

<b>Meeting</b>	Independent Stakeholder Group	
<b>Date</b>	8 April 2026	
<b>Location</b>	111 Buckingham Palace Road, London	
<b>Attendees – Panel Members</b>		
Sharon Darcy (SD) ( <b>Chair</b> )	Tamar Bourne (TB)	
Claire Whyley (CWh) ( <b>Vice Chair</b> )	Barry Coughlan (BC)	
Chris Watts (CW)	Andrew McMunnigall (AM)	
Barbara Whiting (BW)	Keith Gardner (KG)	
Fayza Benlamkaden (FB) (Partial Attendee)		
<b>Attendees – SSEN, Distribution</b>		
Hollie Wilson (HW), Stakeholder Engagement Manager, SSEN Distribution	Shirley Robertson (SR), Head of Strategic Planning and Sustainability, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Lyndsey Stainton (LS), Head of Stakeholder Engagement, SSEN Distribution	Jack Ambler (JA), Regulation Manager, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Clothilde Cantegreil (CC), Head of Strategy, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	Graeme Keddie (GK), Director of Corporate Affairs, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Alasdair Muntz (AMu), Regulatory Strategy Manager, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	Ewan Baillie (EB), Asset Strategy Engineer, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Kylie Jones (KJ), Carbon and Nature Strategy Manager, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	James Flanagan (JF) Director of Procurement, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Shelley Tanner (ST) Head of Operations HR, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	Monisha Gower (MG), Director of Large Capital Delivery (Partial Attendee)	
Hollie Escott (HE), Procurement and Commercial Manager, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	Kasia Brown (KB), Regulation Manager, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Ainsley Mitchell (Ami), Business Change Manager, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	Andrew Roper (AR), Director of DSO, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	

## Minutes

Item No.	Agenda Item
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions – Sharon Darcy</b></p> <p>ISG received an update on progress against previous actions and welcomed improvements to the visibility of ISG challenge within wider business planning materials.</p> <p>Members emphasised the importance of clearly articulating trade-offs, interdependencies and affordability throughout the ED3 business plan narrative.</p>

2.	<p><b>Long-Term Integrated Plan &amp; 10-Year Delivery Strategy - Alasdair Muntz, Shelley Tanner, James Flanagan, Hollie Escott and Ainsley Mitchell</b></p> <p>SSEN presented its emerging Long-Term Integrated Network Plan (LTIP), setting out how long-term strategic planning under ED3 brings together load and non-load investment, deliverability, resilience and affordability considerations over a longer horizon than previous price controls.</p> <p>The ISG discussed how stakeholder evidence and ISG challenge are shaping the development of LINP, particularly around future-proofing, standardisation, public acceptance, environmental constraints and the timing of investment. Members welcomed the move towards more integrated long-term planning while emphasising the need for clear explanations of trade-offs and bill impacts over time.</p> <p>The role of flexibility in planning and operations was discussed, with ISG members highlighting the importance of clearly explaining when flexibility can and cannot be used, and how decisions are made to ensure value for money for customers.</p> <p>Early proposals supporting LTIP were noted, including strategic development planning, supply chain enablers and enhanced storm support.</p> <p>SSEN outlined its developing deliverability approach, structured around workforce capability and capacity, supply chain resilience, and coordinated delivery planning. The ISG discussed the importance of credible, evidence-based delivery plans, particularly in the context of skills shortages and supply chain constraints across the sector.</p> <p>Members highlighted the value of an integrated approach to workforce growth, innovation and capability development, and the need to clearly distinguish between risks within SSEN Distribution’s control and those driven by external factors. The importance of transparency around what can be delivered, when, and why was emphasised as key to building trust.</p>
3.	<p><b>ED3 Workstream 6: Asset Management and Reliability – Shirley Robertson and Ewan Baillie</b></p> <p>SSEN provided an update on its asset management and reliability strategy, including how stakeholder engagement and triangulation have informed emerging priorities. The ISG discussed the balance between reliability, resilience and affordability, noting that reliability remains a non-negotiable expectation for customers.</p> <p>Members emphasised the importance of clearly explaining asset risk, long-term investment needs and the impacts on customers, particularly for worst-served areas. The value of using external benchmarking and expert insight to inform strategy development was discussed, alongside the need to clearly frame how different evidence sources are used.</p>
4.	<p><b>ED3 Workstream 6: Climate Resilience and Environment – Shirley Robertson and Kylie Jones</b></p> <p>The ISG discussed SSEN Distribution’s Environmental Action Plan and developing climate resilience framework. SSEN outlined its continued commitment to science-based targets and the need to manage long-term climate risks alongside near-term affordability pressures.</p> <p>Discussion covered pollution prevention, asset impacts, visual amenity, biodiversity and nature restoration. ISG members highlighted the importance of clearly articulating the role of the DNO</p>

	<p>in managing environmental and climate risks, and of explaining how environmental investment supports long-term network resilience and customer outcomes.</p> <p>The ISG emphasised that climate resilience should be framed as a core business and infrastructure risk, rather than a discretionary sustainability issue.</p>
5.	<p><b>ED3 Strategy, Regulation, and Programme Update – Clothilde Cantegreil</b></p> <p>SSEN provided an update on the regulatory context, including evolving Ofgem thinking on affordability, flexibility and deliverability. Members discussed the importance of maintaining momentum on ED3 development while remaining adaptable to emerging regulatory guidance.</p> <p>The role of the ISG in providing independent challenge and assurance was discussed, with members reiterating the importance of the ISG informing regulatory judgement without taking on a formal compliance role.</p>
6.	<p><b>Stakeholder Engagement Update – Lyndsey Stainton and Graeme Keddie</b></p> <p>SSEN outlined its approach to stakeholder engagement for ED3, including embedding engagement evidence at strategy and outcome level to demonstrate a clear link between stakeholder insight and decision-making.</p> <p>Updates were provided on independent assurance of stakeholder engagement, publication of engagement outputs, and plans for deliberative consumer research. The ISG welcomed the commitment to transparency and the continued emphasis on maintaining a strong “golden thread” from engagement to decisions.</p>
7.	<p><b>A.O.B – All</b></p> <p>The Chair summarised key themes from the day, including the importance of clarity, transparency and realism in communicating ED3 proposals. Members welcomed the increasing visibility of ISG challenge within SSEN Distribution materials and noted the value of ongoing dialogue to support continuous improvement.</p>