



**Minutes of OGA Board meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021  
09:30-16:00  
Raemoir House, Aberdeenshire**

| <b>Directors</b>                                       | <b>In attendance</b>                                     |
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| Tim Eggar<br>Chairman                                  | Sara Vaughan<br>Incoming Non-executive Director          |
| Frances Morris-Jones<br>Non-executive Director         | Tom Wheeler (item 4)<br>Director of Regulation           |
| Sarah Deasley<br>Non-executive Director                | Jane de Lozey (item 4)<br>Head of Disputes and Sanctions |
| Mary Hardy<br>Non-executive Director                   | Ian Knott (item 4)<br>Head of Licensee Finance           |
| Helena Charlton<br>Shareholder Representative Director | Russell Richardson<br>Company Secretary                  |
| Iain Lanaghan<br>Non-executive Director                | Fiona Gruber<br>Head of Governance and Board Secretary   |
| Andy Samuel<br>Chief Executive                         |  |
| Nic Granger<br>Chief Financial Officer                 |  |

**1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chairman welcomed Directors, including Helena Charlton, appointed on 11<sup>th</sup> August, and incoming Director Sara Vaughan, to the meeting.

**2. Minutes and matters arising**

Directors approved the minutes of the July meeting. The Board agreed that the recent increase in the length and quantity of Board papers was unsustainable and asked the executive to keep submissions to a maximum of ten pages.

**3. Conflicts of interest**

Helena Charlton recused herself from any decision on licensing matters in light of her role as advisor to the Secretary of State on the matter.

**4. licensing matters**

## **5. Strategy day reflections**

Non-executive Directors thanked the executive for a thought provoking strategy day and an excellent presentation. They agreed that the OGA should continue to clearly delineate its role when working with other North Sea regulators.

## **6. Safety and environment report**

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

## **7. Chief Executive report**

The Chief Executive paid tribute to Eric Marston and Bill Dunnett, whose recent deaths had saddened the many OGA staff who worked with them.

The OGA's Aberdeen and London offices have fully re-opened and are compliant with remaining Covid guidance. The new hybrid working model will ultimately require staff to work in the office for at least two days a week on average, with working patterns agreed among teams.

The results of the third staff engagement survey were higher in all seven categories of questions than in 2019 and 2017. Improvement was seen in all the areas targeted by the leadership team, particularly leadership and learning and development. The Board commended the senior team for a remarkable performance and agreed that the OGA should share its good practice in achieving these results with other BEIS partner organisations.

### 8. Shareholder update

The Shareholder Director confirmed the details of new BEIS ministers, following the recent reshuffle, and the new Chief Executive of OPRED. She updated the Board on departmental business.

Fiona Mettam and Vicky Dawe have been appointed as Director, Energy Development and Resilience and will be in post on 1<sup>st</sup> November. The Board agreed that they should be invited to join the induction programme as further meetings are scheduled.

BEIS is working with the OGA on a draft, revised Framework Document, which is expected to be discussed by the Board when it meets in November.

### 9. CFO report

The CFO reported the latest financial performance.

She updated the Board on recent developments in securing replacement office accommodation in Aberdeen and London and the National Property Agency's interventions.

The Board agreed that the process had been exceptionally convoluted and regretted the resulting financial cost to the OGA.

### 10. Agenda planning

The Board agreed that all scheduled Board meetings would continue be in person. Some short, issue-specific meetings would be added to the Board schedule as needed.

### 11. AOB

The Board thanked Mary Hardy and Frances Morris-Jones for their service over the past six years and wished them well in their future endeavours.

The Board resolved to renew its Power of Attorney to the Company Secretary for a further year.



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Chairman

18<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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Date