

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND, AUTHORITY FOR UTILITY  
REGULATION (THE 'BOARD') HELD ON THURSDAY, 20 AUGUST 2025 IN MILLENNIUM  
HOUSE, BELFAST, AT 08.30 A.M.**

**Present:**

Rosamund Blomfield-Smith (Chair), John French (Chief Executive), Alex Wiseman, Claire Williams, Jon Carlton, David de Casseres, Isolde Goggin.

**In attendance:**

Peter Russell, Elaine Cassidy, Brian Mulhern, Roisin McLaughlin, John Mills, Ciaran Mac Cann, Barbara Stevenson, Sarah Teer, Marie-Therese Campbell, Jean-Pierre Miura, Greg Irwin.

Debbie Quinn (agenda item 6), Rachel Allister (agenda items 7 and 8), Rita Baillie/ Paul Stewart/ Claire McMahon/Conor McConnell/ Jack Irwin/ Lorraine Gillan (agenda item 11).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 None.

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 The minutes of the Board meeting on 19 June 2025 and 6 August 2025 were approved, subject to two minor amendments to the minutes of the June meeting.

**4. ACTION POINTS**

4.1 The action points were reviewed by the Board, and an update was requested on one action for the next Board meeting.

**5. OFFICE REPORT**

5.1 John French introduced the Office report. He updated the Board on the progress of energy tariff reviews.

5.2 The Board discussed energy security of supply issues and a Board member query on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism was addressed.

5.3 The Board noted the management update in the Office report.

**6. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME Q1 REPORT**

6.1 Debbie Quinn provided an overview of the most recent report on Forward Work Programme projects.

6.2 The Board discussed the update and Board member queries in respect of tariffs and smart meter projects were addressed.

6.3 The Board noted the update.

## **7. FINANCE REPORT SUMMARY**

7.1 Rachel Allister provided an overview of the latest financial position, noting key movements in expenditure. The Board briefly discussed legal costs and pay.

7.2 The Board approved the finance report summary.

## **8. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER 2025/2026**

8.1 Rachel Allister introduced this item which presented the corporate risk register for 2025/2026.

8.2 There was a discussion around proposed changes to risk assessments, potential new risks, and actions being taken to manage existing risks.

8.3 The Board approved the corporate risk register subject to consideration of comments made by Board members.

## **9. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

9.1 Barbara Stevenson briefed the Board on the latest Compliance and Enforcement update. A high-level factual update was provided on enforcement action.

9.2 The Board congratulated the Compliance and Enforcement team on the progress made regarding the Statement of Licence Compliance.

9.3 The Board noted the update.

## **10. SONI GOVERNANCE LICENCE CONDITION**

10.1 Brian Mulhern introduced this paper which sought the Board's approval for new compliance dates relating to condition 42 and proposed derogations guidance for SONI. Roisin McLaughlin provided an overview of the proposed derogations guidance.

10.2 The Board discussed key aspects of the derogations guidance. Engagement with SONI on the derogations guidance was also discussed.

10.3 The Board delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve the direction to SONI to modify new compliance dates in condition 42, if appropriate, following the required consultation period. The Board also delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve the final text of the Derogations guidance.

## **11. PC28 APPROACH**

11.1 Elaine Cassidy introduced this item which presented the proposed PC28 price control approach for the Board's approval, prior to consultation.

- 11.2 Board members made some drafting suggestions in relation to key messages, the presentation of information and clarification points in the consultation document.
- 11.3 There was also a wider discussion around the issue of funding NI Water and water regulation, and engagement with key stakeholders in that regard. The Board also briefly considered the presentation and communications of the PC28 price control approach.
- 11.4 The Board approved the PC28 price control approach document as presented, subject to consideration of Board member comments, with delegated authority provided to the Chief Executive to approve the final document for consultation.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 12.1 There was no other business. The Board adjourned prior to a strategy workshop.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 10.10 a.m.