North Sea Transition Authority

Minutes of NSTA Board meeting on 24th September 2026
08.30-14.00
Raemoir House, Banchory, Aberdeenshire

Directors	**In attendance**
Liz Ditchburn Chair	Andy Brooks, Director of Storage and Technical Services (interim Director for Corporate)
Stuart Payne Chief Executive	Rebecca Hewstone Director, DESNZ, Energy Development
Ian Chisholm Non-executive Director	Jane de Lozey (items 5 and 7) Director of Regulation
Sara Vaughan Non-executive Director	Laura Bardsley (items 4 and 9) Senior Business Advisor
Sarah Deasley Non-executive Director	Pauline Innes (item 6) Director of Supply Chain and Decommissioning
Rebecca Wiles Non-executive Director	Russell Richardson Company Secretary
Malcolm Brown Non-executive Director	Fiona Gruber Head of Governance and Board Secretary
Mitch Flegg Non-executive Director	
Apologies Vicky Dawe, Shareholder Director	

1. Welcome and introductions
The Chair welcomed directors to the meeting.

2. Conflicts of interest
Mitch Flegg declared that he would recuse himself from agenda item five due to his historic association with Serica, notwithstanding the fact that he has no residual link to the company.

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

3. Minutes and matters arising
The board discussed and approved the minutes of the 23rd July meeting, subject to agreed amendments, and reviewed the action log.

4. Board composition and executive representation
Having previously sought the views of all non-executive directors and the Shareholder Director as to whether - following the departure of the CIFO - a second executive director should be appointed to the board, the Senior Business Advisor made a recommendation based on those discussions. The majority view being that the board should continue as currently constituted, with directors agreeing that the board already benefits from strong executive input, including the attendance and support of the Company Secretary.

The board discussed the recommendation and agreed that it reflected their stance that the Chief Executive should be the sole representative of the executive on the board.

Mitch Flegg left the meeting

North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) is the business name of the Oil and Gas Authority, a limited company registered in England and Wales with registered number 09666504. The OGA remains the legal name of the company. References to the NSTA should be interpreted as the OGA.

5. Rhum Third Party Access case
The NSTA has received an application with respect to a dispute concerning the terms of access to the Frigg UK Offshore Pipeline and St Fergus Gas Terminal infrastructure. The Director of Regulation set out her assessment of the novel and contentious nature of the dispute, together with its significance and potential to set a precedent for future disputes. She recommended that the board reserve to itself the decision on whether to issue a minded-to decision setting out the terms of the requested access that should apply in this case.

The board discussed the context and the potential economic complexity of the case and agreed that it was novel and contentious and that the minded-to decision should therefore be taken by the board. The board asked the Director of Regulation to provide additional background on the law and process underpinning third-party access disputes and the timelines involved. Directors agreed that they would be open to attending an additional board meeting to discuss such matters.

Mitch Flegg rejoined the meeting.

6. Decommissioning derogation update
The Director of Supply Chain and Decommissioning updated the board on the impact of changes to the international decommissioning framework and highlighted delays in the UK derogation consultation process which are creating uncertainty for operators. She outlined the potential implications for UKCS decommissioning costs, fiscal exposure and the impact on the NSTA's cost minimisation objectives.

The board thanked her for the update and noted that the NSTA would continue to engage with OPRED, DESNZ and industry to assess the impact of evolving derogation requirements on UKCS decommissioning forecasts, highlight the cost escalation risks, and consider the potential implications for stewardship activity and investor confidence.

7. Quarterly investigations and enforcement performance report
The Director of Regulation presented the enforcement report covering the first half of 2026, updating the board on current and legacy cases. She detailed the progress made in refining and streamlining the case management process and confirmed that the new Head of Investigations and Enforcement, with Legal support, will be looking to introduce a new case management system, and more automation.

The board welcomed the team's enhanced focus on process improvement and automation and looked forward to seeing further progress in the forthcoming annual performance report.

8. Shareholder report
The Shareholder Director's representative updated the board on departmental business and the ongoing internal reorganisation. She discussed the ways that the department uses NSTA data to inform government duties, to support policy development for the basin and to monitor progress. She once again underlined the huge value to the department of the NSTA's role as a consultee on impact assessments, including for the forthcoming Bill.

9. Chair's report

The Chair reported that the non-executive directors appointed earlier this year had found their induction to the NSTA to be very positive and greatly appreciated the time and energy that staff had dedicated to the discussions.

North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) is the business name of the Oil and Gas Authority, a limited company registered in England and Wales with registered number 09666504. The OGA remains the legal name of the company. References to the NSTA should be interpreted as the OGA.

The Chair briefed the board on her recent meeting with the Scottish government on relevant common issues.

The Chair is working with directors to formulate a proposal on the composition of board committees and hopes to bring a proposal to the board in November.

The board discussed some early ideas on strategic agenda planning and framing the board agenda more explicitly around the Chief Executive's objectives and the five pillars of the Corporate Plan. A proposal will be developed for discussion in November. The board also agreed it would be beneficial to more clearly articulate the purpose of stakeholder visits well in advance.

10. Safety and environment report
The Chief Executive presented the safety and environment report, including an update from OPRED.

11. Chief Executive report
The Chief Executive reported on the International Upstream Forum conference, hosted by the NSTA in Aberdeen on 15-17 September. Upstream regulators shared cross-jurisdictional challenges and opportunities and presented the outputs of four themed workgroups, sharing knowledge and learnings.

Following the board's approval of the new organisation design at the July meeting, the staff mapping and consultation process has commenced and the new structure is due to go live from 1 October 2026. Interest in the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Digital and Data roles is strong, and interviews are scheduled for October and November.

12. New Power of Attorney
The Company Secretary presented for approval a new Power of Attorney, for the recently appointed Head of Licensing and Consents. The board approved the Power of Attorney.

There was no other business.



Liz Ditchburn, Chair
5th November 2026

North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) is the business name of the Oil and Gas Authority, a limited company registered in England and Wales with registered number 09666504. The OGA remains the legal name of the company. References to the NSTA should be interpreted as the OGA.