

Minutes and actions of the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) Meeting 17 ISG

1. Overview and agenda

Table 1: Overview of meeting

Meeting Date:	22 January 2026
Location:	National Grid Strand Office, London and MS teams
Time:	09:30 – 16:30
Attendees:	Chair: Trisha McAuley (TM) Members present: • Karl Drage (KD), Noventa Energy Partners [MS Teams] • Eddie Proffitt (EP), Major Energy Users Council [MS Teams] • Ana Musat (AM), Renewable UK • Paul Wakely (PW), NESO • Stew Horne (StH), Energy Saving Trust • Roz Bulleid (RB), Green Alliance [9.30-15.30] • Zoe McLeod (ZM), Independent Consumer Advocate • Kieran Coughlan (KC), UKPN [MS Teams] National Grid representatives: • Rob Salter-Church (RSC), NGET, Director of Regulation, Electricity Transmission [10.30-15.30] • Martin Winter (MW), NGET, Regulatory Policy Senior Manager • Leigh Lipton (LL), NGET, Stakeholder Communications Manager Minute taker: Richard Holcroft (RH), NGET, Regulation Manager Additional attendees for specific agenda items: <i>RIO-T3 Final Determination (FD) and ISG Role in T3 Re-openers:</i> • Sara Habib (SaH), NGET, Head of Future Price Controls [10.15-12.15]

	<i>Update from SAG:</i> - Chris Baines (CB), Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), Chairperson [12.05-14.30] <i>Responsible Business – Environment, Community, Social Benefit:</i> - Paul de Jong (PJ), NGET, Head of Environmental Sustainability and Energy [14.15-16.15] - Anna Turrell (AT), NGET, Responsible Business Manager [14.15-16.15] - Abbie Reid (AR), NGET, Social Value Lead [14.15-16.15] - Carolyn Helm (CaH), NGET, Relationship Team Manager [14.15-16.15] - Chris Baines (CB), Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), Chairperson (as guest)
Apologies:	ISG members: - Denise Massey (DM), Energy Innovation Centre - Alex Schoch (AS), Octopus Energy - Cheryl Hiles (CH) West Midlands Combined Authority NGET representatives: - Alice Delahunty (AD), NGET, President of Electricity Transmission - Leo Michelmore (LM), NGET, Strategic Upgrade Regulatory Manager - Amelia Affum (AA), NGET, IUG Manager

Figure 1: Meeting agenda

Start Time	End Time	Time (hr:min)	Agenda Item	AGENDA	Presenter(s)
09:30	09:45	00:15	1	Welcome from Chair, introductions, housekeeping, minutes and actions, declaration of interest	Chair
09:45	10:15	00:30	2	Closed session – RIIO-T3 Final Determination, RIIO-T3 Reopeners, SAG	ISG
10:15	10:30	00:15	3	Performance scorecard	Rob Salter-Church
10:30	11:15	00:45	4	RIIO T3 Final Determination	Rob Salter-Church, Martin Winter, Sara Habib
11:15	11:30	00:15		Break	
11:30	12:15	00:45	5	ISG role in RIIO-T3 reopeners	Sara Habib, Leo Michelmores
12:15	13:00	00:45	6	Update from SAG	Chris Baines
13:00	13:45	00:45		Lunch	
13:45	14:15	00:30	7	Closed session – Responsible Business	ISG
14:15	16:15	02:00	8	Responsible Business – Environment, Community, Social Benefit	Anna Turrell, Abbie Reid, Paul de Jong, Carolyn Helm
16:15	16:30	00:15	9	Final closed session – covering any Chair Updates	ISG
	16:30			MEETING CLOSE	

2. Minutes

Table 2: Minutes for each agenda item

Agenda Reference	Minutes
1	The seventeenth meeting of the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) took place on 22 January 2026 in London and via MS Teams. The session covered updates on RIIO-T3 Final Determination (FD), the T2 performance scorecard, the evolving role of the ISG in T3 re-openers, updates from the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), and a deep dive into NGET's Responsible Business plans. 1. Welcome and Review of Previous Actions

	Chair Trisha McAuley (TM) opened the meeting, noting apologies and confirming that minutes from the previous meeting were approved. She thanked NGET colleagues for progress on various ISG actions, with several items now closed, including updates related to FD preparation and reopener framework proposals. 2. RIIO-T3 Final Determination Martin Winter (MW) provided an update on the Final Determination, noting that the outcome broadly aligned with expectations and differed only slightly from the Draft Determination. ISG members stressed the need for NGET to strengthen transparency around trade-offs, articulate ambition more clearly, and explain dependencies and constraints affecting delivery. They encouraged clearer quantification of headroom and refinement of several commitment statements. 3. T2 Performance Scorecard Rob Salter-Church (RSC) reported improved progress across investment re-openers, with most projects confirmed. Other areas discussed included Recruitment, Asset health and Contractor safety culture 4. ISG Role in T3 Re-openers Sara Habib (SaH) presented the T3 Load Re-opener process, structured around three tracks. ISG influence is expected to be strongest at the Eligibility Letter stage. The ISG agreed to prioritise early-stage thematic issues and high-impact projects to maximise their influence. 5. Update from SAG Chris Baines (CB) provided an update on the Stakeholder Advisory Group's expanding remit, which now includes visual impact, farming, biodiversity, and marine stakeholders. He highlighted successful landscape enhancement initiatives and insights from environmental stewardship programmes. Discussion centred on opportunities for cross-group collaboration and the importance of fostering community acceptance of transmission infrastructure. Members also noted potential alignment with GB Energy and marine groups. 6. Responsible Business: Environment, Community & Social Value NGET presented updates on:
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	• Environmental Action Plan: Focus areas included net-zero operations, nature-positive initiatives, and circularity. There were discussions around SF6 alternatives, innovation funding, and substation energy improvements. • Community Benefits: Government guidance limits eligibility, prompting NGET to explore alternative “self-funded” approaches. There were discussions around fairness, evidence gaps, and long-term community resilience. • Social Value Framework: Themes include skills, jobs, supply chain diversity, and community resilience. 7. Sustainable Development Action Plan NGET is developing an integrated plan unifying environmental and social commitments. ISG advised prioritising clarity, stakeholder-friendly language, and outcome-based indicators. 8. Closing Challenges TM concluded by outlining 13 key challenges for NGET, covering evidence-based re-opener submissions, stronger leadership, sharper metrics, improved benchmarking, enhanced transparency, and clearer articulation of ambition.
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