Budget Estimate guide

The following information applies to your use of the Budget Estimate tool and explains the process for connection to the NIE Networks Distribution System.

Thank you for requesting a Budget Estimate for a connection to our distribution system. This guide is designed to help you understand the basis upon which the Budget Estimate is prepared and to highlight the options available to you should you wish to proceed with an application for connection.

**Budget Estimate**

Provision of a Budget Estimate is a free of charge service, the purpose of which is to give you an indication of the cost of your connection(s). The Budget Estimate tool does not carry out any detailed design work and the cost assessment is based on the limited capabilities of an automated process that does not take account of any site specific considerations. You should note that the estimate provided by the Budget Estimate tool may vary significantly from the price subsequently calculated by an NIE Networks engineer following receipt of an application for connection . This is because it does not include the costs for any necessary network reinforcement, ground conditions, or other influencing factors that come to light when the detailed assessment is undertaken. The Budget Estimate is reflective of the NIE Networks current charge-out rates, which are subject to change to take into account of increases in labour, contract and /or material costs. The Budget Esitmate is exclusive of VAT.

A Budget Estimate is not an offer so cannot be accepted by you, it should not be relied upon as an accurate estimate of the cost of a connection and is not binding upon NIE Networks. Your use of the self-service budget estimating tool is on the basis that, save to the extent that we cannot limit such liability by law, we shall not be liable for any action taken on the basis of the cost calculation provided.

**Exclusions from the Budget Estimate**

Costs associated with the following activities are **NOT** included in the Budget Estimate:

 The diversion of our existing assets (if any) or any third party apparatus that is required

 Any associated reinforcement works

 Any on-site excavation and reinstatement

 The inclusion of any payment required in accordance with the Electricity (Connection Charges) Regulations (NI) 1992 as amended or replaced

 Any associated civil works

 Out-of-hours working

 Legal requirements or consents

 Any associated disconnections

 Any associated temporary supply

 Final competitive tenders and increases in labour, contract, or material costs

 Any required surveys, including any site survey

 Depending on individual circumstances, additional Site Inspection fees may be charged and will be confirmed during full application.

**Ways to proceed**

More information on connection costs and the process for connection is given in the ‘Statement of Charges for Connection to the NIE Networks Distribution System’ available [Here](https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/statementofcharges). If you want to proceed with an application for connection you can apply using the following link: [Click Here](https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/connections)

**Terms for Connection**

If you complete and submit an application for connection we will undertake a more detailed assessment of the network.We are required by our **Licence** to provide terms for connection within three months of receiving the connection application and associated relevant information, including a fee, if appropriate. However in certain circumstances NIE Networks is not obliged to offer terms for connection. Where terms for connection are offered we will include two options for acceptance. The first option will include a price for us to undertake all of the connection works. The second option will include a price for us to undertake just the works that only we are allowed to do; the ‘non-contestable works’. You can get a competitive quotation for the remaining works; the ‘contestable works’ and may appoint an accredited Independent Connection Provider (ICP) to undertake these works. For further information please see our section on Competitions in Connections [Here](https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/connections/competition-in-connections/connections-less-than-5mw).