Stress tested

On 1 March 2018, during the Beast from the East, temperatures plummeted nationwide compared with the preceding week. The gas pipes that stretch right across the country – from John O’Groats to Land’s End – rose to the challenge, keeping homes warm, lights on and Britain’s businesses running. To supply heat and power for homes and small businesses alone, national demand for gas increased by 55% (1220 GWh). Despite this exceptional level of demand, the reliability of the gas network remained at 99.9%. The map below shows how this increased gas demand varied across regions comparing 22 February with 1 March 2018.

ENA figures for gas demand from homes/small businesses (“non daily metered”), 22.02.18 vs 01.03.18. Data sources: ENA and National Grid