

Meeting	Independent Stakeholder Group	
Date	10 March 2026	
Location	Online	
Attendees – Panel Members		
Sharon Darcy (SD) (Chair)	Tamar Bourne (TB)	
Claire Whyley (CWh) (Vice Chair) (Partial Attendee)	Barry Coughlan (BC)	
Chris Watts (CW)	Andrew McMunnigall (AM) (Partial Attendee)	
Barbara Whiting (BW)	Keith Gardner (KG)	
Fayza Benlamkaden (FB) (Partial Attendee)		
Attendees – SSEN, Distribution		
Hollie Wilson (HW), Stakeholder Engagement Manager, SSEN Distribution	Eliane Algaard (EA), Director of Customer Service, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Lyndsey Stainton (LS), Head of Stakeholder Engagement, SSEN Distribution	Patrick Erwin (PE), Director of Commercial, 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)	Sam Bird (SB), Head of Regulation, SSE Group (Partial Attendee)	
Jamie Dickson (JD), Data Strategy and Commercial Lead, SSEN Distribution (Partial Observer)	Andrew Roper (AR), Director of DSO, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	
Charlie Thompson (CT), Stakeholder Engagement Manager, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	Monisha Gower (MG), Director of Large Capital Delivery (Partial Attendee)	
Dawn Mulvey (DM), Partner Director, Create Clarity (Partial Attendee)	Chris Bratt (CBr), Director of Asset Management, SSEN Distribution (Partial Attendee)	

Minutes

Item No.	Agenda Item
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions – Sharon Darcy</p> <p>Membership and introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed new ISG members and noted the breadth of experience across the Group, spanning consumer representation, local government, asset management and regulation.</p> <p>Previous minutes were approved.</p> <p>ISG actions and challenge tracking</p> <p>The ISG reviewed progress against the Action Log and welcomed improvements to how completed actions and ISG challenges are being tracked and referenced in business materials.</p>

	<p>The importance of clearly evidencing how ISG challenge influences ED3 development was reiterated.</p>
2.	<p>Quarterly Business Update – Eliane Algaard</p> <p>High-level performance overview</p> <p>SSEN provided a high-level update on operational performance, including safety, network reliability, customer experience and environmental activity.</p> <p>External environment and delivery challenges</p> <p>The discussion highlighted the challenges of operating in a changing external environment, including weather volatility, delivery pressures and evolving regulatory incentives.</p> <p>ISG feedback</p> <p>ISG members welcomed transparent discussion and emphasised the importance of maintaining a strong safety culture alongside delivery.</p> <p>The value of providing appropriate comparative and contextual information to support ISG scrutiny was noted.</p>
3.	<p>ED3 Workstream 2: Load – Andrew Roper and Alastair Muntz</p> <p>Approach to future demand</p> <p>SSEN outlined its emerging approach to planning for future electricity demand, including how long-term pathways inform near-term ED3 investment decisions.</p> <p>Key discussion themes</p> <p>The discussion explored the balance between enabling growth and decarbonisation, managing uncertainty, and protecting customers from unnecessary cost.</p> <p>ISG challenge and feedback</p> <p>ISG members challenged the clarity of the Load narrative, particularly the articulation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how futureproofing and standardisation are considered in network design; • how affordability, public acceptance and environmental constraints influence investment choices; and • how assumptions, scenarios and sensitivities are explained for non-technical audiences. <p>The ISG agreed that clearer, more accessible explanations will be important as the business plan develops.</p>
4.	<p>Affordability (SSE Group) – Sam Bird</p> <p>Affordability context</p> <p>A Group-level overview highlighted that affordability is influenced by network investment, wider energy system costs, consumer behaviour and government policy.</p> <p>ISG discussion</p>

	<p>The ISG discussed the importance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transparency around trade-offs and distributional impacts; • recognising that impacts are experienced differently by different customer groups and regions; and • clearly distinguishing between matters within SSEN’s control and those driven by policy or market design. <p>Public communication</p> <p>Members emphasised the need for clear public messaging that reflects both short-term pressures and longer-term outcomes.</p>
5.	<p>ED3 Strategy, Regulation, and Programme Update – Clothilde Cantegreil</p> <p>Regulatory context</p> <p>An update was provided on relevant regulatory developments, including Ofgem consultations and early initiatives ahead of ED3 submission.</p> <p>Emerging proposals and risks</p> <p>The ISG discussed proposals relating to enhanced coordination and engagement roles, noting both opportunities and delivery risks.</p> <p>ISG feedback</p> <p>Members stressed the importance of outcome-focused engagement with local authorities and communities, avoiding overly process-driven approaches.</p> <p>The ISG highlighted the need for clarity on roles, responsibilities and alignment with existing regional planning and governance arrangements.</p>
6.	<p>Stakeholder Engagement Update – Lyndsey Stainton, Graeme Keddie, Charlie Thompson and Dawn Mulvey</p> <p>Engagement activity update</p> <p>SSEN provided an update on ED3 stakeholder engagement activity and the development of deliberative consumer research.</p> <p>Research design and triangulation</p> <p>The ISG welcomed the collaborative approach taken to refining the research design.</p> <p>Discussion focused on how deliberative research will be triangulated with wider engagement and how insights will be shared internally and externally.</p> <p>Transparency and evidence</p> <p>The importance of maintaining a clear link between stakeholder insight and decision-making was reinforced.</p> <p>Members supported SSEN’s commitment to publishing engagement outputs where appropriate.</p>
7.	<p>A.O.B – All</p> <p>New challenges logged</p>

The ISG agreed to log new challenges relating to:
futureproofing and standardisation in network design decisions; and
the consideration of environmental and public acceptance factors alongside cost and deliverability.

Actions and governance

Actions from the meeting were reviewed and confirmed.

The Chair provided an update on wider ISG Chair engagement across the sector and ongoing governance discussions.