

Energy Innovation Board Summary Note

23rd July 2019

Attendees

(Only Senior Civil Servants named)

Board members & alternates: **Patrick Vallance**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Chair; **John Loughhead**, BEIS Chief Scientific Advisor; **Phil Blythe**, DfT Chief Scientific Advisor; **Charlotte Watts**, DFID Chief Scientific Adviser; DEFRA Head of Chief Scientific Advisor's Programme Office & Strategy; **Julian Critchlow**, BEIS Director General Energy Transformation and Clean Growth; **Damitha Adikaari**, Director, Science & Innovation for Climate & Energy BEIS; **Ian Meikle**, Innovate UK Director of Infrastructure Systems; **Neil Viner**, EPSRC Deputy Executive Chair and Chief Operating Officer; **Jonathan Brearley**, Ofgem Executive Director Systems and Networks; **Jo Coleman**, Shell UK Energy Transition Manager.

Observers: **Matthew Billson**, EIB Secretariat; **Ron Loveland**, Welsh Government; **Richard Rogers**, Northern Ireland; **Craig Frew**, Scottish Government, **Tim Lord**, BEIS Director of Clean Growth; GO-Science.

Agenda

Spending Review domestic priorities

BEIS presented on Delivering Clean Growth and Net Zero, noting the four main challenges in meeting Net Zero by 2050 included: deployment challenges; development of innovative technologies; system challenges; and engagement challenges. The four key technologies which are of growing importance for meeting Net Zero, as opposed to an 80% target, were also outlined: CCUS; hydrogen; biomass; and Greenhouse Gas Removals/engineered removals. The Board recognised however that other technologies would still be needed to deliver Net Zero, such as innovative renewables technologies and energy storage. It was also highlighted that the UK could have a competitive advantage on these technologies due its expertise and need for them.

The Chair asked the Board to discuss their spending review priorities and comment on how these plans align with the key technologies identified as important for achieving Net Zero. The Board agreed on the need to take an integrated approach to the Spending Review in order to see how their priorities aligned, that energy innovation spend needs to be linked to policy objectives, that behavioural change aspects need to be considered, and that the forthcoming Spending Review should focus innovation on development and demonstration.

Discussion on Official Development Assistance (ODA) clean energy RD&D investments

DfID gave the Board an overview of the Ayrton fund, which will be managed in collaboration with BEIS, to build clean technology and innovation within Africa and developing countries. This initiative was welcomed by the Board which suggested including further detail on how it will contribute to meeting Net Zero and links to UK domestic policy.

AOB

None.