

The IDRIC Policy News Update provides a monthly summary of key policy developments relevant to industrial decarbonisation at UK level and in the devolved administrations. Please sign-up [here](#) to receive future editions per email.

Contact: IDRIC Policy Team policy@idric.org

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UK Government

Government Response to Winser Report Accelerating Transmission Network Build

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

22nd November 2023

The Government has published its response to the Electricity Networks Commissioner, Nick Winser's report into accelerating new transmission infrastructure, accepting recommendations in all areas. Key highlights include:

- Government was broadly supportive of the Commissioners recommendation to prepare a strategic spatial energy plan (SSEP) to support network planning including integrating a Marine Environmental Assessment and offshore delivery route map. The Government will commission ESO (soon to be FSO) to work with government to develop SSEP.
- As per the Commissioners recommendation, the FSO will be directed to produce short and long term Centralised Strategic Network plans (CSNPs) which the Government intends to support the connection of generation and demand to transmission networks, find opportunities to coordinate connections, and streamline the process for regulatory approvals.
- Following the Commissioner's recommendations of a series of reforms to the planning process, the Government published a set of updated [National Policy Statements \(NPS\) for energy infrastructure](#) in England and Wales, to be laid before parliament. If/when adopted, these updated NPS will give low carbon infrastructure, including large electricity grid infrastructure projects "Critical National Priority" status. In the long term the Government will consider how to introduce a more flexible process for updating NPS.
- Recognising the critical importance of network infrastructure development in Scotland, the UK Government intends to work with the Scottish Government to carry out a review of energy consenting rules in Scotland, with a consultation planned for next year.
- The Government intend to publish a Green Jobs Plan in the first half of 2024, which will include a focus on electricity networks.
- The Government confirmed its minded-to position to provide an electricity bill discount for properties located closest to transmission network infrastructure, as well as a wider community benefit, the guidance for which will be published in 2024.

More info [here](#).

Green Industries Growth Accelerator announced

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

22nd November 2023

The Government has launched a new £960m Green Industry Growth Accelerator (GIGA) which is intended to support the expansion of clean energy supply chains across the UK, including carbon capture, utilisation and storage, electricity networks, hydrogen, nuclear and offshore wind.

More info [here](#).

UK and Republic of Korea to Cooperate on Low Carbon Technologies

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

21st November 2023

A “Clean Energy Partnership” between the UK and the Republic of Korea was agreed on Wednesday 22nd November, with the intent to strengthen cooperation on interests and ambitions across the clean energy transition, low carbon technologies and domestic climate policies, and civil nuclear energy. This includes:

- Exploring shared priorities for hydrogen collaboration, building on engagement through existing forums.
- Sharing information and lessons learned on offshore wind to support shared ambitions, collaborating on barriers to deployment and exploring commercial opportunities through the annual Offshore Wind Policy Dialogue.
- Strengthening cooperation on civil nuclear, including on large scale, small scale and advanced reactors, decommissioning and waste management, and supply chains.

More info [here](#).

Prime Minister undertakes reshuffle

Prime Minister’s Office

13th November 2023

Prime Minister Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP carried out a reshuffle of the Cabinet and ministerial ranks in which the following appointments of note were made:

- Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP – Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- Andrew Griffith MP – DSIT, Minister for Science.

More info [here](#).

Government Introduce Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

8th November 2023

The UK government introduced the Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill to Parliament on Wednesday 8th November. The legislation will require annual oil and gas licensing rounds

subject to emissions and imports tests, namely that the UK is projected to remain a net importer of both oil and gas; and that the carbon emissions associated with the production of UK gas must be lower than the average of equivalent emissions from imported liquefied natural gas.

More info [here](#).

UK and Germany sign joint declaration of cooperation of energy and climate

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

3rd November 2023

Through the declaration, the UK and Germany have reaffirmed their shared ambition and commitment to net zero and progressing the energy transition. The declaration sets out the countries' intent to strengthen cooperation on their shared interests and ambitions in the following five pillars:

- **Hydrogen** – the UK and Germany will work together to underpin the international trade in hydrogen and accelerate the role of low-carbon hydrogen in their nations' energy mix. The countries will work together to accelerate hydrogen use in the industry and for consumers, set out joint safety and other regulations, promote research and innovation in hydrogen, promote trade and conduct joint market analysis to support planning and investment by government and industry.
- **Carbon capture, utilisation, and storage** – the countries will examine the potential and opportunities regarding cross border transport of CO₂, share knowledge, discuss technical developments, and encourage industry and stakeholder cooperation.
- **Renewable Energy / North Seas** (including offshore wind and electricity interconnection) - the countries will enhance bilateral dialogue on energy transition, and encourage cooperation in the field of clean energy, notably offshore wind and electricity interconnection, including offshore hybrid interconnection.
- **Energy security, and net zero** - the countries will explore further technical discussions between officials and transmission system operators to ensure the sharing of information, expertise, and experience, including on electricity and gas outlooks.
- **Green transition** (including net zero strategies and policies, industrial decarbonisation, heat and buildings, energy efficiency, zero emissions vehicles, global energy transition and sectoral decarbonisation) - the countries will share overarching net zero strategies and policy frameworks to meet respective net zero ambitions, and the climate governance arrangements and mechanisms in place to support delivery across the whole economy. That includes sharing best practices and lessons learned on key enabling net zero policies such as green finance, skills and supply chain development.

More info [here](#).

Wales

Top priorities for Welsh economy announced

Welsh Government

28th November 2023

Economy Minister Vaughan Gething announced four priorities to address uncertainties and capitalise on new opportunities. The priorities are:

- **A Just Transition and Green Prosperity:** Focusing on net-zero economic opportunities and fostering a just transition for businesses and individuals.
- **A Platform for Young People, Fair Work, Skills, and Success:** Supporting young people in achieving ambitious futures in Wales by prioritizing their skills and creativity.
- **Stronger Partnerships for Stronger Regions and Our Everyday Economy:** Collaborating with regions to identify key priorities for growth, local jobs, and major investments, with a focus on areas like nuclear, offshore wind, and technology.
- **Investing for Growth:** Emphasizing collaboration to leverage recognized strengths for increased investment and growth that promotes fair work and long-termism. Implementing a mission-based innovation strategy to attract new investments post-EU.

As part of the announcement, Economy Minister Vaughan Gething highlighted the need to shift away from the concept of "trickle-down" and advocated for active industrial policies to build new skills for long-term prosperity. He stated the priorities aim to turn global economic changes and the race for net-zero into business growth, secure employment, and economic stability in Wales. The Minister also called on businesses to commit to empowering women and breaking down workplace barriers, especially in sectors where women are underrepresented.

More info [here](#).

Other key publications

Proposed methodology for Seventh Carbon Budget advice

Climate Change Committee

November 2023

The document sets out the CCC's intended methodological approach to its advice to Government on the level of its 7th carbon budget, including plans to assess the impact on the UK economy and costs and benefits of the transition to Net Zero. The document is accompanied by a call for evidence, seeking feedback on the approach taken by the CCC.

More info [here](#).
