



**Minutes of NSTA Board meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
**09.30-14.00**  
**Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London**

<b>Directors</b>	<b>In attendance</b>
Tim Eggar Chairman	Hedvig Ljungerud (item 9) Director of Strategy
Iain Lanaghan Non-executive Director	Kristina Dahlstrom (item 9) Head of Policy and Strategy
Stuart Payne Chief Executive	Suzanne Lilley (item 10) Head of HR
Nic Granger CFO and Director of Corporate	Caroline Graham Legal Manager
Sara Vaughan Non-executive Director	Fiona Gruber Board Secretary
Sarah Deasley Non-executive Director	
Fiona Mettam Shareholder Director	
Malcolm Brown Non-executive Director	<b>Apologies:</b> Russell Richardson, Company Secretary

## **1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chairman welcomed directors to the meeting.

## **2. Conflicts of interest**

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

## **3. Minutes and matters arising**

Directors discussed and approved, subject to agreed amendments, the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> November meeting.

The Director of Corporate reported that the NSTA's business case to remain in central London was still being considered and that the London office space previously identified was no longer available.

## **4. Committee reports**

The Nomination Committee met prior to the Board meeting and agreed a way forward for re-appointing Iain, Sara and Malcolm. The Board supported the recommendation. The Board's decision will be affirmed after the Secretary of State has signalled her endorsement of it.

The Remuneration Committee met prior to the Board meeting and discussed and agreed the proposals.

## **5. Safety and environment report**

The Board discussed progress made in 2023 on safety and environment collaboration and looked forward in 2024 to receiving regular updates from the HSE and OPRED on the key issues.

## **6. Chief Executive report**

Feedback at a meeting of the Chief Executives of the NSTA and OPRED, operator managing directors and OEUK was positive, with the industry recognising improvements in regulatory efficiency since the first such meeting in June 2023. The discussion also covered the NSTA's expectations on emissions reduction, pace and commitment.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the NSTA had formally extended its lease for Sanctuary Buildings until September 2024. The Board agreed that the continued uncertainty over a longer-term solution was unsettling for London staff and urged the NSTA and DESNZ estates teams to seek an early resolution of the business case approval process.

## **7. CFO report**

The CFO updated directors on the latest financial position and is currently forecasting an underspend of up to £2m.

The position on funding for the NSTA's hydrogen work has yet to be confirmed by DESNZ.

## **8. Shareholder report**

The Shareholder Director updated the Board on departmental business and progress with the Licensing Bill.

The Secretary of State decided not to make an appointment following the Chair recruitment campaign and has asked Tim to remain in post until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. A new campaign is to be launched shortly with the intention to identify a suitable candidate before the summer recess.

## **9. ELT spotlight: Hydrogen**

Following the designation, in September 2023, of the NSTA as the licensing and consenting authority for offshore hydrogen pipelines and offshore hydrogen storage, the Director of Strategy and the Head of Policy and Strategy updated Directors on their team's work to ensure the NSTA's readiness to steward offshore hydrogen storage licences and its ongoing collaboration with key external bodies, including on decommissioning plans and spatial coordination.

The Board thanked the team for taking a strong lead on the key issues and fully supported plans for further work on stewardship preparations.

## **10. Employee engagement survey**

In response to the feedback from the 2023 employee engagement survey and subsequent discussions within directorates, the leadership team has committed to further improve leadership capability and to enhance career development and learning opportunities. In tandem with ongoing work on values and behaviours, the Head of HR will review the performance management process to identify areas where the process might be enhanced.

The Board thanked the Head of HR for a comprehensive update.

**11. Agenda planning**

Directors discussed forthcoming topics and agreed the priority topics for the March Board meeting.

**12. AOB**

The Board discussed the annual Board performance review and agreed, given the delay in appointing a new Chairman, to postpone an external evaluation for up to a year and to conduct an internal review in the spring.

There was no other business.



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Chairman  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2024