

A woman with voluminous curly hair, wearing a bright yellow sweater, is smiling broadly. She is positioned in the center-right of the frame. The background is dark and out of focus, with several glowing yellow light trails that curve across the lower half of the image. The overall mood is positive and energetic.

GB Connections Reform Steering Group Membership

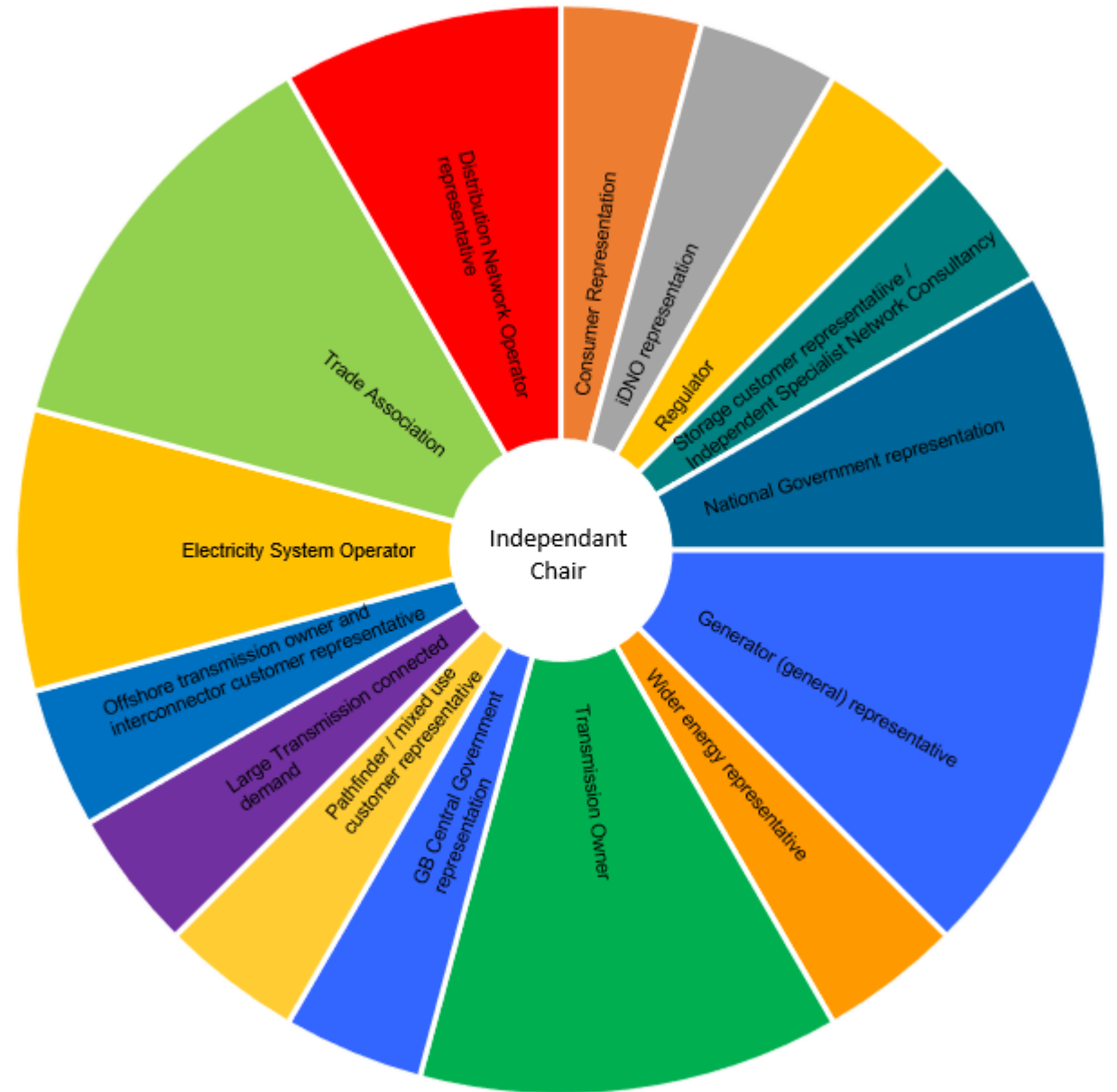
GB Reform Steering Group

The work the ESO are doing around the GB Connections Reform could have significant impact on multiple stakeholder groups. The role of the GB Connections Reform Steering Group is to help ensure the ESO develops fair and transparent proposals which consider feedback from relevant stakeholders. The group will do this through constructively challenging the solutions created through our internal work and with external stakeholders as part of our design work groups.

Membership assumptions

We have made efforts to make sure we have a good range of representation across the different sectors. While members don't formally represent all of the organisations in their sector, we expect members' views to be influenced by the type of organisation they are from, and their experience of a particular sector.

They should, to the best of their knowledge, attempt to reflect the views of as many stakeholders in their category or sector as possible to achieve as wide sector input as possible.



Steering Group Chair

Merlin Hyman OBE - Regen

Merlin is a passionate advocate of a smart, decentralised, low carbon energy system based on renewable energy. He is an influential figure in energy policy sitting on leading forums such as the BEIS and Ofgem Smart Systems Forum. Merlin was awarded an OBE in 2019 for services to sustainable energy.

Merlin is currently Chief Executive at Regen who's mission it is to transform how we generate, supply and use energy, he was previously director of the Environmental Industries Commission, where he worked in Whitehall and Westminster to ensure government support for British companies to succeed in the rapidly growing worldwide market for low-carbon products and services.



Consumer representation

Andy Manning – Citizens advice

Andy joined Citizens Advice in April 2021. Andy leads the Energy, Networks and Systems team. The team seeks to ensure that consumers receive the services they require from the energy network companies at good value for money, and that the energy system works well for consumers. Andy sits on the Ofgem Challenge Group that assesses network companies' business plans and chairs the Electricity System Operator RIIO Steering Group.

Andy has worked in the energy industry for over 20 years, working for Centrica and RWEpower before joining Citizens Advice. This was in a variety of commercial and regulatory roles, mainly focused on network regulation and system governance.

Andy led British Gas' ground-breaking appeal of the last electricity distribution price control settlement (RIIO-ED1) and Citizens Advice's intervention in the appeals related to latest settlements for transmission and gas distribution.



iDNO representation

Spencer Thompson – Eclipse Power

Spencer Thompson is the MD of Eclipse Power Ltd an Independent DNO (iDNO owned by Octopus) and a Board member for the INA. He has 32 years industry experience in key leadership roles within National Grid ET, Western Power (Australia) and Network Rail. His skills span business leadership, project and asset management, investment development, renewable energy development. Much of his time has been spent in a Regulatory environment spanning multiple price control reviews as well as over 20 years on Grid Connection management acting in Utility, Customer and Contractor roles. The membership of this Connections Reform is primarily to support new thinking to unlock the grid access congestion and bring the views of the INA and it's membership.



Regulator

Amy Freund - Ofgem

Amy heads up the Electricity Connections Team at Ofgem. Her background includes experience in the areas of energy system flexibility and network access reform.



Storage customer representative/Independent Specialist Network Consultancy

Catherine Cleary – Roadnight Taylor

Catherine has spent over 10 years as a specialist grid consultant, working with developers to deliver a wide range of grid connection projects, at both distribution and transmission. She has a particularly strong understanding of the technical and commercial considerations of connecting energy storage and renewables to the grid, and has provided technical expert support to Ofgem in their reviews of electrical connection costs, connection offers and other processes and standards over several years.

Catherine holds an Engineering Science Degree from the University of Oxford and authored her master's thesis at Princeton University on the optimisation of Battery Energy Storage.



National Government representative

Jenifer Pride – Welsh Government

Jennifer Pride is Head of Energy Delivery for Welsh Government, focusing on enabling the low carbon distributed energy system in Wales. She has worked for over a decade on energy policy and delivery with a wide range of organisations across Wales, the UK and internationally.



National Government representative

Claire Jones – Scottish Government

Head of Onshore Electricity Networks, Scottish Government



Generator (General) Representative

Patrick Smart – Renewable Energy Systems Ltd

As Energy Networks Director, I am responsible for all things grid relating to the RES onshore renewable energy and energy storage portfolio in UK and Ireland. Between 2014 and 2018, I was Chair of the RenewableUK Grid and Systems Group. I have also just completed a role as an independent advisor on the Northern PowerGrid Customer Engagement Group, a committee established to scrutinise Northern PowerGrid's RIIO ED2 business plan that will run during its next price control between 2023 and 2028.

Between 1999 and 2005, I held two senior roles within the OFGEM Networks Division and prior to joining RES in February 2011, I was Head of Commercial and Regulatory Consulting at Senergy Econnect, now part of Lloyds Register. “



Generator (Scotland) representative

Deborah MacPherson – ScottishPower Renewables

Deborah has over 20 years of experience in the industry on grid connection commercial and regulatory matters across both distribution and transmission. Deborah started her career with SP Energy Networks (SPEN) as part of the BETTA Change Programme Team, which had responsibility for the development of the transmission codes (STC), processes (STCPs) and contracts (TOCOs). During her time with SPEN, Deborah was the Commercial Lead on all commercial matters relating to major projects, management of construction contracts, customer engagement and liaison with National Grid ESO, Ofgem and other key stakeholders. Her remit of responsibilities included, commercial connections policy, charging, regulatory compliance and contract management. Deborah was also the SPEN Lead, representing both Distribution and Transmission across multiple Industry Codes (STC, TCRG, CUSC) and lead (D&T) on strategic industry programmes, including Ofgem's SCR and the ENA Open Networks. In her current role with ScottishPower Renewables as UK Grid Connections & Regulatory Policy Manager, Deborah has responsibility for all UK onshore and offshore grid connections and grid connection and regulatory policy.



Generator (large) representative

Garth Graham - SSE

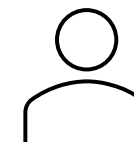
Garth has worked in the Electricity Industry for the past 31 years in various positions. During this time he has undertaken a number of roles covering many aspects of energy trading, regulation, generation, supply and charging. He is currently Head of Electricity Codes.

Since NETA Go-Live in 2001 Garth has been involved in developing, assessing and responding to Code modification and change proposal consultations associated with the CUSC, Grid Code and BSC.

Garth has been a member of a variety of industry groups, such as various BSC, Grid Code and CUSC Workgroups, as well as those arising from some of the industry's trade associations such as EnergyUK and Eurelectric. He has been involved in many of the previous initiatives / Code modifications regarding queue management, connect & manage etc.

Garth has been a CUSC Panel member since 2005 and has chaired the (CUSC) Governance Standing Group since 2009.

Garth is also actively involved in the emergency arrangements for the industry and is a member of "E3C", the Energy Emergencies Executive Committee (as well as its 'sub' groups, covering Electricity, Communications, Pandemic preparedness and Black Start arrangements) and has been involved with its predecessor bodies since 1999.



Wider energy representative

Charles Wood – Energy UK

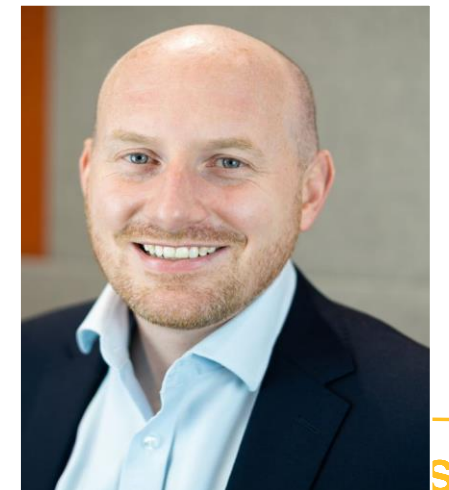
Energy UK is the trade association for the energy sector, and its members deliver nearly 80% of the UK's power generation and over 95% of the energy supply for 28 million UK homes as well as businesses, as well as an ever-increasing range of wider market participants across energy, heat, transport, and technology. As Deputy Director of Policy at Energy UK, focussing on Energy Systems, Charles leads work on the modernisation and integration of energy systems across the net zero transition, coordinating Energy UK's policy focus on decarbonising heat and transport, and on the development of a smart flexible net-zero energy system. This includes engaging with developing energy service business models, flexible technologies, energy applications for data and digitalisation, and the reform of institutional governance arrangements across the energy sector. Before joining Energy UK in 2016, Charles worked in the transport and technology sectors, focussing on smart low carbon technologies. This includes engaging with developing energy service business models, flexible technologies, energy applications for data and digitalisation and the reform of institutional governance arrangements across the energy sector. Before joining Energy UK in 2016 Charles worked in the transport and technology sectors, focussing on smart low carbon technology



Transmission owner

John Twomey – National Grid Electricity Transmission

John has worked for National Grid for 19 years and is currently Head of Customer Management within National Grid Electricity Transmission, which is the Transmission Owner part of the group. In his role today, John is accountable for working with customers to connect their projects to the high voltage transmission network in England & Wales. Previous to this role John worked for National Grid Electricity System Operator and led the work within NGEN looking at the long term reforms required to the electricity markets required for Net Zero.



Transmission owner

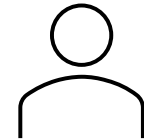
Neil Bennett - Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks Transmission

I have worked for SSE for over 20 years in various roles. I am currently the Senior Commercial Manager within SSEN Transmission and lead the Commercial Policy team. We are actively involved in industry code modifications at both STC and CUSC and are members of the STC Panel



Transmission owner

Gareth Hislop - Scottish Power Transmission



GB Central Government representation

Paul Hawker – Department Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

Paul has been the head of the BEIS Electricity Network Connections team since its inception in 2022. He has worked in electricity network policy since 2007 including roles in creating the offshore transmission regime, onshore transmission network policy and onshore distribution network policy.



Pathfinder/mixed use customer representative

Sally Boyd – Peakgen

Sally has been in the energy industry for 20 years and is now the Head of Engineering at Peak Gen Top Co Ltd. She has led the design and construction of a number of NGENSO's awarded Pathfinder projects and developer-led energy storage opportunities. Sally started her career at National Grid plc as a mechanical and power system engineer, working in the design team for Connection Applications and delivered over 4.2GW of offers. Sally spent time in HV Substation Operations and became a Senior Authorised Person and Team Leader. More recently Sally spent time in North America leading a technical bid on behalf of National Grid Ventures.



Sally is passionate about the future development of the energy industry and is delighted to represent developer views.

Large transmission connected demand

Arjan Geveke – Energy Intensive Users Group

Arjan Geveke is Director of the Energy Intensive Users Group, an umbrella organisation that represents the interests of energy intensive industrial consumers. Before he joined the EIUG, he spent 15 years working on energy and climate change policies in Government. He holds an MA in Public Policy and Public Administration from the University of Twente, The Netherlands, and a MSc in European Policy & Management from Birkbeck College, UK.



Offshore transmission owner and interconnector customer representative

James Dickson – Transmission Investment

With over 20 years in the European power industry, James has been responsible for power generation acquisition for a major global Utility; development director for an Independent Power Producer; and project manager and principal chartered engineer for a top tier power engineering consultancy. Joining Transmission Investment in 2015, James is responsible for the company's project development activities from origination to final investment decision.



Trade Association

David Boyer – Energy Networks Association

David is responsible for leading all aspects of ENA's work around electricity systems, including our flagship projects helping to make the UK's energy grid smarter and more flexible, delivering benefits for customers in the long run.

David joined us from Accenture and has over 13 years of experience in the utilities sector. He began his career with UK Power Networks, where he worked in a host of engineering roles before specialising in putting innovation into practice, as Innovation Manager. At Accenture, he spent five years on strategic projects, often focused on the challenges within energy transition.



Trade Association

Chris Friedler – The Association for Decentralised Energy

Chris works in ADE's policy team where he specialises in both the energy efficiency and industrial energy work. This includes retrofit in buildings and Combined Heat and Power (CHP). The members of the group he represents are particularly interested in speeding up the connection process for a variety of industrial decarbonisation application routes.

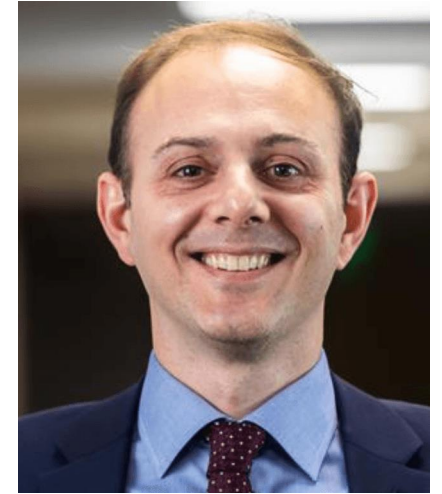
He has previously worked for an environmental charity and energy consultancy. He has a BSc and MSc in Environmental Geography and Climate Change, both from the University of East Anglia.



Distribution Network Operator

Sotiris Georgiopoulos – UK Power Networks

Sotiris leads UK Power Networks' Distribution System Operator (DSO). He joined the organisation in 2005 as a graduate engineer. He has worked in engineering, construction and innovation. For the last decade he has championed innovative ways to plan and operate our networks such as flexible connections and the development of flexibility markets. Sotiris studied electrical engineering at the University of Manchester and has an MBA from the University of Cambridge.



Distribution Network Operator

Ben Godfrey – National Grid Electricity Distribution

Ben heads up the Distribution System Operator function for National Grid's UK Electricity Distribution function and is responsible for forecasting, capacity management and developing strategic network investment options for all four of NGED's licenced areas. He is an experienced electrical engineer within the UK electrical utilities industry, spanning a number of functions including operations, planning, innovation and strategy.

Latterly, Ben has been developing NGED's capability in operating demand side flexibility under the Flexible Power brand, which is being successfully adopted by the majority of other UK DNOs.



