



Minutes of OGA Board meeting on 20 February 2019
21 Bloomsbury Street, London

Directors	In attendance
Frances Morris-Jones Chair	Hedvig Ljungerud (items 8 and 9) Director of Strategy
Mary Hardy Non-executive Director	Tom Wheeler (items 8 and 9) Director of Regulation
Robert Armour Non-executive Director	Helena Charlton (guest) Deputy Director, Oil and Gas Exploration and Production, BEIS
Emily Bourne Shareholder Representative Director	Kalpesh Brahmhatt Head of Disputes and Sanctions
Andy Samuel Chief Executive	Russell Richardson Company Secretary
Nic Granger Chief Financial Officer	Fiona Gruber Board Secretary

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed Directors and guests to the meeting.

2. Minutes and matters arising

The Board approved the minutes of the December meeting. Actions had either been completed or were on track to be so. Directors noted that the Head of Governance had recently qualified as a Data Protection Practitioner.

3. Conflicts of interest

No conflict of interest with any agenda item, nor as a result of new appointments, was declared by any Director, however the Shareholder Director reported that the Board of the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED) had agreed a protocol for managing potential conflicts between her respective roles on the OGA and OPRED Boards. A paper setting out the approach has been placed in the reading room.

4. Board performance evaluation conclusions

In January, all Directors completed the annual board evaluation questionnaire. The responses indicated that Directors are content with the current cycle of eight board meetings a year, but may reconsider the need to reserve specific dates for stakeholder meetings; such meetings often being opportunistic rather than long-planned. Directors are content with the evolution of the agenda to focus increasingly on testing strategy, supporting the executive with prioritisation when needed, and making time for informal lunches with staff. For those Directors who do not attend Audit and Risk Committee meetings, there was an appetite placing the strategic risk register periodically in the reading room.



5. Shareholder report

The Shareholder Director confirmed that a permanent OGA Chairman had been appointed. The appointment would be announced in early March and the Chairman was expected to be in post by 11th March.

She commended the OGA for its comprehensive preparation for the Public Accounts Committee enquiry into offshore decommissioning costs.

The Terms of Reference for the three-year Review of the OGA are being reviewed, including incorporating comments from the OGA. Interviews are expected to take place in early summer.

6. Chief Executive report

The Chief Executive reported a good and busy start to the year, including an encouraging Board visit to the Forties Pipeline System.

In welcoming the very significant Glengorm discovery, he underlined the importance of voicing a consistent and clear narrative on the importance of gas for the energy transition.

He confirmed that the National Data Repository (NDR) was now live and would be formally launched in late March. The OGA will be consulting on draft guidance on new disclosure principles for seismic data.

Four OGA podcasts with future industry leaders went live in February and have been well received.

7. CFO report

The CFO reported that budget holders continue to work well with finance colleagues. Variances on project spend for Operations are primarily due to the phasing of NDR spend, including the purchase of data packages.

She further reported that the OGA records management policy had been published and would be made available to Directors in the reading room.

8. Onshore remit and 'grey' areas

The Director of Strategy set out the OGA's existing onshore remit, whereby it regulates the licensing of exploration and development activities for England's onshore oil and gas resources. As MER UK does not apply onshore, the OGA's onshore regulatory processes are informed by the OGA's onshore strategy and onshore decision-making framework.

Directors discussed a number of questions and agreed that the OGA's approach to considering licence extensions should continue to be based on the same principles. The OGA has reviewed its process for reviewing the financial resilience of operators and has concluded that no material change is needed. There is no basis for the OGA to undertake additional activities within the existing regulatory framework.



9. Regulatory plan

The Head of Disputes and Sanctions presented his plan on the OGA's regulatory approach, consistent with the MER UK Strategy and 'use it or lose it' principles. He will increase his team's focus on communicating the OGA's regulatory priorities and underlining the importance of meeting minimum stewardship expectations. He will ensure that the OGA's ongoing use of its regulatory powers will more visibly set precedents and demonstrate the OGA's drive to increase the pace of delivering MER UK.


The Board supported a shift in emphasis to greater transparency and, where required, more robust, but still proportionate, action.

10. Agenda planning

Directors deferred further discussion of the Board agenda plan until the arrival of the Chairman in March.

11. AOB

Mary and Robert recently attended a meeting of the BEIS Audit and Risk Committee Chairs. The Board Secretary will place the meeting notes in the reading room when available.


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Chair

26/3/19
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Date