



Minutes of NSTA Board meeting on 19 October 2023
10.00-11.00
Videoconference

Directors	In attendance
Tim Eggar Chairman	Dr Russell Richardson Company Secretary
Iain Lanaghan Non-executive Director	Fiona Gruber Head of Governance and Board Secretary
Stuart Payne Chief Executive	
Nic Granger CFO and Director of Corporate	
Sara Vaughan Non-executive Director	
Sarah Deasley Non-executive Director	
Fiona Mettam Shareholder Director	
Malcolm Brown Non-executive Director	

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Directors to the meeting.

2. Chief Executive report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on developments since the September Board meeting, including the granting of development and production consent for the Rosebank field and the launch of the consultation on the OGA Plan. The NSTA is on course to announce the first tranche of 33rd Round decisions at the end of October.

The Board welcomed his presentation of a case where effective NSTA stewardship had led to an operator proposing a technical solution which better balanced security of supply and emissions reductions considerations.

3. London office update

The Shareholder Director recused herself from the Board's decision on this topic.

The Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate updated the Board on the search for replacement office accommodation in London which would align with the NSTA's Great Place to Work expectations.

Having considered the options and the compliance limitations, the Board was unanimous that it would wish to take up the Crown Estate option, which was both more cost-effective and retained a central London base for employees, thereby avoiding the issues in this context which the Board had discussed and which are set out below. However, if the Secretary of State and the Permanent Secretary would not support the Board, it reluctantly recognised that it would have to cease negotiations with the Crown Estate.



The Board will not accept any conclusion which does not include the office being in central London as it believes that not being so would cause considerable staff retention issues and seriously imperil our ability to work effectively and efficiently. If the Board were required to go through the process of justifying a central London location for the NSTA again, after the conclusion previously reached on this was reneged on, then we have no option than to follow it, but we expect the process to be expedited and for the action taken to date by government agencies to be taken into account.

There was no other business.

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Chairman
23rd November 2023

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