North Sea Transition Authority

Wellhead severance charter:

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

AUGUST **2026**

Charter purpose

The NSTA is committed to working closely with industry to ensure inactive wells with no prospect of resuming production are decommissioned in a cost-effective and timely manner. At present, market conditions are challenging. A shortage of semi-submersible rigs is pushing up costs, which will be borne by current and future operators and taxpayers, and contributing to the build-up of a backlog of suspended wells awaiting decommissioning.

The NSTA has always listened to operators who are determined to fulfil their well decommissioning obligations and considers that they would benefit from our support, including our ability to share certain high-quality data and bring industry stakeholders together. Through our ongoing engagements with industry, in particular, we have been made aware of an opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders to streamline the delivery of AB3 wellhead severance (WHS) work, which we believe would be to the mutual benefit of operators, the supply chain, taxpayers and regulators.

To that end, the NSTA, in collaboration with operators, has drawn up this charter with the aim of achieving the following objectives:

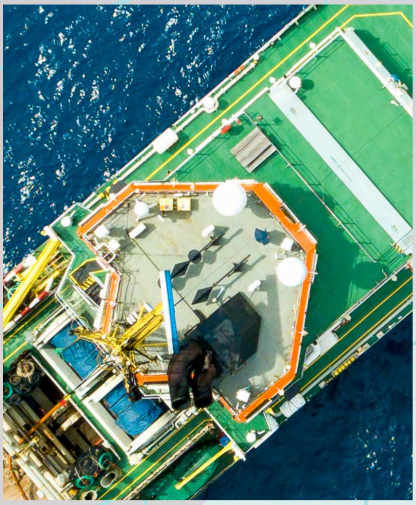
- Reducing the cost of, and amount of time spent on, well decommissioning work
- Define a pragmatic framework for the delivery of AB3 wellhead severance activities in a cost-effective manner that satisfies regulatory obligations
- Stimulating supply chain activity and ensuring best use is made of the well plugging and abandonment supply chain, including both vessels and rigs
- Tackling the well plugging and abandonment backlog
- Identifying and adopting new commercial and contractual delivery models

Commitment to principles

This charter asks signatories to embrace the following principles to support the delivery of the specific objectives of this initiative only. Importantly, it must be made clear that this charter is not intended to have binding legal effect or be a substitute for any statute, regulation, guidance, law or legal advice. It is designed to provide visible commitment to adhere to standards, mechanisms, and best practice.

By signing, we [signing industry partners] agree to participate in this initiative and to the following principles:

- ➔ Work together with the NSTA and industry partners in a true spirit of collaboration
- ➔ Support the resourcing of the initiative, including by making colleagues available to participate in the workgroup and workshops
- ➔ Share data relating to inactive wells, and be forthcoming with relevant insights, with the workgroup, but this does not permit or require any conduct which would otherwise be prohibited by or under any legislation, including in relation to competition law
- ➔ Embrace opportunities to engage the supply chain early, share data and scheduling information with them.



Charter signatories

Greg McDaniel, Senior VP, Iternational Assets, Apache

Doris Reiter, Senior VP, Europe & Atlantic Africa, bp

Pan Yiyong, Managing director, North Sea, CNOOC International

Brian Rodger, Chief Operating Officer, Dana Petroleum

Scott Barr, UK Managing Director, Harbour Energy

Ferdinando Rigardo, CEO, NEO NEXT+

Pauline Innes, Supply Chain and Decommissioning Director, NSTA

Jonathan White, General Manager, Perenco UK

Chris Cox, CEO, Serica Energy

Morten Kelstrup, CEO, Spirit Energy

Sandy Hutchison, Managing Director, TAQA UK

Nermine Kamel, VP, UK Upstream, Shell

Mads Gade, CEO, INEOS Energy Europe

Claudia Porretta Serapiglia, Managing Director, Eni UK

Neil McCulloch, CEO, Adura

Barry Duncan, MD and VP, Finance, CNR International

Ian McKimmie, General Manager, North Sea, EnQuest

Luciano Vasques, CEO, Ithaca Energy