

Minutes and actions of the National Grid Electricity Transmission Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) Meeting 11

ISG	NGET-ISG11
Meeting Date:	8 th January 2025
Location:	The Strand // Microsoft Teams
Start Time:	9:00 – 17:00
Attendees:	<p>Chair: Trisha McAuley (TM)</p> <p>Technical Secretary: Amelia Affum (AA), Leigh Lipton (LL)</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoe McLeod (ZM), Independent Consumer Advocate • Barry Hatton (BH), UKPN • Denise Massey (DM), Energy Innovation Centre • Cheryl Hiles (CH), West Midlands Combined Authority • Eddie Proffitt (EP), Major Energy Users Council • Alex Schoch (AS), Octopus Energy • Stew Horne (SH), Energy Savings Trust • Jane Cooper (JC), Renewable UK <p>National Grid Representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Salter-Church (RSC), National Grid Electricity Transmission, Regulation Director • Martin Winter (MW), National Grid Electricity Transmission, Regulatory Policy Senior Manager • Jeni Ray (JR), National Grid Electricity Transmission, Head of Stakeholder Management & Insights
Apologies:	<p>ISG Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roz Bulleid (RB), Green Alliance • Julian Leslie (JL), National Grid, Electricity System Operator • Karl Drage (KD), Noventa Energy <p>NGET Members Alice Delahunty, National Grid Electricity Transmission, President</p>

Minutes

Agenda Reference	Minutes Summary
	The eleventh meeting of the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) convened to provide initial feedback on NGET’s final Business Plan (BP) and associated challenge logs, particularly in response to Ofgem’s call for evidence.

TM opened the meeting by emphasizing the importance of the ISG's input in shaping the response to Ofgem's call for evidence. She highlighted the recent engagement with Ofgem and ISG chairs to establish a consistent forward-looking structure and clarified that the meeting's format would remain flexible to encourage effective discussion.

During the open session, the ISG provided feedback to NGET, commending the organization's culture, resource commitment, and improvements in planning quality compared to the previous T2 cycle. The group appreciated the transparency and thoroughness of the work and acknowledged NGET's focus on consumer bills. However, they noted limitations in the BP format, which constrained the inclusion of stakeholder engagement narratives, and expressed hope that upcoming regional brochures would address gaps in regional detail.

RSC updated the ISG on the Supplementary Questions process, which focused on pipeline load and cost certainty. He clarified the relationship between Strategic Infrastructure (SI) and NGET and welcomed further SI involvement.

RSC acknowledged challenges in compiling the full BP and emphasized the importance of early engagement with Ofgem to surface major issues. He noted improvements in the plan since T2, particularly in asset health data.

Discussions also covered Bespoke Output Delivery Incentives (ODIs). TM expressed ISG's interest in contributing to ODI development. The group explored CP2030 top-up mechanisms, with RSC indicating NGET's preference for using uncertainty mechanisms rather than submitting substantive changes.

Financial aspects were discussed, including cost of equity expectations and investor returns. The ISG also explored the evolving relationship with Ofgem, the role of the GEMA Board, and the need to strengthen ties with the newly operational National Energy System Operator (NESO). The meeting concluded with next steps, including TM's participation in NESO quarterly chair meetings and ZM's involvement in the Enhanced Landscape Initiative Group. The next ISG meeting was tentatively rescheduled from February to March.