

Public

SSEP External Governance Quarterly

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Since publication of the SSEP Commission in October 2024, the majority of the governance groups, as recommended in the Commission and explained in more detail in our draft SSEP methodology document, have been established. These groups have been discussing aspects of the draft methodology, which is the first significant milestone for the SSEP programme.

In the Analytical Evidence Advisory Group (AEAG), we have been discussing the development of the modelling aspects of the methodology. Discussion topics have included the approach to economic modelling, what the baseline or starting point will be for the SSEP, and how interconnectors should be modelled.

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) established its Cross-Government Advisory Group (CGAG), and NESO is in the process of setting up the final governance group, the Expert Advisory Group (EAG). The EAG will comprise representatives from the stakeholder working groups which include Environmental, Land and Sea Use Spatial Planning, Industry and Societal Interest working groups. The group will meet for the first time in early 2025.

In early December 2024 we held a SSEP Committee meeting, which is the highest-level governance group for the SSEP programme. The meeting provided the group with an opportunity to discuss aspects of the final draft SSEP methodology before its publication for consultation on 9 December 2024. For example, it was discussed that the treatment of data centres in the final methodology would be subject to stakeholder feedback from the consultation with questions specifically posed in the consultation document.

Looking forward, the governance groups will review and discuss feedback from the draft methodology consultation to enable it to be finalised and published in Spring 2025.

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