



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

Announcement of OPRED Interim Director, Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

Paul van Heyningen is appointed as the OPRED Interim Director to cover a period of parental leave for Tom Child, with effect from 7 April 2026.

Paul will continue to be supported by Teresa Munro in her role as Deputy Director, Chief Operations Officer.

This News and Communications announcement carries Paul's biography below this notice.

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning (OPRED)



Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

Paul van Heyningen: Interim Director, Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

Biography

Paul van Heyningen became Interim Director of the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning in April 2026 to cover parental leave for Tom Child.

Paul is an experienced civil servant, having worked in a wide range of UK government posts since 2001, with a focus on energy, climate change and environmental policy. His recent Senior Civil Service roles in DESNZ and its predecessors have covered electricity networks, impacts of EU Exit on energy policy and emissions trading and industrial energy. He has a scientific background, with a PhD in molecular neurobiology.

Director, Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning

The Director is responsible for:

- Providing organisational strategic leadership
- The functioning of the OPRED Executive Board
- Representation of OPRED with key stakeholders
- Delivering continuous improvement and reform
- OPRED's people, policies, and finances

