

Gate three query process

Strategic solution(s)	SESRO
Query number	SER022
Date sent to company	10/10/2025
Response due by	14/10/2025

Query

This query is a follow up to SER011. SER011 sought a clear update on the further work planned for Autumn 2025 on the best value analysis concerning SESRO.

Thank you for providing your response on the 29th September 2025. However, the response to our query SER011 did not resolve all of the questions we raised, with answers on several points still required for our analysis at Gate 3. We have therefore re-framed a sub-set of the questions to help you provide the level of information needed for our gate three assessment.

1. Please provide a specific best estimate for when the finalised outputs of this work are expected to be shared with us, and an indication of when you expect to start this work, noting that SER011 has confirmed this has not yet commenced.
2. Detail the assurance arrangements and timing for this work, including whether independent review of the analysis and findings is planned.
3. Please explain whether this work and the best estimate timeline will have an implication on overall project timelines set out in the Gate 3 submission, and if so any mitigations you are considering. This should include key milestones such as your gate four submission date, DCO application date, and construction start date.

Solution owner response

1. *Please provide a specific best estimate for when the finalised outputs of this work are expected to be shared with us, and an indication of when you expect to start this work, noting that SER011 has confirmed this has not yet commenced.*

The best value analysis work is being undertaken in three tranches, with different delivery dates:

- a. Phase 1 – This work has been completed and shared by WRSE with RAPID on 20 October 2025.
 - b. Phase 2 – In progress, will be completed by December 2025.
 - c. Phase 3 – Will commence from the end of March 2026 with the receipt of STT sources prices updates from UU and Severn Trent and will be concluded for WRMP Annual Review 2026.
2. *Detail the assurance arrangements and timing for this work, including whether independent review of the analysis and findings is planned.*

As per SER011. 3rd-line assurance of the STT cost estimate update will be possible for Phase 3.

3. *Please explain whether this work and the best estimate timeline will have an implication on overall project timelines set out in the Gate 3 submission, and if so any mitigations you are considering. This should include key milestones such as your gate four submission date, DCO application date, and construction start date.*

We do not anticipate any impact on programme as a result of this work, provided we are able to complete the Phase 2 modelling with sufficient certainty this year. If we are not able to complete the modelling this year and an update can only be provided in the WRMP annual review, there may be an impact to the programme, as deliverables that depend on the analysis, for example Stage 3a, may have to be delayed.

Date of response to RAPID	14/10/2025
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Strategic solution contact / responsible person	
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