



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 1 Minutes

17 October 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 (EI)	Enterprise Ireland
Maria Graham	MG	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Caoimhín Ó Ciaruáin	COC	Department of Transport (DoT)
Phil Hemmingway	PH	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
Anne-Marie Clancy	AMC	DECC
Paul Kenny	PK	DECC
Ferga Kane	FK	EY
Tomás Murray	TM	EY
Tony Connolly	TC	EY

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

Apologies: Jim Gannon, (CRU)

Agenda Item 1: Ministerial Welcome

MC welcomed members to the meeting. Minister Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, delivered an opening address providing information from the North Seas Energy Cooperation Ministerial which he noted was very productive. The Minister informed the Taskforce of the main points of discussion which included issues



pertaining to the scaling up of the supply chain and the matter of the UK being brought back in to the NSEC. A Memo of Understanding (MOU) on this is expected to be agreed next month. The Minister also noted that concerns have arisen over the Foreshore licencing which has led to the need for the Planning Bill to be revised following a meeting with the Attorney General last week. The Minister also drew attention to the wider issue of the need to obtain biodiversity data for Phase 2 to adequately inform the new system.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 4

The minutes of Meeting 4 were circulated prior to the meeting and the attendee list was amended to include Mark Christal (Enterprise Ireland).

Agenda Item 3: Presentation and Q&A with EY

TC and TM gave a presentation to Taskforce Members which included an overview of the current state assessment of work underway in each relevant department and agency. This assessment was informed by completion of RFI requests and individual bilateral meetings with EY. EY noted that there was positive and productive engagement with all agencies and the findings of the assessment for each workstream were shared with Taskforce Members.

Planning and consenting was highlighted as a pressing issue, with the institutional readiness of key organisations such as An Bord Pleanála and the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority to consider planning applications and future Maritime Area Consents being critical to the successful delivery of offshore wind.

TM stated that the DoT are confident that ports are well advanced to meet 2030 targets but highlighted industry's concerns pertaining to sufficient port capacity. TM pointed out that there was a need for a detailed exercise to be undertaken to map port development timeframes to offshore developers' timelines and noted that industry is seeking State investment. The Minister noted that overreliance on a single port should be avoided in the longer term.



In terms of timelines, MC noted that it is important that any intervention on the critical path should not affect other components of the programme. The Minister noted that other countries are accelerating deployment despite the fact that they have not gathered environmental data but stressed the importance of protecting Ireland's environmental standards.

TM advised that there had been good engagement with DFHERIS on skills and that once skills needs across all workstreams are identified, DFHERIS can work with the other Departments and agencies to address these. TM also highlighted that there is a difference between skills and workforce and recommended that a single owner be responsible for both.

TM noted the importance of centralised messaging on ORE and highlighted the opportunity for the public to become supporters of the ORE programme through the establishment of a central communications approach that can leverage existing networks (such as public participation networks).

TC and TM provided an overview of the proposed PMO governance structure which is broken down by workstreams. Each workstream owner will have responsibility for their targets and support agencies. The pillars will serve as collaboration and reporting functions. If issues cannot be resolved at pillar level, they will be escalated to the Taskforce.

PH queried whether the development of a safety regulations regime would be included in the timeline and what the subsequent cost and programme implications for Phase 1 projects might be, to which AMC replied that DECC are doing a gap analysis and working to develop a new safety regime. It was noted that the safety regime could impact the design of projects and influence FIDs.

The Minister highlighted the value of analysing what other jurisdictions are doing in this area and looking at best practice and adopting a similar approach.

Action Points:

- Incorporate feedback from taskforce members and agree OWEP PMO structure with DECC, including owners and support agencies. (EY)



- Define objectives for workstreams to inform development of respective implementation plans and programme. (EY and workstream owners)
- Hold sessions by programme pillar to define short term actions and identify future focus groups ahead of finalising end state implementation plan. (EY and pillar members)
- Commence development of holistic implementation plan and refine overarching programme. (EY)
- Develop an approach to incorporate regular industry feedback while still maintaining independence. (EY and DECC)

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 17 October 2022. (DECC)