



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 10 Minutes

13 July 2023

Attendees:

Name	Initials	Organisation
Minister Eamon Ryan	MR	Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
Matt Collins (Chair)	MC	DECC
Robert McGuinness	RMcG	DECC
David Hegarty	DH	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Colm Forde	CF	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Sarah Miley	SM	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)
Paul Moran	PM	EirGrid
Eamonn Kelly	EK	Department of Transport (DoT)
William Priestley	WP	Department of Transport (DoT)
Graham Clifford	GC	Department of Transport (DoT)
Shane Smyth	SS	Department of Transport (DoT)
Bronagh Treacy	BT	Department of Transport (DoT)
David Logan	DL	Department of Transport (DoT)
Phil Hemmingway	PH	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
Fintan Towey	FT	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Marie Minihan	MM	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Mark Mellett	MM	Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)
James Kenny	JK	Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
Roni Hawe	RH	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Ian O'Hora	IOH	IDA
Conor Ó Raghallaigh	COR	Department of An Taoiseach
Paul Kenny	PK	DECC
Paul Gallagher	PG	DECC
Damien Clarke	DC	DECC
Conor McCabe	CMcC	DECC
Eoin McShane	EMcS	DECC
Stuart Nolan	SN	DECC



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

Apologies: William Beausang (DFHERIS), Ken Cleary (DPENDPDR), Mark Christal (EI), Eileen Sharpe (IDA), Claire Finn (DoT)

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed Eamonn Kelly, who has replaced Caoimhín Ó Ciaruáin as the Taskforce representative for the Department of Transport. The Chair thanked Caoimhín for all his work on the Taskforce to date. The Minister noted the importance of the establishment of MARA and highlighted the work that had been done by FT and his Department in relation to Phase 2 DMAPs.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 9

The minutes of Meeting 9 were circulated prior to the meeting and were adopted following minor amendments.

Agenda Item 3: Update on Actions Arising from Meeting 9

The Chair confirmed that the finalised IMDO report on the MIPC study had been circulated to the Taskforce and that MC (EI) would present on the offshore supply chain at a future date.

Agenda Item 4: Update on Workstreams by exception

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

FT provided an update on WS1A, 1B and 1C. He highlighted progress on the designation of the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications as a competent authority for the making of DMAPs. The Marine Protected Areas Bill is now expected to be published in the Oireachtas in September, and work has also progressed with respect to design flexibility. MR requested further details from DECC in relation to the ObSERVE II programme.

Workstream 2 – Future Framework

RMcG reported that the National Hydrogen Strategy had been published, with the



Interconnection Strategy due to follow shortly. Public consultation is expected on future framework policy documents at the end of this year, with publication due early 2024.

Workstream 3 – Communications

The Chair and RMcG welcomed Paul Gallagher as the Workstream 3 lead. PG reported that the key action for this workstream, the Long Term Communications Strategy, should be finalised in Q3 2023.

Workstream 4 – ORESS

RMcG advised that ORESS 1 results had been confirmed and the notice of awards had issued to successful bidders. The Consultation on ORESS 2 Auction Design was launched on 13 July and will be open until the end of August. ORESS 2.1 will take place once the relevant DMAP has been made.

Workstream 5 – Grid Development including Licensing/Regulation

PM reported that EirGrid had commenced its offshore engagement plan in relation to the siting of offshore substations for Phase 2. EirGrid is also engaging with Phase 1 projects in relation to their grid infrastructure.

Workstream 6 – Maritime Transport/Commercial Ports Policy

EK confirmed that the Minimum Irish Port Capacity report had issued to Taskforce members. Amendments to the MAP Act will allow ports to engage with MARA in parallel with An Bord Pleanála.

Workstream 7 – Supply Chain

CF reported that comprehensive consultations have taken place with SME networks in order to incorporate them into the Industrial Strategy. DETE is also developing an industry forum which will meet quarterly, with its first meeting scheduled for 14 July and which will be attended by Minister Coveney.

Workstream 8 – Skills and Workforce



SM informed Members that the Workstream had expanded the membership of the Expert Advisory Group on Skills and Workforce Requirements to include industry representatives. SM noted that whilst the detailed skills assessment report being undertaken by BVG is delayed, this will not hold up other actions. A bid has been submitted via the estimates process for programme and curriculum development in the area of offshore wind.

Agenda Item 5: AOB

- The next meeting of the Taskforce is expected to take place in late September.

Actions:

Action	Owner
Provide written update to MR on ObSERVE II timelines	DECC