



Minutes of OGA Board meeting on 21st January 2021

09:00-15:00

Videoconference

Directors	In attendance
Tim Eggar Chairman	Helena Charlton BEIS Shareholder Representative
Frances Morris-Jones Non-executive Director	Neil Gooding (item 8) Information Security Manager
Sarah Deasley Non-executive Director	Stuart Payne (item 9) Director of Decommissioning, Supply Chain, HR
Mary Hardy Non-executive Director	Tom Wheeler (item 10) Director of Regulation
Emily Bourne Shareholder Representative Director	Ian Knott (item 10) Head of Licensee Finance
Iain Lanaghan Non-executive Director	Marc Benton (item 10) Senior Investment Manager
Andy Samuel Chief Executive	Toni Harvey (item 10) Head of Onshore Exploration
Nic Granger Chief Financial Officer	Hedvig Ljungerud (item 11) Director of Strategy
	Russell Richardson Company Secretary
Apologies: Emily Bourne, Shareholder Director	Fiona Gruber Board Secretary

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman welcomed Directors to the meeting.

2. Minutes and matters arising

Directors approved the minutes of the November 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 and agreed that the reported increase in deferred maintenance due to Covid was a concern.

5. Chief Executive report

The Chief Executive reported a couple of very busy months for the OGA, including finalising and the laying of the OGA Strategy in Parliament and publishing a dozen reports. Publication of the Energy White Paper and the Prime Minister's ten point plan underlined the



opportunities for industry to give real impetus to net zero ambitions. The Board agreed that, with the imperative to make real progress before COP26, the OGA would likely be more visible this year than it might normally be.

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the status of CCS licensing prospects and the OGA's offshore decommissioning P&A campaign. The majority of P&A plans submitted to date have been lacking in detail and follow up meetings with operators have been scheduled in January.

6. Shareholder update

The Shareholder Director updated the Board on recent Ministerial appointments, departmental business, progress with the licensing review, and plans for North Sea Transition Deal negotiations.

7. CFO update

The CFO confirmed that the OGA continues to underspend due to the pandemic, however recruitment has now started for eleven of twelve unfilled posts.

She updated the Board on progress with securing replacement office space in Aberdeen and London and upcoming staff workshops on future ways of working.

The Board discussed the potential to deprioritise work, should 2021-22 grant in aid funding be reduced.

8. Cyber security risk appetite

The Information Security Manager presented an update on the OGA's cyber security risk profile, recent work to address areas of weakness and ongoing plans to further mitigate exposure to major external risks.

The Board supported the recommendation to keep the OGA's risk appetite as low as reasonably possible.

9. Staff wellbeing

The Director of HR, Decommissioning and Supply Chain updated the Board on ongoing measures to support staff whilst working at home. Staff feedback on this support continues to be positive.

His team will be running staff focus groups in February to gauge how views on the eventual return to the office and future ways of working have evolved since the initial focus groups in July.



10. Regulation directorate challenges

The Senior Investment Manager presented the current licensee resilience review, which broadly shows that licensees are being pragmatic, positive and keeping tight control of costs. The Board agreed that it demonstrated encouraging levels of resilience among operators.

The Head of Licensee Finance presented the outline investor strategy, which will inform funding availability for all economically viable UKCS projects. The OGA will build its understanding of funding opportunities and lead the targeted engagement of the best investors and lenders globally, and by proactively identifying and resolving barriers to investment.

The Director of Regulation and the Head of Onshore Exploration updated the Board on a number of onshore matters, including the reluctance of some operators to properly respond to the OGA's well stewardship programme. The Board concluded that it was now time for government to clarify roles and responsibilities around onshore decommissioning.

The Director of Regulation briefed the Board on the OGA's assessment of the implications of the recent acquisition of Rock Rose Energy. The Board agreed that a further discussion would be needed, possibly before the March Board meeting.

11. CCS roles and responsibilities

The Director of Strategy updated the Board on progress in developing with BEIS an initial shared view of potential new OGA roles and responsibilities in CCS policy and implementation. It is proposed that the OGA would increase its role in four areas: supporting the policy framework, developing the strategic plan for CCS implementation, identifying and implementing clusters/priority areas and regulatory coordination.

The Board was greatly encouraged with the substantial progress made since September 2020 and supported the proposals.

12. Staff engagement session

Three members of staff joined the Board for an informal discussion focused on each individual's perceptions of the issues facing the OGA as they see them, and the ways the pandemic has affected their perception of their ideal work-life balance.

13. Board planning

The Board remains hopeful of meeting in person in March but will keep Directors informed of any changes. The Chairman invited Directors to share any ideas for additional agenda items for the coming year.

14. AOB

The Board thanked the executive for an exceptional set of Board papers. Directors agreed that the structure and content of the Chief Executive report was very good and asked to continue to have sight of relevant OGA presentations, ad hoc.



Oil & Gas
Authority

Company number: 09666504

.....
Chairman

18th March 2021

.....
Date