

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUTHORITY FOR UTILITY REGULATION (THE 'AUTHORITY') HELD ON THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2021 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AT 11.40 A.M.

Present:

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

In attendance:

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

Ciaran MacCann, John Cooper and Ravi Randhawa (agenda item 3), Jillian Ferris (agenda item 4), Karen McConnell, Louise Dunlop, Ilaria Gianfranco, Sarah Maybin.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 A closed session of the Board preceded this meeting, convened in advance of the Board Advisory Forum to consider several items.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 None.

3. SONI PRICE CONTROL – LICENCE MODIFICATIONS

3.1 Tanya Hedley introduced this item which sought the Board's approval for modifications to SONI's TSO Licence and associated guidance in respect of the evaluative performance framework, the uncertainty mechanism, conditional cost sharing and the RAB model. The Board was also provided with a marked up version of the proposed modifications to the licence. Ciaran MacCann highlighted some elements of detail on the guidance and John Cooper provided some legal commentary.

3.2 The Board discussed certain aspects of the proposed licence modifications. A query in respect of reflecting the price control decisions in the licence was addressed. Clarification was also sought in respect of allowances provided in the price control for stakeholder engagement and branding.

3.3 The process and timetable for publishing the licence modifications was also discussed.

3.4 The Board approved the licence modifications and associated guidance as presented.

4. GT22 DRAFT DETERMINATION

4.1 Tanya Hedley introduced this item which sought the Board's endorsement of the approach to the gas transmission price control (GT22). Jillian Ferris provided an overview of the key elements of the proposed draft determination.

4.2 Specific items of the proposed draft determination were discussed. This included consideration

of certain operational costs and allowances and the rationale for the proposed rate of return. The risk of challenge to the proposed price control decisions was also briefly discussed.

- 4.3 Board members also explored the strategic context of Department for the Economy's energy strategy and the implications for aspects of the GT22 price control.
- 4.4 The Board endorsed the approach to the GT22 price control as presented.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 5.1 None.

There being no other business, the Board meeting concluded to allow the Board Advisory Forum to proceed.