

DSO Performance Panel – Panellist details

The DSO (Distribution System Operator) Performance Panel is formed from a mix of independent experts and DSO stakeholder representatives who will have a role in challenging and evaluating DNOs' performance in RIIO-ED2 as part of the DSO financial operational delivery incentive (DSO ODI-F). Please find below short biographies for the RIIO-ED2 DSO Performance Panel members.

Chair

Jack Presley Abbott, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Connections, Ofgem

Jack has been a Deputy Director at Ofgem since November 2022, having previously worked in the private sector, focusing on wholesale, trading and distributed flexibility regulation.

Jack's current portfolio covers strategic system and network planning and electricity connections. Within this role he chairs the Connections Delivery Board, which holds delivery partners to account on actions to deliver connections reform. Prior to this, his portfolio covered the government's Review of Electricity Market Arrangements, with a focus on future wholesale market design and long-term transmission charging reform.

Prior to working at Ofgem, Jack led regulatory teams seeking to deploy distributedconnected assets, front and behind the meter, as well as enabling industrial, commercial and residential demand response. Jack sat on the ESO performance panel as an energy industry representing Energy UK, and participated in the ENA Open Networks programme (including their advisory group).

Independent Expert Panellists

Gary Swandells - Director, Smart Grid Consultancy

Gary joined the energy industry in 2006 as he was involved in the inception of Flexibility Services as his part in the foundation of the UK's first aggregator where he continued to work as Commercial Director until 2012. During that time he achieved many industry firsts relating to the provision of balancing services and innovations that have helped the industry as we know it today. From 2012 until present he founded and has continued to manage Smart Grid Consultancy Ltd which has been directly responsible for many significant milestones in the evolution of flexibility, including the creation of the standard products adopted by all of the DNOs (Secure, Dynamic, Restore & Sustain) as well as the architect of Flexible Power which ²/₃ of GB DNOs continue to use to manage their flexibility services. Going forward, Gary remains committed to pushing boundaries and contributing to the dialogue that is shaping the changing landscape of the electricity system.

Jacopo Torriti – Professor of Energy Economics, University of Reading

Jacopo Torriti is a Professor of Energy Economics and Policy at the University of Reading. He is currently the Flexibility Theme Lead of the Energy Demand Research Centre (EDRC). He has lead research projects with an overall portfolio worth over £46 million in funding.

Professor Torriti has published over 100 papers. His recent books include Peak Energy Demand and Demand Side Response (2015), Energy Fables (2019) and Appraising the Economics of Smart Meters (2020), all published with Routledge. He is Co-Editor in Chief of Energy Sources Part B: Economics, Planning, and Policy.

Professor Torriti is a member of Ofgem Academic Panel and Defra Economics Advisory Panel. He has been a member of the British Standards Institution's Strategic Advisory Group of the Energy Smart Appliances programme and a member of the Advisory Board for the Energy Alternative Energy Markets Programme of the Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Jason Brogden – Director, Jason Brogden Consulting

Jason has spent his career in the energy sector working on a wide range of industry developments in energy networks, retail, metering, services, technology and settlement, where he is currently part of the leadership team for the Lead Delivery Partner in the Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement Programme. Jason led the Open Networks Project at the Energy Networks Association for its first 4½ years, helping to set the common foundations for DSO across the network operators and has worked on a number of evaluation panels in his previous work.

Voluntary Stakeholder Representative Organisations

Citizens Advice [represented by Andy Manning]

Andy joined Citizens Advice in April 2021 as Principal Economic Regulation Specialist. He leads the Energy, Networks and Systems team. The team seeks to ensure that consumers receive the services they require from the energy network companies at good value for money, and that the energy system works well for consumers. Andy sat on the Ofgem Challenge Group that assessed network companies' business plans. Andy has worked in the energy industry for over 20 years, working for Centrica and RWEnpower before joining Citizens Advice. This was in a variety of commercial and regulatory roles, mainly focused on network regulation and system governance.

The Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE) [represented by Natasha Mills]

Natasha is the Policy Officer for Demand Side Flexibility (DSF) representing a diverse range of aggregators, suppliers and software providers. The Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE) is the leading trade association for decentralised energy, representing more than 150 interested parties from across the industrial, commercial and public sectors. In particular, the ADE advocates for stronger market signals to unlock the potential of DSF, a better public and political understanding of the industry and increased focus on the policy gaps that exist in achieving government flexibility targets for 2035 and beyond.