An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí Bonneagair
Athchóiriúcháin Seirbhíse Poiblí agus Digitiúcháin
Department of Public Expenditure Infrastructure
Public Service Reform and Digitalisation

Joint Utilities and Transport Clearing House

13th April 2026

Minutes

Attendees:

Jasmina Behan- Chair (DPER), Ken Cleary (DPER), Kate Ivory (DPER), Deirdre Collins (DPER), Gareth Watters (DPER), Saoirse O'Dwyer (DPER)

Mairead Ross (DHLGH), Colin Ryan (DHLGH), Laura Behan (DHLGH), Karen Kenny (DHLGH), Kevin McSherry (UÉ), John O'Connor (ESBN), Finbarr Burns (GNI), Louise O'Flanagan (EirGrid), John Finnegan (DCEE), Hugh Creegan (NTA), Barry Kehoe (CCMA), Stephen Flynn (RMO), Pat Maher (TII), David O'Grady (DOT), Keith Walsh (DOT), Eithne Gibbons (DOT), Steven Matthews (Irish Rail)

1. Minutes from 26.02.26.

The Chair welcomed opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their ongoing engagement on the issues. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. The Chair reminded members that minutes are published on DPER's website.

2. Update from DHLGH re work on exemptions and thresholds (Actions 4 and 5)

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage presented on their ongoing work on commencing sections of the Planning and Development Act 2024, including planning exemptions and thresholds. DHLGH outlined that engagement with statutory undertakers stakeholder groups has taken place and drafting is at an advanced stage. Members of JUTCH were requested to contact their organisations representative to ensure all desired amendments have been shared with DHLGH.

The DHLGH are committed to delivering these technical changes in Q2 2026.

3. Action by Action Update on key issues from JUTCH representatives.

Members provided an update on progressing their issues as assigned at the previous meeting.

It was agreed that going forward, written updates will be requested in advance of meetings of the JUTCH.

4. Standing item: Update on Action 27.

Members were informed at a letter has been sent to all Secretaries General to make surplus land available for transfer for infrastructure provision, as set out in Action 27 of the Action Plan. The Chair requested the JUTCH be updated on the transfer of State land, lessons learned from this and issues that arise.

5. Any Other Business.

a. The Chair requested that membership organisations consider process improvements that could accelerate or streamline the delivery of infrastructure. This may include digitalisation or simplification of application processes and payment systems, as appropriate. Reducing the administrative burden on both requesters and approvers will reap benefits overall.
b. The Legislative Working Group has met and is progressing legislative amendments through the relevant Departments and vehicles to accelerate infrastructure.