

Net Zero Innovation Board

SUMMARY MINUTES

31st October 2023

Attendees

(Only Senior Civil Servants named)

Board members & alternates: **Angela McLean**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Chair; **Paul Monks**, DESNZ Chief Scientific Adviser; **Richard Prager**, DLUHC Chief Scientific Adviser; **Charlotte Watts**, FCDO Chief Scientific Adviser; **Julia Sutcliffe**, DBT Chief Scientific Adviser; **Lee McDonough**, DESNZ DG for Net Zero, Nuclear & International; **Damitha Adikaari**, DESNZ Director for Science & Innovation for Climate & Energy; **Mike Biddle**, Innovate UK Programme Director for Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund; **Kedar Pandya**, EPSRC Executive Director, Cross-Council Programmes; **Ian Simm**, Impax Asset Management Group Chief Executive; **Philip Taylor**, University of Bristol Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise; **Beverley Gower-Jones**, Clean Growth Fund Managing Partner; **Kate Hamer**, NERC (deputising for Peter Liss, interim Executive Chair); DfT official (deputising for Sarah Sharples, Chief Scientific Adviser); **Dan McGonigle**, Defra (deputising for Gideon Henderson, Chief Scientific Adviser); **Jason Lowe**, Met Office (deputising for Stephen Belcher, Chief Scientific Adviser); Ofgem official (deputising for Marzia Zafar); DSIT official (deputising for Holly Yates, Director for Science, Research and Innovation, DESNZ).

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

Others: **Dave Smith**, National Technology Adviser; **Simon Whitfield**, Go-Science Deputy Director for Climate, Society and International; **Tom Wells**, GO-Science, Deputy Director for Emerging Technologies.

Summary

Innovation Delivery Board (IDB) update and portfolio management techniques
DESNZ gave a presentation on the Innovation Delivery Board (IDB): a sub-group to the NZIB with the purpose of overseeing progress and delivery of HMG Net Zero R&D programmes and enhancing information-sharing amongst programme leads. The Board approved the IDB Terms of Reference and agreed to receive a 6-monthly update on its progress.

Ian Simm (Independent Board Member) outlined private sector portfolio management techniques and their applicability to the government's net zero R&D portfolio.

Energy Innovation Needs Assessments (EINAs)

DESNZ presented the findings from an expert elicitation undertaken as part of a refresh of the Energy Innovation Needs Assessments (EINAs): a research programme aiming to prioritise innovation needs across the UK's energy system to inform public sector investment in low-carbon innovation. A key finding was the suggestion of an increased emphasis on innovation to support deployment of technologies.

Technology Prioritisation Analysis – findings for net zero

GO-Science presented the findings from the Technology Prioritisation Analysis: an analytical horizon scanning project which aimed to create a methodological approach to prioritising technologies. Findings identified CCUS as a net zero technology with potential UK strengths.

AOB

None.