

ESBN DMSO Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time	Advisory Council 7 19.06.2024, 10.30 – 13:00
Location	Hybrid – The Clayton Hotel, Cardiff Lane & Remote
Attendees	ESBN: Teresa Fallon (TF) – Chair, Alan Keegan (AK), Paddy Mulvey (PM), Eilis McFarlane (EM), Brian Fitzgerald (BF) and Jennifer Ward (JW). Apologies: Bobby Smith, Frank Burke, Amanda-Jane Gainford, John O’Shea, Declan Meally, Killian O’Connor, Aidan Mahony, Frank Burke, Conall Bolger External stakeholders in attendance: Alexandria Charmoli (AC), Caoimhe McWeeney (CM), Gillian Baker (GB), Philip Connor (PC), Kevin Brophy (KB), Paddy Finn (PF), Gary Purcell (GP), Eoin Kennedy (EK).
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome & actions update• Apologies and new joiners to the council• DMSO transition• Progress updates on In-Flight Initiatives• Flexibility Multi Year Plan Update• Demand Flexibility Product Update• Round table discussion
Compiled By	Jennifer Ward

Minutes

Welcome, Housekeeping and Actions update

- AK welcomed all attendees to the meeting and gave a warm welcome in particular the two new electricity supplier representative members who have joined the council from Energia and Pinergy and represent the Electricity Association of Ireland. AK also welcomed the new Advisory Council chair, Teresa Fallon. Attendees introduced themselves.
- Action 1 on Pricing Approach it was agreed to close.
- Action 2 on Supplier Representation is also now closed.

DMSO transition

- AK outlined how the new Distribution Markets and System Operation brings together current teams from NN,LC, Smart Metering, Network Operations and Retail Market Services.
- AK indicated that teams from what previously NN,LC are now largely within the DMSO pillar on Slide 8. OSD and BSD constitute the ‘Build’ pillar. The Networks Ops / retail market services team manage the BAU operation within a ‘Run’ pillar.
- AK gave an overview of the role of Regulatory and Stakeholder Hub which brings together respective regulatory and external stakeholder functions which previously operated on the NN, LC and National Smart Metering Programme.
- AK commented that this structure will be helpful as we enter a period of regulatory change coming from the EU, Clean Energy Package and the National Energy Demand Strategy.

- CM commented that this is a welcome and positive move in aligning external engagement and being efficient. There are lots of new and updated policy requirements coming down the track and industry needs to be ready to deliver.
- TF commented that having the control room weaved into early-stage discussions on the programme was valuable and makes it easier to roll out enduring services.

Progress updates on In-Flight Initiatives

- PM gave an overview of the Flex Ops team.
- PM provided update on Dynamic Instruction Sets, Conservation Voltage Reduction (CVR), Flexible Connections, Flex Charging, Beat the Peak. Good discussion and engagement amongst members on the various initiatives.
- On CVR, Paddy talked about how Quality of Services is maintained to end users, and the remote and dynamic ability that Network Operations now have to use it as a tool in the case of an emergency. He discussed timelines for the next 3 months and how it could be rolled out to be an enduring initiative.
- CM asked if ESBN are tracking Carbon Abatement from CVR. Teresa commented that we are tracking MWh, and it can be inferred from this.
- For Flexible Generation Connections, Paddy discussed how this initiative will help deliver quicker connections and reduced barriers to access the grid for green generators. The first 2 sites are planned to go live this year.
- GB asked if the first planned Flexible Generation Connections site is a community projects. Paddy confirmed it was not. [Follow on: There is a community project due to connect to the grid for this initiative at a date to be confirmed]
- On Flex Charging, PM talked about how the end user schedule and compensation is communicated and used to encourage behavioural changes. PC commented that the sign-up process was straightforward once you had your MPRN and the reminders are good.
- For Beat the Peak, PM talked about how up until now, we have only run events where there has been tightness in the grid, this week has seen the first demand up event. TF also commented that we've also started locational based events for the first time. PM provided example messages that would be used for operating this.
- Paddy Finn (Viotas) requested more details (stats, analysis, etc.) of 'Is This a Good Time?' (BTPD).
- BF updated on the Community Toolkit and gave examples of tools provided by the Community Toolkit such as renewable energy rankings based on county and home appliance comparison tool. He discussed engagement to date with the SEAI and engagement energy community mentors.
- For the renewable energy forecast, CM enquired about potential engagement with news, media, radio, etc. with regard to weather vis-à-vis flex events. GP stated that very positive to see and maybe engagement with Met Eireann might be something to consider.
- PC asked if energy forecast information could be used for price signals?
- GP encouraged ESBN to try and socialise the renewable forecast out asap. It might inspire people. If they have solar already, they might plan to use it in line with the information provided.

Flexibility Multi Year Plan Update

- TF provided comprehensive update on suite of initiatives and actions contained within existing Flex MYP. She also gave a background on the Call for Input process and encouraged members to participate when it comes out.

- There was a discussion with members on engaging with LEUs via suppliers. The Advisory Council Supplier rep members indicated they are open to further engagement on this.
- Discussion amongst members on DSO-market participation transition model:
 - ACER recently published a paper on flex across various jurisdictions and the barriers that exist.
 - PF outlined barriers in terms of incentives to participate more in flexibility.

Key stakeholder engagements:

- Discussion on Blueprint and potential for engagement with industry in H2 2024 on Blueprint and associated roadmaps.
 - CM raised query pertaining to new EED requirements (e.g. energy sharing, submetering, multiple suppliers behind an MPRN, etc.). Will they now be progressed via Advisory Council? ESNB stated that we are still digesting updated EED requirements and there will be myriad considerations to take into account in terms of policy, design, delivery, etc.
 - Discussion on the importance of financial incentives to drive behavioural change. Members would like to see more on incentive market design.

Demand Flexibility Product Update

- EM provided update on ESB Networks' Demand Flexibility Product. EM commented that while the product was technology agnostic, it was most likely to suit storage assets.
- Update given on the objectives of the second consultation.
- CM requested more detailed timelines: EM responded that ESB Networks are planning to issue a QSQ in H2 2024 and the RfT in 2025.

Round table discussion

- CM: Is there any work from Behind the Meter that could be leveraged for energy sharing and sub metering? TF & AK: No, as the Behind the Meter work mostly focuses on the inverter. There will be profound change as a result of these initiatives and new policy may be required to address it.
- PC commented that Pinergy presented a peer to peer sharing initiative to CRU and that DUoS was the biggest issue.
- CM stated that what industry needs, in general, is a plan on a page which captures all of the requirements, initiatives, etc. to be delivered and then layers in all the national and regulatory policy needed. TF responded that the Blueprint aims to do this from an ESB Networks perspective and to capture the initiatives within our scope and remit. It was also commented that the NEDS decision over the coming weeks may provide further clarity on the overall regulatory priorities throughout the forthcoming phases.

AOB

- AK commented that any feedback is always encouraged and highlighted again our upcoming Call for Input consultation which will inform development of our Multi-Year Plans to be submitted to CRU at the end of September 2024 and encouraged members to respond.

Meeting Closed

- AK thanked everyone for their input and participation and the meeting was closed.

Open Actions					
ID	Owner	Action Description	Date Raised	Date Due	Comments
AC7.1	Brian Fitzgerald	Details requested (stats, analysis, etc.) for 'Is This a Good Time?' (Beat the Peak Domestic). Action: ESBN to consider if the presentation to the CRU on Beat the Peak Domestic could be shared.	19/06/2024	31/08/2024	Question raised by PF in relation to metrics from the BtP Initiative.
AC7.2	Paddy Mulvey	Provide details and figures on how much capacity the Flexible Generation Connections Initiative is providing.	19/06/2024	31/08/2024	Question from GB