



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 3 Minutes

18 July 2022

Attendees

Name	Initials	Organisation
Minister Eamon Ryan	ER	Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
Matt Collins	MC	DECC (Chair)
David Hegarty	DH	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)
Paul McGowan	PMcG	Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
Paul Moran	PM	EirGrid
Rory O'Leary	ROL	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Rowena Dwyer	RD	Enterprise Ireland
Aisling Penrose	AP	Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
Mary Dunning	MD	Department of Transport (DoT)
Martina Hennessy	MH	DECC
Paul Kenny	PK	DECC
Anne-Marie Clancy	AMC	DECC

Secretariat: Kate Ahern (DECC), Joanne Keenan (DECC).

Apologies: Garret Doocey (DoT), Maria Graham (DHLGH), Jim Gannon (CRU), Mark Christal (EI)



Agenda Item 1: Welcome

MC welcomed members to the meeting. Minister Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, delivered an opening address informing the Taskforce members of upcoming events including the National Climate Stakeholder Forum on 27 July 2022 and the North Seas Energy Cooperation Ministerial on 12 September 2022.

The Minister shared that he would be meeting with fellow member state Ministers in Brussels next week followed by a meeting with UK officials.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 2

The minutes of meeting 2 were circulated prior to the meeting and were adopted following a minor amendment previously advised to the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 3: DoT update on ports development

MD noted that no Irish ports received funding in the recent CEF call. Ports will engage on a one-to-one basis with the European Commission to get clarification on why they did not qualify for CEF which will also assist with the submission of CEF applications for the next cycle. These must be submitted by January 2023 and the outcome will be known by June 2023. MD stated that more work is required to ensure that the Commission is aware of the importance of the transport elements which are key to the success of ORE. All relevant ports are progressing the various work streams e.g., planning applications, feasibility plans regardless of the CEF outcomes. MD informed the Taskforce that the DoT is continuing work on technical guidance for ORE industry and vessel certification.

DoT has carried out work to map timelines for port development and how this aligns with ORE development more generally. Whilst specific dates cannot be included due to commercial sensitivity, high level indicative timelines were discussed. The mapping exercise includes contingencies where issues could potentially arise which could impact on the timelines.



ROL stressed that a lot of work is underway to accelerate the establishment of MARA and that he does not anticipate that the establishment of MARA will be an impediment to the port's development timeline. ROL and MD agreed to meet bilaterally to discuss this point. The Minister stressed the need for accelerated progress on port development to ensure we meet our climate targets.

Agenda Item 4: Update on procurement of PMO support

AMC informed the Taskforce that it is expected that the bidder contracts will be signed in the next 2 weeks and that the PMO support will be in place shortly thereafter.

AMC provided an overview of the initial work to be done detailing that the PMO will engage with all relevant Departments and agencies over the next two months and bilateral meetings will be held in August and September to identify key milestones and outcomes and to set timelines for the critical path. In the third month all key actions will be collated, and a system wide plan will be implemented. AMC stressed that the PMO support is a tool which can be utilised to identify risks, dependencies, and timeline issues and to ensure that we are on track to meet our climate targets.

Agenda Item 5: Updates from DECC

MH provided an overview of work ongoing in DECC in relation to Phase 1 projects. For the purposes of the Phase 1 projects, the Minister has transitional powers to grant MACs, until MARA is established, after which point MARA will assume responsibility for MAC decisions. MH noted that some legislative amendments to the MAP Act were required, and these passed through the Oireachtas last week. MH also stated that CSSO is currently working to finalise the Terms and Conditions. The aim is for all decisions to be made by the end of Q3.

MH provided an overview of the interrelated processes involved in Phase 1 and detailed how the processes were mapped out to ensure cohesiveness of the overall system. Once a MAC has been granted developers can apply to An Bord Pleanála for development permission.



In order to enter the first Offshore RESS auction, developers must have both a MAC and a Grid Connection Assessment. MH informed the Taskforce that DECC held a public consultation on Phase 2 criteria and the feedback from the consultation is currently being assessed, with a decision expected this quarter.

Agenda Item 6: Discussion on Industry Engagement with Taskforce

MC noted that the Taskforce is focused on Government agencies delivering key outcomes but that industry subgroups would provide added value as industry experts are more familiar with areas such as supply chain and skills development requirements. The group discussed the possibility of meeting with industry after Taskforce meetings to share any relevant updates.

The Minister stated that there needs to be wider engagement beyond just the offshore wind developers – for example, NGOs, the fishing industry, and environmental bodies. MH noted that an industry workshop is taking place next week, with over 100 representatives from industry to be updated on recent developments.

PK suggested that it could be useful to present the project plan to industry and have them ‘sense check’ it.

The Taskforce discussed how best to facilitate industry engagement with its work programme. As a first step, the Taskforce will invite industry representatives to attend and present at its next meeting. Officials from DECC, acting as Secretariat to the Taskforce, will liaise with industry representatives to organise same.

Agenda Item 7: AOB

- DH highlighted the importance of the timely development of the safety framework to offer clarity to industry as to what the requirements will be.
- The next meeting of the Taskforce will be scheduled to take place in approx. 6 weeks.