# National Infrastructure Commission warns of urgent need for investment in UK's electricity grid



The National Infrastructure Commission has issued a stark warning regarding the future of the UK's electricity grid, stating that government investment must be significantly increased to accommodate the escalating demand for electricity. The report, released today, highlights the Commission's projection that energy requirements are expected to double by the year 2050, necessitating urgent action to both manage demand and integrate new renewable power sources into the national grid.

The Commission's analysis indicates that households can expect an increase in their energy bills as a direct result of this necessary investment, which could range from an additional £5 to £25 annually by the middle of the next decade. However, the report also reassures that with supportive government measures aimed at promoting low-carbon energy and transitioning heating systems, bills could still remain lower than the current levels.

Sir John Armitt, Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission, emphasised the need for preemptive measures rather than reactive solutions in his statements. "The UK is heading in the right direction on decarbonising power, but we can’t be complacent," he said. He urged the government to learn from past challenges in expanding the transmission grid, advocating for proactive investment in local networks. This, he claims, would enable households to confidently adopt electric vehicles and heat pumps, while allowing businesses to connect to the grid in a timely manner.

The issue of slow grid connections has been a significant barrier to economic progress, according to Sam Richards, CEO of the pro-growth campaign group Britain Remade. He noted that "for too long, slow grid connections and bureaucratic red-tape have held back investment, innovation, and job creation." Richards calls on Ofgem to adopt a more growth-oriented strategy, one that facilitates investment and streamlines the expansion process to create a grid that can support new nuclear energy initiatives and renewable resources, advancing the government's objective of a clean grid by 2030.

The findings of this report present a crucial crossroads for the UK, as it outlines the imperative for substantial investment in infrastructure to meet the anticipated energy requirements of the future.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://nic.org.uk/studies-reports/electricity-distribution-network/> - This URL supports the claim that the UK's electricity distribution network needs significant investment to meet increasing demand, especially as the economy decarbonizes. It highlights the challenges in connecting new sources of demand and generation to the distribution network.
* <https://nic.org.uk/studies-reports/smart-power/> - This report from the National Infrastructure Commission emphasizes the importance of innovations like storage and demand flexibility in balancing electricity supply and demand, aligning with the need for proactive measures to manage future energy requirements.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-publishes-connections-action-plan> - This URL provides information on the government's efforts to accelerate connections to the electricity network, which is crucial for supporting new energy sources and meeting future demand.
* <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/connections-action-plan> - This document from Ofgem outlines plans to improve the process of connecting new sources of demand and generation to the electricity network, addressing the issue of slow grid connections.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/electricity-transmission-acceleration-action-plan> - This action plan focuses on accelerating the build-out of electricity transmission infrastructure, which is essential for supporting the integration of new renewable power sources and meeting increased energy demand.