

**Energy Security Emergency Group (ESEG) 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**  
**14:00 9 November 2022**

**Attendees**

- Mark Griffin (Secretary General – DECC – Chair) Matt Collins (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Barry Quinlan (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Paul Bolger (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Sheena Denny (PO – DECC), Kevin Brady (PO – DECC), Niall Power (AP – DECC), Rachel Kelly (AO- DECC- Secretariat)
- Aoife MacEvilly (Chair – CRU)
- Denis O’Sullivan (COO – GNI)
- Rodney Doyle (COO – EirGrid)
- Frank Bergin (CEO – NORA)
- Diarmaid Gillespie (EirGrid)
- Dermot Coates (PO-DETE)

**Apologies:** Ronnie Downes (Assistant Secretary – D/ETE), William Walsh (CEO-SEAI), Alan Barrett (Director – ESRI)

**1. Minutes of ESEG meeting of 19 October & actions arising**

Meeting minutes were agreed by the Group. Actions were dealt with as part of the agenda or carried over to the next meeting.

**2. Presentations on demand including impact of prices:**

**c) Oil demand (NORA)**

Frank Bergin gave a presentation on oil demand which was circulated in advance to the Group. Overall consumption for all oil products has recovered to pre-pandemic levels, despite the increases in price. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Petrol and diesel prices continue to be well above long term average. [REDACTED]

**a) Electricity demand (EirGrid)**

Diarmaid Gillespie shared a presentation on recent data on electricity demand. There has been a drop off in total peak demand Year on Year (YoY) by c.1-2% and with LEUs removed the total peak demand reduction is c.3%. Demand during night-time YoY has increased by c.3% while the total electricity demand has increased 3% YoY. Datacentre demand is up 10-11% YoY.

Aoife MacEvilly suggested that – if the trend continues- it may be useful to highlight the reduction of consumption during peak to encourage consumer behaviour. Sheena Denny noted that 80% of people say they are carrying out energy efficient behaviours in response

to the energy crisis, with insights being received on a fortnightly basis. [REDACTED]

SEAI will be notified that they will lead on analysis on energy demand which include trends on how different cohorts are consuming electricity and how they've responded to state supports and the RYU campaign.

**b) Gas demand (GNI)**

Denis O'Sullivan presented data on recent gas demand trends as compared to that observed in previous years. Non-powergen gas demand is down c.16%. However, this has not been corrected for the milder weather. Total gas demand is down only 1% reflecting the significant increases in gas use for electricity generation. The data suggests household consumption has been low due to mild weather however this has increased in recent days as temperatures have reduced.

**3. Brief updates on:**

**a) EU developments (MC – DECC)**

Matt Collins advised the group of an upcoming Energy Council meeting, out of which additional measures to address gas and impact on the electricity market are likely. Member States differ on priorities between security of supply concerns and on wholesale gas price caps. The group were advised that work on implementing the EU regulation on the Temporary Solidarity Contribution and wholesale electricity price cap for non-gas generators is ongoing within DECC.

[REDACTED]

**c) Communications update (SD – DECC)**

Sheena Denny provided an update on the Reduce Your Use (RYU) campaign. It was noted that audio and visual content has launched, with door-drop commencing week of 21<sup>st</sup>. Reception on social media has generally been positive. As well as Reduce your Use, there has been significant support from other organisations such as CRU's campaign on energy rights.

**4. ESEG subgroup structure (MG – DECC)**

The Chair advised members of recent internal restructuring in DECC with. The group also noted the paper circulated and agreed to implement the changes proposed. There will be another review of the structure of ESEG and the Sub-groups in Q1 2023.

**Actions**

Details	Timeline	Owner
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Memorandum to Government updating on gas and electricity emergency planning (carried over)	22.11	Matt Collins
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Provide data analysis on energy demand over recent months	22.11	William Walsh/ SEAI
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

