



Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

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

Biography

Paul van Heyningen became Director of the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning in July 2026 following a spell as interim Director from April 2026.

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

