



**Minutes of OGA Board meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**09:00-14:00**  
**Hartsfield Manor, Betchworth, Surrey**

<b>Directors</b>	<b>In attendance</b>
Tim Eggar Chairman	Sarah Deasley Observer and incoming Non-executive Director
Frances Morris-Jones Non-executive Director	Hedvig Ljungerud (items 4 and 5) Director of Strategy
Robert Armour Non-executive Director	Scott Robertson (items 5 and 6) Director of Operations
Mary Hardy Non-executive Director	Russell Richardson Company Secretary
Emily Bourne Shareholder Representative Director	Fiona Gruber Board Secretary
Andy Samuel Chief Executive	
Nic Granger Chief Financial Officer	
Iain Lanaghan Non-executive Director	

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chairman welcomed Directors to the first meeting in person since January and Sarah Deasley to her first Board meeting.

### **2. Minutes and matters arising**

Directors approved the minutes of the July meeting, subject to one minor amendment. There were no outstanding actions.

### **3. Conflicts of interest**

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

Sarah Deasley declared that she would raise with the Company Secretary in advance any areas of potential conflict with her Frontier Economics role.

Tim Eggar declared that he was soon to be appointed Chairman of Gipsy Hill Brew company.

Mary Hardy declared that she had been appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee of World Athletics.

### **4. OGA Strategy review**

The Director of Strategy presented the draft OGA Strategy, as revised following the consultation, and the draft consultation response. The Board discussed both documents in detail and considered all the recommended changes by theme. A final draft of the Strategy, incorporating the agreed amendments, will be circulated to the Board in correspondence for final comment in late October, prior to its submission to the Secretary of State.



The Board further agreed that any further engagement with industry on the Strategy prior to its publication should be undertaken as one group of industry leaders or with OGUK.

### **5. CCS update**

The Director of Strategy presented a comprehensive overview of the OGA's cross-cutting, integrated CCS workstreams and the Director of Operations updated Directors on the progress of current projects.

The Board gave its full support to the work programme and agreed the importance of establishing appropriate financial security structures, business models and re-use policies.

The Board supported any necessary action to enforce licence commitments to maintain the pace of current activity.

### **6. MER UK update**

The Director of Operations updated the Board on exploration and development activity over the past year and integration of the OGA's net zero delivery vision - with the team's focus now firmly back on stewardship activity, including the new flaring and venting stewardship expectation. Whilst the exploration KPI is close to being met and flaring emissions have been reduced, the development KPI is proving more challenging. Prioritisation continues to be very important for the Directorate but staff are thriving on the range of data and net zero challenges they face.

The Board was very pleased to note the significant achievements continuing to be made in the OGA's core business and encouraged the team to share more widely the positive impact of measured escalation in bringing projects more quickly to maturity.

### **7. Strategy day reflections**

The Board discussed a distillation of the outcomes of the previous day's Strategy meeting with the Leadership Team, categorised as either OGA core business, issues which need greater impetus, and areas where the OGA can support policy development.

The Director of Strategy and the Director of Regulation will report back to the Board in November on all agreed actions.

### **8. Safety and environment report**

The Board discussed the Chief Executive's update on safety and environment performance.

### **9. Chief Executive report**

The Chief Executive noted that, on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the OGA was able to offer awards in the



32nd Offshore Licensing Round, including 16 'straight to second term' licences. This has been another huge project for the teams involved, completed to a very high standard under difficult circumstances.

With the easing of Covid restrictions, the Corporate team has prepared both offices for a safe return, at reduced capacity, for staff wish to return - and subject to changes in government regulations. The Chief Executive expects there to be far more flexible working in future but very much wants to strike a balance so as to maintain cultural cohesion in the organisation.

#### **10. Shareholder update**

The Shareholder Director updated the Board on departmental business, the parameters of the licensing review, the expected timetable for the energy white paper, and the North Sea Transition Deal.

#### **11. CFO report**

The CFO confirmed that, due to very little staff travel and reduced recruitment, there continued to be an underspend, which she hoped to be able to return to levy payers. Some programme spend has been approved from the centralised programme budget and recruitment has now resumed. Her team is maintaining a strong focus on budgets.

The NDR 2.0 procurement is looking very promising and is expected to be finalised in October.

#### **12. Board planning**

The November Board meeting is scheduled to go ahead in person in London subject to government guidelines, along with the corporate governance refresher session the following day.

#### **13. Other business.**

The Chairman led the Board in thanking Robert Armour, on his retirement from the Board, for his service over the past five years.

There was no other business.

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Chairman

18<sup>th</sup> November 2020