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

Minutes

26th February 2026

Attendees: Jasmina Behan (DPER-Chair), Ken Cleary, Kate Ivory, Deirdre Collins, Niamh Foley, Anna Cremins, Saoirse O'Dwyer, John O'Connor (ESBN), Kevin McSherry (UÉ), Hugh Creegan (NTA), Stephen Flynn (RMO), Louise O'Flanagan (EirGrid), Paul Fox (LGMA), Brian Sheehan (GNI), Martin Bourke (TII), John White (LDA), Garrett Doocey (DoT), Paul Bolger (DCEE), Fintan Towey (DHLGH), Karen Kenny (HAO), Laura Behan (DHLGH), Paul Hogan (DHLGH), Philip Maher (CRU), Stephen Matthews (IÉ)

Apologies: Barry Kehoe (CCMA), Siobhán O'Shea (EirGrid), Peter Burke (LGMA)

1. Introductions, TOR and Minutes of previous meeting

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. The Terms of Reference and the Minutes of the JUTCH meeting of 18th December were agreed. Members were advised that minutes will be published on gov.ie.

2. Submissions of formal engagement structures, issues and work programme of the Group

Issues raised in submissions were discussed and a work programme of the Group was agreed. Issues broadly fell into the following themes; process, planning and regulatory uncertainty, standards, guidelines, structure and legislation and co-ordination.

A discussion followed where established groups, named representatives and departments were assigned to each issues to progress solutions.

3. Action 21 (ii) National Utilities and Local Authorities (NULA) subgroup with nominated points of contact

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) are the responsible body named in the Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan with establishing a sub-group of the JUTCH between national utilities and local authorities to enhance coordination and accelerate infrastructure delivery. DHLGH had agreed to will chair and develop Terms of Reference for the NULA. The exercise to map existing groups highlighted a potential overlap between the NULA and the existing JULA

group. DHLGH agreed to engage with JULA. It was agreed that members of the JUTCH would nominate a named Utilities Liaison Officer from Local Authorities and Utilities and provide this to DHLGH to mandate formal engagement structures.

4. Action 27 (v) standing item to progress solutions on State Body cooperation

Action 27 Duty for State Bodies to Cooperate in Making Land Available and Accessible for Critical Infrastructure. Sub-action (v) requires that this be a standing item on the JUTCH agenda where issues surrounding land can be surfaced and potential solutions advanced. The ESB highlighted recent experience in progressing the transfer of lands.

5. Work programme

Following discussion, the proposed work programme for the JUTCH was agreed.

6. Any Other Business

i. As set out in Action 3(i) of the Action Plan, DPER will convene a legislative working group with key Departments and utilities to identify problematic redundant, burdensome or overlapping legislative provision.

ii. DPER's Regulatory Simplification unit are advancing a parallel workstream to remove bottlenecks in regulatory consenting. They will be holding workshops in the coming weeks and will be in touch for issues to be addressed. Members will revert with any additional sector specific consenting processes which could be addressed through the simplification work programme.