

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUTHORITY FOR UTILITY REGULATION (THE 'AUTHORITY') HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2015 IN QUEENS HOUSE, BELFAST AT 12.15 P.M.**

**Present:**

Bill Emery, Richard Rodgers, Bill Cargo, Teresa Perchard, David Strahan, Jenny Pyper  
(Chief Executive)

**In attendance:**

SMT - Kevin Shiels, Brian McHugh, Tanya Hedley, Jo Aston, Donald Henry, Greg Irwin, Stephen Magowan.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 None
- 1.2 Bill Emery welcomed Board members to the meeting which was convened to discuss one agenda item.

**2. FIRE DRILL**

- 2.1 The board members were informed of the evacuation procedures which apply at Queens House in the event of a fire.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 3.1 None.

**4. GD14 – FIRMUS ENERGY FINAL MAINS ALLOWANCE**

- 4.1 Brian McHugh introduced this item which proposed mains allowances and which had previously been discussed by the board at its December meeting. He outlined the background to the paper and developments since the Board's previous discussion including further information provided by firmus in support of its position.
- 4.2 Several items were raised by the Board in discussion. These included: assumptions associated with the overall mains allowance on a meter per property passed, the domestic/non-domestic split for properties passed and the penetration profile for connections. More broadly, the Board considered the strategic question around future natural gas network development (and the specific query around the scope of possible connections)
- 4.3 At the conclusion of the discussion the Board approved a final mains allowance based on an average of up to 6.93m per property passed. The Board also discussed the most appropriate way of communicating this decision to firmus.

There being no other business the board meeting concluded at 1.10 p.m.