Minutes of OGA Board meeting on 20 September 2017
Chandos House, London, W1

Members | In attendance
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Sir Patrick Brown  
Chairman | Russell Richardson  
Company Secretary
Mary Hardy  
Non-executive Director | Fiona Gruber  
Board Secretary
Robert Armour  
Non-executive Director | Hedvig Ljungcud  
Director of Strategy
Frances Morris-Jones  
Non-executive Director | Iain Mathieson  
Onshore
Rebecca Vallance  
Shareholder Representative Director | Tom Wheeler  
Director of Regulation
Andy Samuel  
Chief Executive
Nic Granger  
Chief Financial Officer

Welcome and introductions
The Chairman welcomed board members to the meeting.

Nominations committee report
The board unanimously supported the nomination committee’s recommendation to re-appoint Robert Armour as a director for a period of 3 years, on the same terms but reflecting the salary change agreed for all non-executive directors.

Minutes and matters arising
The board approved the minutes of the July meeting for signature. Progress of outstanding actions was noted. Directors noted that the board effectiveness review was expected to be conducted in December, reporting to the board in February 2018.

Conflicts of interest
No conflict of interest with any agenda item, nor as a result of new appointments, was declared by any member of the board.

Shareholder report
The Shareholder Representative updated the board on departmental business, including the outcome of the recent CFD auction. She confirmed that all the regulations which the shareholder team and the OGA had agreed were the top priorities should continue to be progressed and highlighted the importance of meeting the timetable.

The Minister of Energy and Industry attended the MER UK Forum at the OGA’s Aberdeen headquarters.
The upstream and onshore oil and gas teams have now been combined and the combined team is led by the Shareholder Representative. A member of the partner organisations governance team is to be embedded in the Energy Development Unit directorate.

**Onshore strategy**
The Director of Strategy and Head of Onshore Policy presented a draft onshore strategy and set out the current context. The board agreed that it was important that the OGA should have an onshore strategy and that its objectives should have a clear legal basis. The board agreed that the strategy should focus solely on the technical, financial and economic viability of onshore exploration and production.

The board was clear that the OGA should not stray beyond its core remit and should be wary of increasing the burden on the organisation and industry. The strategy should clearly articulate the financial and time impact of any additional activity.

The board agreed that it would consider the onshore strategy again early in the new year.

**Chief Executive report**
The Chief Executive was gratified with feedback received on the OGA at the recent International Regulators Forum and was pleased with the impact the OGA made at Offshore Europe, where he underlined the importance of developing Area Plans with industry in the coming months. He was pleased to host a successful MER UK Forum in Aberdeen.

Whilst pleased to see the number of deals in progress, he remains concerned at the low level of exploration and hopes lessons are being learned from recent drilling activity. He and the chairman are continuing a constructive programme of meetings with senior oil and gas leaders.

Internally, he confirmed that a number of important posts had recently been filled and that the transition to a new IT system had gone well. He commended the team for having done a tremendous job of creating a strong platform for the future.

**Finance report**
The CFO updated the board on the OGA’s current financial position.

Following constructive discussions across the OGA, the finance team has now reforecast the budget. Some projects have slowed and some activities assigned from contractors to permanent staff but there will be no overall impact on activity plan deliverables.

The CFO is pleased to report that staff understanding of public financing continues to improve and that staff have made sensible cost saving suggestions.

**Future meetings**
The October meeting will again be held in London, with the November meeting taking place in Middlesbrough. The board agreed amended timings for the December meeting in Aberdeen.
There was no other business.

Chairman

Date

14/11/2012