



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 13 Minutes

1 February 2024

Attendees:

Name	Initials	Organisation
Minister Eamon Ryan	MR	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Matt Collins (Chair)	MC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Robert McGuinness	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)
Helena Quilty	HQ	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
John Watters	JW	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Paul Moran	PM	EirGrid
Kerrie Sheehan	KS	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
Emer Dennehy	ED	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
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
Tommy Furey	TF	Marine Institute
Aodhán Fitzgerald	AF	Marine Institute
Alexa Toomey	AT	Enterprise Ireland
Aisling Greene	AG	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
Ian O'Hora	IOH	IDA Ireland
Damien Clarke	DC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Emily Boylan	EB	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Jo Coloe	JC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Sinéad Dooley	SD	EirGrid
Paul Gallagher	PG	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)



Bernard Nolan	BN	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Paul Kenny	PK	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
Don Watchorn	DW	Department of Defence (DoD)
Eoin McDonnell	EMcD	Department of Defence (DoD)
Ruairí Walsh	RW	Department of Transport (D/Transport)
Eimear Ní Chiaráin	ENC	Department of Transport (D/Transport)
Graham Clifford	GC	Department of Transport (D/Transport)
David Logan	DL	Department of Transport (D/Transport)
David Carolan	DC	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)

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

Apologies: Mark Christal (EI), Roni Hawe (DAFM)

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all Members to the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Update on Workstreams by exception

Workstreams 2 – Future Framework

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

- the publication of the draft Future Framework policy with a public consultation which will run from 22 January until 19 February;
- information sessions are being run throughout the public consultation process; and
- the draft SEAI Technology Roadmap has been submitted to stakeholders for formal review.

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 along with a session on the Irish market;
- an update on internal communications across the Taskforce; and



- plans for stakeholder engagement in relation to the statutory engagement phase of the South Coast DMAP proposal.

Workstream 4 – ORESS

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

- a period of further drafting of the ORESS 2.1 Terms and Conditions is ongoing with the team aiming for publication in March in line with the indicative roadmap scenarios published in November; and
- Project delivery plan questionnaires are due back this week.
- An industry information session took place in January.

Workstream 5 – Grid Development including Licensing/Regulation

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

- Draft template connection agreement contracts have been issued; and
- EirGrid are working with developers on sale and purchase agreements which will need to go out to consultation prior to being approved by CRU.
- An engineering team and design team have been mobilised to work on the engineering aspects of phase 2 following completion of systems studies; and
- engagement with the DMAP team is ongoing to ensure alignment.

Workstream 6 – Maritime Transport/Commercial Ports Policy

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

- business cases have been received from multiple ports and New Era are working with the Department of Transport on reviewing these;
- the Minister has signed an agreement with the EIB in relation to proposed studies of a number of ports and potential financing of ORE infrastructure; and
- work on the development of technical guidance is progressing and engagement with Industry is ongoing.



Workstream 1 – Marine Planning, Regulations & Guidelines

MM updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 4, including that

- Amendments made to the MAP Act have been commenced;
- A Working Group has been established to support development of the Offshore Wind Marine Planning Guidelines but the timeline for this may need to be revisited; and
- ABP have clarified that applications can be assessed in the absence of these guidelines as their focus will be on whether applications are consistent with the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF).

Workstream 7 – Supply Chain

HQ updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 7, including that

- DETE has developed a draft suite of proposals that will form part of the first iteration of the National Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy. These proposals were developed in close collaboration with other stakeholders and include measures to maximise Ireland's participation in domestic and international OW supply chains, as well as measures aiming to achieve balanced regional development and increased investment in RD&I.
- There are approximately 40 actions for the first iteration of the strategy which will continue up to 2025 and a draft has been shared with other Departments and agencies and will be presented to the DETE Management Board shortly.

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 was launched at the WEI conference on 31 January. The report contains a comprehensive analysis of the skills requirements for ORE development in Ireland and the recommendations contained therein will be considered and incorporated into the Offshore Wind Energy Programme where appropriate.



- The structure of the Expert Advisory Group on Offshore Wind Skills and Workforce Requirements has been revised with subgroups established to focus on specific matters; Development and Project Management, Manufacturing and Supply Chain, Promoting Careers in Offshore Wind and Installation, Operations and Maintenance.

Workstream 9 – Data Acquisition

JC updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 9, including that

- 2 RFTs had been published for marine data in 2023, the first for the South Coast DMAP area, and the second for all of Ireland. All submissions from the first tender placed on the framework with one instance of procurement and all submissions from the second tender placed on the framework, with these submissions currently being analysed by RPS and GSI.
- A master service agreement has been established with the Marine Institute to develop an evidence base for ORE over a 5-year period.

Workstream 10 – DMAP Designation

RMcG updated on progress made in relation to Workstream 10, including;

- An update on the draft DMAP which is expected to follow published timelines, with a draft DMAP in March and a finalised DMAP to be approved by the Oireachtas in summer.

Agenda Item 5: AOB

- The next meeting of the Taskforce is expected to take place in early March. Invites will circulate shortly.
- PH noted that CRU would be launching the below public consultations shortly;
 - Asset treatment for Phase 1 merchant projects
 - Phase 2 charging methodology (seeks to establish how EirGrid would be compensated for build out of infrastructure)
 - Offshore Revenue Recovery Model – EirGrid



- ED provided an update on the SEAI technology roadmap which has been shared with members of Workstream 2. A workshop was held on 29 January with consultants, and the scenarios in the roadmap are closely matched to those within the Future Framework Policy Statement. The consultation will close on 12 February and an executive summary will launch at the WindEurope event in Bilbao with the full roadmap to be launched in April.
- The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions.