



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 6 Minutes

28 November 2023

Attendees:

Name	Initials	Organisation
Minister Eamon Ryan	MR	Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
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
Maria Graham	MG	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Caoimhín Ó Ciaruáin	COC	Department of Transport (DoT)
Mary Dunning	MD	Department of Transport (DoT)
William Priestley	WP	Department of Transport (DoT)
Phil Hemmingway	PH	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
Fintan Towey	FT	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Robert McGuinness	RMG	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: Mark Christal, (EI), Matt Collins, (DECC), Anne-Marie Clancy, (DECC), Rachael O'Donoghue (DRCD)

Agenda Item 1: Ministerial Welcome

RMG welcomed members to the meeting. Minister Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, delivered an opening address providing updates on recent developments pertaining to MAC applications and the publication of the ORESS 1 Terms and Conditions. The Minister also highlighted the importance of the Celtic Interconnector being signed off in Paris on 25 November and noted the clear interest and intent of the



French government in progressing the deployment of offshore wind. The Minister stressed the significance of the work of the Taskforce in meeting our Climate Action Plan targets and noted the imminent publication of CAP 2023.

FT reported that the legislation for the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) was currently being developed. It is expected that the general scheme will be finalised shortly and presented to Government on 13 December. Legal drafting will continue into next year. FT informed the Taskforce that an Expert Group is to be established to advise as to the location of MPAs. The next steps for this group will be the validation of the work carried out to date and the arrangement of formal designations.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 5

The minutes of Meeting 5 were circulated prior to the meeting and were adopted.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation and Q&A with EY

EY gave a presentation to the Taskforce which included a breakdown of the development process of the implementation plan. A programme plan is currently being finalised. A summary of the objectives and actions captured across the 8 workstreams was given with some of these actions falling due by Q1 2023. The programme plan will be designed to include any further actions identified throughout the course of the project. EY also presented an example roadmap for Workstream 5 detailing the pillar leads, workstream objectives, stakeholders, dependencies, and key actions to be delivered by 2030 with a focus on 2023. EY reported on the readiness and maturity level of the PMO outlining that the maturity of each workstream had been assessed with respect to their integration across the wider programme. It was noted that the varying levels of maturity across the workstreams was due to time in existence and complexity of work to be completed.

An update on the key findings from the current state assessment carried out by EY was also presented to the Taskforce. Supply chain, consenting and the establishment of MARA were discussed. Adequate resourcing of An Bord Pleanála (ABP) was highlighted as a priority and EY noted that a meeting had been held between EY, ABP and DHLGH which resulted in a clear set of objectives and milestones with defined actions to ensure the pre-application



process can be dealt with. MG confirmed that the short-term resourcing needs have been identified and Government had agreed to 30 extra posts in ABP. MG also informed the Taskforce that a Director of Marine and Climate post will be advertised this week.

MR highlighted that, in his view, ABP needed more than the 30 additional staff already sanctioned to process planning and MG pointed out that this figure was agreed based on requirements for Phase 1 and that additional resources will be made available thereafter. MG also pinpointed the lack of qualified planners available in the system due to a skills deficit, to which MR replied that there may be a need to source planners from abroad in order to ensure the timely delivery of consents.

In terms of investment, TM recommended that DETE and DECC work through supply chain issues as they arise noting that the situation will change dynamically as the programme develops. The Supply Chain Workstream will establish an industry advisory group to provide formal and regular industry participation on this issue.

Action Points:

- Issue Implementation Plans (including action and risk registers) to Workstream Owners & Support Agencies for final review
- Review Implementation Plans and provide feedback as necessary
- Finalise Implementation Plan and PMO documentation (handbook, registers, report templates) to inform execution phase of the OWEP IPs (Phase 2)
- Support DECC as required in the transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the OWEP
- DPER and DHLGH to discuss resourcing (DPER/DHLGH)

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 28 November 2022. (DECC)



Actions:

Action	Owner
Circulate minutes of meeting of 28 November	DECC
Send calendar invite & agenda for next meeting	DECC
Issue Implementation Plans (including action and risk registers) to Workstream Owners & Support Agencies for final review	EY
Review Implementation Plans and provide feedback as necessary	Workstream Owners
Finalise Implementation Plan and PMO documentation (handbook, registers, report templates) to inform execution phase of the OWEP IPs (Phase 2)	EY
Support DECC as required in the transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the OWEP	EY
DPER and DHLGH to discuss resourcing	DPER/DHLGH