

# Energy UK response to the Offshore Transmission Network Review

30 September 2020

## About Energy UK

Energy UK is the trade association for the energy industry with over 100 members spanning every aspect of the energy sector – from established FTSE 100 companies right through to new, growing suppliers and generators, which now make up over half of our membership.

We represent the diverse nature of the UK's energy industry with our members delivering almost all (90%) of both the UK's power generation and energy supply for over 27 million UK homes as well as businesses.

The energy industry invests over £13.1bn annually, delivers around £85.6bn in economic activity through its supply chain and interaction with other sectors, and supports over 764,000 jobs in every corner of the country.

## Response

Energy UK supports the aims of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) and defers to responses from its members regarding the barriers to coordination, both in the short (2025-2030) and longer-term (post-2030).

Energy UK understands BEIS are in the process of establishing a Project Board, Project Working Group, an Expert Group and several workstreams to develop and deliver options for change regarding the OTNR. We encourage BEIS to publish both the structure and constituency of these groups, and their planned interactions and responsibilities. This should be clear regarding which organisations, stakeholders and levels of seniority are on each workstream, Group and Board and who is leading and therefore accountable for the outputs. It is vital that there is full transparency of the change process in order to ensure the right expertise is on each group and workstream, with the appropriate level of knowledge and decision-making responsibility.

Similarly, with the role that GB policy and regulatory frameworks play in delivering offshore wind in Scotland and Wales, it is important that devolved administrations are actively engaged in the OTNR, particularly considering the devolved responsibilities on seabed leasing, environment regulation and planning.

Energy UK strongly believe that the Expert Group perform a 'Challenge Group' function at every stage of the project. Valuable time could be wasted should a workstream or group be left unchecked to develop an ineffective option for change.

While our members will have a range of interests and expertise to contribute to the review, Energy UK may have a particular role in supporting the OTNR on and the potential interactions with onshore generation. Given the focus of active stakeholders will likely be on offshore wind development and its electricity transmission infrastructure, it is crucial that the network charging aspects are not overlooked in the process. Delivering net zero in a cost-effective way which ensures wider benefits are realised requires looking at how costs are allocated for the necessary transformation of the GB electricity transmission system to connect the expected levels of offshore wind. As such, taking a whole-systems approach to offshore wind development is critical.

Should you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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