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SSEP Expert Advisory Group

Independent Chair 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.

Independent Chair Role Requirements

NESO is looking for an Independent Chair to lead the group as we develop and deliver the first SSEP to drive the transformation of the energy landscape. The insight and support of our stakeholders will be crucial to achieving this goal. Outlined in Appendix A are the detailed knowledge and skill requirements, and below are the essential experience and skills required for this role:

- **Strong Leadership Skills:** Guide and inspire a collaborative forum to share and consider perspectives of external stakeholders with wide-ranging expertise and experience, towards the group’s common purpose and deliverables.
- **Excellent Communication Abilities:** Effectively convey the aims of the group and facilitate discussions across a diverse membership.
- **Understanding of Governance:** Ensure the group meets its governance obligations, which is critical for effective oversight and transparency.
- **Demonstrated Integrity and Commitment:** Build trust and foster a positive and inclusive group culture.

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

APPENDIX A – SSEP EAG Independent Chair: Knowledge and skill requirements

Knowledge & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong chairing skills, with an ability to take coherent messages from a variety of perspectives. • Ability to influence senior leaders and stakeholders, gain credibility quickly, and inspire trust and confidence. • Create a collaborative approach across diverse perspectives and quickly build an open environment for varied stakeholders by listening to input from members, encouraging others, and putting forward ideas that bring effective discussion • A broad awareness of NESO’s enhanced independent and impartial role in whole system energy system planning and operations, and the regulatory environment. • An existing or previous senior leadership role to have gained a wide understanding of the energy sector, including its structure, regulatory environment and the short and long-term issues affecting the whole enegy industry • Previous experience of stakeholder groups / panels in regulated industries is desirable.
Accountabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for and chair efficient and dynamic meetings in line with the Terms of Reference, supported by a Technical Secretary. • Work with the Technical Secretary to ensure there are accurate and up-to-date meeting minutes and action logs. • Ensure group discussion provides challenge to NESO, and meaningful actions are identified and delivered in a timely manner. • Manage any real or perceived conflicts of interest within the group so meetings are efficiently run ensuring all members can fully participate in the group, adhering to the Terms of Reference • Test NESO’s approach to stakeholder engagement and provide formal assurance to senior External Governance boards that this has been robust, inclusive and effective • Act as a link between the group members, NESO and Government representatives, providing insight both ways and managing information sharing across other groups within the governance structure • Develop and draft stakeholder group reports (where required) with the Technical Secretary and group membership as appropriate.
Main Interfaces	<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>
Practicalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any information shared in the EAG is confidential, not in the public domain and subject to change. The independent chair 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.