MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUTHORITY FOR UTILITY REGULATION (THE 'BOARD') HELD ON TUESDAY, 25 AUGUST 2026, ONLINE, AT 12.00 P.M.

Present:
Rosamund Blomfield-Smith (Chair), John French (Chief Executive), Anthony Pygram, Paul McGowan, Paul Smith, Sean Hogan.

In attendance:
Peter Russell, Elaine Cassidy, Colin Broomfield, Shauna McAuley, Sean Lyons, Tony Doherty, Ciara Brennan, Roy Colville, Akshant Nagar, Ruairi Liddy, Tristan Huegelschaefer, Sarah Teer, Richard Barton, Greg Irwin.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Isolde Goggin.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 None.

3. SSE AIRTRICITY GAS SP27 PRICE CONTROL DRAFT DETERMINATION

3.1 Elaine Cassidy introduced this single Board agenda item to seek Board endorsement of the first batch of decisions in relation to the next SONI Price Control, SRP27. Sean Lyons provided an overview of the key decisions in turn, in relation to employees, salary benchmarking, network planners, unpredictable capex and opex, and pensions.

3.2 Board members availed of the opportunity to clarify items of detail. Further information was provided on the rationale for proposed decisions on opex allowances, such as in relation to IT costs and the IT projects.

3.3 The Board discussed the deliverability and outputs associated with opex allowances. The extent to which elements of opex costs had been scoped and defined was also discussed. There was a consideration of uncertainty is respect of capex and opex spending, and how this is reflected in the draft price control determination.

3.4 The Board also had a brief discussion on the wider area of SONI's financability.

3.5 At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board endorsed the proposals as outlined in the paper.

3.6 The meeting concluded at 12.55.