

# Cornwall FLOW Commission

## Recruitment of an Independent Chair Candidate Brief

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## Foreword

Thank you for your interest in the role of Independent Chair of the Cornwall Offshore Wind Commission. This position will play an important role in enabling the potential of offshore wind in the English Celtic Waters to be fully realised to the benefit of the South West, Wales and the UK as a whole. It will require an exceptional individual who has the ability to convene a complex range of stakeholders to broker consensus and the industry and Board level experience to make telling interventions to unblock obstacles to progress. Ensuring the Commission is seen as an independent authority and transparent in its dealings with stakeholders and the public will also be critical to the Commission's success. This is a tremendous opportunity to create impact at a regional and national level and to contribute to a legacy of future prosperity for the region and a sustainable source of green energy for the UK.

I hope the information in this candidate pack gives you a sense of the ambition we have and encourages you to apply.





## About the Commission for Floating Offshore Wind

The Cornwall FLOW Commission (CFC) is an independent expert body, supported by a Secretariat provided by Celtic Sea Power Ltd (until at least 31 March 2025). It will be established in September 2024 and will operate for an initial term of three years with the potential to extend subject to a review of effectiveness.

### Purpose

To support the region to contribute to the delivery of the UK's targets for renewable generation. The Commission will examine options at a regional level, to streamline and accelerate the development process, minimise Floating Offshore Wind's (FLOW) cumulative marine ecological impact, and maximise the regional economic development and jobs creation.

### The role of the Commission

The Cornwall FLOW Commission was proposed by Cornwall Council, and recognised by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities under the provisions of the Cornwall Devolution Deal approved by Cabinet on 28 November and signed on 13 December 2023.

Rooted in the South-West of England, the CFC will take the role of convenor for the English Celtic Sea waters, an identified gap. Adopting a position which is integrate and coherent with the wider region and the UK as a whole, it will understand challenges and bottlenecks which affect the success of Celtic Sea FLOW, establishing more proactive engagement from the Southwest of England, complementing the efforts of the Welsh Government and ultimately benefitting the UK.

### Scope of the Commission's activity

It is recognised that there are multiple key stakeholders, policymakers, legislators and regulators with influence on the success of Celtic Sea FLOW; that there are key interdependencies across the UK; and that the relationship between all parties is complex.

To this end, the CFC shall,

- Challenge - Take steps to understand where particular interfaces, lack of co-ordination, lack of data, lack of knowledge, lack of action / activity, policies, interventions and other elements are restricting progress,
- Catakysé - Recognising that Celtic Sea FLOW is a long-term opportunity, establish a forward looking position on which options will be beneficial, have maximum impact, require co-ordination to minimise interface inertia, are not currently being pursued / being pursued in an un-coordinated way, are limiting accelerative opportunities, and/or are negatively impacting Cornish interests,

- Convene - From this position, provide guidance, advice, support, feedback to key Government Departments and other relevant agencies and bodies on both a pro-active (convening) and reactive (consultative) basis.

The Commission is not a public body, it has no statutory basis or legal powers and it is not a planner, regulator or a delivery body. It has no formal decision-making powers. However, the Ministerial sign-off of the Devolution Deal which supports the ambition to create a CFC provides it with persuasive convening authority.

### **Ways of working**

The Commission's main method of delivery will be to use its convening authority to bring together key government departments and stakeholders to focus on specific and relevant challenges (Convened Meetings). These will be called as required. In order to define such challenges, determine which departments/ stakeholder to "call", set questions, monitor effectiveness and ensure good governance, the Commission will also meet quarterly (Operational Meetings).

The independence of the Commission, the transparency of its ways of working and the trust it engenders in its findings are critical to its role and effectiveness. The Commission will conduct a regular review (which may be done by a third party) of its governance arrangements, its independence and its wider effectiveness.

### **Operational Meeting - virtual, hybrid or face-to-face**

- Occurs quarterly.
- The meeting will be considered quorate if two-thirds of the Commission are in attendance provided this number includes the Chair, one standing commissioner and one appointed commissioner.
- Voting will be by way of consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached each member will vote on the matter and a vote will be carried on a simple majority. In the case of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.
- Commissioners may make recommendations to other decision-making bodies and organisations. It may delegate its functions to individual members or an officer of the Secretariat.
- Standing agenda - circulated at least 5 working days before meeting.
  - Conflict of interest declaration. At the beginning of each meeting of the Commission, Commissioners shall declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agenda. Declarations of such conflicts shall be recorded in the minutes of the meetings. The agenda and the meeting will be managed to ensure that these issues are managed appropriately. Commissioners shall submit to the Chair and secretariat a list of interests relevant to the work of the Commission within 28 days of being appointed.

- Receive reports on effectiveness of actions arising from convened meetings (Secretariat).
- Receive reports on areas of focus including specific items of challenge or barriers. This shall be collated by the Secretariat but could include input from both internal (Celtic Sea Power, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum, Cornwall Growth Board etc) and external (OREC & Academia, Trade Associations, key Stakeholders etc).
- Establish need for convened meetings, identify required attendees, agree agendas, set questions for attendees.
- Request further evidence / information to support efficiency of convened meeting.
- Minutes published / circulated within one calendar month of the meeting.

### **Convened Meeting - virtual, hybrid or face to face**

- As required or as requested by the Commission.
- Request to attend issued by the Chair at least one calendar month before the scheduled date.
- Questions for attendees and supporting information to be circulated at least 10 working days before the meeting.
- Meetings will follow the Chatham House non-attribution rule.
- Meeting records shall include; record of agreed actions (if any); summary of discussions (with no quotes attributed).
- Meeting records to be circulated within one calendar month of the meeting.

In addition to CFC meetings, the Chair and commissioners may act as representatives to relevant advisory panels, consultative groups, inquiries and working groups.

Initially, Celtic Sea Power Ltd will act as the Secretariat, supporting CFC members in their work no longer than 31 March 2025 unless an extension is agreed by the Commissioners.

### **Confidentiality**

Convened meetings will follow the Chatham House non-attribution rule. Information provided to CFC and its discussions will remain confidential. Members may not make information public outside of Cornwall Council or the government's own approach to publication of the advice.

Commissioners are asked not to disclose any information shared in the meeting that may have an impact on another member of the CFC or adversely affect the work of the CFC. Frank discussion and the sharing of views will enhance the work; this may be inhibited if members

feel comments will be publicly attributed to them out of context.

## **Membership**

The Commission will consist of:

- one independent Chair;
- three standing commissioners, invited by Cornwall Council (CC),
  - Cornwall Council Elected Member
  - Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and
  - The Crown Estate (TCE)
- three appointed commissioners meeting the requirements of an agreed specification selected by the standing commissioners following an open and transparent process.

Commissioners shall be appointed for a maximum term of three years, subject to annual review. Notwithstanding this, and to support the mobilisation of the Commission, three interim Commissioners meeting the knowledge criteria of the specification and drawn from the Celtic Sea Power Ltd Board shall be appointed for the first six months of operation. After 31 March 25, independent commissioners should have been selected and appointed.

The Chair will be appointed by a panel consisting of the three standing commissioners, senior Cornwall Council Officer and the CEO of Celtic Sea Power.

To ensure credibility, all members of the CFC are experts in their field, selected for their specific expertise. Collectively, they will demonstrate detailed knowledge of the relevant regulatory and policy landscape across the Celtic Sea region and wider UK. To this end, and notwithstanding that standing commissioners will represent their respective organisations, appointed commissioners and the Chair will not represent any specific organisation.

Commissioners will work to the terms of engagement agreed upon appointment (for example, relating to confidentiality and declaration of any potential or actual conflicts of interest). The Chair and the Secretariat should be informed, in writing, of any changes to their circumstances that may affect these issues as soon as possible.

## **Resource**

The Commission will seek funds to support its activities, but will not take resources from any organisation, group or individual that, in their opinion, could actively harm its reputation or hinder its ability to perform its functions.

Funding will be accepted only on the condition that funders recognise the independence of the Commission and acknowledge that funding does not bring any influence over the work of the Commission.

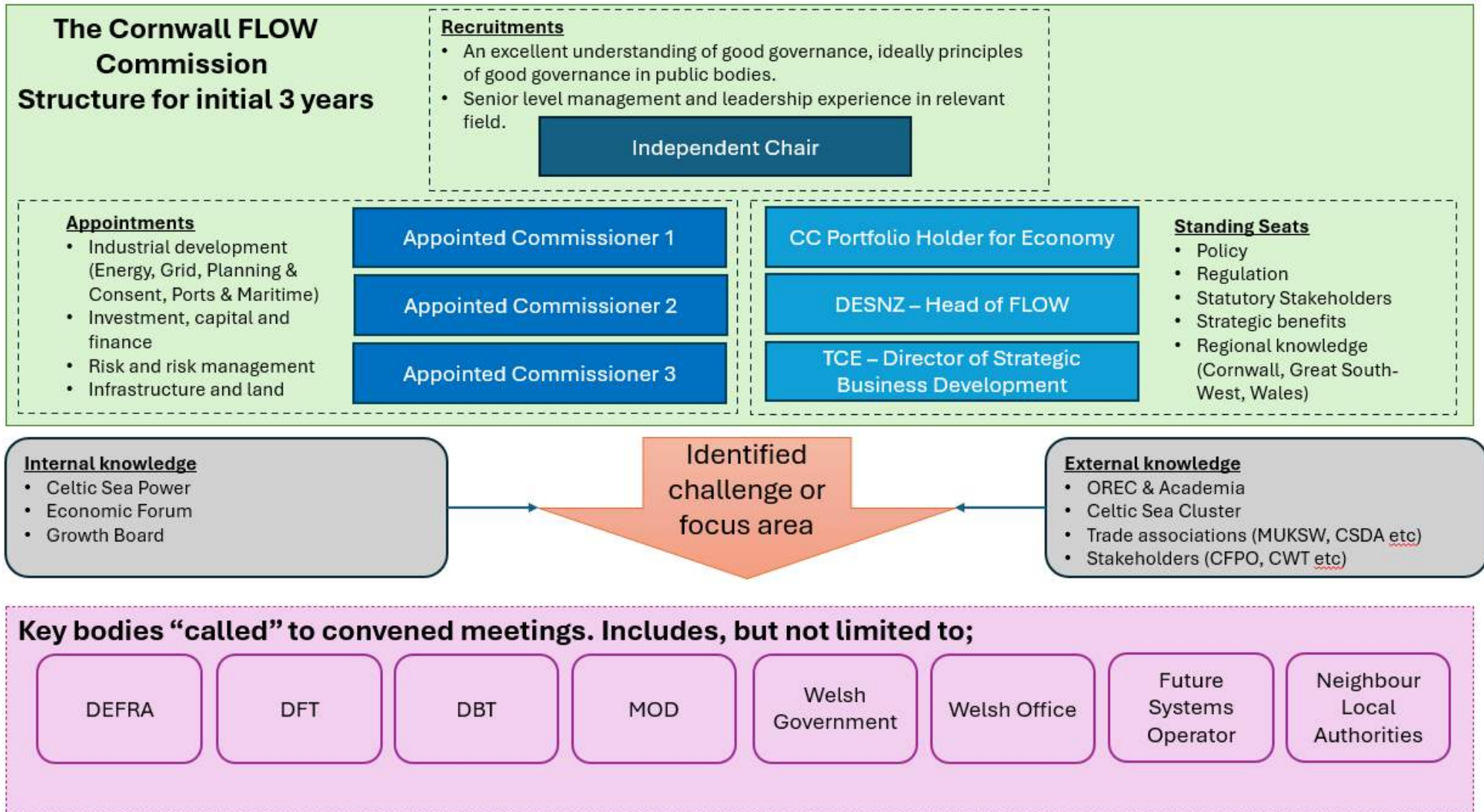
The sources of all funding (including in-kind support) will be fully and publicly acknowledged, including in any annual report and at any events organised or on any publications generated based on any financial support.

It is noted that the design, mobilisation and operation of the Cornwall FLOW Commission to 31 March 2025 is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.





# Cornwall FLOW Commission Structure



# Cornwall Floating Offshore Wind Commission

## Chair Role Description

### Purpose

The locally led Cornwall FLOW Commission (CFC) is a key outcome of the Cornwall Devolution Deal which was approved in November 2023. It will examine options at a regional level, to streamline and accelerate the development process, minimise FLOW's cumulative marine ecological impact, and maximise the regional economic development and jobs creation.

The Commission will consist of one independent Chair; three standing commissioners appointed by Cornwall Council (CC), Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and The Crown Estate (TCE); three commissioners appointed by the standing commissioners and Cornwall Council.

To ensure credibility, all members of the CFC are experts in their field, selected for their specific expertise. Collectively, they will demonstrate detailed knowledge of the relevant regulatory and policy landscape across the Celtic Sea region and the wider UK. To this end, and notwithstanding that a commissioner may be appointed by an organisation, they will not represent any specific organisation.

The Chair will bring an independent view, based on previous experience gained through involvement in similar initiatives across energy, infrastructure and/or policy arenas.

The Chair shall;

- Lead the CFC
- Champion the CFC's purpose with government agencies, including, Members of Parliament and Ministers.
- Convene strategic conversations to unlock opportunities and overcome barriers.
- Provide strategic leadership, challenge and support to the CFC.
- Represent and champion Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly locally, nationally and internationally.

The appointment will be for an initial term of three years, subject to annual review.

## Person Specification

### *EXPERIENCE*

- An extensive understanding of and interest in the UK's energy and infrastructure challenges, particularly as they pertain to Cornwall and the wider Celtic Sea region.
- Experience of maintaining independent leadership. Gathering information from the widest range of stakeholders, and ensuring objectivity, integrity and independence of thought and action in the face of external pressures.
- Experience of governance and working on a board

## *PERSONAL*

- A well-founded reputation for high levels of personal integrity, resilience and other attitudes consistent with the expectations of senior public office in a high-profile role, including a commitment to demonstrating the Nolan Principles of Public Life.
- Demonstrable party-political independence and an understanding of the specific importance of party-political neutrality for the Cornwall FLOW Commission.
- To be an accessible and engaging ambassador for the Cornwall FLOW Commission, in particular a commitment to improving public trust and understanding of the sector.
- The ability to make strategic decisions within a complex and shifting external landscape.

## *THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE DESIRABLE:*

- The ability to influence high level stakeholders within government and Parliament, the media, the charity sector and the business world.

## **Commitment**

The commission shall;

- Request evidence and feedback from relevant stakeholders. Convene, question and consult utilising existing groups, organisations and informed individuals impacted/involved with the FLOW ecosystem.
- Convene meetings of complementary stakeholders holding the relevant levers of powers to address established options and discuss solutions.
- Establish feedback mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of co-ordination.
- By return, act as a key point of contact for policy making, decision making, regulatory and statutory bodies as part of their consultative process.

To achieve this, the Chair shall be expected to make themselves available for;

- Operational Meeting (virtual or face-to-face)
  - Four per year (quarterly).
  - Preparation time, review of papers.
- Convened Meeting (virtual or face to face)
  - Ad hoc/ as required/ as requested by the Commission as identified during operational meetings (estimate of two to three per year).
  - Main method of informing, connecting, facilitating, brokering and championing.
  - Preparation time, review of papers.
- Additional meetings, events, consultations, guidance and advice as required (estimate of an additional 2 days per year)

This role is estimated to take (on average) one day per month.

## How to apply

### Contact

For a private and confidential discussion, please contact:

#### **Rob Naylor**

Email: [rnaylor@faerfield.co.uk](mailto:rnaylor@faerfield.co.uk)

Tel: 0121 592 2165

#### **Roger Russell**

Email: [rrussell@faerfield.co.uk](mailto:rrussell@faerfield.co.uk)

Tel: 0121 592 2165

### Apply

To apply for this role please visit [www.faerfield.co.uk/cornwall-FLOW](http://www.faerfield.co.uk/cornwall-FLOW) and find the Apply button at the bottom of the page. When prompted, please submit your CV and a Supporting Statement of no more than 2 sides of A4.

Your supporting statement should express why you are interested in this role and what relevant experience you can bring to the Cornwall Offshore Wind Commission.