

Minutes and actions of the National Grid Electricity Transmission Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) Meeting 12

<b>ISG</b>	NGET-ISG12
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	31st Jan 2025
<b>Location:</b>	NG office, The Strand, London
<b>Start Time:</b>	9:10 – 16:50
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Trisha McAuley (TM)</p> <p><b>Technical Secretary:</b> Theresa Potter (TP), Rory Burgess (RBs)</p> <p><b>Members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zoe McLeod (ZM), Independent Consumer Advocate</li><li>• Jane Cooper (JCo), Renewable UK</li><li>• Alex Schoch (AS), Octopus Energy</li><li>• Roz Bulleid (RBd), Green Alliance</li><li>• Stew Horne (SH), Energy Savings Trust</li><li>• Eddie Proffitt (EP), Major Energy Users Council</li></ul> <p><b>National Grid Representatives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jeni Ray (JR), National Grid Electricity Transmission, Head of Stakeholder Management &amp; Insights</li><li>• Robert Salter-Church (RSC), National Grid Electricity Transmission, Regulation Director</li><li>• Carl Trowell (CT), National Grid Strategic Infrastructure, President</li></ul> <p><b>For agenda items</b></p> <p><b>ASTI Deliverability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Julie Taylor (JT), National Grid Strategic Infrastructure, Director of Commercial, Regulation and Supply Chain</li><li>• Martin Crozier (MC), National Grid Strategic Infrastructure, Head of Regulatory Outcomes</li><li>• Zachary Richardson (ZR), National Grid Strategic Infrastructure, Offshore Delivery Director</li><li>• Victoria Turnham (VT), Head of Infrastructure Strategy and Portfolio Development</li></ul> <p><b>ASTI Engagement Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alex Kaufman (AK), National Grid Strategic Infrastructure, Director of Land, Planning and External Affairs</li></ul> <p><b>Stakeholder Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lydia Ogilvie (LO), National Grid Electricity Transmission, Head of Corporate Affairs</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alex Kaufman (AK), National Grid Strategic Infrastructure, Director of Land, Planning and External Affairs</li> </ul> <p><b>Output Delivery Incentives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joanna Campbell (JC) - National Grid Electricity Transmission, Senior Regulatory Strategy Manager</li> </ul> <p><b>ISG Forward Calendar, CP2030, Update on RIIO-T3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robert Salter-Church (RSC), National Grid Electricity Transmission, Regulation Director</li> </ul>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<p><b>ISG Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karl Drage (KD), Noventa Energy</li> <li>Denise Massey (DM), Energy Innovation Centre</li> <li>Julian Leslie (JL), NESO</li> <li>Cheryl Hiles (CH), West Midlands Combined Authority</li> </ul>

**Minutes**

<b>Agenda Reference</b>	<b>Minutes Summary</b>
1.	<p>The ISG convened to discuss key strategic and operational topics related to National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), with a strong focus on ASTI (Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment) deliverability, stakeholder engagement, output delivery incentives, and future planning.</p> <p><b>Chair Trisha McAuley</b> opened the meeting by reviewing previous actions and introducing new agenda items, including a recent incident at North Hyde substation and a stakeholder management restructure.</p> <p><b>ASTI Deliverability &amp; Engagement</b></p> <p>In the open session, <b>CT</b> outlined the SI team’s progress across project waves, highlighting construction targets, supply chain partnerships (e.g., Great Grid Partnership), and HVDC framework agreements. Workforce development was a key theme, with training initiatives and collaboration with Ofgem to align procurement mechanisms.</p> <p><b>AD</b> discussed planning reform and community benefits, referencing the Planning and Infrastructure Bill and recent government guidance. The group stressed the importance of measurable social value, equitable distribution of benefits, and avoiding politicization. Examples of local engagement, such as with Durham Council, were shared.</p> <p><b>Stakeholder Strategy</b></p> <p><b>LO</b> presented the stakeholder strategy following a corporate affairs restructure. The strategy builds on T2 foundations, introducing 10 focus areas including national policy, regional planning, consumer sentiment, and process innovation. Members emphasized the need for intuitive articulation, horizon scanning, and clarity on roles across industry players like DNOs and NESO.</p>

Concerns were raised about engagement with SMEs and microbusinesses, and the need to align public affairs with emerging stakeholders. The group discussed the importance of digital transformation and resilience in stakeholder expectations.

**Output Delivery Incentives**

The ISG sought assurance that proposed incentives deliver genuine consumer value. **NGET** explained the revised incentive framework, including collaboration with NESO and supply chain partners. Members questioned the clarity of consumer benefits, potential unintended consequences, and the balance between reward and baseline expectations.

The group agreed on the need for further sessions to refine incentive design and calibration. There was a call for more quantitative evidence and engagement with consumer advocacy groups like Citizens Advice.

**Forward Planning & RIIO-T3 Update**

The ISG reviewed its forward calendar, aiming for more focused, value-driven sessions. Members proposed aligning agenda items with regulatory milestones and prioritizing consumer vulnerability strategies. The group discussed CP2030 guidance and RIIO-T3 updates, noting Ofgem’s likely tough stance and the importance of maintaining investor confidence.

The meeting concluded with a closed session addressing ISG representation and engagement with Ofgem. The group expressed concern over limited interaction and discussed the development of a reputational incentive survey.