

Net Zero Innovation Board

SUMMARY MINUTES

24 June 2025

Attendees

(Only senior civil servants named)

Board members and alternates: **Damitha Adikaari**, DESNZ Director for Science & Innovation for Climate & Energy; **Mike Biddle**, Innovate UK Programme Director for Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund; **Beverley Gower-Jones**, Clean Growth Fund Managing Partner; **Kate Hamer**, NERC (deputising for Louise Heathwaite, Executive Chair); **Gideon Henderson**, Defra Chief Scientific Adviser; **Tim Kay**, DBT (deputising for Julia Sutcliffe, Chief Scientific Adviser); **Jason Lowe**, Met Office (deputising for Stephen Belcher, Chief Scientific Adviser); **Angela McLean**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and NZIB Chair; **Paul Monks**, DESNZ Chief Scientific Adviser and NZIB Deputy Chair; **Kedar Pandya**, EPSRC Executive Director for Cross-Council Programmes; **Richard Prager**, MHCLG Chief Scientific Adviser; **Sarah Sharples**, DfT Chief Scientific Adviser; **Ian Simm**, Impax Asset Management Group Chief Executive; **Dave Smith**, DSIT National Technology Adviser; **Phil Taylor**, University of Bath Vice-Chancellor; FCDO official (deputising for Nathanael Bevan, interim Chief Scientific Adviser).

Devolved Administrations: **Richard Rodgers**, Northern Ireland Government, Head of Energy; **Ed Sherriff**, Scottish Government Deputy Director for Energy.

Others: **Neil Bush**, DESNZ Head of Clean Energy Superpower Mission Team; **Soheila Amin-Hanjani**, DESNZ Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser; **Rob Saunders**, Innovate UK Director for Net Zero Systems Integration; **Simon Whitfield**, Go-Science Deputy Director for Climate, Society and International; **Carol Jenkins**, DESNZ Deputy Director for Net Zero Innovation Policy.

Summary

Update on the government's missions

The Board received an update on the Clean Energy Superpower Mission and Economic Growth Mission, including the recently published Industrial Strategy, and discussed the critical role of net zero research and innovation in supporting these priorities.

Spending Review update

Departments updated on their research and innovation funding settlements to support the Clean Energy Superpower Mission in the next Spending Review period.

Innovation Delivery Board and Delivery Plan Progress Report

The Board heard an update on the work of its sub-group, the Innovation Delivery Board, including a review of delivery progress for the 2022-25 net zero research & innovation portfolio. The Board provided feedback on the draft progress report for the Net Zero Research & Innovation Framework Delivery Plan (2022-25) which is due to be published in Autumn 2025.

Clean Energy Superpower Mission R&D coordination and governance

The Board agreed on the need to review existing R&D governance structures to ensure they remain fit for purpose to support delivery of the Clean Energy Superpower Mission and made suggestions to improve coordination and governance.