

Net Zero Innovation Board SUMMARY MINUTES

2nd March 2021

Attendees

(Only Senior Civil Servants named)

Board members & alternates: **Patrick Vallance**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Chair; **Paul Monks**, BEIS Chief Scientific Advisor; **Phil Blythe**, DfT Chief Scientific Advisor; **Charlotte Watts**, DFID Chief Scientific Advisor; **Gideon Henderson**, DEFRA Chief Scientific Advisor; **Alan Penn**, MHCLG Chief Scientific Advisor; **Damitha Adikaari**, BEIS Director Science & Innovation for Climate & Energy; **Ian Meikle**, Innovate UK Director of Infrastructure Systems; **Lynn Gladden**, EPSRC Chief Executive; **Duncan Wingham**, NERC Chief Executive; **Akshay Kaul**, Ofgem Networks Director.

Devolved Administration: **Ron Loveland**, Welsh Government; **Richard Rodgers**, Northern Ireland Government.

Secretariat: **Matthew Billson**, BEIS Deputy Director.

Others: **Niva Thiruchelvam**, HMT Deputy Director; **Peter Bruce**, Royal Society; **Elizabeth Surkovic**, Executive Director of the Royal Society; **Mark Taylor**, Deputy Director BEIS; FCDO official; **Owen Jackson**, GO-Science; GO-Science official; **Alexandra Jones**, BEIS Director; **Ian Simm**, Impax Asset Management Group Chief Executive; **Jo Coleman**, Shell UK Energy Transition Manager.

Agenda

Royal Society presentation on Net Zero R&D priorities

Royal Society provided a presentation highlighting key areas where they thought HMG should intervene; energy storage for the grid, hydrogen and ammonia, digital technology and creating a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP). The Board welcomed the presentation and highlighted that additional efforts should be complementary to already existing advisory structures.

HMT Net Zero Review

HMT presented a framework published in the Net Zero Review Interim Report, that could be used by HMG to structure thinking on net zero innovation. This would increase transparency of government decision making allowing private investors to make better investments. The Board endorsed the idea but challenged how this could be linked to a wider-systems thinking and asked that this work join-up with the Net Zero R&D Delivery Plan the Board are working on.

HMG Net Zero major programmes update

A progress review of BEIS's Energy Innovation Programme (EIP) was delivered. From the KPIs collected, the EIP can be judged as a success given that nearly three quarters of closed projects met their objectives in full. The Board welcomed these findings and noted that the programme will be succeeded by the BEIS £1bn Net Zero Innovation Portfolio announced in the PM's Ten Point Plan.

A.O.B

None.