

 UK Atomic Energy Authority	<b>BOARD MEETING - MINUTES</b> Meeting Reference UKAEA(25)3	
<b>Date</b>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	
<b>Time</b>	0930-1615	
<b>Location</b>	UKAEA Board Room, C7, Culham Campus	
<b>Members</b>	Bernard Taylor (Chair) Ian Chapman Luc Bardin Tim Bestwick Ruth Elliot	Sue Gray Robin Grimes Richard Hookway Stephen Hillier Mary Ryan Lee McDonough (DESNZ)
<b>Attendees</b>	Eithne Birt Nina Tomlin (Sec) David Gann (UKIFS Chair) Justin Kingsford (UKAEA COO) Madhav Bakshi (DESNZ)	

## Agenda Items

### 1. Opening Remarks and Declarations led by B Taylor.

**Declarations:** None relevant to agenda.

This being her last Board meeting, the Chair expressed the Board's huge thanks for all Eithne Birt had done during her time on UKAEA Board, as Chair of PRemCo and as Interim Chair of the Board.

### 2. Minutes and Actions Review, UKAEA(25)M2 led by B Taylor:

**Minutes review:** Approved.

**Actions review:**

Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
Consider and arrange a Board discussion at higher security classification	L McDonough	March 2025	Open	Decision on format of this meeting is still pending; will be confirmed ahead of July Board meeting.
Consider how best to present to HMG the risk and mitigation strategy around UKAEA technical capability in plasma physics	I Chapman	March 2025	Closed	Being considered at this Board meeting. Action closed.

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DESNZ to provide a position on length of NED terms of office	L McDonough	March 2025	Open	This action was a recommendation of the Board Effectiveness Review. However, length of office is based on clear HMG guidance which DESNZ needs to follow when appointing NEDs onto the Board. DESNZ will stagger appointments to ensure continuity. Action to be closed.
Circulate finalised UKIFS Business Plan	N Tomlin	April 2025	Closed	Completed and action closed.
Ask for future technical updates to include details on maturity of work and impact on STEP and other programmes	N Tomlin	May 2025	Open	Completed and to be closed.
JM, LB and BT to meet to discuss commercial strategy for AIGZ	B Taylor	May 2025	Open	Strategy discussion to be set up with relevant colleagues.
Provide clarity on approvals process for Culham Campus investment partner	L McDonough	May 2025	Open	Being covered at this meeting. Action to be closed.
Seek further clarity on consultation and links across HMG Departments re AIGZ	L McDonough	May 2025	Open	Being covered at this meeting. Action to be closed.
Update governance structure and website to reflect PAC sub-committee status, also adding meeting dates to website.	N Tomlin	May 2025	Closed	Completed and closed.
Invite regulators to present to UKAEA Board on establishment of a fusion regulatory framework.	I Chapman	September 2025	Open	N Barber leading on this; regulators have suggested 2026. Earlier engagement is preferred by Board. S Hillier to reach out.
UKAEA should review approach to Harwell JV public sector participation in three years' time	E Lewis-Smith	July 2027	Open	

**3. Sub-Committee reports, led by E Birt**

**UKAEA (25)3- 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 PRemCo Summary (including TORs for approval)**

The revised Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee were **approved**, subject to a minor change in ordering of list of duties. Inclusion Council now included as under the purview of PRemCo.

**Decisions:**

Reference	Decision
UKAEA(25)3/D1	PRemCo revised Terms of Reference approved, subject to one minor change (ordering of list of duties).

**4. UKAEA Group Executive Board Report, UKIFS Executive Report & Risk Report, led by I Chapman, T Bestwick, J Kingsford, R Elliot**

**UKAEA(25)3 - UKAEA Executive Board Report**

The Board noted the updates, including on safety, CPMs, Fusion Fund, and UKAEA's research portfolio.

**UKAEA (25)3 - UKIFS CEO Report, led by P Methven (attendee)**

The Board noted UKIFS CEO's update, including on international collaboration and West Burton community engagement.

**5. Spending Review 2025, led by R Elliot**

**UKAEA(25)3 – SR25 update**

The Board discussed implications of different possible SR settlements.

**6. Pay flexibility implementation, led by J Kingsford**

**UKAEA(25)3 – Pay Flexibility implementation**

The Board were updated on the implementation plan and heard that UKAEA staff had been informed on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**7. Finance update**, led by R Elliot**UKAEA(25)3 – Year End Board Budget Report 24/25**

The Board considered how expenditure could be spread more evenly through the financial year. The UKAEA Finance Team were commended on budget being met at year end.

The Board asked for UKIFS CEO report to Board to include dashboard and basic financial information and milestones in future.

**Actions:**

Reference	Action	Actionee	Due
UKAEA(25)3/1	Provide dashboard of key facts and milestones as part of UKIFS CEO report	P Methven	July 2025

**8. AIGZ Update**, led by T Bestwick**UKAEA(25)3 – CAIGZ update**

The Board heard updates on the AI Growth Zone, including engagement with potential interested parties and next steps.

**Actions:**

Reference	Action	Actionee	Due
UKAEA(25)3/2	CAIGZ - work together with UKAEA Executives to clarify process and next steps.	L McDonough	July 2025

**9. Discussion of CEO Job Description**, led by B Taylor**UKAEA(25)3 – Confidential – Job Description for UKAEA CEO**

The Board reviewed a draft Job Description for the post of Chief Executive Officer, with recruitment due to take place in autumn 2025. It was confirmed that the Board appoints the CEO, after consultation with DESNZ Ministers.

**10. Technical Discussion: landscape of technical fusion challenges**, led by T Bestwick**UKAEA(25)3 – tech challenges cover note****UKAEA(25)3 – technical challenges**

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UKAEA Chief Scientist William Morris presented a paper on technical fusion challenges, a holistic document providing an overview to support prioritisation within the context of these challenges.

The paper would be followed by three others over the coming months, culminating in Paper 4 on actions and next steps. The papers will be for internal use and would also be used in business planning, with distilled versions potentially being used by HMG policy makers.

Papers 2 and 3 would be presented to Board in September; Paper 4 in November.

**11. Board Risk Report – strategic risks, led by R Elliot**

**UKAEA(25)3 – Board Risk Report**

The Board discussed the new Group risk register of 5 key risks. These would be mapped onto PSRE and UKIFS risks.

It was requested that the granular detail underneath these 5 key risks be brought to ARAC and then Board for review.

**Actions:**

Reference	Action	Actionee	Due
UKAEA(25)3/3	Bring granular detail of Group 5 risks to ARAC and Board	R Elliot	September 2025

**12. Annual Report, led by R Elliot**

**UKAEA(25)3 – Annual Report and Accounts DRAFT Cover Note**

**UKAEA(25)3 – Annual Report and Accounts DRAFT Part 1**

**UKAEA(25)3 – Annual Report and Accounts DRAFT Part 2**

**UKAEA(25)3 - Annual Report and Accounts DRAFT Part 3**

The Board provided feedback on the latest draft of the UKAEA Annual Report and Accounts. The paragraph on Directors' Independence was **approved**.

The version being submitted to NAO in early June would be shared with members of ARAC.

**Actions:**

Reference	Action	Actionee	Due
UKAEA(25)3/4	Share NAO draft of ARA with ARAC members.	N Tomlin	June 2025

**13. Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures - Review, led by R Elliot**

**UKAEA(25)3 – Cover Page – TCFD and GGC**

### UKAEA(25)3 – TCFD & GGC

The Board heard a presentation on TCFD and Greening Government Commitments requirements in terms of disclosure. UKAEA had previously been exempt from GGCs. 2025/26 would be a new baseline year for organisational targets; targets would need to be re-baselined as new facilities were brought online. It was confirmed that the CFO would take on the role of Senior Responsible Officer for GGC.

The Board agreed that an interim update on progress on the GGCs would be heard after six months, with a fuller update to Board on GGCs and TCFD this time next year.

#### Actions:

Reference	Action	Actionee	Due
UKAEA(25)3/5	Add GGCs and TCFD updates to Board Forward Look	N Tomlin	November 2025

#### 14. AOB, led by B Taylor

There was no other business.

#### Attendance record:

Position	Name	Present	Absent
Members	Bernard Taylor	/	
	Ian Chapman	/	
	Ruth Elliot	/	
	Tim Bestwick	/	
	Richard Hookway	/	
	Luc Bardin	/	
	Sue Gray	/	
	Stephen Hillier	/	
	Mary Ryan	/	
	Robin Grimes	/	
	Lee McDonough	/	
Attendees	Nina Tomlin	/	
	Justin Kingsford	/	
	David Gann	/	
	Madhav Bakshi	/ (remote)	
	Eithne Birt	/	

#### End of Minutes