

**Minutes of NSTA Board meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024**  
**08.30-10.30 and 13.30-15.30**  
**Church House, Dean’s Yard, Westminster**

<b>Directors</b>	<b>In attendance</b>
Tim Eggar Chairman	Hedvig Ljungerud (item 9) Director of Strategy
Iain Lanaghan Non-executive Director	Tom Wheeler (item 9) Director of Operations
Stuart Payne Chief Executive	Christopher Ashbourne (item 10) Senior Legal Advisor
Nic Granger CFO and Director of Corporate	Russell Richardson General Counsel and Company Secretary
Sara Vaughan Non-executive Director	Fiona Gruber Head of Governance and Board Secretary
Sarah Deasley Non-executive Director	
Fiona Mettam Shareholder Director	
Malcolm Brown Non-executive Director	

**1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chairman welcomed Directors to the meeting.

**2. Conflicts of interest**

Sarah Deasley disclosed that she was leading some work on onshore hydrogen transportation at Frontier Economics. The Board did not consider this to be a conflict.

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

**3. Minutes and matters arising**

Directors discussed and approved the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> June meetings, subject to agreed amendments.

The Director of Corporate confirmed that the NSTA’s new London office space continues to be held for the NSTA, pending receipt of the final government approval.

**4. Safety and environment report**

The Board discussed the Chief Executive’s report on safety and environment performance.

## 5. Chief Executive report

The Chief Executive briefed the Board on the potential implications of the Supreme Court's decision in Finch and the (paused) Court of Session Judicial Review. The Board is assessing any impacts on the sector, including exploration and CCS.

The Chief Executive noted the merger of two UKCS Licensees, TGS and PGS, following the CMA's clearance of the merger.

The Chief Executive updated the Board on licensees' responses to the impending expiry of the initial terms of thirty six 14<sup>th</sup> Round onshore licences. The NSTA continues to methodically assess each licence and licensee on a case by case basis.

The Board sent its congratulations to the digital and data team for winning two prizes at the Digital Technology Leaders Awards and being nominated for a third, recognising the team's development of digital tools which have made a huge amount of valuable data readily available to industry and the supply chain.

## 6. CFO report

Core grant in aid (GIA) funding from DESNZ has been confirmed, along with £500K of one-off capital funding for the planned London office move. GIA funding for the NSTA's carbon storage and hydrogen work has yet to be formally confirmed

Due to the meeting falling early in the month, the June finance report was not available in advance of the meeting.

## 7. Shareholder report

The Shareholder Director updated the Board on departmental business during the pre-election period.

## 8. CCS briefing

The Director of Strategy and the Director of Operations briefed the Board on current carbon storage activity. The NSTA is now stewarding 27 licences for carbon storage on the UKCS and is preparing to take a decision on the UK's first two carbon storage permits for projects in the government's Track 1 cluster programme: the East Coast Cluster and Hynet North West.

*The Board meeting paused for three hours whilst the Board met CCS stakeholders. The Shareholder Director did not attend the stakeholder meeting.*

## 9. Strategy discussion

The Board discussed planning for the September strategy day and agreed the overall parameters. The leadership team will start preparatory work in earnest after the general election, when there will be more clarity over forthcoming policy choices.

**10. Transparency project**

The General Counsel and Senior Legal Adviser presented a proposal to consult on the NSTA making certain licensee-related information more transparent, focusing on enforcement activity and decommissioning obligations.

The Board supported the proposal to consult on the proposed publication policy and delegated to the General Counsel authority to finalise the draft and issue the consultation document.

**11. Agenda planning**

The Board discussed the logistics of the strategy day and the timing of future meetings.

There was no other business.



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Chairman  
*19<sup>th</sup> September 2024*