



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 8 Minutes

30 March 2023

Attendees:

Name	Initials	Organisation
Minister Eamon Ryan	MR	Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
Robert McGuinness (chair)	RMG	DECC
David Hegarty	DH	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Joseph Cummins	JC	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Colm Forde	CF	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Mark Christal	MC	Enterprise Ireland (EI)
Ken Cleary	KC	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDPDR)
Sarah Miley	SM	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)
Paul Moran	PM	EirGrid
Caoimhín Ó Ciaruáin	COC	Department of Transport (DoT)
Claire Finn	CF	Department of Transport (DoT)
William Priestley	WP	Department of Transport (DoT)
Graham Clifford	GC	Department of Transport (DoT)
Phil Hemmingway	PH	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
Fintan Towey	FT	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Paul Kenny	PK	DECC
Damien Clarke	DC	DECC
Conor McCabe	CMC	DECC
Tina Hayes	TH	DECC
Jane Dooley	JD	DECC
Edwina Steele	ES	DECC
Gráinne Uí Thuama	GT	DECC
Jerry Higgins	JH	DECC
Ferga Kane	FK	EY
Saigeetha Srinivasan	SS	EY
Tony Connolly	TC	EY



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

Apologies: William Beausang (DFHERIS), Matt Collins (DECC)

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

RMG welcomed members to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the current status of the Taskforce noting that the Offshore Wind Energy Programme had transitioned from the development phase to the implementation phase. He also noted that Taskforce meetings would take place bimonthly throughout the implementation phase.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 7 and Update on Actions Arising from Meeting 7

The minutes of Meeting 7 were circulated prior to the meeting and the attendee list was amended to include Mark Christal (Enterprise Ireland). RMG noted that minutes of all future meetings would be circulated within a week of each meeting. COC introduced CF (DoT) as the new Head of the Marine, Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) and Environment division in DoT. COC gave an update on the engagement between ports and developers, stating that discussions between both parties have taken place and he noted that whilst they are advancing, the developers are not yet at a point where they can make firm commitments. COC noted that the IMDO's report on Minimum Irish Ports Capacity will be finalised shortly, and it will reflect the pertinent issues arising from this engagement.

COC also provided an update on DoT discussions with EIB and ISIF and noted that intervention cannot take place until evidence of market failure is apparent. He highlighted 3 ports who are currently preparing business cases which are due to be submitted in Q2; Doyle Shipping, Rosslare and Shannon Foynes and noted that all 3 ports are engaging with ISIF and EIB.

CF advised that DoT was continuing to engage with New Era and the department's Strategic Research and Analysis Division in relation to internal procedures around the review of business cases received from ports.

KC noted that DPENDPDR had met with EIB and ISIF who emphasised the potential value



in investment in both Ports and EirGrid which they felt would provide confidence to industry.

MR highlighted the progress that had been made in various areas throughout the past year and raised concerns that not having adequate ports capacity in place was a significant risk to the Programme. MR also highlighted that port assets will have critical benefits to society and stressed the need to address the issue around planning.

FT informed Members that a board has been appointed to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) and that there is active progress to appoint a CEO. DHLGH are exploring options as to how to expedite the establishment of MARA and ensure that there will be sufficient resources to carry out the required functions. FT also shared that there will be a resourcing agreement between MARA and DHLGH within the coming weeks. MR stated that MARA establishment needs to be urgently turned around.

RMG mentioned the provision of clarity to industry as an important point and suggested that this could be provided via set timelines for MARA establishment and the various steps of the Phase 2 process.

MR requested a note from both DoT and DHLGH updating on what approach can be taken to resolve the above issues and outlining associated timelines.

Action Points:

- WS 1 to provide an update to the Minister next week outlining the timelines and approach to remedy the Consenting (FS/MARA) and Planning (ABP) issues (DHLGH)
- WS 6 to provide an update to the Minister next week outlining the timelines and approach to remedy the ports development issue (DoT)
- Circulate the finalised IMDO report on MIPC study (DoT)

Agenda Item 3: Update on Workstreams by exception

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



FT reported that there has been significant progress on Workstream 1 actions. An initial draft of the Marine Planning Policy Statement has been completed and DHLGH is working with DECC in relation to Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs). FT noted that further collaboration will be required on Phase 2. FT advised of a delay in the publication of the Marine Protected Areas Bill (MPA) which will be published in June instead of April. FT noted that there had been progress around An Bord Pleanála (ABP) resourcing but that the response received in relation to establishing a panel of marine experts had been disappointing.

Workstream 2 – Enduring Regime 2030

RMG updated that OREDP II is underway and is expected to go to Government for approval in Q2. An interconnection policy and hydrogen policy will be published in the next quarter while the private wires policy will be completed thereafter and will feed into the overall enduring regime policy.

Workstream 3 – Communications

RMG reported that an interim ORE communications strategy had been developed and that the establishment of a dedicated Communications unit was also imminent. RMG informed Members that industry engagement with the Taskforce would take place on a bimonthly basis from end April/early May, and that DECC would also be restarting quarterly industry workshops shortly.

Workstream 4 – ORESS

RMG advised that final decisions for ORESS 1 applications will issue next week in advance of the auction which is due to take place next month. Final results will issue at the end of June. He reported that the development of ORESS 2 is underway, and the consultation will take place in the summer.

Workstream 5 – Grid Development including Licensing/Regulation

PM reported that the Phase 2 roadmap has been completed and the CRU decision on offshore connections has also been completed. PM informed the Taskforce that EirGrid is going public on the Phase 2 plan which will provide a marker to industry regarding location



and grid capacity. A series of surveys will be required to support this work, and CMC noted that DECC may be able to provide the sequencing for the survey licences. An update on this will be provided at the next meeting.

Workstream 6 – Maritime Transport/Commercial Ports Policy

COC advised that the main Workstream 6 updates had been covered during the discourse as part of Agenda item 2. He noted that work was progressing in relation to technical guidance and that DoT were liaising with DECC on this matter. COC also advised that work was being progressed on the skills gap on the maritime transport side.

Workstream 7 – Supply Chain

JC introduced CF (DETE) who will lead on the industrial strategy. JC stated that the Workstream had a multi focused approach which included three key areas; mitigating risks, the development of an industrial strategy and supply chain. PK advised that it may be helpful for DETE to meet with officials from the Port of Saint Nazaire to discuss supply chain development.

Workstream 8 – Skills and Workforce

SM informed Members that the first meeting of the Expert Advisory Group was taking place in the afternoon. The group will comprise of 21 delegates who will meet every 8 weeks in order to assist and advise on the delivery of the Workstreams' actions. SM advised that the procurement process has closed in relation to the skills assessment report to develop a pathway for critical skills and workforce requirements for ORE. It is hoped that the Expert Advisory Group will feed into the drafting of the report. The Workstream is also working to define more tangible actions for immediate skills needs.

Action Points:

- Provide an update on sequencing of survey licences at next meeting (CMC)

Agenda Item 6: AOB

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be scheduled to take place in approx. 8 weeks.



Action Points:

- Send calendar invite & agenda for next meeting. (DECC)
- Circulate minutes of meeting of 30 March 2023. (DECC)

Actions:

Action	Owner
Circulate minutes of meeting of 30 March	DECC
Send calendar invite & agenda for next meeting	DECC
WS 1 to provide an update to the Minister next week outlining the timelines and approach to remedy the Consenting (FS/MARA) and Planning (ABP) issues	DHLGH
WS 6 to provide an update to the Minister next week outlining the timelines and approach to remedy the ports development issue	DoT
DOT to share the finalised IMDO report on MIPC study	DoT
Update on potential provision of sequencing of survey licences by DECC (WS 5)	CMC