



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 4 Minutes

5 September 2022

Attendees:

Name	Initials	Organisation
Minister Eamon Ryan	ER	Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
Matt Collins	MC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (Chair, DECC)
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)
Paul Moran	PM	EirGrid
Mark Christal	MC	Enterprise Ireland (EI)
Jim Gannon	JG	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
Maria Graham	MG	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Caoimhín Ó Ciaruáin	COC	Department of Transport (DoT)
Anne-Marie Clancy	AMC	DECC
Paul Kenny	PK	DECC
Ferga Kane	FK	EY
Tomás Murray	TM	EY
Tony Connolly	TC	EY
Noel Cuniffe	NC	Wind Energy Ireland (WEI)
Justin Moran	JM	Wind Energy Ireland (WEI)

Secretariat: Ian Price (DECC), Kate Ahern (DECC)

Apologies: Aisling Penrose (DRCD)

Agenda Item 1: Ministerial 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 the upcoming North Seas Energy Cooperation Ministerial on 12 September 2022. The Minister also welcomed the representatives from EY who were in attendance and



stressed the significance of the work of this Taskforce on the economic future of the State.

The Minister highlighted the importance of both a collaborative working approach and the value of transparency and stated that there would be an open-door policy when engaging with the PMO support.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 3

The minutes of Meeting 3 were circulated prior to the meeting and were adopted.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation and Q&A with EY

FK, TC and TM gave a presentation to Taskforce Members detailing how the system-wide plan will be developed. They detailed the scope of their engagement and provided a four-step timeline setting out objectives for the next four months along with their stakeholder engagement process. The team also laid out their engagement requirement with each Member of the Taskforce stressing that collaboration would be needed across all workstreams.

MG queried whether the project plan will have sufficient flexibility to deal with unexpected challenges as they arise to which FK responded that there will be mechanisms built into the plan in order to mitigate the impact of challenges and ensure that the plan will have an element of agility.

WB noted that it may be difficult to define exact workstreams in the early stages of the project but stressed that workstreams need to carry both a skills and workforce element. COC noted that workstreams will not be fixed and will evolve as the project draws on and stressed the need for this likelihood to be captured within the plan. JG expressed his support of the view that skills be considered a key element and highlighted that the lack of a safety framework for offshore wind may be a blind spot and stated that the development of such a framework could be beneficial in providing confidence to industry.

The Minister highlighted the significance of including environmental stakeholders and emphasised that collaboration at pace and scale would be critical to realising the outputs of



the Taskforce.

Action Points:

- Members to nominate a contact point from their department/agency to engage with EY team.
- Members to respond to EY RFI request by 9 September.

Agenda Item 4: AOB

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be scheduled to take place in approx. 6 weeks.

Action Points:

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

Agenda Item 5: Presentation and Q&A with Wind Energy Ireland (WEI)

NC and JM gave a presentation to the Taskforce Members detailing their current offshore wind research priorities and outlining how industry can help to achieve the objectives of the Taskforce.

Following the presentation MC noted that the Taskforce and WEI are completely aligned on what needs to be achieved and stated that the stakeholder engagement process should be balanced. NC stated that WEI could bring experts to contribute at working group level when workstreams are defined and welcomed the opportunity to meet bilaterally with relevant Departments and Agencies. JM noted that WEI welcome feedback on the results of their research in order to confirm that it adds value.

The Minister emphasised the scale of the work ahead of the Taskforce and highlighted the need to include our communities. The Minister also stressed his belief that transparency and openness would be vital to the success of the Taskforce and highlighted the opportunity for Ireland to become a leading example of good integration of offshore wind.



Actions:

Action	Owner
Circulate minutes of meeting of 5 September 2022	DECC
Send calendar invite & agenda for next meeting	DECC
Members to identify contact point for engagement with EY	All
Members to respond to EY RFI request by 9 September.	All