



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 12 Minutes

14 December 2023

Attendees:

Name	Initials	Organisation
Robert McGuinness (Chair)	RMcG	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Laura Brien	LB	Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)
Ken Cleary	KC	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
Phil Hemmingway	PH	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
Eamonn Kelly	EK	Department of Transport (D/Transport)
Jack McDermot	JMcD	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Paul Moran	PM	EirGrid
Kerrie Sheehan	KS	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
Stuart Coleman	SC	CRU
Fintan Towey	FT	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Marie Minihan	MM	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Martin O'Meara	MOM	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Claire Finn	CF	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Mick Gillooly	MG	Marine Institute
Mark Christal	MC	Enterprise Ireland
Aisling Greene	AG	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
Roni Hawe	RH	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Eoin McDonnell	EMcD	Department of Defence (DoD)
Eileen Sharpe	ES	IDA Ireland
Damien Clarke	DC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Graham Clifford	GC	Department of Transport (D/Transport)
Jo Coloe	JC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Jane Dooley	JD	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Sinéad Dooley	SD	EirGrid
Paul Gallagher	PG	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)



Conor McCabe	CMcC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Bernard Nolan	BN	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
William Priestley	WP	Department of Transport (D/Transport)
Ian Price	IP	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Don Watchorn	DW	Department of Defence (DoD)
Ruairí Walsh	RW	Department of Transport (D/Transport)
Eimear Ní Chiaráin	ENC	Department of Transport (D/Transport)
David Carolan	DC	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
David Logan	DL	Department of Transport

Secretariat: Ian Price (DECC), Kate Ahern (DECC), Jennifer O'Connor (DECC) Joanne Keenan (JK)

Apologies: Minister Eamonn Ryan (DECC), Matt Collins (DECC), Gillian Holden (DoD)

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Marine Institute as a new member of the Taskforce, represented by interim CEO Mick Gillooly.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Update Terms of Reference (ToR)

The revised Terms of Reference for the Taskforce were adopted, and it was noted that they provided for Taskforce minutes to be published on gov.ie going forward.

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)

MM updated the group on progress made in relation to Workstream 1, including:

- amendments to the MAP Act through commencement of relevant provisions of the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 which are due by the end of the year; and



- the Seafood-ORE Group is due to issue its interim report in Q1 2024, which will include recommended actions for 2024.

Workstream 2 – Future Framework

EB updated the group on progress made in relation to Workstream 2, including:

- work is continuing on the draft Future Framework policy, with screening for SEA/AA due to be undertaken shortly, with a public consultation planned for early 2024;
- the first draft of the SEAI Roadmap has been completed, with a consultation due to take place in January 2024; and
- a new action to develop an Offshore Transmission Strategy, with its remit to include work on multiconnection, offshore bidding zones, pilot projects and energy clusters for hydrogen hubs.

Workstream 3 – Communications

PG updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 3, including:

- in relation to the Irish Pavilion at Wind Europe, and the potential for this event to include a number of ORE policy launches;
- work to enhance internal communications across the Taskforce; and
- plans for stakeholder engagement in relation to the next stage of the South Coast DMAP proposal.

Workstream 4 – ORESS

DC updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 4, including:

- work on drafting the Terms and Conditions for ORESS 2.1, with the team working towards a publication in March in line with the indicative roadmap scenarios published in November; and
- an industry information session will be held in January 2024.

Workstream 5 – Grid Development including Licensing/Regulation

PM updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 5, including



- engagement in relation to the South Coast DMAP;
- engagement with WEI and developers on Phase 2; and
- working with developers with respect to ORESS 1 FEED designs finalised.
- EirGrid undertook engagement with SEAI with respect to the technology roadmap and AMETS.

Workstream 6 – Maritime Transport/Commercial Ports Policy

EK updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 6, including:

- ports engagement with MARA;
- an agreement with the EIB in relation to proposed studies of a number of ports and potential financing of ORE infrastructure;
- EU Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Transport Call for infrastructure and studies funding, which closes on 30 January 2024; and
- the National Ports Policy Review, the consultation on which will close on 15 January 2024.

Workstream 7 – Supply Chain

JMcD updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 7, including

- Gary Tobin has replaced David Hegarty as the new Assistant Secretary for the Enterprise Strategy, Competitiveness and Evaluation Division; and
- development of the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind as well as stakeholder engagement which will feed into the strategy's development, including the Industry Forum and meetings with organisations such as WEI, EI, and IDA.
- MC also confirmed that EI had good engagement with EirGrid in relation to procurement matters and emphasised that a Memorandum of Understanding between both parties will be very beneficial to boost supply chains.

Workstream 8 – Skills and Workforce

IP updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 8, including that



- the skills assessment report commissioned by Greentech Skillnet is expected to be finalised shortly; and
- the structure of the Expert Advisory Group for Offshore Wind Skills and Workforce is being revised to provide for subgroups focusing on specific matters.

Agenda Item 4 – OWEF review

IP thanked Taskforce Members and their teams for their input into the review of actions in the Offshore Wind Energy Programme. A significant change is the creation of two new workstreams: workstream 9 will focus on data acquisition and workstream 10 will focus on DMAP designation. JC gave an overview of workstream 9, noting that the workstream has two main strands; a surveying strand and a data strand. RMcG underlined the significance of the Workstream noting that understanding ORE data would be fundamental to the progress of the OWEF.

Agenda Item 5: AOB

- The next meeting of the Taskforce is expected to take place on 1 February.
- The Chair thanked the PMO and everyone on the Taskforce for their valued contributions across 2023.