



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 11 Minutes

5 October 2023

Attendees:

Name	Initials	Organisation
Minister Eamon Ryan	MR	Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
Matt Collins (Chair)	MC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Laura Brien	LB	MARA
Ken Cleary	KC	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
Phil Hemmingway	PH	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
Robert McGuinness	RMcG	DECC
Sarah Miley	SM	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
Eamonn Kelly	EK	Department of Transport (DoT)
James Kenny	JK	Department of Rural and Community Development
Jack McDermot	JMcD	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Paul Moran	PM	EirGrid
Kerrie Sheehan	KS	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
Fintan Towey	FT	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Roni Hawe	RH	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Eoin McDonnell	EMcD	Department of Defence (DoD)
Eileen Sharpe	ES	IDA Ireland
David Carolan	DC	DHLGH
Damien Clarke	DCI	DECC
Graham Clifford	GC	DoT
Jo Coloe	JC	DECC
Jane Dooley	JD	DECC
Sinéad Dooley	SD	EirGrid
Colm Forde	CF	DETE
Paul Gallagher	PG	DECC
Gillian Holden	GH	DoD
Conor McCabe	CMcC	DECC
Marie Minihan	MM	DHLGH
Eimear Ní Chiaráin	ENC	DoT
Bernard Nolan	BN	DECC
Martin O'Meara	MOM	DHLGH
William Priestley	WP	DoT



Grainne UíThuama	GUT	DECC
Don Watchorn	DW	DoD

Secretariat: Ian Price (DECC), Jennifer O'Connor (DECC)

Apologies: William Beausang (DFHERIS), Mark Christal (EI)

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

Chair opened the meeting. He welcomed SEAI to the Taskforce as a new member, and also colleagues from Department of Defence as observers. Chair also acknowledged the recent work by DHLGH in progressing Foreshore Licences for Phase 1 projects.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 10

The minutes of Meeting 10 were circulated prior to the meeting and were adopted with no changes.

Agenda Item 3: Update on Actions Arising from Meeting 10

RMcG provided an update on the ObSERVE Programme, which had been requested by the Minister at the last meeting. The ObSERVE Programme has been running since 2015, originally established by the geoscience function in DECC in order to survey birds and mammals in marine areas. ObSERVE 2 is focused on the south coast, and is expected to run until 2025. Consideration will be given to a third phase of the Programme, which could focus on areas of interest for ORE development.

Agenda Item 4: Wind Europe Bilbao/March 2024

PG gave an overview of the proposals for an Ireland Pavilion at Wind Europe in Bilbao next March. He encouraged all Taskforce Members to join and noted that the event could coincide with policy launches related to the Future Framework and the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind. Chair welcomed the work ongoing and also encouraged Taskforce Members to participate.



Agenda Item 5: Update on Workstreams by exception

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

FT updated the group on progress made in relation to Workstreams 1A, 1B and 1C. Good progress is being made, highlighting the imminent enactment of the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023, which will make amendments to the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021. There was a discussion on capacity within regulatory decision making bodies such as the NPWS. The Minister stressed the importance of having resources in place to ensure these bodies can carry out their roles with respect to ORE roll-out, and the hope that this is reflected in budgetary submissions. Concern around availability of talent to fill roles in the short term was also raised.

Workstream 2 – Future Framework

RMcG updated the group on progress made in relation to Workstream 2, with publication of the Interconnection Strategy and the Hydrogen Strategy over the summer. Work is continuing on the National Spatial Strategy for Offshore Wind, and the SEAI Technology Roadmap. Consultation on further policies in relation the Future Framework is expected later this year, with DECC aiming for a March launch at present.

Workstream 3 – Communications

PG updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 3. A Long-Term Communications Strategy has been developed, and there has been significant engagement across all workstreams to determine their communications requirements. There has also been a recent focus in the workstream on the benefits of offshore wind in local communities, with case studies based on regional communities in the UK.

Workstream 4 – ORESS

RMcG updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 4. With respect to ORESS1, the next milestone will be the submission of project delivery questionnaires. With respect to



ORESS2, the Consultation on ORESS Auction Design has concluded, with the responses under review. DECC, in collaboration with EirGrid, CRU and MARA, is preparing a roadmap of indicative scenarios to show the pathway to ORESS2.1. Chair emphasised the importance of developing the scenarios soon in order to send a clear signal to industry and other stakeholders of the anticipated process and timeline.

Workstream 5 – Grid Development including Licensing/Regulation

PM updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 5. The workstream is largely on track. With respect to Phase 1, work is ongoing with the successful ORESS projects, and Grid Code Modifications have been approved. With respect to Phase 2, EirGrid is working with Workstream 3 in relation to communications on the south coast.

Workstream 6 – Maritime Transport/Commercial Ports Policy

EK updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 6. Ports are preparing business cases, and the Department of Transport is investigating funding options. An EU CEF Transport Call has opened, which can provide infrastructure funding for successful applicants.

Workstream 7 – Supply Chain

JMcD updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 7. Development of the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind is continuing, with a supplier consultation carried out with EI recently. A supplier roadshow is due to take place shortly, as well as a public consultation phase expected in mid-November, with the intention being to launch the strategy in March 2024.

Workstream 8 – Skills and Workforce

SM updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 8. The Expert Advisory Group for Offshore Wind Skills and Workforce Requirements has met since the last Taskforce Meeting, and it has been decided that it will subdivide into specific areas looking at different relevant matters. The WEI/Greentech Skillnet Skills Assessment Report is progressing, and is expected this month.



Agenda Item 5: AOB

- The next meeting of the Taskforce is expected to take place on 14 December.
- EK noted that the National Ports Policy Issues Paper would be launched shortly.