

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

Minutes of the 72nd Meeting – 14th October 2025 (15:00-16:30) – Via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

<u>Chair & Secretariat</u>	<u>Guests/Observers</u>
Sophia Brecknell – Head, FCDO-DESNZ International Energy Unit	Hedi Zaghouani – BDO
Sviatlana Istamianok - Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ)	Helmi Ben Rhouma - BDO
Anna Kpikpi - Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ)	Andy Riley - Crown Estate Scotland, member of the Contract & Licence Transparency MSG subgroup
MSG Members	Helen Day - Mining Remediation Authority, member of the Compliance and Contract & Licence Transparency MSG subgroups
Hafez Abdo - University of Nottingham	Kirk Becca – Critical Minerals Association, member of Contract & Licence Transparency MSG subgroup
Madeline Young - University of Exeter	
Mark Wilson - DEFNI	
Mike Earp - North Sea Transition Authority	
Tilly Prior - Transparency International UK	

Papers To Be Distributed With Minutes

Minutes Ref (Para)	Presenter	Paper
3	Anna Kpikpi	The draft UK EITI Validation report

1 – Welcome and Introductions

1. All were welcomed to the 72nd meeting of the UK EITI MSG. The chair outlined the agenda.
2. Anna introduced herself as supporting the group's work for the next few months from the DESNZ central Priority Projects Team.

2 – Summary of the feedback to secretariat's commission:

3. The Chair summarised the main actions requested in the secretariat's commission to gather feedback on the UK EITI's draft validation report and the Validation templates.
4. Anna summarised feedback received from various MSG Members (Transparency International, Government of Northern Ireland, Government of Scotland, North Sea Transition Authority, and DESNZ oil and gas team), noting 45 comments mostly editorial or wording changes, with some substantive points.

3 – Further Validation Report Feedback Discussion

5. The Chair opened the floor for further feedback on the UK EITI validation report.
6. Crown Estate Scotland (CES) raised concerns about references to CES in the draft, questioning the accuracy and proportionality of comments on disclosure and recommendations. Andy is to forward detailed proposed comments for inclusion to the UK EITI Secretariat.
7. The Chair confirmed no feedback from the industry constituency and agreed to note this in the minutes and follow up for input.
8. Madeline Young raised a point about ensuring EITI standards for traditional authorities are applied consistently, regardless of economic or political power. The chair agreed to clarify the relationship of Crown Estate Scotland to traditional authority and ensure standards are met.

4 – Potential Upgrades and Clarifications

9. The Chair and Secretariat re-highlighted areas where additional evidence could lead to an upgrade in ratings, specifically around 4.8 data timeliness and 5.1 subnational revenue distribution.
10. Mike Earp highlighted the need for clarification on the subnational revenue distribution and the scope of the reconciliation. The UK EITI Secretariat is to seek further clarification from the International EITI Secretariat on this matter when it returns comments on the draft report.
11. It was discussed how the score on data timeliness (4.8) can be improved. It was suggested to bring to the International secretariat's attention the UK reconciliation report 2024 has been currently finalised and expected to be published in November 2025. Hedi Zaghouani clarified that systematic disclosure and timeliness of non-financial information were noted as areas for improvement in the draft Validation report. The UK EITI Secretariat is publishing all documents on the UK EITI website once they are available. It is not clear what else could be done in order to improve the score. The UK EITI secretariat to ask the International secretariat for more detail on required frequency of non-financial information publication as part of the group's response to the draft validation report.

5 – Next Steps and Timeline

12. Anna outlined the feedback collection process: collect final comments from the MSG by midday, 15th October, circulate a final draft to the MSG by Friday, 17th October. MSG to approve the final feedback on no-objection bases by COP 20th of October for the final version to be submitted to the International secretariat by COP on Tuesday, 21st October.

6 – AOB

13. Reconciliation report

Hedi given update on the reconciliation report 2024 delivery. The draft reconciliation report and note addressing MSG comments on the reconciliation report from the last MSG meeting has been circulated. Mike Earp provided further feedback on the draft Reconciliation Report, which was noted by Hedi who agreed to update the text and table descriptors. The final reconciliation report 2024 will be circulated for MSG's sign off w/c 20th of October.

14. The next regular MSG meeting is scheduled on 19th of November.

Action Points

Minutes Ref (Para)	Actions Point List Reference	Action
12	331	MSG to send any further comments on the draft Validation report to UK EITI Secretariat by midday on Wednesday, 14th October.
12	332	UK EITI Secretariat to incorporate any extra comments into the final draught document and send it to the MSG by Friday, 17th October.
7	333	UK EITI Secretariat to indicate in the updated consolidated version which constituencies have provided feedback and follow up with the industry constituency for their input.
6	334	Crown Estate Scotland (CES) to send the detailed comments and questions related to CES to UK EITI Secretariat for incorporation into the consolidated version.
8	335	UK EITI Secretariat to clarify the relationship between Crown Estate Scotland and the traditional authority.
10, 11	336	UK EITI Secretariat to include a question in the covering letter to the International Secretariat seeking clarification on the subnational revenue distribution and a question on the frequency of updates required for non-financial information.
13	337	Hedi Zaghouani to finalise the 2024 reconciliation report by the end of the week and circulate it for MSG approval w/c 20 th of October.