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SSEP Expert Advisory Group

Additional Working Group Member Role Specification

Background

The first of its kind in GB, the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) is a critical step in supporting the ambitious changes required for GB to achieve net zero by 2050 and support a secure, affordably energy system. Given the SSEP’s scale and potential impact, a robust governance structure has been created to support its development through engagement, environmental assessment and assurance. This governance structure will provide advice and guidance to NESO and ensure oversight and accountability, through facilitating key stakeholder feedback.

Expert Advisory Group (EAG)

An Expert Advisory Group has been established, which focuses on our external stakeholder partners to provide strategic direction and advice on wider sectoral demands on land and sea. The insights drawn from this group will be used to inform the SSEP methodology and the pathway options that will be presented to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

This group’s role is advisory and should provide technical insight, advice, challenge and review to the NESO on the development of the SSEP. Primary representation is from environmental, land, marine, energy industry and societal groups across all geographical GB areas, with supporting representation from DESNZ, Ofgem, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.

EAG Non-Working Group Member Role Requirements

We see considerable value in adding to the EAG membership from cross-cutting industry professionals with wider perspectives, who will play a crucial role and bring valuable insights. They will provide technical insight, advice, challenge and review on the development of the SSEP. The expertise that we would particularly welcome is from the following sectors:

- Investors
- Academia, including social scientists
- National Planning
- Climate Change
- Innovation
- ThinkTank
- Other sectors that carry out strategic spatial planning

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The benefit we see these two additional members with cross sector experience is to introduce an independent and varied perspective beyond existing working group members, government and the energy regulator. We have outlined more detailed knowledge and skill requirements in Appendix A, but highlight the essential experience we are looking for as:

- **Relevant Expertise** and specialised knowledge within the energy industry or strategic planning in another sector to participate in and enrich group discussions, and provide wider expertise, insights and challenge.
- **Strong Network** with relevant connections that can benefit the aims of the group and provide opportunities for more diverse perspectives.
- **Time Commitment** and willingness to be available for meetings and actively participate in discussions, offering diverse perspectives that enrich the debate.
- **Diversity of industry knowledge** within this group will bring broader perspectives that foster varied viewpoints, enriching discussions and outcomes.

If you wish to register your interest in this role, please send an email with your biography to box.ssep@nationalenergyso.com by 29th April 2025.

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APPENDIX A – SSEP EAG Non-Working Group Member: Knowledge and skill requirements

<p>Knowledge & Experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong communication skills to put forward ideas which bring effective discussion and the ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders to foster a cooperative environment within the governance group • A broad awareness of the NESO’s enhanced independent and impartial role in whole system energy system planning and operations, and the regulatory environment. • An existing or previous role where you have gained a wide understanding of the energy sector; structure, regulatory environment and the short and long-term issues affecting the whole energy industry • Previous experience of stakeholder groups / panels in regulated industries is desirable. • An ability to provide coherent messages from a variety of perspectives.
<p>Accountabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical insight, advice, challenge and review to the NESO on the development of the SSEP • Actively share your relevant knowledge and experience and consider the different perspectives of other group members • Foster constructive interactions and feedback with the intention of enhancing the SSEP, and doing this within the tight timescales required for its delivery • Appropriately prepare and attend meetings and actively participate in the group, and adhere to the Terms of Reference
<p>Main Interfaces</p>	<p>NESO: NESO senior leaders, NESO subject matter experts, Technical Secretary, other SSEP External Governance members</p> <p>External: Stakeholder Working Group representatives, DESNZ, Scottish Government, Welsh Government, Ofgem</p>
<p>Practicalities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any information shared in the EAG is confidential, not in the public domain and subject to change. EAG members must commit to maintain confidentiality and enter into an NDA/confidentiality agreement. • Views of this advisory group will be taken into consideration; decision making will be retained by NESO and is subject to Government approval. • Meeting frequency is every 2 months for 1.5hrs