

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

**Minutes of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 (10:00-12:00) – Via Microsoft Teams**

**Attendance**

<b><u>Chair &amp; Secretariat</u></b>	<b><u>Guests/Observers</u></b>
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
<b><u>MSG Members</u></b>	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	
Johann MacDoogal – Scottish Govt.	

**Papers To Be Distributed With Minutes**

<b>Minutes Ref (Para)</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	Tilly Prior	Critical Minerals Strategy Paper

### **Welcome and Introductions**

1. All were welcomed to the 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the UK EITI MSG.
2. The meeting began with a review of the agenda, including updates on action points from the previous meeting, the UK EITI Critical Minerals Strategy, validation and reporting, work planning for impact, and review of the 2024-2025 workplan.
3. The "any other business" item was removed due to a presenter's absence.

### **Review of Actions and Compliance Subgroup**

1. The Chair updated on outstanding actions: the process to appoint a new chair for the compliance subgroup (following Mike's retirement) was discussed, with Anna coordinating feedback in the interim.
2. The group debated whether the compliance subgroup should continue, concluding it is still needed, and agreed to seek volunteers for chair by correspondence. Chara and Martyn discussed representation, with Chara suggesting a multi-stakeholder approach.
3. The group also noted the need to review MSG vacancies during work planning.

### **UK EITI Validation and Reporting**

1. Mark summarised the recent validation: the UK achieved a "very good" score (87.5), the first country validated under the 2023 EITI Standard. The process, scoring, and highlights (timely disclosures, beneficial ownership, project cost reporting, and systematic disclosures) were reviewed.
2. Areas for improvement include contributing more to public debate, monitoring civic space, comprehensively disclosing export data, mining contract disclosure, project cost monitoring, and clarifying subnational revenue distribution. Next validation is scheduled in 48 months.
3. Discussion followed on project cost reporting (Mike, Mark), the challenge of aligning reconciled tax data with HMRC published data, and the implications for mainstreaming and risk-based reporting. Leo and Mike explained the technical reasons for discrepancies, emphasizing the need for clear narrative rather than process changes.

### **UK EITI Critical Minerals Strategy**

1. Tilly presented an update on the renewables strategy, including desk-based research on UK critical minerals extraction. Eleven companies were identified, none currently meeting the EITI reporting threshold, but the sector is growing. Two proposals were discussed: a workshop to socialize the EITI standard with SMEs and a gap analysis to see if EITI standards could be leveraged for the UK renewables sector.
2. Johann offered Scottish Enterprise support for outreach. Martyn and Patrick raised supply chain and value chain issues, referencing the new UK critical minerals strategy and the need to consider domestic processing and battery production. Chara and Tilly discussed the potential for EITI data to support supply chain due diligence and the importance of aligning with UK responsible business strategies.
3. The group supported both proposals, with next steps to circulate detailed proposals and clarify resource needs.

### **Work Planning for Impact**

1. Trina presented on results-based work planning, emphasising starting with governance problems, stakeholder priorities, and inclusive implementation.
2. She outlined the five-step approach: organize, identify priorities, define objectives/activities, monitor/adapt, and review.
3. The UK workplan was praised for structure but could be more strategic, with clearer links to national priorities and outcomes.

### **Subgroup Responsibilities**

1. The compliance subgroup was identified as responsible for several work plan actions. Anna and Sviatlana will reach out to subgroup members for updates.
2. There was uncertainty about who authored the last detailed progress updates; Akinlosotu suggested Mike Nash may have done so. Sviatlana requested support from those with historical knowledge to ensure accurate reporting.

### **Membership Changes**

1. Sviatlana announced changes in MSG membership: Tilly is now a full member, and Chara de Lacey is an alternate, with approval from the Civic Society network. 11
2. Johann inquired about government constituency vacancies; Sviatlana confirmed this will be addressed as part of broader membership and work planning.
3. Sophia closed the meeting, thanking participants for their contributions and outlining next steps: meeting notes will be circulated, and further input will be requested in writing.

### **AOB**

1. N/A

### **Action Points**

<b>Minutes Ref (Para)</b>	<b>Actions Point List Reference</b>	<b>Action</b>
12	331	Trina to share her slide pack/examples with the group.
12	332	Secretariat to organise a January workshop (online/hybrid) for MSG to discuss national priorities and work plan approach.
7	333	Secretariat to circulate a note to MSG for further suggestions or concerns about the workshop and planning process.