

Alan Campbell
Managing Director
SONI Ltd

Ref: NET/E/EC/1419

03 February 2026

Dear Alan,

Utility Regulator decision on SONI Forward Work Plan (FWP) 2025/2026

Thank you, and all your team, for the hard work and engagement in the Evaluative Performance Framework (EPF) process. I wish to inform you of the Utility Regulator's decision on the grading of SONI's 2025/26 Forward Work Plan (FWP) and the associated incentive amount under the EPF.

We received the EPF Panel's (the Panel) Evaluation Report in December 2025. The report provided a comprehensive assessment of SONI's FWP for 2025/26, in line with the Guidance¹. The report provided clear recommendations and set out the Panel's grading of the FWP. After due consideration of the EPF Panel's report and taking account of the evidence available to us², the Utility Regulator has decided to accept the Panel's recommendation and subsequent grading of **4.275** of SONI's FWP.

UR's Decision

As the decision-making body, UR has taken full account of the Panel's recommendations and has made its decision on grade and financial incentive for the FWP phase. We agree with the Panel's recommendation and support its proposed grade of **4.275** and subsequent financial incentive of £512k³ for the Forward Plan phase⁴. The financial incentive for this price control year will be adjusted after the Performance cycle in line with the Guidance. At this stage in the process, the financial incentive for

¹ <https://www.uregni.gov.uk/files/uregni/documents/2021-11/epf-guidance.pdf>

² <https://www.uregni.gov.uk/news-centre/soni-evaluative-performance-framework-annual-forward-work-plan-20252026-publication>

³ Nominal Year = April 2026 prices

⁴ As per section 7 of the Guidance, the EPF provides for financial incentives in relation to two phases of assessment in each financial year i.e., SONI's Forward Plan and its Performance Plan, ultimately arriving at an overall incentive outcome. A positive incentive amount, across these two phases, will lead to a corresponding increase in SONI's maximum regulation revenue from SSS/TUoS tariffs revenue under the price control framework and a negative incentive amount will lead to a corresponding decrease in SONI's maximum regulation revenue from SSS/TUoS tariffs.

the Forward Plan is calculated on the assumption that SONI's performance against its plan will be graded as 3 (meets expectations).

In coming to our decision, we have taken full account of the Panel's grades for each SONI role. We agree with the Panel that SONI's performance under the FWP is deemed to be between "good" and "excellent" in line with our Guidance.

We agree with the Panel's views on SONI's 4 Roles, which we summarise as follows:

- **System Operation and Adequacy:** overall, the plan was rated as good under this role.
- **Independent Expert:** overall, the plan was rated as excellent under this role.
- **System Planning:** overall, the plan was rated as excellent under this role.
- **Commercial Interface:** overall, the plan was rated as baseline under this role.

As you will be aware, this is the fourth year of the EPF where there is provision for a financial incentive for SONI and we share the Panel's views that there have been improvements in SONI's FWP. We are looking forward to seeing further improvements in next year's FWP. This is not a static process, and we need evidence of improvements year-on-year to achieve the same level of incentive as part of this iterative process. We trust that SONI will be responsive to the Panel and our feedback.

Next steps

We will publish our letters to SONI and the EPF Panel, along with the EPF Panel's recommendation report. We look forward to meeting the team later this month at the Performance 2024/25 stakeholder event in our offices.

Please pass on our thanks to the other members of the team. If you have any questions on the content of this letter, please contact Ciara Brennan (ciara.brennan@uregni.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Elaine Cassidy
Director of Price Controls

[Letter sent via email]