



Minutes of OGA Board meeting on 20 June 2019  
48 Huntly Street, Aberdeen

Directors	In attendance
Tim Eggar Chairman	Tom Wheeler (item 9) Director of Regulation
Frances Morris-Jones Non-executive Director	Simon James (item 10) Chief Information Officer
Mary Hardy Non-executive Director	Russell Richardson Com an Secreta
Robert Armour Non-executive Director	Fiona Gruber Head of Governance and Board Secretary
Emily Bourne Shareholder Re resentative Director	
Andy Samuel Chief Executive	
Nic Granger Chief Financial Officer	

**1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chairman welcomed directors to the meeting.

**2. Minutes and matters arising**

The board approved the minutes of the April meeting, subject to one minor amendment, and agreed that future board papers need not be over polished.

**3. Conflicts of interest**

No conflict of interest with any agenda item, nor as a result of new appointments, was declared by any director.

**4. Safety report**

The Chief Executive updated the board on safety performance - both internal and, from the HSE, across the industry. The board welcomed the report and agreed that a regular update on environmental performance from OPRED would also be useful. The Shareholder Director agreed to convene a joint session between the OGA, the HSE and OPRED later in the year.

**5. Shareholder report**

The Shareholder Director updated the board on Rhum and thanked the OGA for its continued support.



She reported that interviews and written submissions for the review of the OGA were nearly complete and that the report would be drafted in August. The board agreed that it would be helpful to see the draft report and recommendations in advance of its strategy day in September.

Work continues on the energy white paper and the Shareholder Director will share an outline of it with the board next month.

## 6. Chief Executive report

The recent OGA sponsored exports conference was a success, with the OGA also convening a session with the Minister on export finance. The OGA continues to focus on supply chain export opportunities in priority countries.

There is very good progress to report on decommissioning costs, with a projected 17% reduction overall since the 2017 estimate. The cost reduction will be previewed at the OGUK breakfast briefing on decommissioning in early July and the full report will be published later in July.

On the day of his funeral, the board recognised the sad loss of a long-serving member of the team, Ricki Kiff, who passed away at the end of May and whose loss had a big impact on the OGA team.

## 7. CFO report

The CFO reported that interest was now being charged on late levy payments, and that some payments remain outstanding.

The OGA is reviewing the balance between fee and levy income and the CFO will present her recommendations in the budget strategy in September. In view of the upcoming biennial review of fees, postponed from 2018 due to the busy Parliamentary agenda, the board asked that the review examine the feasibility of taking a more fee-based funding approach.

## 8. 2018-19 Annual report and Accounts

The CFO and Head of Governance presented the annual report and accounts, as recommended for board approval by the audit and risk committee. The board noted the changes made following the audit, before approving the report and accounts. The report and accounts will be laid in Parliament on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## 9. Marathon change of control

The Director of Regulation set out the risk assessment his team had undertaken on the change of control from Marathon to Rock Rose.

## 10. Digital strategy

The Chief Information Officer presented an update of his digital strategy, including plans to further build digital skills and agile working practices in the OGA's data team and beyond. A



network of digital champions is helping to drive culture change, including by adopting agile working. Recent staff OGA workshops on digital skills have been oversubscribed.

The OGA is interacting frequently and openly with industry and government to promote the benefits of ramping up digital skills.

The board commended him and his team for the great progress so far and welcomed the huge potential for digital to realise value from data.


#### 11. Board agenda planning

The Board agreed some timing changes to the forthcoming meetings programme.

#### 12. AOB

The board discussed the recent changes to the tax treatment of travel and subsistence expenses incurred by non-executive directors and agreed that those affected would write to the OGA's Director of HR to confirm their tax position.

There was no other business.



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Chairman

18<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
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Date

