

Net Zero Innovation Board

SUMMARY MINUTES

4 March 2024

Attendees

(Only Senior Civil Servants named)

Board members & alternates: **Angela McLean**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Chair; **Paul Monks**, DESNZ Chief Scientific Adviser and Deputy Chair; **Julia Sutcliffe**, DBT Chief Scientific Adviser; **Richard Prager**, DLUHC Chief Scientific Adviser; **Charlotte Watts**, FCDO Chief Scientific Adviser; **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; **Peter Liss**, NERC interim Executive Chair; **Marzia Zafar**, Ofgem Deputy Director for Strategy & Innovation; **Philip Taylor**, University of Bristol Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise; **Beverley Gower-Jones**, Clean Growth Fund Managing Partner; **Ian Simm**, Impax Asset Management Group Chief Executive; **Holly Yates**, DSIT Director for Science, Research and Innovation; **Anette Pass** (DfT - deputising for Sarah Sharples, Chief Scientific Adviser); **Ryan Mcloughlin** (DESNZ - deputising for Lee McDonough, DESNZ DG for Net Zero, Nuclear & International); Defra official, deputising for Gideon Henderson, Chief Scientific Adviser.

Devolved Administrations: **Ron Loveland**, Welsh Government.

Others: **Chris Stark**, Climate Change Committee Chief Executive; **Carol Jenkins**, DESNZ Deputy Director for Net Zero Innovation Policy; **Fionnuala Costello**, DESNZ Deputy Director for Energy Innovation Delivery; **Anna Stephenson**, DESNZ Deputy Director for Energy Engineering and Research; **Soheila Amin-Hanjani**, DESNZ Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser; **Simon Whitfield** Go-Science Deputy Director for Climate, Society and International; **Oliver St John**, DSIT Deputy Director for Innovation; **David Woolnough**, FCDO Deputy Director for Research, Tech & Innovation.

Summary

International Net Zero Research and Innovation

DESNZ, FCDO, and GO-Science presented an overview of the UK's international funding into research and innovation for net zero including the Aryton Fund, international collaboration, and analysis on the UK's strengths in relation to net zero technologies. The Board welcomed the opportunity to consider the international net zero innovation landscape and was keen to see analysis on the UK's strategic advantage in future papers as appropriate.

Preparations for the next Spending Review and roadmap update

The NZIB Secretariat outlined a proposed process for preparing for the next Spending Review and updated on progress towards developing technology roadmaps. The Board agreed to continue to work together to coordinate views on net zero research and innovation requirements.

Reflections from Chris Stark (Chief Executive, Climate Change Committee)

The Board welcomed Chris Stark, outgoing Chief Executive at the Climate Change Committee (CCC), to present on the work of the CCC and share his reflections on priorities for net zero research and innovation.

Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage & Greenhouse Gas Removal Deep Dive

DESNZ presented a deep dive on Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) and Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGR), covering the UK's approach to research and innovation programmes in this area. The Board welcomed the presentation and recognised the importance of these technologies for reaching Net Zero by 2050.

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None.