

Energy Innovation Board Summary Note

02nd March 2020

Attendees

(Only Senior Civil Servants named)

Board members & alternates: **Damitha Adikaari**, BEIS Director (standing in as chair on behalf of Patrick Vallance); **John Loughhead**, BEIS Chief Scientific Advisor; **Phil Blythe**, DfT Chief Scientific Advisor; **Rob Bradburne**, DEFRA Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor; **Ian Meikle**, Innovate UK Director of Infrastructure Systems; **Lynn Gladden**, EPSRC Chief Executive; **Ian Simm**, Impax Asset Management Group Chief Executive; **Xavier Mamo**, EDF Energy R&D UK Centre Director; **Jo Coleman**, Shell UK Energy Transition Manager; DfID Senior Energy Innovation Advisor (deputising for Charlotte Watts, CSA, DfID); **Duncan Wingham**, NERC Chief Executive.

Observers: **Matthew Billson**, EIB Secretariat; **Alan Penn**, MHCLG Chief Scientific Advisor; **Joanna Whittington**, BEIS Director General; **Ron Loveland**, Welsh Government; **Richard Rogers**, Northern Ireland Government; BEIS Nuclear Fusion Team.

Agenda

Future role of the Board - No.10 commission and CST letter

The Chair gave an overview of the recent No.10 commission on energy R&D and the Council for Science and Technology's (CST) advice on Net Zero. The Board agreed that the former covered all of the key existing technologies, however further work should be completed to capture broader elements for meeting net zero i.e. social and behaviour changes. The Chair commented that the recommendations set out in the CST's advice provided an opportunity to address market gaps and provide clarity to industry. Discussions noted that, it did not include work being conducted internationally and the importance of learning about what other countries are developing so the Board can know where the UK sits within the wider landscape. The Board agreed that it should publish a delivery plan to lay-out innovation towards Net Zero. It also agreed to amend its Terms of Reference to make progress on CST's recommendations.

UKRI net zero programme

The Board received a presentation on UKRI's 2025 future strategy that explained how their activities align to the Board's priorities. The Board agreed with that the different areas UKRI intend to support to achieve their 2025 goal. The Chair noted that the Board was there to join-up with UKRI and have a strategic approach across the whole of government to achieve joint Net Zero objectives.

International energy innovation

The latest analysis on international energy innovation activity was presented. The Board agreed that it was useful to see the UK's position against international spend and recommended having a living document to understand what work is being done within different energy sectors.

Nuclear fusion deep dive

BEIS presented their deep dive into nuclear fusion and the role it plays in the lead up to 2050. The Board agreed that fusion is unlikely to make a significant net-zero contribution pre-2050, so is not a key priority in its Net Zero innovation plans. However, as the UK is a leading science nation and world leader in fusion innovation, it should continue to invest as part of its wider R&D strategy. Therefore, the Board did not anticipate discussions on fusion at future meetings.

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None.