



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 7 Minutes

24 January 2023

Attendees:

Name	Initials	Organisation
Minister Eamon Ryan	MR	Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
Matt Collins	MC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
David Hegarty	DH	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Joseph Cummins	JC	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Ken Cleary	KC	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER)
Sarah Miley	SM	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)
Paul Moran	PM	EirGrid
Damian Allen	DA	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)
Liam Lacey	LL	Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO)
Martina Hennessy	MH	DECC
Robert McGuinness	RMG	DECC
Paul Kenny	PK	DECC
Damien Clarke	DC	DECC
Gráinne Uí Thuama	GT	DECC
Conor McCabe	CMC	DECC
Ferga Kane	FK	EY
Tomás Murray	TM	EY
Tony Connolly	TC	EY

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

Apologies: William Beausang (DFHERIS)



Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

MC welcomed members to the meeting. MC delivered an opening address providing updates on recent developments such as the launch of the Climate Action Plan 2023, which builds on the previous climate action plans and sets out ambitious targets. MC also informed the Taskforce that at EU level, Member States had agreed TEN-E non-binding targets for the deployment of offshore renewable energy up to 2050 with the intermediate objective of in excess of 111 GW of offshore renewable generation capacity by the end of the decade.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 6

The minutes of Meeting 6 were circulated prior to the meeting and were adopted.

Agenda Item 3: Update on Actions arising from Meeting 6

KC provided an update on discussions between DPER and DHLGH in relation to resourcing and the streamlining of processes and procedures. KC stated that there had been engagement in relation to three key agencies; An Bord Pleanála, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) and the Public Appointments Service. KC noted that progress had been made in all three agencies and that a Chairperson had been appointed to MARA with active progress in relation to the appointment of a CEO. He also noted that a new CEO had been appointed to PAS. KC highlighted the difficulty of acquiring experienced professionals due to economy wide pressure in the jobs market and noted that legislative work to ensure adequate resourcing was progressing in parallel.

Agenda Item 4: Update on MIPC

Liam Lacey from the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) presented an overview of the draft ORE Ports Capacity Paper. He noted that three ports would be needed to produce the 5 GW plus 2 GW for the production of green hydrogen target and highlighted that Irish ports, with the exception of Belfast, had insufficient ORE capacity. LL drew attention to the difficulties with capacity across the EU and shared that it was unlikely therefore that ports



outside of Ireland would have availability. He noted that building capacity for ORE in Irish ports would be mutually beneficial and concluded that the scale of opportunity for ORE is unprecedented if managed correctly but stressed that meaningful engagement between ports and developers would be essential in order to progress at pace.

MR enquired about the certainty that Belfast Port would be available and highlighted the benefits of using other Irish ports. He also advised that Minister of State Jack Chambers would be involved in the push towards a 2026 timeline for the first offshore wind port to become available and noted that Minister Coveney had placed ORE at the centre of economic policy. COC advised that DoT will finalise the report and he recommended active collaboration between developers and ports in relation to financial viability and noted that the IMDO will facilitate this engagement. PK advised that a proposal could be brought to bridge the confidence gap for developers in order to resolve the matter. MC requested that KC and COC liaise with the Department of Finance on this matter.

Agenda Item 5: Presentations from Workstream Owners

Workstreams 1A (Marine Planning, Regulations & Guidelines), 1B (Marine Biodiversity, Designation & Assessment), 1C (ORE Consenting and Regulatory Framework)

DA confirmed that they were happy with the targets and agreed that the plan was deliverable and achievable. DA noted that a co-ordination meeting had been held and highlighted some of the work that was currently underway. DA stressed the issue of the skills deficit in relation to planners across the system and noted that discussions with the Irish Planning Institute and third level bodies had been initiated in order to address this issue.

Workstream 2 – Enduring Regime 2030

RMG stated that certainty around policy for this Workstream was required. MH reported that DECC was working closely with DHLGH, and the designation of suitable ORE areas had



commenced, noting that plan-led models from other jurisdictions were being analysed, which will inform the model chosen for Ireland. It was confirmed that the roadmap of actions for this workstream has been finalised.

Workstream 3 - Communications

RMG advised that work was underway in relation to the central messaging on ORE development in the medium term. He noted that there would be engagement with local authorities and regional and coastal groups and stressed that they would be critical stakeholders for this workstream. Once the dedicated communications team is in place the workstream will adopt a whole of Government approach serving other workstreams in tandem.

Workstream 4 – ORESS

CMC confirmed that all actions were on course and that the ORESS was on track for delivery in Q2 2023. He mentioned that there may be a delay with Phase 2 timelines but stated that it was hoped that this would be remedied within the next fortnight. CMC advised that the approach of this workstream will be to push forward with what is viable in terms of wind depth to reach the 5 GW plus 2 GW for the production of green hydrogen target.

Workstream 5 – Grid Development including Licensing/Regulation

PM confirmed that all actions have been agreed and are on track for delivery. PM highlighted some of the achievements of this Workstream during Q4 and confirmed that upcoming milestones are on track. PM stressed that an industry workshop would be required to develop O&M strategy and noted that engagement on this was scheduled to take place on 2 February.

Workstream 6 – Maritime Transport/Commercial Ports Policy

WP confirmed that the workstream actions had been agreed. He informed Members that a series of applications had been sent in for CEF funding and that results are due in the summer. A technical guidance document is being finalised internally and will go for



consultation shortly with publication expected in Q3. WP also noted that discussions with DFHERIS and DECC had taken place with respect to WS8 to ensure synergy.

Workstream 7 – Supply Chain

DH noted that comments had been provided to EY which had been broadly taken on board in the Implementation Plan. He stated that DECC had asked Wind Energy Ireland for an assessment of supply chain issues to determine the risks involved. MC (EI) added that the workstream was focusing on Irish and overseas events which were all on track.

Workstream 8 – Skills and Workforce

SM advised that work was progressing on the objectives and actions in the Plan. SM also updated attendees that the workstream was drawing on their experience in terms of construction skills and that they are putting in place an advisory panel. SM underlined the importance of getting the skills assessment done and advised that Skillsnet will be an important partner for the workstream.

MC acknowledged the work that has been done by all of the workstreams and thanked them for the progress that has been made to date.

Action Points:

- Workstreams to send final observations on the Implementation Plan to EY.
- EY to incorporate any observations from Workstream owners and finalise Implementation Plan.

Agenda Item 6: 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 24 January 2023. (DECC)



Actions

Action	Owner
Circulate minutes of meeting of 24 January	DECC
Send calendar invite & agenda for next meeting	DECC
DoT to provide an update on meetings with EIB and ISIF at the next taskforce meeting.	DoT
DoT to discuss potential proposal to bridge confidence gap for developers	DoT/DPER
Review Implementation Plans and send any final observations to EY	Workstream Owners
Finalise Implementation Plan and PMO documentation (handbook, registers, report templates) to inform execution phase of the OWEP IPs (Phase 2)	EY
DPER and DHLGH to provide an update on resourcing at next meeting	DPER/DHLGH