

Minutes of a meeting of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

From: Hamish Finlay
Secretary to the Authority

Date: 8th & 9th March
2022

Location: 10SC London

GEMA meeting minutes for 8th March

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.

2. Adam Scorer, National Energy Action

2.1 The Board met with Adam Scorer, Chief Executive, National Energy Action, who joined a discussion with the board on current fuel poverty, targeting need and barriers to effective assistance.

3. Recent Developments in Energy Markets

3.1 The Board were updated on the energy markets' response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, including high and volatile gas prices and the possible impact of sanctions.

3.2 The Board noted potential points where it may need to make decisions and how they wished to be engaged.

4. Distributional impacts trade-offs

4.1 The Board engaged in a discussion of views on the protection of consumers in the context of distribution of costs.

Apologies for absence

Akshay Kaul

Those present

Martin Cave
Jonathan Brearley
Christine Farnish
Lynne Embleton
John Crackett
Myriam Madden
Barry Panayi

Those attending

Philippa Pickford

Sinead Murray
Neil Kenward
Neil Lawrence
Cristina Luna Estaban (NED observer)

Others present

James Kilmartin	(Principal Private Secretary)
Vickie Baker	(Head of Governance and Secretariat)
Hamish Finlay	(Deputy Head of Governance and Secretariat)
Ashley Stewart	(Governance and Secretariat Manager)

For specific agenda items

Adam Scorer, Chief Executive, National Energy Action (item 2)
Priya Brahmhatt-Patel (items 2 and 3)
Charlotte Ramsay (item 3)

GEMA meeting minutes for 9th March

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 There were no conflicts of interest reported and the minutes of the 8th and 9th February were approved.

1.2 The Chair highlighted the 'for circulation' papers for the Board's attention. These included:

- Forward Work Programme 2022-23
- Boiler Upgrade Scheme Audit Contract Approval
- GEMA Rules of Procedure
- Enforcement Decision Panel's Terms of Reference
- Ofgem Risk Management
- Update on FSO and Code Reform
- Communications Update
- Delivery & Schemes Director's Update
- Case Update
- ARAC Minutes

1.3 The Board agreed to delegate the final decision on the Forward Work Programme to a sub-group led by the Chair.

1.4 The Board delegated final approval of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme Audit contract to the Director of Delivery and Schemes.

1.5 The Board adopted amendments to its Rules of Procedure. It also agreed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Enforcement Decision Panel, the Sectoral and REMIT Settlement Committee and the Competition Act Settlement Committee, as well as passing an Ordinary Resolution relating to these amendments. The updated Rules of Procedure and Terms of Reference documents would be posted on Ofgem's website.

2. CEO Report

2.1 The CEO, noting that Board members were apprised of his written report, briefed on some key issues, including:

- Changes to the macro economic environment in which Ofgem was operating;
- Organisational transformation; and
- The response to Storm Arwen.

2.2 The Board discussed the revised quarterly performance dashboard.

3. Retail Strategy

3.1 The Board were invited to consider proposed objectives and major workstreams for a retail strategy.

3.2 There followed a discussion on the key strategic questions and trade-offs. The Board invited the team to return to its April meeting for further discussion.

4. Electricity Network Access Significant Code Review

4.1 The Board agreed to issue a final decision on electricity network distribution connection charges and access rights, with implementation from April 2023.

4.2 The Board noted that the upcoming review of Distributional Use of System (DUoS) charges would allow for an examination of the distribution of network costs.

5. Low Carbon Infrastructure Programme

5.1 The Board discussed workstreams on the Offshore Transmission Network Review and provided guidance on future steps.

Apologies for absence

Akshay Kaul

Those present

Martin Cave

Jonathan Brearley

Christine Farnish

Lynne Embleton
John Crackett
Myriam Madden
Barry Panayi

Those attending

Sinead Murray
Simon Wilde
Philippa Pickford
Cristina Luna-Esteban – Ofcom (UKRN Observer)

Others present

James Kilmartin	(Principal Private Secretary)
Vickie Baker	(Head of Governance and Secretariat)
Hamish Finlay	(Depute Head of Governance and Secretariat)
Ashley Stewart	(Governance and Secretariat Manager)

For specific agenda items

Cathryn Scott (item 1.3)
Chris O'Connor (item 2.2)
Neil Lawrence (item 3)
Jemma Baker (item 3)
James Doig (item 3)
Neil Kenward (items 3 and 4)
Rich Smith (item 4)
Stuart Borland (item 5)
James Norman (item 5)
Neil Copeland (item 5)