

Nuclear Regulatory Implementation Panel - Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Nuclear Regulatory Implementation Panel (NRIP) will act as a small, expert council providing authoritative challenge and strategic counsel. Its core purpose is to ensure that the intent, standards, and ambitions of the Government's response to the Nuclear Regulatory Review are maintained throughout implementation, and that delivery happens at pace across government, regulators and the sector.

2. Objectives

NRIP will:

- Hold government, regulators, and industry to account for delivering agreed reforms, meeting the delivery plans associated with each recommendation in the government response, and enacting the culture change required.
- Provide expert advice and challenge to the blended cross government, regulator and industry delivery teams responsible for implementing reforms, including any feedback on progress from those delivering change.
- Report to Ministers, escalating where necessary, advising on barriers, risks, and opportunities that may require ministerial attention or cross government intervention so that Ministers can take appropriate action to influence the sector.

3. Scope

NRIP will oversee implementation across the full suite of recommendations contained in the Government Response, including but not limited to:

- Regulatory reform and enabling behaviours within ONR, EA and other regulators.
- Government policy, legislative and regulatory changes required to unlock timely delivery.
- Planning, permitting, environmental, and cross government processes.
- Industry behaviours concerning standardisation, avoiding gold plating, efficient evidence provision, and replication of learning.
- Defence nuclear regulatory interfaces

NRIP's oversight is advisory, with formal decision making reserved to Whitehall governance structures. NRIP, through the chair, will be able to recommend specific action be taken with teams, or ask for additional experts to be instructed, to drive delivery. They may also be drawn upon in an individual advisory capacity or to provide a challenge function directly to implementation teams.

4. Membership

NRIP will be a DESNZ chaired body comprising a small group (7–8 members) of senior figures from government, regulators, industry and independent experts, with the credibility and authority to influence delivery and drive culture change. NRIP will also be attended by the SRO (Lee McDonough) and any others necessary to present updates or provide information. A small number of observers may be included to aid information flow.

5. Reporting

Reporting lines will provide assurance at the centre of government and ensure delivery remains a priority across Whitehall. NRIP will report to:

- Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister (CSPM)
- Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
- Secretary of State for Defence

NRIP will provide:

- Regular updates to CSPM, SoS DESNZ and SoS Defence, via endorsing a comprehensive tracker of implementation progress of each recommendation, provided by the senior XWH group, alongside a letter with personal assessment of status by the NRIP chair.
- Input to the Infrastructure Committee, where CSPM may choose to hold Ministerial discussions.
- A final published report at the conclusion of implementation, setting out an assessment of delivery and sector wide impact.

6. Ways of Working

NRIP will:

- Provide advice to delivery teams across government, regulators and industry.
- Commission or engage additional experts where needed.
- Agree when to escalate barriers to delivery swiftly, ensuring pace is maintained.
- Provide challenge as a group in a way that is evidence based, and outcomes focussed.
- Maintain a clear separation from formal regulatory decision making.

7. Meetings and Rhythm

Frequency: Quarterly, with additional sessions convened out of cycle as required by Ministers or DESNZ, and the first meeting in June 2026.

Ad hoc meetings can also be convened at a higher classification as needed with a limited and appropriately cleared cast list.

NRIP will receive updates from the Senior Nuclear Regulatory Review Board

Ministerial discussions: Via the Infrastructure Committee or other XWH governance structures as directed by CSPM.

8. Secretariat

DESNZ will provide the secretariat to NRIP, responsible for:

- Agenda setting and commissioning papers
- Forward look of agenda items and issues
- Preparing reports to Ministers
- Maintaining the delivery dashboard and tracking progress