

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUTHORITY FOR UTILITY REGULATION (THE 'AUTHORITY') HELD ON THURSDAY, 21 JANUARY 2021 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AT 9.30 A.M.

Present:

Bill Emery (Chairman), John French (Chief Executive), Alex Wiseman, Teresa Perchard, David de Casseres, Claire Williams

In attendance:

SMT – Tanya Hedley, Kevin Shiels, Donald Henry, Roisin McLaughlin, John Mills, Elaine Cassidy, Greg Irwin

Veronika Gallagher (agenda item 3), Karen McConnell, Roisin Kelly

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Jon Carlton.

1.2 The Board convened in advance of the Board Advisory Forum to consider one item. A further item on compressed natural gas transmission system - connection request was deferred.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 None.

3. REGULATORY ARRANGEMENT FOR STRANRAER OFFTAKE FROM THE SNIP

3.1 Roisin McLaughlin introduced this item which sought the Board's approval for the proposal for enduring arrangements to facilitate the ongoing provision of gas to Stranraer (in Scotland) through an offtake from the SNIP (Scotland to Northern Ireland Pipeline).

3.2 The Board considered the options that had been identified for addressing the issue. The wider issue of gas security of supply was also discussed. Clarification regarding the nature of the gas supply to Stranraer and the regulatory role in respect of contractual arrangements was also provided. Finally there was a discussion on key risks relating to the proposal.

3.3 At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board approved modification number 9 to the NI Network Gas Transmission Code required for the implementation of the enduring Stranraer arrangements and the consequential changes to the Over Subscription Scheme and Methodology Statement.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 John Mills briefed the Board on the timing of the final determination for the NI Water price control (PC21). The Board agreed in principle to a two-month extension to the timetable for the price control review and it was also agreed that the tariffs for the first year of the PC21 price control would be presented at the February board meeting.

There being no other business, the Board meeting concluded at 9.50 a.m.