route such as NG's Trade reporting system - allowing all market participants to know the vol of NGENSO actions in advance, and feed these in to their view of real system length?**

Yes, we will publish data relating to ODFM call offs on BMRS.

**Will we be able to clearly see the MPAN to which the ABSVD is applied - or will it just be seen at base supply BMU level for a supplier?**

The provider will as part of the settlement process allocate to a MPAN.

**Will the supplier be obliged to pass on the ABSVD benefit to and end user who would increase volume?**

ABSVD will adjust the MPAN values for imbalance purposes so there is no benefit to spill.

**Even if ABSVD volume is based on forecast, will the service fee still be based on the total registered service volume of the asset (its generating capacity)?**

The service fee is paid as per the formula in the service terms. This is separate to the ABSVD calculation.

**How is ABSVD calculated for intermittent generators? What volume do you use (availability, power forecast, registered service volume)?**

ABSVD would be calculated on forecast volumes during the dispatch instruction period.

**Will applications be rejected if the service fee (£/MWh) is too high? Is there any chance a generator will be subsequently constrained under an Emergency Instruction even if they have applied to the ODFM scheme with a very high bid?**

Parties are free to submit pricing, and these will then be assessed as part of the dispatch process.

**During last week's update it was mentioned that ESO was going to publish a document about how often you expect to call upon services such as Super SEL and the new demand turn up service. Has this been published, and if so, where can it be found?**

We have published a document showing the requirement for ODFM - it's available on the data portal.

**How does Supplier Volume Allocation work for ODFM?**

Under Section S of the BSC (Supplier Volume Allocation) the Lead Party (being the balancing responsible party) has to elect for the delivered volumes from the metering systems of non-BM balancing services providers to be included in the calculation of ABSVD.

The ODFM service terms therefore require the provider to procure that the Supplier does this, and it is assumed that the Supplier is highly likely to cooperate because it would otherwise incur an imbalance charge as a consequence of its short position.

**How will this service be metered?**

Metering is half hourly; further details can be found under the metering section of our service terms. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE SUBMITTED OFFLINE VIA OUR SETTLEMENT DATA TEMPLATE

**What happens if Metered Data cannot be submitted within 5 Business Days (i.e. Meter Issues)? Will SCADA/other data be accepted?**

Metered values are to be submitted in the provided template in order to ensure accurate settlement in a timely manner.

**Why do generation assets have to fully de-load in order to participate? Why not allow partial de-loading up to a contracted volume?**

Due to the manual nature of this service there were certain limitations in implementing the ODFM service in the timescales. We shall take this feedback on board for any future developments.

**I just wanted to clarify that providers are expected to start their ramping at the start of the activation period - not before?**

Yes, correct.

**Is the 60 min deadline to respond to an instruction e-mail taken from issue of the instruction e-mail, or within 60mins of the 5pm deadline, i.e. by 6pm?**

From issue of instruction.

**On instruction, would NGENSO expect Generators to achieve certain MW set point or it will be always 0 MW? Noting some power parks do not have SCADA systems hence no ability to set MW limits but 0 MW?**

Currently generation curtailing needs to meet the service terms of moving to 0 MW. We shall take this feedback for possible future developments.

**As we understand Start of instruction is start of ramp, does that mean the end of the ramp back is the end time i.e. time at which back asset generation goes back to normal?**

At the end of an instruction a party must ramp back to normal operation by the cease time on the instruction.

**If ODFM is on SONAR does its value feed into the Price Adjuster in Imbalance?**

No, we update the demand forecast.

**What is the justification for ODFM not being included in the NIV calculations? Practicality?**

Practicalities in short time available as this would involve getting data to Elexon.

**When might NGENSO make their planned ODFM profile available to anyone in the market?**

To inform the market of the impact of the service we update our demand forecast, rather than publishing the delivery profile.

**Will the ODFM service be the last service you reach for after BM/SUPER SEL etc.? How often do you expect to call?**

We will be publishing the requirements. The service usage is highly dependent upon a number of factors and is driven very strongly by weather. Initial analysis under normal demands indicate that there is a requirement which can be met from a number of providers. There is a requirement for these services at least a third of the time this summer.

**With GC0143, we will be expecting system warnings such as "high risk of system disturbance" should disconnections of embedded generation become likely?**

Yes, we will have issued an NRAPM before the EI is issued and that can be seen on BMRS.

**How are generators selected to be disconnected under the ODFM? And under the emergency code? Do you have an order of priority in terms of technology, size, location?**

Firstly, to be clear, ODFM is an optional, opt-in commercial service for DER to reduce their output or increase their demand in line with the commercial parameters they submit to NGENSO each week. It's a time limited service we are implementing to enable the control room to access MWs not currently controllable to the control room. When we have a requirement for this service, we will be taking actions optimised on cost. Whole system impacts are important and so location will be considered to ensure use of the service respects the limits of both the transmission and distribution system, and as with all our decisions, will be taken agnostic to technology.

**Regarding ODFM (PV plants) What happen if we don't sign up - will we be forced to shut down?**

This new ODFM balancing service product provides an opportunity for distribution connected embedded generation to enter into a voluntary contractual arrangement for service provision to NGENSO. This is envisaged as a temporary arrangement which will support NGENSO in the management of specific network conditions during the summer of 2020, recognising the current abnormal electricity demand profile. It is important that participants understand that these contractual arrangements sit entirely separate from the existing connection agreements established between each embedded generator and its host Distribution Network Operator (DNO), which remain unchanged. In particular, de-energisation and dispatch by DNOs of embedded generating plant under these connection agreements is entirely separate from, and not associated with, the provision of this temporary ODFM balancing service to NGENSO and any associated contractual payments made by NGENSO under the Service Terms, although clearly DNO actions under their arrangements with participants may have implications for the availability of ODFM service delivery which is addressed in the Service Terms.

**How low does demand have to be a) overnight or b) daytime for you to have to consider issuing a NRAPM? Or are there any other metrics that indicate when things might get tricky - e.g. levels of solar generation in the day?**

When national negative reserve requirement can't be met.

**One requirement to join the ODFM is "to procure all necessary dispatch controls, metering and monitoring facilities (as the case may be) as stipulated by the ODFM Service Terms". I couldn't find guidance on what you mean by 'dispatch controls' so not sure ....so not sure if we have these. Please can you tell me what you mean by this?**

we will dispatch via email; whatever you need to act that is what we mean here.

**As well as ODFM, will you be considering schedule 7a trades for embedded generation that have GTMA's but not in ODFM for the weekend?**

We will always optimise all of the commercial options available in line with system needs – there are some GTMAs with embedded generation which are one of the options the traders will consider as part of the day ahead planning process.

**People took positions at the day-ahead and then you moved the demand by 1 to 2GW using ODFM and pushed the system short. (Currently increasing demand via ODFM drives the system short then lifts the imbalance price and encourages parties to flow on the interconnectors into GB) Ultimately because the ODFM service is not an imbalance action for imbalance pricing it creates a perverse incentive to increase non-synchronous interconnector flows just as grid is looking to increase inertia?**

we saw some movement on the interconnectors; ABSVD leaves parties whole; In terms of cash out we are not feeding anything into that so we are not impacting that for other services i.e. FFR we ABSVD BM Units but those costs don't go into cash out & NBM STOR - takes a while, longer than a month as per P354 Elexon, once they receive the ABSVD data, they correct market positions.

**Run-up and run-down rates are confusing for wind farms and difficult to get spot on, this might put participants off suffice to say they are not synchronous generator timescales.**

This is why we have given parties the opportunity to set their own envelope range.

**Also, can we submit availabilities by day in future/are you working on this functionality? Having to declare availability for the full week creates a cost of running for batteries due to revenue missed through other services. If we were able to still run in the weekly auction for other days this would reduce the cost of providing the service and allow us to offer cheaper prices.**

There are no plans to change this as it stands given the manual nature of the service at this time – a necessity given the need to get this service in quickly. The service is time limited for this summer and learning will feed into the reserve reform activity we are doing as part of our Future of Balancing Services work.

**In retrospect, would you have liked the option to keep ODFM in use beyond 10am Sunday morning? Some providers could accommodate such a request at short notice. Would you consider this?**

This forms part of our review processes.

**Are there any plans to adapt the process slightly to better incorporate other technologies? For Batteries the 2 half hour periods before hand should be irrelevant to the performance as each half hour could be exported or imported differently.**

We welcome feedback, you can direct these through your account manager or [commercial.operation@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:commercial.operation@nationalgrideso.com)

**why is ODFM time-limited? Is it just not needed beyond summer currently? What are the thoughts on ODFM for next summer? How does this sit with wider access as, presumably, all participants could enter into the BM in one form or another?**

The service currently has a 1-month extension clause should we wish to extend the service. We will keep this under review. The current requirements are very closely linked to the COVID-19 lockdown. ESO will continue to review any system requirements, we are developing how to move the volumes into more enduring solutions. It's worth noting that some providers do not meet the requirements of the BM and we are working on how to develop this with providers.

**If we were making a comparison between the previous DTU service and this scheme - what would be the main differences - from a demand user perspective?**

This is a new service, so we recommend reviewing the service terms and supporting documentation online.

**Why is it limited to GSP? And why can't ANM contracted capacity participate?**

There is a risk that parties who are included in an ANM, when called upon, the reduction could be offset by another provider within the same ANM. It is at GSP level in order to allow ESO to manage system constraints.

**We would welcome the ANM requirement being relaxed, the ANM restriction has been removed from all other balancing services**

No planned changes unless DNO discussions progress otherwise.

**In relation to assets involved in Active Network Management, is there no opportunity for participation in conditions when the ANM scheme would not curtail them? E.g. we have a wind farm in an ANM scheme that is largely solar, so could offer additional downward flexibility in high wind, low demand periods in early morning when solar generation is small).**

ESO are continually reviewing the ANM impact with the DNO's. We expect to share further insight into this in the coming weeks.

**When are the key times that curtailment is expected through ODFM?**

A requirement document has been published.

**Is the intention to use ODFM to manage locational constraints as well as for national-level balancing?**

It's a national balancing service so will be used to resolve our need for downward flexibility as a pre-fault balancing action.

**Regarding GSP, we understand why you need to know where things are for operability reasons. But wouldn't it be better to know where everything is located (aggregator matrix for example) rather than limiting to GSP?**

We have to liaise with the DNOs on the activation of the service, at the moment we are aiming for simplicity in managing this complex process, we will look as the summer progresses to further develop.

**In the event of emergency disconnections would you request DNOs to provide x MWs per GSP and then it is up to the DNO to find this amongst its embedded power stations?**

Yes.

**Do you envisage the emergency instruction for DER affecting behind-the-meter generation or just 'standalone' embedded generators?**

This is for the DNO to decide not NGENSO.

**Were any embedded generators disconnected over the Bank Holiday without compensation, as per powers taken by ESO in the recent Grid Code modification, or was ODFM adequate?**

No, you would expect an NRAPM to be published first.

**Does an embedded generation unit buy the MWh volume from NGENSO so that their position is held whole when ODFM is enacted?**

No – ESO ASVD any volumes in order to keep parties whole. The only fee paid as part of the service is the service utilisation fee.

**Does NGENSO have estimates of how much MW embedded non-BMU's is out there - and what vols in what tranches - wind / PV / price responsive gen e.g. gas recip / less price responsive e.g. biomass?**

We have a number of pieces of information that we pull together, data from the ALOMCP, data provided to us through the Strategic Wider works and the DNO data submission.

**Would demand turn up service at a station help NGENSO increase demand rather than need to bid off wind and allow it to flow? Station load can be managed, and it could be cheaper than bidding wind off. No MW were procured in the demand turn up for 2019?**

This service is open for demand side participants. We can already access BMU flexibility in the BM. Our requirements show we will need additional volume and this service is another tool for ESO to access such requirements which may come from a variety of different technology types. This is covered in the service terms.

**How much of ODFM is wind? Should these units really be rewarded over BMU wind units for being less flexible?**

A significant proportion of the capacity so far is wind, the breakdown is approximately 700MW solar, 100MW other and the rest is wind. When we assess taking these units we factor in the assumptions about alternative actions.

**From a solar plant safety prospective, would the participating solar plants be allowed to operate at a minimum export level rather than absolute zero export?**

No.

**We are an O&M provider and are receiving a lot of questions from Solar PV plant owners. Regarding ODFM. I understand that the minimum constraint time will be 3 hours, please confirm. What will the maximum constraint time be?**

The service will be called upon in line with the availability a provider has offered. I'd direct you to the requirements document on the website for more details.

**Regarding Solar for the ODFM, majority of sites will not have any ability to remote constrain, are you expecting individuals to travel to sites and if so what sort of MW of sites?**

Recognise this which is why this is a day ahead service. The latest an instruction for the service would be issued is 1700 for delivery as soon as 2300 – giving at least six hours for any action to be enacted.

**Both new service and curtailment seem to be tech neutral, but is it possible to access data on whether renewables are disproportionately affected?**

Providers are submitting units, we will take units in price order.