

Representation received by Email

UNC Independent Panel Chair

Date: 10 February 2014

Organisation:

RWE npower

Abstract:

- 1) What criteria do you consider to constitute an independent Chair?

An appointed independent chair would need to have a totally unbiased view point and therefore should not have been previously employed by any of the parties to the code or its administrator i.e. Transporter/Shipper/Joint office employees. The BSC demonstrates use of an independent chair.

- 2.) Do you consider that the Joint Office Chief Executive, appointed from a Gas Transporter business, fulfils the Transporter's Licence obligation to appoint an independent chair, and why?

No. Appointing an ex-national grid employee is not fulfilling an independent view. It does not meet the guidelines of Ofgem's Code Governance Review

- 3.) Do you have any views on the *process* of appointing the Independent Chair in this way?

The Joint Office should follow a 'Best Practice' process of appointing the independent chair. We suggest that it would be helpful to review the methods used by other codes (for example the BSC and the SEC).

A job specification could be drawn up, selection criteria could be agreed and an open recruitment exercise could be carried out to appoint the independent chair.

- 4.) Are there any further examples or evidence you can provide to support the points made?

A process of recruiting an independent chair has recently been carried out under the Smart Energy Code. We suggest that the Joint Office could contact SECAS to discuss the process used and how it went. This could be helpful in developing an appropriate transparent process for the UNC Panel. Another example to use as a guide would be the BSC.