

# Energy Innovation Board Summary Note

09<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019

## Attendees

*(Only Senior Civil Servants named)*

**Board members & alternates:** **Patrick Vallance**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Chair; **Charlotte Watts**, DFID Chief Scientific Adviser; **Gideon Henderson**, DEFRA Chief Scientific Advisor; **Julian Critchlow**, BEIS Director General Energy Transformation and Clean Growth; **Damitha Adikaari**, BEIS Director; **Ian Meikle**, Innovate UK Director of Infrastructure Systems; **Neil Viner**, EPSRC Deputy Executive Chair and Chief Operating Officer; **Akshay Kaul**, Ofgem Networks Director; **Ian Simm**, Impax Asset Management Group Chief Executive; **Xavier Mamo**, EDF Energy R&D UK Centre Director; **Jo Coleman**, Shell UK Energy Transition Manager.

**Observers:** **Matthew Billson**, EIB Secretariat; **Alexandra Jones**, BEIS Director Science, Research & Innovation; **Chris Pook**, Go-Science Deputy Director; **Richard Leyland**, BEIS Clean Heat Strategy Deputy Director; BEIS Climate Science Team; **Ron Loveland**, Welsh Government; **Richard Rogers**, Northern Ireland Government; **Craig Frew**, Scottish Government.

## Agenda

The Board received an update on the Climate Change National Strategy Implementation Group.

### **Ofgem investment process**

Ofgem gave a presentation on the investment process and price controls under RIIO2. The Board discussed focussing on where the priorities are and how these priorities linked into other types of funding, to maximise the utility of Ofgem's funding. BEIS and Ofgem agreed to work together on a clearer view of how to align on common innovation objectives.

### **Hydrogen for heat, pipes and burners**

BEIS's Clean Heat Strategy team presented a summary on their Hydrogen Grid R&D Testing Programme, including an overview of the scope of the planned programme, which broadly focusses on the gas network and essential storage infrastructure, through to end use by customers connected to the distribution system. The Board agreed that the R&D questions which need to be answered to develop such a programme need to be clearly identified.

### **DEFRA update on biomass Spending Review bid**

DEFRA presented an update on their Spending Review bid on biomass research needs. The Board recommended understanding in finer detail how to connect with industry so as to have enough biomass commercial input in their planning. A more joined-up approach was also discussed to identify what is needed in DEFRA from Innovate UK, and what could stimulate private sector investment.

### **Update on Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGRs)**

BEIS's Climate Science Team provided an update on GGRs, including why they need to be developed, the CCC's advice on their role in reaching Net Zero, relevant RD&D recently completed/underway, and further needs. The Board requested additional information on the international R&D landscape with respect to GGRs.

**Net Zero Innovation priorities**

A read out of a discussion between Chief Scientific Advisors on Net Zero innovation priorities was provided. Overall, CSAs agreed with the EINAs being focussed on available technologies, rather than radically new technologies. They also agreed with their focus on the UKs need to decarbonise, rather than the global need. The Chair noted that he would write to members on a possible name change of the Board to reflect increasing Net Zero priorities.

**AOB**

DfID gave an update on the Ayrton Fund.