
Minutes of the meeting of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

From: Liam King (Interim Secretary to the Authority)

Date: 08 and 09 October 2024

Location: London

GEMA Minutes for 08 October

1. Welcome

Mark McAllister welcomed the Board to the October GEMA meeting. No conflicts of interest were noted.

2. Consumer Voice: consumer attitudes to energy infrastructure build

The Board noted the paper that provided insights on consumers' views on infrastructure build, the reasons consumers may have for opposing new infrastructure developments, and welcomed broader insights presented by guest Board Speakers; Margaret Davidson, board member of NatureScot and former leader of Highland Council; Merlin Hyman, Chief Executive of Regen; and Rob Salter-Church, Regulation Director at National Grid Electricity Transmission.

3. Markets Developments

The Board discussed the paper that provided comparable data and insights related to the market structure, availability of tariffs, domestic and non-domestic retail profitability, and trends of call waiting times and complaints across customer services.

4. Future of Retail

The Board noted the paper and agreed to open a public conversation on a shared vision for the retail market to 2035 around the themes of consumer experience, supplier and market impacts, and future regulation.

GEMA Minutes for 09 October

1. Welcome

Mark McAllister welcomed the Board to the October GEMA meeting. The Board approved the minutes for the previous Board meeting, including the formal minutes for publication.

2. CEO Report

The Board noted the contents of the CEO report, with particular interest in the launch of the National Energy System Operator on 1 October, and results of the Civil Service wide People Survey. The Board also discussed the government's consultation on regulatory of third party intermediaries and consumer debt and affordability.

3. Update from the Committees of the Authority

People and Remuneration Committee

Warren Buckley, Chair of PRC, provided an update on the September 2024 meeting.

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

Myriam Madden, Chair of ARAC, provided an update on the September 2024 meeting.

4. Draft Annual Report and Accounts – Delegated Decision

The Board noted the paper that set out the context and approach to the formal signing and laying of the Annual Report & Accounts as an annual Statutory duty.

5. Price Cap – Core Operating Cost Allowances

The Board noted and discussed the paper that provided insights into different business strategies, differences in operating costs and the balance between incentivising efficiency with resilience when setting one whole-market price cap. The Board discussed considerations related to distributional impact across the market and discussed potential impact to consumers.

6. Proposed Amendment of The Electricity and Gas (Standards of Performance) (Suppliers) Regulations 2015

The Board approved the amendments of the Electricity (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2015.

7. Prepayment Meter update

The Board noted the paper and agreed with the recommendations set out within the paper.

8. Strategic Direction Statement and Code Governance Reform update

The Board noted and discussed the paper that outlined Ofgem's approach to delivering GEMA's Strategic Direction Statement, code manager licensing, and the new approach to energy code governance. Ofgem is prioritising publication of the first Strategic Direction Statement in spring 2025.

9. ED3 Price Review – Framework Consultation update

The Board noted and discussed the paper that provided further insights on the proposed Framework Consultation for the next electricity distribution price control starting in April 2028. This included the key consumer outcomes and the potential regulatory models to deliver those outcomes. Publication of the Framework Consultation was planned for November 2024.

10. Review of Electricity Market Arrangements

The Board noted the paper that provided an update on the Review of Electricity Market Arrangements, discussing the options for long term reforms of the wholesale market.

Apologies for absence

None

Those present

Alena Kozakova
Barry Panayi
Graham Mather
Jonathan Brearley
Jonathan Kini
Mark McAllister
Myriam Madden
Tony Curzon-Price
Warren Buckley

Those attending

Akshay Kaul
Melinda Johnson
Neil Kenward

Neil Lawrence
Priya Brahmbhatt-Patel
Sinead Murray
Tim Jarvis
Nick Winser

Others present

Liam King (Interim Secretariat to the Authority)