



**Minutes of NSTA Board meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022**  
**09.00-14.00**  
**21 Bloomsbury Street, London**

<b>Directors</b>	<b>In attendance</b>
Tim Eggar Chairman	Hedvig Ljungerud (item 9) Director of Strategy
Iain Lanaghan Non-executive Director	Kristina Dahlstrom (item 9) Head of Policy and Strategy
Andy Samuel Chief Executive	Tom Wheeler (items 11 and 12) Director of Regulation
Nic Granger CFO and Director of Corporate	Jane de Lozey (item 12) Head of Disputes and Sanctions
Sara Vaughan Non-executive Director	Megan Larrinaga (item 12) Senior Legal Advisor
Sarah Deasley Non-executive Director	Russell Richardson Company Secretary
Vicky Dawe Shareholder Director	Fiona Gruber Head of Governance and Board Secretary
<b>Apologies:</b> Malcolm Brown Non-executive Director	

**1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chairman welcomed Directors to the meeting, including Vicky Dawe to her first meeting.

**2. Minutes and matters arising**

Directors approved the minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> June meeting.

The Board met on 13<sup>th</sup> July to formally agree the appointment of Stuart Payne to succeed Andy Samuel as Chief Executive, in January 2023. Stuart will attend Board meetings from September.

**3. Conflicts of interest**

No conflict of interest with any agenda item, nor as a result of new appointments, was declared by any Director.

Nic Granger has been appointed to the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee of the BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT.

**4. Committee reports**

The Nomination Committee agreed to recommend that the Board appoint Stuart Payne as Chief Executive, to succeed Andy Samuel.

The draft minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> June Audit and Risk Committee were noted by the Board.



## **5. Safety and environment report**

The Board discussed the Chief Executive's update on safety and environment performance.

## **6. Chief Executive report**

The Chief Executive welcomed the Chancellor's visit to Aberdeen for a Fiscal Forum but remains concerned about the impact of the Energy Profits Levy on investor sentiment. The Board agreed, however, that accelerated development concepts should continue to reflect options for meeting North Sea Transition Deal (NSTD) targets.

Industry feedback on the NSTA was presented at the NSTD Steering Group meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Overall feedback was very positive, with the NSTA seen by operators as a highly effective regulator.

The Chief Executive was pleased to see the positive reception to the launch of the NSTA's ground-breaking first carbon storage licensing round on 14<sup>th</sup> June. He underlined the importance of tackling overlaps with offshore wind licensing.

## **7. CFO report**

The CFO reported that 97% of the levy has been collected. The finance team is pursuing the small number of companies which have yet to pay.

The Board noted that the NSTA was now funding the essential new CCS workstreams because the core BEIS grant-in-aid has yet to be approved. The Board agreed to review this funding position in September.

## **8. Shareholder update**

The Shareholder Director updated the Board on departmental business.

She confirmed that work on the climate compatibility checkpoint following the consultation was progressing well and would be ready to put to Ministers in the autumn.

## **9. CCS financial security requirements**

The Director of Strategy and Head of Policy and Strategy presented their recommendations, based on the current BEIS policy position, for mechanisms for operators to provide financial security before carbon storage permits are granted.

The Board discussed the recommendations in detail before agreeing to proceed as recommended but asked to review the position should circumstances change.

## **10. Corporate directorate challenges and highlights**

The Director of Corporate and Chief Digital Officer presented the highlights of the past year, including a very high rate of internal promotions and further strong delivery of digital services, including the data warehouse, business intelligence, the NDR, GIS data and the new Pipeline Works Authorisation (PWA) portal.

The NSTA is chairing the new Offshore Energy Digital Strategy Group which will implement the recommendations of the Digitalising Offshore Energy Systems report.

Current and future NSTA projects involve enhancing the NDR, PWA and WONS; digitising the supply chain action plan process; and ultimately the NSTA intends to fully rewrite all its website applications.

The Board thanked the team for their tremendous work, which enormously leverages the influence of the NSTA's work.

11.

**12. Sanction Warning Notice cases**

The Director of Regulation, supported by the Head of Disputes and Sanctions, presented three cases where he had determined that a breach of a petroleum related requirement had occurred. The Board discussed the circumstances of each case, agreed with the Director of Regulation's assessment, and decided to issue a Sanction Warning Notice in each. The Board further discussed the quantum of the fine in each case and agreed appropriate amounts. The Director of Regulation will issue the requisite notices.

**13. Agenda planning**

The Board discussed the future meetings schedule and asked for the new 'flash report' meetings to be added to the meetings planner.

There was no other business.



.....  
Chairman

*22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022*  
.....  
Date