



## Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

### Meeting 2 Minutes

5 May 2022

#### Attendees

Name	Initials	Organisation
Minister Eamon Ryan	ER	Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
Matt Collins	MC	DECC (Chair)
Garret Doocey	GD	Department of Transport (DoT)
Joe Cummins	JC	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Ken Cleary	KC	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER)
William Beausang	WB	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)
Maria Graham	MG	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Jim Gannon	JG	Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
Paul Moran	PM	EirGrid
Mark Christal	MC	Enterprise Ireland
Aisling Penrose	AP	Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
Anne-Marie Clancy	AMC	DECC

#### Agenda Item 1: Welcome

MC welcomed members to the meeting. Minister Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, delivered an opening address setting out the context for the establishment of the group and the critical nature of its work. He provided an overview of



Ireland's phased approach to the development of the sector.

The Minister highlighted key areas where action, delivery and acceleration may be required. He focused on the importance of ensuring that Ireland has a fit for purpose transmission grid, noting work underway to strengthen the Dublin grid.

The importance of speedy port development was flagged for both operation and maintenance facilities and deployment purposes, and the potential for development at ports such as Shannon, Rosslare and Cork was raised. The Minister referred to the Shannon Economic Taskforce and the potential for that group to link in with the work of this Taskforce. The establishment of Ireland's supply chain was also highlighted as a critical factor.

The Minister also provided an overview of work underway within the North Seas Energy Cooperation. Ireland holds the presidency and intends to hold a Ministerial meeting during its term.

## Agenda Item 2: Round Table

**DHLGH** provided an overview of key actions underway in respect of marine planning, legislation and biodiversity, highlighting the work completed in respect of the National Marine Planning Framework and enactment of the Maritime Area Planning Act (MAP Act). DHLGH expects to establish the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority in Q1 2023. Work is ongoing to ensure designation of Marine Protected Areas in a timely manner, and DHLGH is developing Marine Planning Guidelines and the Designated Maritime Area Plan process. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is also working to designate further Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation in the maritime area.

The REPower EU plan, and in particular the acceleration of the consenting process for renewable energy installations, was discussed together with the importance of ensuring that An Bord Pleanála (ABP) is adequately and quickly resourced to undertake its new functions under the MAP Act. DHLGH advised that the necessary posts had received sanction and that



submission of a dedicated Marine Resourcing Plan was expected shortly.

**DFHERIS** provided an overview of the report by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs – Skills for Zero Carbon. This report outlines recommendations for consideration with regard to the overall delivery of the Climate Action Plan, in areas it identifies as representing “Zero Carbon” activities, including 5GW of offshore wind. The Technological Universities and other higher education Institutions to help identify courses to develop the necessary skills for the development of the sector. It was noted that significant resources are required in key priority policy areas, including offshore wind.

**DETE** highlighted the importance of capturing Ireland’s supply chain capabilities and assessing the key value-added niches in the global supply chain where Ireland can contribute to plugging gaps. It was flagged that delivery of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of offshore wind will provide certainty and stability providing the necessary signals for Phase 3 and the associated supply chain development.

**EI** highlighted that there are significant opportunities for Ireland in respect of developing an indigenous supply chain for specific areas. The work of the Gael Offshore Network was discussed, which is looking at the Irish capability to supply innovative products and services to the Offshore Wind Industry.

**CRU** provided an update in respect of resource upscaling to ensure that the organisation can meet the increasing demands arising from the development of the offshore wind sector. It provided an overview of the key work streams underway, including its consultations on the connection process for offshore wind projects; support being provided to EirGrid in respect of technical grid specifications; and the funding model for transmission infrastructure.

**EirGrid** provided an overview in respect of its own resource upscaling to meet increased demands, including the work completed to attract external international expertise.

**DPER** flagged to members that the cost of additional resources to support the development of



the sector across Government is minor when compared to the investment made by industry. DPER provided an overview of an internal restructuring, which has placed further focus on the climate agenda.

**DoT** provided an overview of work underway to assist port development, navigational safety and certification of vessels.

The importance of assessing the necessary actions and associated resource requirements by members was stressed. It was also highlighted that a risk analysis will be required on each of the key actions required/underway. The importance of sending credible signals to the market was discussed. The Taskforce will consider how best to share its work with the market and to engage with industry to assess the credibility of the system wide plan.

**Action Points:**

- Members to engage with officials in their organisations to identify key actions and associated timelines underway relating to offshore wind. (All)
- Circulate offshore wind actions underway within DECC. (DECC)

### **Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Terms of Reference**

The Taskforce agreed the Terms of Reference, noting that a minor DHLGH change was to be incorporated.

**Action Points:**

- Circulate agreed Terms of Reference (DECC).

### **Agenda Item 4: AOB**

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be scheduled to take place in approx. 6 weeks. The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications indicated an intention to attend all future meetings of the Taskforce.



#### Action Points:

- Send calendar invite & agenda for next meeting. (DECC)
- Circulate note of meeting of 5 May 2022. (DECC)

#### Actions

Actions	Owner
Circulate note of meeting of 5 May 2022	DECC
Circulate agreed Terms of Reference	DECC
Circulate offshore wind actions underway within DECC	DECC
Send calendar invite & agenda for next meeting	DECC
Members to work to identify key offshore wind actions and associated timelines underway within their organisation	All