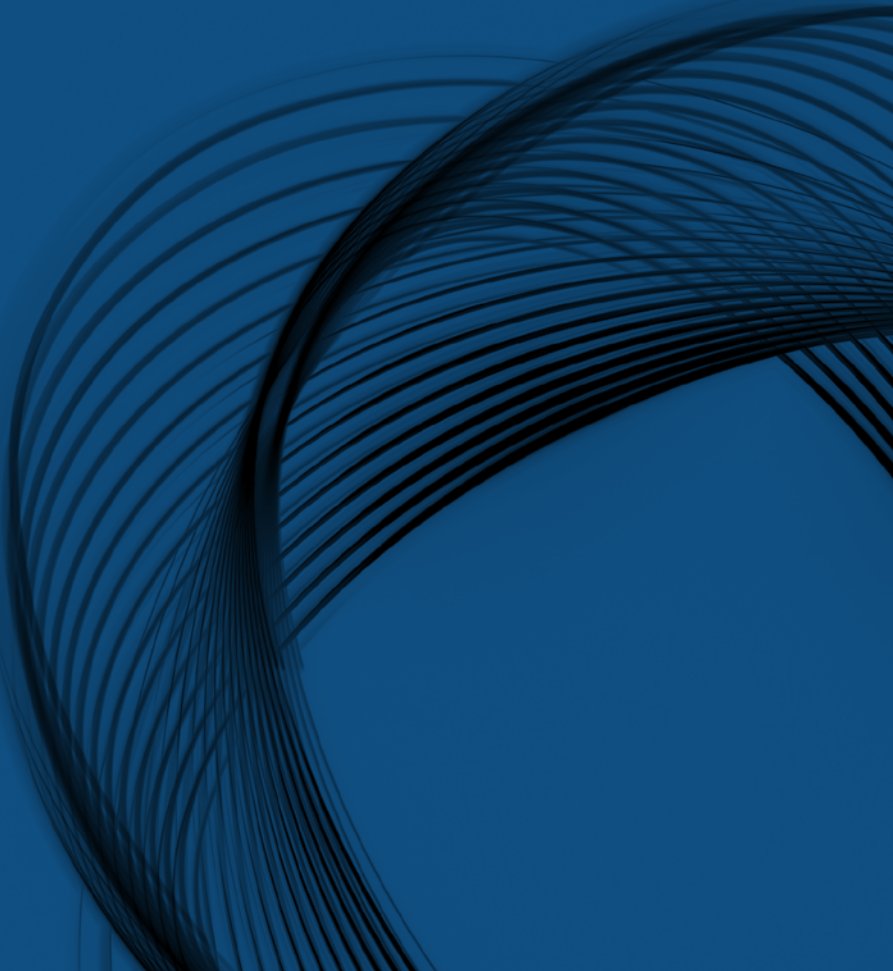


04 You said, we did

Stakeholder engagement continues to be very important to the success of the Open Networks Project. The project brings together approximately 50 experts from across the energy industry including the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the energy regulator Ofgem, suppliers, aggregators, Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNOs), academia, generators, consumer groups, and reaches hundreds of organisations through industry associations.

In 2018, we engaged even more widely than before to ensure extensive industry and stakeholder input into the project's work, which included telling stakeholders how we have addressed their feedback. Four of these areas are summarised in this 'you said, we did'.



You said:

We did:

‘There should be more transparency within the project.’

Due to the nature and scale of the project, the Open Networks Project should put more effort into making work and progress more visible and transparent to the public.

Our communications and project teams increased social media activity, support for public events and the frequency of the Open Networks Project newsletter, which is now shared quarterly. The newsletter reaches around 500 people, providing information such as upcoming events and developments, recently published documents and appropriate links to more information.

‘Improved access to event, meeting and consultation material etc.’

To further increase transparency, there should be an increased level of access to the Open Networks Project materials to improve visibility and for increased practicality.

We upload newly published project materials on to the ENA website and provide the links to relevant stakeholders. We have maintained and used both internal and external email distribution lists to ensure that information is available to all those who have noted their interest in the project’s work.

‘It would be good to see an increase in stakeholder engagement – i.e. webinars, dissemination events and specific product workshops.’

You wanted to see more opportunities for meaningful stakeholder engagement and input into the direction of work, providing greater transparency and increasing the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement.

We have held a variety of dissemination events, workshops, forums and webinars, in addition to ongoing engagement with the project’s Advisory Group. Webinars have been especially successful due to the flexibility they offer to stakeholders in different geographic locations. At the same time, events were held in different locations around Great Britain, including Scotland and regional England, to accommodate stakeholders unable to commute to London.

‘We would like to see an extended window for stakeholders to respond to consultations.’

Given project work, deadlines and other industry consultations, you asked for more consultation timelines to be extended to allow stakeholders to provide higher-quality, more detailed responses.

We have increased our standard consultation window from four weeks to six weeks and most recently, allowing eight weeks for responses to the Future Worlds consultation. This has resulted in double the previous number of consultation responses, as stakeholders have more time to respond while managing other priorities.