



**Minutes of OGA Board meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020**  
**10:00-12:00 and 13:30-15:30**  
**By video conference**

<b>Directors</b>	<b>In attendance</b>
Tim Eggar Chairman	Tom Wheeler (item 8) Director of Regulation
Frances Morris-Jones Non-executive Director	Ian Knott (item 8) Head of Licensee Finance
Robert Armour Non-executive Director	Stuart Payne (item 9) Director of Supply Chain, Decommissioning and HR
Mary Hardy Non-executive Director	Pauline Innes (item 9) Head of Decommissioning
Emily Bourne Shareholder Representative Director	Hedvig Ljungerud (item 10) Director of Strategy
Andy Samuel Chief Executive	Russell Richardson Company Secretary
Nic Granger Chief Financial Officer	Fiona Gruber Board Secretary
Iain Lanaghan Non-executive Director	

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chairman welcomed Directors to the meeting.

### **2. Minutes and matters arising**

The Board approved the minutes of the June meeting. There were no outstanding actions.

### **3. Conflicts of interest**

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

### **4. Safety and environment report**

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

### **5. Chief Executive report**

Following the intense period of crisis response, the OGA is focusing hard on MER UK, analysing material resources so as to focus on the critical path. A decision paper on the 32<sup>nd</sup> Round has been finalised, with a decision subject to receipt of the Habitats Assessment.

Close collaboration on the recovery plan continues with industry and governments. The plan outlines both the proposed recovery projects, which align with CCS, electrification,



maintenance, decommissioning/P&A, and the Global Underwater Hub, and demonstrates the significant interdependencies.

The OGA launched its digital academy in June, with staff joining a series of sessions on digital skills, GIS, core IT, analytics and intelligence. Staff productivity continues to be high and the academy will further develop new ways of working.

## **6. Shareholder update**

The Shareholder Director updated the Board on BEIS's contribution to further re-opening the economy and the anticipated publication of the Energy White Paper in the autumn.

## **7. CFO report**

The CFO reported that there continued to be an underspend, due to the slowdown in recruitment and very minimal staff travel.

Risk assessments for a staged return to the offices have been completed and staff focus groups on future working practices, including increased flexible working, have concluded.

She confirmed that the 2019-20 Annual Report and Accounts was laid in Parliament on 9<sup>th</sup> July.

## **8. Resilience report**

The Director of Regulation and Head of Licensee Finance presented a summary of findings from the Low Oil and Covid Contingency (LOCC) Team's analysis of the risks and impacts of potential UKCS operator default.

The Board thanked the team for the a very comprehensive update and the impressive work undertaken to date.

## **9. Decommissioning Directorate: challenges**

The Director of Supply Chain, Decommissioning and HR and the Head of Decommissioning briefed the Board on the forthcoming decommissioning cost estimate report, which will report like for like figures based on 2017 assets and an updated inventory based on current assets.

They cautioned that Covid-19 was likely to increase uncertainty on costs and underlined the need to increase consistency among operators, where operator performance is variable. The team is maximising the use of data to promote overall efficiency and well P&A campaigns.

The Board welcomed the strong use of data behind the campaigns and agreed that the OGA should be increasingly active and willing to use its powers to accelerate efficient decommissioning campaigns.

*Mary Hardy left the meeting towards the end of item 10.*

## **10. Net zero update**

The Director of Strategy updated the Board on the OGA's work programme on net zero, including the gas footprint analysis published in June, the Strategy consultation workshops in



July, the forthcoming publication of the Energy Integration project report, development of the net zero asset stewardship expectation and flaring and venting actions.

The Board looked forward to seeing the next iteration of the revised Strategy in September, once analysis of feedback from the consultation had been assessed and before it is finalised in the autumn.

### **11. Board agenda planning**

The Board agreed that the September strategy day and Board meeting should go ahead in person, subject to any changes in government Covid-19 guidance. The Chairman encouraged Directors to share their ideas for the strategy day with the Chief Executive.

A corporate governance refresher session will be scheduled in the autumn.

There was no other business.

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Chairman

*11<sup>th</sup> September 2020*

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Date