

UK Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)

Minutes of the 51st Meeting – 18th May 2022 – Via Microsoft Teams
(10.00am-12.00pm)

Attendance

<p><u>Chair</u></p> <p>Matt Ray - Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)</p>	<p><u>Government</u></p> <p>Jeff Asser - Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)</p>
<p><u>Secretariat</u></p> <p>Monica Draycott – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</p> <p>Mike Nash - Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</p>	<p>Mike Earp – North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA)</p> <p>Nick Everington – The Crown Estate (TCE)</p> <p>Johann MacDougall – Scottish Government</p>
<p><u>Industry</u></p> <p>Jacqui Akinlosotu - ENI</p> <p>Aurelie Delannoy – Mineral Products Association</p> <p>Dan Espie – TotalEnergies</p> <p>David Evans – OEUK</p> <p>Dr Patrick Foster – University of Exeter</p>	<p><u>Guests/observers</u></p> <p>Mark Burnett – EITI International</p> <p>Helen Day – Coal Authority</p> <p>Mark Henderson – BDO</p> <p>Tim Vickery – Independent Advisor</p> <p>Hedi Zaghouani – BDO</p> <p>Sefton Darby - VoconiQ</p>
<p><u>Civil Society</u></p> <p>Martyn Gordon – Robert Gordon University</p>	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>John Bowater – Aggregate Industries</p> <p>Nicola Garrod - HMRC</p>

1 – Welcome and Introductions:

1. The Chair welcomed all to the 51st meeting of the UK EITI MSG.
2. The Chair welcomed:
 - **Sefton Darby**, from **VoconiQ** who is carrying out the independent evaluation of the EITI and will be providing an overview of the evaluation process and how the MSG can be involved.
3. There have been two organisational name changes since the last meeting.
4. OGUK changed its name to Offshore Energies UK (OEUK) in February 2022. The name change reflects the changing environment, with the sector now at the heart of the energy transition, and signifies the net zero ambitions of the industry.

5. OGA has changed its name to the North Sea Transition Authority. The new name reflects its expanding role in the energy transition, including as the carbon storage licence and permitting authority.

2 – Agreement of minutes and action points of 13th January 2022 meeting:

6. The minutes of the meeting on 13th January 2022 were agreed with one amendment - to add Jacqui Akinlosotu to the list of attendees.
7. The MSG were updated on the main action points from the meeting on 13th January.
 - UK Secretariat to engage with the Joint Anti-Corruption Unit (JACU) colleagues to identify an Open Government Partnership (OGP) contact. ***The UK Secretariat and Tim Vickery have now been in contact with OGP – Tim will provide more details on this in his update.***
 - UK Secretariat to circulate Energy Transition paper and Chatham House slides with recommendations and questions for consideration and comment by MSG representatives. ***Both papers circulated on 13th January 2022. Comments were received from MSG representatives on the Energy Transition paper and added to the document, which was re-circulated on 10th March 2022.***
8. Lord Callanan, the UK EITI Champion met Mark Robinson, Executive Director of EITI International and Mark Burnett on 4th May to discuss the role the UK MSG can play in energy transition.
9. The MSG have discussed energy transition several times over the last year and it is an area that strongly aligns with current UK Government priorities. However, it is clear that the current MSG lacks the necessary expertise, and therefore the appetite, to take this forward. Lord Callanan and the MSG are keen to progress after the direction of travel has been set by the new EITI Standard in the Autumn.

3 - UK EITI Comms and Engagement update

10. The Comms and Engagement subgroup have been working closely with industry colleagues to identify possible events to showcase UK EITI. Pleased to announce that UK EITI will have a stand at Mineral Products 2022 taking place on 27th June 2022. MPA are expecting 300-350 delegates. The C&E subgroup will discuss more detailed plans at their meeting on 1st June.
11. OEUK are also helping to identify possible events. This is likely to be later in the Summer with the possibility of a finance-focussed event.
12. A contact was found for the Open Government Partnership. An initial meeting has been held with the chair of the UK Open Government Network. This will be followed by a meeting with Cabinet Office colleagues - who are working on the development of the National Action Plan - to discuss synergies and opportunities for collaboration.
13. Given the current turbulence of the energy markets it was agreed that the proposed survey questionnaire should initially focus on civil society rather than industry.

4 – UK EITI Reconciliation - update

14. The reporting templates and guidance were circulated to 63 companies – 44 oil and gas and 19 mining and quarrying.

15. To date 51 templates have been returned - 37 oil and gas companies and 14 mining and quarrying companies. This leaves 7 non-compliant oil and gas companies and 5 non-compliant mining and quarrying companies. Of the 51 returns to date 22 have been fully reconciled.
16. MSG members agreed to help BDO to chase all non-compliant companies. Thanks were extended to all companies that had provided returns and to the government agencies for their prompt submission of data.

5 – Contract and licence transparency update

17. The only corrective action from the validation is around Requirement 2.4 of the EITI Standard. A meeting of the main licensing authorities took place in February. Good progress has been made and the meeting focused on the challenges around legal barriers, missing licences, GDPR issues and redaction of information.
18. A further meeting is scheduled for 19th May. The Compliance subgroup will be reconvened later this year to discuss outcomes and provide some informed recommendations to the MSG in early 2023.
19. The contract and licence transparency section of the website is to be updated.

6 – Independent Administrator contract update

20. The new contract tender is ready to be published. It is based on the previous three year contract and will be renewed on a year-on-year basis. A pre-market engagement event was held in March, with a number of companies from the proposed framework attending.
21. Once the tenders have been received they will be evaluated and interviews will take place shortly afterwards. Thanks were extended to those who have agreed to take part in this process. It is hoped that the contract will be awarded later in the Summer.

7 – EITI International Secretariat update

22. An open and independent evaluation of EITI has started. This is looking at the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of EITI twenty years since its inception. More detail on this will be provided after this agenda item.
23. A review of the new validation model is also taking place. The review is looking at lessons learned from the first countries to be validated under the new model, looking at the templates and identifying areas to refine EITI requirements. The UK has already contributed to the review, which will be discussed at the EITI Board meeting in June.
24. Refinements to the EITI Standard are taking place. The last update to the Standard was in 2019. The refinement is looking at three areas – strategic priorities (e.g. energy transition, anti-corruption), existing EITI requirements and logic and accessibility. Stakeholder consultations have taken place, the UK have contributed to the consultation process.
25. A revision of EITI Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) is also taking place to ensure that they are still fit for purpose. The KPI revision covers;
 - i) Secretariat effectiveness – how the International Secretariat operates and provides support to the EITI Board and implementing countries.

- ii) Country outcomes and context – country performance on implementing the EITI Standard.
 - iii) Global performance – how is the EITI, as an international initiative, advancing global norms and policy.
26. The review began in May and is driven by supporting EITI countries, including the UK. The revision aims to streamline the previous large number of KPI's and make them more relevant and targeted.
27. The Board are due to meet again in June. The main areas for discussion will be alternatives to EITI reporting, the application by Angola for membership and energy transition.
28. The International Secretariat are also co-hosting a Transparency Matters event in Brussels on 14th June 2022 and have published a [Critical Minerals policy brief](#).

8 – Independent evaluation of EITI

29. An independent global evaluation of the EITI is taking place. The evaluation is based on international best practice to provide evidence to strengthen accountability for results, and contribute to learning. The evaluation will reflect the multi-stakeholder nature of EITI through a participative approach. It will focus on the relevance and effectiveness globally and nationally. The evaluation will feed into both the KPIs and the EITI Standard.
30. The evaluation will consider four high level evaluation questions at a local, national and global level. The four questions are:
- i) Is EITI effective?
 - ii) Are EITI policies and interventions relevant?
 - iii) Are EITI interventions sustainable?
 - iv) What impact does EITI create? (intended and unintended)
31. The evaluation methods will include desktop reviews and stakeholder interviews, country and policy case studies. The UK will have a 'rapid scan' case study. Countries at all different stages in implementing EITI have been selected to ensure that the evaluation is as wide as possible. A number of MSG members have already agreed to take part in interviews.
32. An evaluation website has been launched (www.eitiopenevaluation.org) this provides an overview of the evaluation methodology and acts as a repository for data, digital stores, reports and knowledge.
33. A survey is also available on the website and open to anyone with a connection to EITI. This is expected to close in early June 2022. All MSG members were encouraged to participate and ensure their networks are made aware of the survey.

9 – AOB

34. On civil society engagement there have been some positive discussions with possible candidates. This will be followed up in the Summer.

Action points:

- Update the minutes to include Jacqui Akinlosotu on the attendees list. **(Action: UK Secretariat).**
- Circulate slides from OEUK and NSTA covering organisational name changes. **(Action: UK Secretariat).**
- Circulate survey questionnaire for civil society to MSG for final comments. **(Action: UK Secretariat).**
- Circulate link to EITI open evaluation survey to the MSG. **(Action: UK EITI Secretariat).**
- Arrange catch-up between Secretariat and civil society constituency to discuss future engagement. **(Action: UK Secretariat).**