

**Minutes of the Environmental Standards Scotland Board Meeting held on  
 Wednesday 5 July 2023 from 10:00-11:00 via Microsoft Teams**

**Board:**

Jim Martin (JM), Chair  
 Richard Dixon (RD)  
 Paul McAleavey (PM)  
 Annalisa Savaresi (AS)  
 Morag Sheppard (MS)  
 Chris Spray (CS)

**Apologies:**

Marie Fallon, Member  
 Neil Langhorn, Head of Strategy and  
 Analysis  
 Jamie McGrandles, Head of Investigations,  
 Standards and Compliance

**Attendees:**

**ESS Team:**

Mark Roberts (MR), CEO  
 Rebecca Peppiette (RP), Head of Corporate  
 Services and Communications  
 Alan Hunt (AH), Head of Policy Analysis and  
 Horizon Scanning\*  
 Hannah Eamer (HE), Senior Policy Analyst\*  
 Charlotte Lowe (CL), Governance Lead  
 (Minutes)

\*Item 3 only

**AGENDA**

	Item
1.	<p><b>Welcome and declarations of interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed the Board and attendees to the meeting. A particularly warm welcome was extended to Morag Sheppard and Professor Christopher Spray who are now official Members of the ESS Board.</p> <p>There were apologies from Marie Fallon, Neil Langhorn and Jamie McGrandles.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
2.	<p><b>Annual Report and Accounts</b></p> <p>RP presented the draft Annual Report and Accounts and the Audit and Risk Committee's ("the Committee") Annual Report to the Board and related assurances. RP noted that the Committee had reviewed a previous draft and their comments had been incorporated. RP thanked the Committee and the ESS team for their support and contributions in drafting the report.</p>

	<b>Item</b>
	<p>In discussion, the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sought further clarity on details relating to the pensions and contingent liabilities</li> <li>• recommended minor updates to the narrative on Performance and Management Indicators, such as stakeholder engagement and analytical outputs</li> <li>• recommended minor textual changes and cross-referencing throughout the report</li> <li>• approved the draft Annual Report and Accounts for submission to external audit, subject to the recommended changes</li> <li>• thanked the team and the Committee for their work</li> </ul>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Review of Environmental Governance</b></p> <p><i>At this point AH and HE joined the meeting.</i></p> <p>MR presented an overview of upcoming consultations on Scottish Government's Review of Environmental Governance and the Human Rights Bill, noting that the two consultations will run in parallel and interact in relation to the proposed right to a healthy environment.</p> <p>The Board noted the narrow focus of the Scottish Government's review and discussed its key themes of governance, access to environmental justice and environmental courts. The Board recommended that ESS provide a robust and comprehensive response to the consultation, agreeing that work to map a systemic view of Scotland's broader governance landscape, highlighting monitoring gaps, would facilitate this.</p> <p>The Board noted the next steps, including further discussions at its 18 August 2023 meeting and opportunities to attend consultation events in September 2023.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>There was no other business to consider.</p>

**Jim Martin**  
**Chair, Environmental Standards Scotland**  
**18 August 2023**