



NETWORKS

Webinar Local Business Flex Product Proposal Consultation - Questions & Answers

May 2026



This document brings together the questions raised by participants during the external webinar held on Tuesday, 28 April 2026, from 11:00 to 12:00, along with the responses provided by ESB Networks. It is intended to support stakeholders who attended the session, as well as those seeking further clarification on the topics discussed.

Important Notice

The questions and answers included in this document were captured during the webinar, either in written form or as verbal contributions from participants. They reflect, to the best of our ability, the questions raised, and the responses provided during the session.

In some cases, minor edits have been made to improve clarity, comprehension, or completeness, while preserving the original intent and meaning.

ESB Networks advises that the information contained in this Q&A document, as well as the content presented in the webinar slides, is provided for guidance and illustrative purposes only.

The definitive and authoritative source of information remains the official consultation document, which is available for download on this [webpage](#).

Questions and Answers

Question 1:

Will the areas of Republic of Ireland where Business Flex will be offered be outlined in this webinar?

The areas won't be outlined during the webinar. They will be published when procurement opens.

Question 2:

Will ability to deliver Business Flex at an early-stage count in contracts being offered?

Contracts will be offered to any eligible participant, and everyone will be able to apply from the moment the procurement opens, but not before. Early participation will allow for a longer contract duration.

Question 3:

How do new Flexibility Service Providers participate if they don't have a baseline?

12 months of meter data is required for the baseline. The baseline will be calculated during qualification ahead of signing the contract.

Question 4:

What year will procurement open?

Procurement is scheduled to open in the second half of 2026 (subject to CRU approvals).

Question 5:

Do you have any initial indication of the locations or substations likely to be involved? As customer recruitment can take some time, it would be helpful to have some advance visibility ahead of procurement opening.

A needs assessment is underway. Locations will be published when procurement opens.

Question 6:

Can SU Firm be contracted seven days per week?

Yes, where the location requires flexibility for seven days per week and eligibility criteria are met.

Question 7:

Under SU Firm, can more than two × two-hour delivery periods be delivered?

Contracts are limited to two two-hour delivery periods (slots) per day, i.e. a maximum of four hours per day. This applies to both products.

Question 8:

If on SU Firm, can Local Peak Events be covered by participating in SU Flex for that event only?

Participation in Local Peak Events is limited to SU Flex participants.

Question 9:

Are Local Peak Events coordinated with EirGrid System Events?

They are localised constraints, responding to a local needs on the distribution network.

Question 10:

It seems connection of new battery storage is excluded given 12 months of meter data is required.

ESB Networks is exploring a baselining mechanism for generators such as standalone batteries. Please respond to the consultation with any feedback you have on this.

Question 11:

Would a new dedicated diesel generator on a site qualify?

Only if this does not breach the existing generator connection agreement and/or the distribution code, it , and all other eligibility criteria are met.

Question 12:

The MPRN must be connected to a selected substation – what happens if it is connected to the site's own substation?

If the MPRN is connected to site's own substation and this substation is fed from the selected sub-station, MPRN is considered to be eligible.

Question 13:

Is it the first phase of Smart Meter rollout which is required for a business to be eligible for local business flex? And what % of roll-out are ESB currently at for smart meter for businesses?

To be eligible it is required to provide at least 12 months of meter data. Please find anything related to smart meters on this link.

Question 14:

Smart Meter roll out is very slow on our multiple sites nationally - will this affect contract offering.

Participants are encouraged to provide feedback through the consultation if this is a constraint.

Question 15:

Are participants limited to avoided consumption only, or can they export incremental generation?

It's required to be able to provide Upward Flexibility, meaning to reduce electricity demand or increase supply by injecting power from generation or storage.

Question 16:

How will notifications be communicated, i.e. via which channel?

Instructions for Local Peak Events will be issued by email.

Question 17:

How will contracts be conducted – will EU procurement mechanisms apply?

The process will be conducted through the official eTenders portal using a direct award approach.

Question 18:

How do customers know which transformer they are connected to?

Areas will be published and ESB Networks can verify if the MPRN is connected to the substation during the application process.

Question 19:

What is the maximum flexibility required for the programme?

This will be published when procurement opens once the Needs Assessment is complete.

Question 20:

What happens when there is an excess of qualified tender volume in a given location? Are awards prorated? If there is say for example 10MW required at a given location, and 20MW of eligible volume, does everyone get 50% of their qualified volumes?

Capacity will not be prorated based on total capacity available. Contracts will be awarded, in order, based on applications received until the required capacity is filled. Where the volume of qualified tenders exceeds the requirement at a given location, ESB Networks cannot procure above the maximum capacity.

Question 21:

Will SU Firm allow load reduction through embedded generation as well as export? e.g I have a customer with a MIC of 1MW, and an MEC of 500kws, they have a 1 MW Generator so they can reduce load by 1MW or export 500kws, how will SU Firm handle this.

To be eligible, the service must be capable of being delivered without breaching the Connection Agreement and/or the Distribution Code. The site must specify the Upward Flexible Capacity it can commit, independently of the delivery mechanism and within the limits of the site's MIC and MEC.

Question 22:

Will contracts be fixed until end-2030?

Yes, contracts are planned to run until the end of 2030.

Question 23:

Are there get-out clauses or penalties for back-tracking after contract entry?

The full contract details will be made available via the eTenders portal.

Question 24:

It's only for customers who have an existing MPRN in the chosen area? A new MPRN with a new battery is excluded?

An existing connection / MPRN is required.

Question 25:

Is consultation feedback public?

Yes, unless specifically requested to be kept private.

Question 26:

Any info on maximum customer size. Maximum flex possible per substation. And maximum total value of program?

There is no maximum import capacity (MIC) per asset under the current proposal, however, there will be a maximum of flexible capacity per substation. This is currently being defined during a flexibility needs assessment and will be published once procurement opens.

Question 27:

Does the baseline remain static for the duration of the contract or get reviewed annually?

The proposal suggests recalculating the baseline every three months.

Question 28:

To engage Irish SMEs—non-energy experts across diverse businesses—clear, simple language and international SME case studies are essential to show Flex's pros and cons, especially potential revenue and resource impact.

Thanks for the feedback. We suggest that, if you are unsure, you apply for SU Flex. The product is proposing to switch between products every six months.

Question 29:

Are exit penalties applicable under fixed contracts?

The full contract details will be made available via the eTenders portal.

Question 30:

For SU Flex, can you clarify minimum commitment versus no penalties for under-performance?

SU Flex requires a commitment to at least two pre agreed, fixed days per week (e.g. Monday and Friday); participants in SU Flex are paid for the capacity they deliver, even if it is below the contracted level.

Question 31:

Is feedback published on participation in Beat-the-Peak?

For any information related to Beat the Peak, please refer to the website.

Question 32:

Is there visibility of potential substation locations over the next 12 months?

A Capacity Needs Assessment is underway. Locations will be published when procurement opens.

Question 33:

Regarding local peak events, are there any considerations around calculating the baseline on a more frequent basis (e.g. at least half-yearly), rather than using average consumption meter data over the previous 12 months?

The proposed baseline is reviewed quarterly using the previous similar quarter in last 12 months of consumption meter data, except for the first baseline, which will be calculated from the closest three-month consumption profile within that 12 month of historical data. For more detailed information please refer to the consultation document. Any feedback is welcomed.

Question 34:

Is aggregation allowed or will contracts be customer-by-customer?

Aggregation is permitted.

Question 35:

Can independently approved meters be used where no smart meter is installed?

No, to participate in Local Business Flex it is a requirement that an ESB Networks' smart meter MCC12 or QH meter is in use.

Question 36:

Why is the baseline based on summer and winter periods when contracts are winter-only?

Contracts will not be required exclusively for winter periods. Some locations may have flexibility requirements in both winter and summer. In such cases, separate baselines will be established for each period, as consumption patterns may differ between seasons.

Question 37:

If a customer decides to install a battery installation, does it need to go through a 3-month baseline, before its operation is changed to more of a flexibility mode?

ESB Networks is exploring a baseline mechanism for stand-alone batteries.

Question 38:

Are there plans for a downward flexibility product?

This has been considered for the future, there is no decision on this currently.

Question 39:

Are flex contracts annual or until 2030?

Contracts for Local Business Flex will run until the end of 2030.

Question 40:

What if a battery is used for injection instead of demand reduction?

Both demand reduction and/or injection are permitted as per indicated in the Local Business Flex consultation document.

Question 41:

The e Tenders Portal requirement will cause problems participating.

Thank you for the feedback. We encourage responses to the consultation with views on this topic.

Question 42:

Does Direct Award mean ESB Networks pays the FSP directly?

ESB Networks will pay the successful contracting entity per the contract. Note a direct award relates to the procurement mechanism.

Question 43:

How will the price be set - before tender or through tendering?

The price for each product will be published once procurement opens. The price will be the same for all participants.

Question 44:

Can customers already participating in DSU also participate (stacking)?

Yes, stacking is permitted. Please refer to the consultation for additional information.

Question 45:

Does contract length shorten if you join later?

Yes, it does, as the end date is fixed for end of 2030.

Question 46:

If a site has solar and battery, could solar fluctuations mask battery response?

Further details on this will be available in the Tender document.



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