National Grid Electricity Transmission Independent User Group

Minutes and actions of the National Grid Electricity Transmission Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) Meeting 08

ISG	NGET-ISG08
Meeting Date:	30th October 2024
Location:	NG office, The Strand, London
Start Time:	9:15 – 16:45
Attendees:	Chair: Trisha McAuley (TM)
	Technical Secretary: Amelia Affum (AA), Leigh Lipton (LL)
	 Members: Zoe McLeod (ZM), Independent Consumer Advocate Karl Drage (KD), Independent Member Jane Cooper (JC), Renewable UK Stew Horne (SH), Energy Savings Trust Barry Hatton (BH), UKPN Denise Massey (DM), Energy Innovation Centre Cheryl Hiles (CH) West Midlands Combined Authority Eddie Proffitt (EP), Major Energy Users Council
	 National Grid Representatives: Robert Salter-Church (RSC), National Grid, Head of UK Regulatory Strategy Alice Delahunty (AD), National Grid President of Electricity Transmission Martin Winter (MW) - National Grid Electricity Transmission Regulatory Policy Senior Manager Jeni Ray (JR) – National Grid Strategic Electricity Transmission, Head of Stakeholder Management & Insights
	For agenda item Engagement Log Feedback
	Business Plan Ambition
	Martin Winter (MW) - National Grid Electricity Transmission Regulatory Policy Senior Manager
	Finance Strategy

Finance Strategy

- Adele Hutchings (AH)- National Grid Electricity Transmission, CFO Regulatory Finance
- Graham Ball (GB) National Grid Electricity Transmission Manager Financial Planning

National Grid Electricity Transmission Independent User Group

Apologies:	ISG Members
	Julian Leslie (JL), National Grid, Electricity System Operator
	Alex Schoch (AS), Octopus Energy
	Roz Bulleid (RB), Green Alliance

Minutes

Agenda Reference

Minutes

During this month's ISG meeting, several topics were covered, including the Engagement Log Update, Business Plan Update, and Finance Strategy.

In the Engagement Log discussion, the ISG felt that the log structure works well and provided detailed comments across the four engagement logs. They requested NGET to provide more clarity on ambition levels and to indicate where there are nuances and counterviews between stakeholders. Additionally, the ISG encouraged NGET to strengthen the horizon scanning elements within the logs.

The second topic focused on the Business Plan Update, which included a summary on totex, and review of the executive summary, and discussion on the business plan structure.

The ISG provided feedback on various elements of the executive summary, emphasizing the need for the business plan to be customer-first, with a clear golden thread throughout that focuses on what is being delivered for stakeholders. NGET was urged to provide more clarity and context around commitments, ensuring that the plan's tone is authentic and honest, with stakeholder-friendly language. The ISG expressed a desire for NGET's plan to take the reader on a journey, incorporating whole system thinking and regional considerations.

The final topic addressed the Finance Strategy, where NGET discussed the overall T3 cost plan, efficient delivery of benefits, and returns and incentives.

The ISG provided constructive feedback on the T3 cost strategy, asking NGET to clarify transmission price increases in relation to the overall bill. They also urged NGET to strengthen the evidence on risk and return investability and to provide more evidence on cost assessment optionality and futureproofing in relation to stakeholders and social value. The ISG emphasized the importance of ensuring that scenarios are not cherry-picked to support specific investment cases.