



**Minutes of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (“NDA”)
Board meeting held on 14 November 2024 on TEAMS**

- PRESENT:**
- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Peter Hill | Chair of the Board (“Chair”) | |
| David Peattie | Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) | |
| Kate Bowyer | Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”) | |
| Janet Ashdown | Senior Non-Executive Board Member | |
| Kathryn Cearns | Non-Executive Board Member | [In part] |
| Evelyn Dickey | Non-Executive Board Member | |
| Harriet Kemp | Non-Executive Board Member | |
| Alex Reeves | Non-Executive Board Member | |
- IN ATTENDANCE:**
- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Matthew Shaw | Group General Counsel & Company Secretary |
| §40 | Deputy Company Secretary |
| | EA to CEO |
| | Group Director of Financial Planning & Analysis |
- APOLOGIES:**
- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Francis Livens | Non-Executive Board Member |
| Alan Cumming | Group Chief Assurance and Performance Officer (“CAPO”) |
| Paul Vallance | Group Chief Corporate Affairs Officer |

Agenda Item	Action Owner
1. Apologies	
1.1 The Chair reported that apologies for absence had been received from F Livens and that K Cearns would join the meeting if her previously scheduled commitment permitted. A Cumming and P Vallance had also provided their apologies as standing attendees.	
2. Conflicts of Interest	
2.1 No conflicts of interest were declared in respect of the matters to be discussed.	
3. Spending Review 2025 Phase 1	
3.1 D Peattie thanked the Board for joining a further ad hoc meeting in connection with the Spending Review 2024 and outlined the intention to provide the Board with further insight into the meeting of the Challenge Panel that had taken place on 13 November, including the Department’s view of the proceedings. D Peattie reminded the Board that the Panel had been convened to consider the §36 §36 §36 §36 The additional request was being made and would require the support of the Department into HMT.	
3.2 D Peattie provided an overview of the proceedings of the Challenge Panel and how the presentations made by himself, the Sellafield CEO and NRS CEO had been received by the Panel. The Board noted that it had been the right decision to ensure E Hutton and R Fletcher were able to attend the Panel and commended the efforts of the team in making the substantive points they had been able to. §40 §40 §40	
<i>K Cearns joined the meeting.</i>	
3.3 The Board noted the advice that had been provided by the Permanent Secretary following the Panel on how the NDA should proceed with its submission to HMT. It was noted that the team were working to reposition the submission in line with this, and the observations made by the Panel, including the creation of a cover letter.	



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3.4	It was noted that the team working on the submission had not been able to gain a sense of when the final settlement figure would be announced, which was challenging for the reasons the Board had previously discussed.	
3.5	<p>The Board thanked D Peattie and K Bowyer for the readout from the Challenge Panel and took the opportunity to seek further information including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The degree of impartiality of the Panel and its role in HMT’s final decision-making process. • Whether, following the Panel, updates were planned to the letters from the OpCo CEOs that were to accompany the letter that to be sent by the NDA Chair to the Permanent Secretaries following the NDA’s final submission to HMT. • The process including timings of the final submission into HMT. It was noted that the submission would go into the Minister who would make the final submission into HMT. A Reeves confirmed that it was unlikely the NDA would receive sight of the final ministerial submission to HMT. 	
3.6	The Board reiterated its support for the s36 being sought as part of the NDA’s 2025/26 funding settlement noting that there would be a further opportunity to outline to the Department its broader concerns for this level of funding for the group, including the impact beyond 2025/26. This would be communicated in the letter referenced earlier in the meeting to be sent by P Hill to the Permanent Secretaries once the submission for the additional s36	
3.7	The Board discussed the impact the 2025/26 settlement could have on the delivery of the Mission beyond the next financial year and emphasised the need for the group to deliver the necessary efficiencies to deliver the Mission. D Peattie noted that the 2024 All-Boards was event coming up soon and assured the Board that there would be time to have these important discussions.	
3.8	The Board enquired whether the 2025/26 settlement could impact the timing of the Business Plan noting that ordinarily this would shortly be due for publication for consultation and there may be sensitivities HMG could be concerned about. K Bowyer confirmed that HMG were considering the most appropriate approach, and that a revised business planning timetable was anticipated.	
4.	Any Other Business	
4.1	There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.	