



PR6 TSO/TAO Joint TOP Delivery Incentive Multi-Year Plan 2027-2030

Call for Input Consultation Paper

31st July 2026



NETWORKS

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1 Introduction

The PR6 Final Determination (FD) was published by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) in December 2025. It contains direction and guidance to EirGrid as the Transmission System Operator (TSO), and to ESB Networks as Transmission Asset Owner (TAO), on incentives and reporting arrangements for the PR6 period, 2026 to 2030.

The TSO-TAO Joint Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) Delivery Incentive is a new joint incentive for PR6 and is one of three incentives assessed by Balanced Scorecard, alongside the TSO/TAO Joint Incentive and the TSO/DSO Co-ordination Incentive, as outlined in CRU2025197. This incentive builds on the previous PR5 TSO TOP Delivery incentive metric, which was one of 6 metrics within the TSO's Investment Planning and Delivery incentive. The financial value of this incentive has significantly increased in PR6 to reflect the scale and importance of the joint collaboration in this area.

The transition to a joint TSO/TAO incentive for PR6 reflects the key role both network companies play in this area. The rewards for the TSO/TAO TOP Delivery Incentive are split over two key areas of joint working. The Phase 1 performance metric outlined in Section 2 accounts for 80% which is a quantitative metric with the remaining 20% applying to the Phase 2 assessment which is a qualitative metric.

The PR6 framework introduced a two-stage approach to planning the joint TSO/TAO incentive plans for the period. The TSO and TAO submitted their 2026 plans for the joint incentives to CRU in February 2026. Subsequently, the CRU published the Balanced Scorecard assessment criteria relating to the 2026 incentive plans in May 2026 ([CRU202647](#)). A comprehensive Multi-Year Plan covering the remaining four years (2027–2030) is required to be submitted to the CRU by 30th September 2026 following a public consultation period.

1.1 Call for Input Consultation

This Call for Input process seeks views from interested parties on the TSO and TAO's multi-year plans for the period 2027-2030. This document outlines the high-level plans for this Joint TSO/TAO TOP Delivery Incentive for the period 2027-2030. A final detailed plan will be submitted to the CRU by 30th September 2026. It should be noted that the TSO's transmission outage management process is not within the scope of this Call for Input process.

2 Relevant Documentation

Stakeholders are invited to express their views on and input into the proposed approach outlined above. In doing so, stakeholders may find it helpful to refer to the following documentation:

Incentive	Previous Plan	Relevant Sections of CRU Decisions
TSO/TAO Joint TOP Incentive	TSO/TAO Joint TOP Incentive 2026 Plan	Section 6.5 of CRU2025197 Section 4.3 of CRU2025200d Section 4 of CRU202647

3 The Joint PR6 TSO/TAO TOP Delivery Incentive

The aim of this joint incentive is to promote improvements in collaboration and communication with increased joint focus on delivering outcomes in key areas related to the TOP plan, TOP delivery and improvements in Outage Management processes including the Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP). As mentioned above, the transmission outage management process is not within the scope of this Call for Input consultation. The annual TOP plan must be ambitious enough to facilitate the annual delivery of the PR6 transmission CapEx plan, while balancing the requirement to ensure that transmission network security is maintained during any outage period, in line with the TSO's Operating Security Standards (OSS)¹.

Performance of this incentive will be evaluated through a Balanced Scorecard framework considering both quantitative and qualitative elements, including the development of an ambitious annual TOP plan, outturn delivery against the annual plan, and reporting on the development of outage management initiatives resulting in material outage programme benefits and outcomes.

4 TOP Delivery Incentive Metrics

As per the PR6 FD and the PR6 User Guide, the Joint TOP Delivery Incentive contains two metrics which will be assessed:

- **Phase 1 metric assessment** - assesses the ambition of the annual Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) and the outturn performance delivering the transmission works contained in the annual baseline TOP. The final outturn performance is expressed as a single performance percentage. The source data for the annual performance outcome is taken from the Joint TSO/TAO TOP Delivery Dashboard. Phase 1 accounts for 80% of the total incentive.
- **Phase 2 metric assessment** - qualitatively assesses the progress against the Joint Outage transformation programme (JOTP) deliverables as set out in this multi-year 2027-2030 incentive plan. Phase 2 accounts for 20% of the total incentive.

The threshold for TOP delivery will be >90% for full Phase 1 incentive award with a deviation percentage calculation for anything below 90% down to full penalty at less than 80% outturn performance. Phase 2 is subject to self-assessment with three possible outcomes: "strong, acceptable and below acceptable" mapping to full award, zero award and full penalty and supported by independent audit report with final CRU evaluation.

As part of the Phase 1 assessment to ensure that an ambitious TOP plan is set, advising what work has been completed and to take account of variances arising during the year, the network companies are required to provide evidence against the following criteria:

- **Criteria 1: Outage availability:**
The annual TOP baseline plan will include the necessary outages to deliver a stated number of transmission CapEx projects (with future TOP plans intended to incorporate a proportion of maintenance as well). It is important that the outage plan is linked with the ambition of the PR6 CapEx plan and includes the necessary outages to enable its delivery. The TAO and TSO will show that all capital project outages identified in the programme for the relevant TOP year have

¹ [Operating-Security-Standards-Version-3.0-April-2025.pdf](#)

been included or provide the reasons why they are not included. The TSO will also confirm that the annual TOP baseline complies with its Operational Security Standards.

- **Criteria 2:** Initial energisations; and,
- **Criteria 3:** Final energisations:
The TSO and TAO will outline the energisations included in the programme or reasons why they could not be included. The TSO and TAO will explain the energisations delivered against the TOP baseline plan and give a reason if an energisation was not delivered.
- **Criteria 4:** Outage utilisation and delivery.

The TAO and TSO will report on the delivery and outturn of the annual TOP programme and the aforementioned criteria. This will include the completion of the works required to facilitate the initial and final energisations contained in the annual baseline TOP. Where the completed works are different to those in the annual baseline TOP, the TAO and TSO will make available at audit such information as the external auditors require to confirm the annual TOP performance outcome, the project delivery against baseline plan and the reasons associated with any changes. A standard exclusions process will apply to the Joint TOP Delivery Incentive, allowing the TSO and TAO to seek ex-post adjustments where performance has been materially affected by circumstances outside their control, with evidence provided to support any requested adjustments.

The Phase 2 assessment will outline the progress made by the network companies against the JOTP initiatives and other outage management improvements contained within the multi-year 2027-2030 incentive plan.

5 The 2027-2030 Joint TOP Delivery Incentive Plan

5.1 Phase 1 - Delivery of the Annual Transmission Outage Plan

The Joint TOP Delivery Incentive Multi-Year Plan for 2027–2030 focuses on delivery of the annual published Transmission Outage Plan supported by enhancing outage planning and coordination through the continued digital transformation of outage management processes. The 2026 plan is published [here](#), for reference.

The TSO and TAO will implement each annual TOP baseline plan throughout PR6 and will report against its outturn, via the annual outturn reports, including the reasons for any variances and the opportunities that may arise for additional works to be undertaken.

5.2 Phase 2 - Outage Management Process Improvements

By 2030, EirGrid and ESB Networks aim to operate a fully integrated, digitally enabled outage planning, management and delivery framework that enables efficient coordination of transmission system outages across the asset lifecycle. Moving beyond fragmented systems, manual processes and disconnected information flows, the future operating model will be built on shared data, standardised processes, enhanced governance and greater transparency. Improved collaboration between the TSO and TAO will strengthen the planning and delivery of capital and maintenance outages while providing better visibility of requirements, dependencies and risks to support more informed and auditable decision-making.

The Multi-Year Plan will provide the roadmap to achieve this vision through the implementation of common processes, improved information management, enhanced governance arrangements and greater integration of outage-related systems and workflows. By strengthening coordination, increasing the accessibility and quality of outage information, and embedding more efficient operating models, the programme will support proactive outage management, reduce administrative burden and improve delivery performance. By 2030, the framework will provide integrated planning capabilities, enhanced use of data and analytics, and greater end-to-end traceability, supporting the efficient delivery of network investment and maintenance programmes while maintaining system security, operational performance and regulatory compliance.

Central to the joint commitment to outage process improvement is the implementation of EirGrid's Outage Management System (OMS), alongside its integration with ESB Networks' VOMS platform to support more coordinated, end-to-end outage planning.

Over the period, the TAO and TSO will progress the digitisation of outage request forms and the underlying request process, moving away from manual and fragmented approaches towards more streamlined, system-based workflows. This will enable improved visibility, data quality and coordination across outage planning activities.

5.2.1 Phase 2 - Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP)

The Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP) was established in 2023 to address outage related constraints that can delay grid reinforcement projects and to strengthen the outage planning. The JOTP continues to improve availability and use of transmission outages and strengthen prioritisation across the project portfolio, supporting more efficient delivery of grid reinforcement projects.

The focus during 2027-2030 will be to conclude the transitioning of progress achieved to date into standard Business as Usual (BAU) practice. The programme will focus on new work methods that reduce outage needs, updating operational standards where required, optimising site work schedules within outages, introducing more specialised work methods, advancing condition-based maintenance, and expanding joint digital and data sharing solutions. Interventions may be refined based on emerging priorities and stakeholder feedback.

The JOTP 2027–2029 plan shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** demonstrates conclusion of the final three workstreams and the timeframe for their transition into BAU. Progress against the plan will be qualitatively audited to assess the outcomes achieved. This will include how effectively the TAO and TSO identified and implemented joint processes and how interventions have contributed to improving the availability and use of transmission outages to enable more efficient delivery of grid reinforcement projects.

Workstream	Initiative	Benefit Delivered	Target Year
Project Delivery	Extend working hours and optimise substation delivery across EirGrid and ESB Networks.	Faster project delivery and increased network infrastructure build-out capacity.	2027
	Expand live working capabilities on lines and substations, including fibre wrap installation and live works methodologies.	Reduced outages and shorter delivery timelines by completing more work on energised assets.	2029
Policy	Move from time-based to risk-based asset management using asset health models.	Better prioritisation of investment and maintenance, improving asset reliability and reducing costs.	2027
Information & Technology	Implement integrated digital solutions, including common asset data models, predictive planning, data-sharing capabilities, and enhanced dashboards.	Improved decision-making, planning efficiency, and visibility across the end-to-end system.	2027

Table 1: JOTP Targets for 2027-2029

6 Next Steps

Interested stakeholders' views on and input into the TSO/TAO's PR6 TOP Delivery Multi-Year Plan 2027 - 2030 are invited until 5pm on 1st of September 2026.

Responses can be submitted through [EirGrid Consultation Portal](#) and via ESB Networks engagement mailbox: consultations@esbnetworks.ie.

Please note that, in the consultation response document, the TSO and TAO will jointly respond to consultation respondents' comments and feedback within the scope of this consultation only. Comments and feedback outside the scope of this consultation will not be included in the consultation response document/(s).

Please mark your response as confidential if you do not wish for elements of your response to be shared in the consultation response document/(s) which will be published post consultation. Please note that all responses received will be shared with the CRU.

7 Glossary

FD	Final Determination
CRU	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
TSO	Transmission System Operator
TAO	Transmission Asset Owner
CapEx	Capital Expenditure
TOP	Transmission Outage Programme
PR5	Price Review 5
PR6	Price Review 6
OSS	Operating Security Standards
MYP	Multi-Year Plan

Table 2: Glossary