

# SONI Forward Work Plan

**2023 – 24**

**Appendix 2 SONI Deliverables 2023-2024**

**Role 2 Independent Expert**

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## Contents

SONI Deliverables 2023-2024 – Role 2 Independent Expert .....	3
Cost Scale.....	3
Overview of the projects .....	4
Role 2: Detailed Programme of Deliverables.....	7
Stakeholder Management Strategy.....	7
Review and Publish an Enhanced Public Engagement Process for Network Infrastructure .....	9
Support the NI Energy Strategy.....	11
Annual Innovation Report.....	13
SONI Mid-Year Performance Review .....	15
SONI Publication of the Forward Work Plan 2024-2025 .....	17
Balancing Market Principles Statement.....	19
Security of Supply Publications.....	20
SONI TSO – DSO Operating Model.....	22
SONI Price Control 2025+ .....	24
Tomorrows Energy Scenarios Northern Ireland (TESNI).....	26

# SONI Deliverables 2023-2024 – Role 2 Independent Expert

The SONI Forward Work Plan provides details on the various projects and programmes of work that will be undertaken over the period from October 2023 to September 2024. This appendix document provides further detail on those deliverables associated with ‘Role 2 - Independent Expert’ and should be read in conjunction with the main document.

## Cost Scale

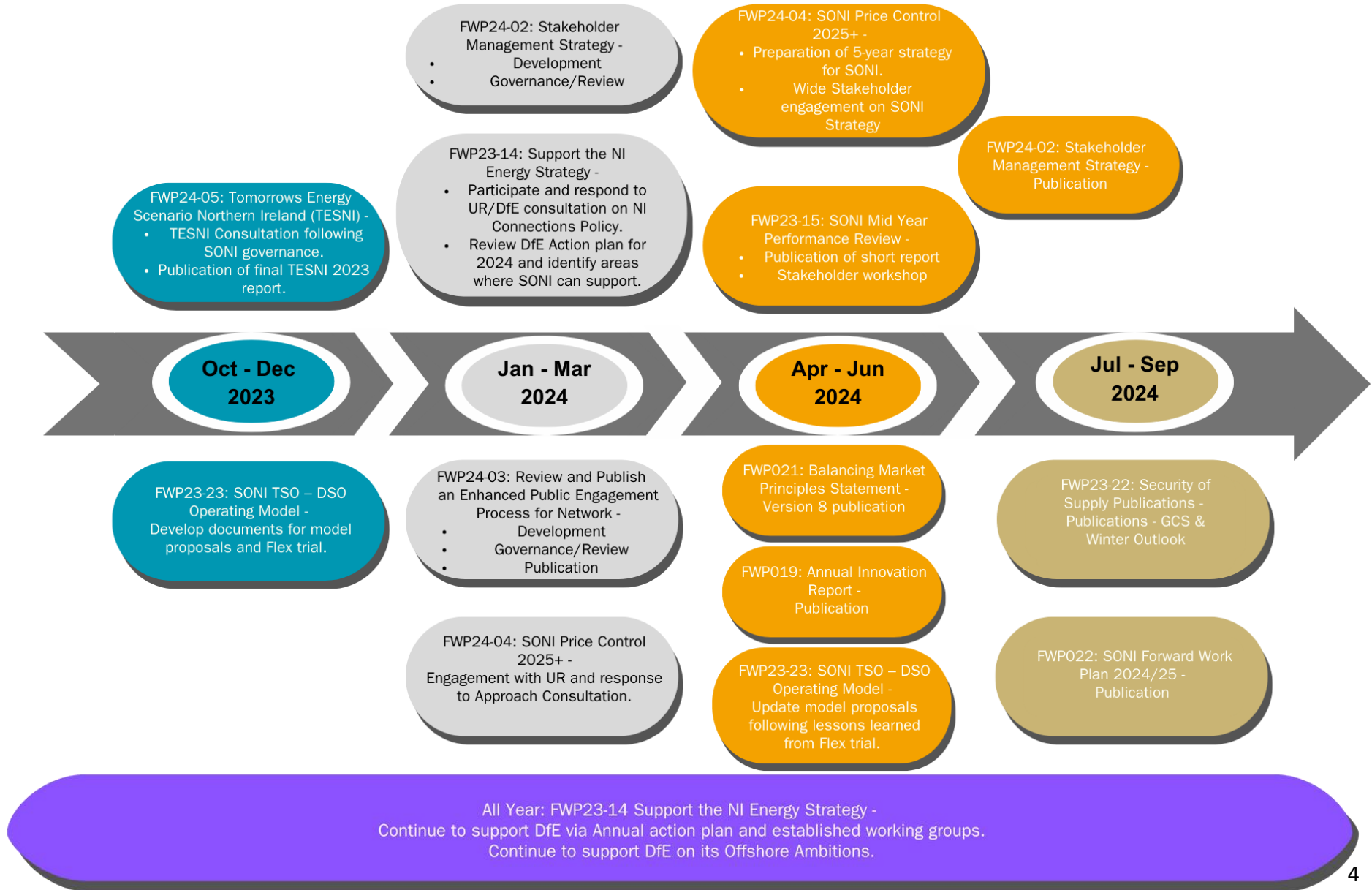
SONI have created a Cost Scale in order to assist the audience in understanding the scale and/or importance of a project, and detailed where on this scale each project lies. The costs indicated are SONI related costs and do not cover any costs accrued by any stakeholder SONI may be collaborating with on said project.

This scale applied is detailed below:

Low	Medium	High	Very High
£0 - £500k	£500k - £1M	£1M - £5M	£5M +

## Overview of the projects

The table below provides a holistic view of the projects being undertaken across Role 2 - Independent Expert. Additional detail is provided around these deliverables throughout the document.



Project	Milestone	Performance Measure	Timescale
FWP24-02: Stakeholder Management Strategy	Development	Publication of Stakeholder Management Strategy within agreed timescales.	January 2024
	Governance/Review		February 2024
	Publication		March 2024
FWP24-03: Review and Publish an Enhanced Public Engagement Process for Network Infrastructure	Development	Publication of enhanced public engagement process in a timely fashion. Stakeholder satisfaction in engagement process measured through structured feedback and endorsement of enhanced process.	February 2024
	Governance/Review		March 2024
	Publication		April 2024
FWP23-14: Support the NI Energy Strategy	Continue to support DfE via Annual action plan and established working groups.	This programme of work will be monitored throughout the period.	September 2024
	Continue to support DfE on its Offshore Ambitions.		September 2024
	Participate and respond to UR/DfE consultation on NI Connections Policy.		Early 2024
	Review DfE Action plan for 2024 and identify areas where SONI can support.		Early 2024
FWP019: Annual Innovation Report	Timely publication of the Annual Innovation Report and stakeholder engagement to inform which projects should progress to UR funding request.	Timely publication of the Annual Innovation Report and stakeholder engagement to inform which projects should progress to UR funding request.	April 2024
FWP23-15: SONI Mid-Year Performance Review	Mid-Year Update on SONI's 2023-2024 Performance	Successful SONI Mid-Year Review Workshop	April 2024
	Mid-Year Update Workshop		May 2024
FWP022: Publish SONI's 2024/25 Forward Work Plan	Publication of SONI's Forward Work Plan for 2024-2025	The timely publication of the SONI Forward Work Plan	September 2024

FWP021: Balancing Market Principles Statement	Update and consult on version 8 of the Balancing Market Principles Statement	Timely consultation process, feedback will be assessed on quality and quantity and the timely provision of the document to the UR for approval.	June 2024
FWP23-22: Security of Supply Publications	Publication of materials associated with Security of Supply – All Island Generation Capacity Statement and Winter Outlook	Timely publications of material.	September 2024
FWP23-23: SONI TSO – DSO Operating Model	Develop documents for model proposals and Flex trial.  Update model proposals following lessons learned from Flex trial.	Successful achievement of deliverables.	October 2023  April 2024 (dependent on the end of the Flex trial)
FWP24-04: SONI Price Control 2025+	Engagement with UR and response to Approach Consultation.  Preparation of 5-year strategy for SONI.  Wide Stakeholder engagement on SONI Strategy.	This programme of work will be monitored throughout the period.	December 2023 – February 2024  April 2024  June 2024
FWP24-05: Tomorrows Energy Scenario Northern Ireland (TESNI)	TESNI Consultation.  Publication of final TESNI 2023 report.	Timely consultation process and assessment of feedback on both quality and quantity.  The timely publication of the final TESNI 2023 report.	October 2023  December 2023

# Role 2: Detailed Programme of Deliverables

## Stakeholder Management Strategy

Deliverable	FWP24-02: Stakeholder Management Strategy
<p>Description of Activities</p>	<p><b>Develop and a publish a Stakeholder Management Strategy and evaluation framework.</b></p> <p>Following the completion of the Stakeholder Needs Assessment in 2023/24, this project will develop a SONI Stakeholder Management Strategy and evaluation, using the research and insights provided by key stakeholders.</p> <p>Given the scale of stakeholder engagement that takes place across SONI on a daily basis, the Stakeholder Management Strategy will set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• our strategic approach and principles of stakeholder engagement in line with best practice;</li> <li>• a framework for coordination across the organisation;</li> <li>• a programme of strategic activity beyond business as usual; and</li> <li>• an evaluation framework to evidence the delivery of our commitments and our effectiveness.</li> </ul> <p>The Stakeholder Management Strategy will ensure a consistency in SONI’s approach to engagement and ensure our stakeholders know and understand what they can expect from our organisation.</p>
<p>Key Benefits</p>	<p>This project will entail the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice methodology in stakeholder engagement will be incorporated into SONI’s approach.</li> <li>• Improved openness and transparency with key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Key stakeholders will have a clearer understanding on what they can expect from their engagement with SONI.</li> <li>• SONI’s engagement will be more structured, consistent, relevant, audience-driven, and responsive.</li> <li>• An evaluation framework will support SONI to demonstrate its delivery and effectiveness in its stakeholder engagement programme.</li> </ul>
<p>Strategic Theme</p>	<p><b>A culture of effective engagement and collaboration</b>  <b>A culture of organisational learning, accountability and planning that supports SONI agility and responsiveness in meeting policy, regulatory and market development.</b></p> <p>SONI is taking the learnings from stakeholder feedback provided during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 evaluative performance framework process and further developing our stakeholder engagement framework. This builds in another layer of accountability for SONI and demonstrates our responsiveness to the needs of stakeholders.</p>

Engagement	Significant engagement with stakeholders has already taken place to inform this project through the stakeholder needs assessment. The Strategy will be published to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to access the document and understand what they can expect in their engagement with SONI.			
Performance Measure	Publication of Stakeholder Management Strategy within agreed timescales.			
Timescale	Development: October 2023 - January 2024 Governance/Review - February 2024 Publication - March 2024			
Cost Scale	Low			
SONI Outcome	Decarbonisation	Grid Security	System Wide Costs	Stakeholder Satisfaction



## Review and Publish an Enhanced Public Engagement Process for Network Infrastructure

Deliverable	<b>FWP24-03: Review and Publish an Enhanced Public Engagement Process for Network Infrastructure</b>
Description of Activities	<p>SONI has a well-established three-part process for public engagement when it comes to network infrastructure projects.</p> <p>This process puts local communities, key stakeholders, and elected representatives at the heart of SONI’s infrastructure projects and already goes well above and beyond what is required by the statutory planning system process for pre-application community consultation.</p> <p>Recent research from the Consumer Council<sup>1</sup> shows that there is still more work to do to build public acceptance of electricity transmission infrastructure projects and to ensure local communities feel they have a stake in the energy transition.</p> <p>With more network infrastructure projects planned over the coming years and a successful pilot of the Mid Antrim Upgrade Citizen Sounding Board, this review is timely to ensure SONI’s engagement is “best in class” and contributes to building more public acceptance.</p> <p>To deliver this project, we will undertake further research to ensure SONI’s public engagement is informed by best practice.</p>
Key Benefits	<p>The project will entail the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation of the latest best practice into SONI’s community and public engagement.</li> <li>• An enhance engagement experience for consumers and local communities in shaping SONI’s network infrastructure projects.</li> <li>• An increased likelihood of successful planning permission decisions due to enhanced and better evidenced community and public engagement.</li> <li>• Improved public acceptance of network infrastructure within local communities.</li> </ul>
Strategic Theme	<p><b>A culture of effective engagement and collaboration</b>  <b>A culture of organisational learning, accountability and planning that supports SONI agility and responsiveness in meeting policy, regulatory and market development.</b></p> <p>SONI will conduct further research to continue to improve in this important aspect of our role. This builds in another layer of accountability for SONI and demonstrates our responsiveness to the needs of stakeholders.</p>
Engagement	<p>A programme of research and engagement with local communities and expert organisations will support the delivery of this project.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Consumer Council (2023), [Attitudes to the Energy Transition](#), pg. 21

<b>Performance Measure</b>	Publication of enhanced public engagement process in a timely fashion. Stakeholder satisfaction in engagement process measured through structured feedback and endorsement of enhanced process.			
<b>Timescale</b>	Development: October 2023 – February 2024 Governance/Review - March 2024 Publication - April 2024			
<b>Cost Scale</b>	Low			
<b>SONI Outcome</b>	Decarbonisation	Grid Security	System Wide Costs	<b>Stakeholder Satisfaction</b>

## Support the NI Energy Strategy

Deliverable	FWP23-14: Support the NI Energy Strategy
<p><b>Description of Activities</b></p>	<p>SONI has and will continue to engage with the Department for the Economy (DfE) and other stakeholders to support the delivery of the 2022 and 2023 Energy Strategy Action Plans. This involves engagement in various working groups and regular engagement with the leads and teams within the DfE. This work will also involve regular engagement with the UR and NIE Networks as well as industry stakeholders.</p> <p>In addition, SONI plans to engage with and support DAERA on the Climate Change Act implementation. We are active participants in the Green Growth Forum. We expect this work to continue as DAERA progress its plans.</p> <p>The key activities SONI plans to progress include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain regular schedule of meetings between the relevant government departments and SONI on ongoing developments.</li> <li>• Arrange briefings with relevant stakeholders on key SONI outputs (e.g., GCS, TESNI, etc.)</li> <li>• Representation on relevant working groups and seek to align with planned work to ensure consistency and efficiencies.</li> <li>• Partnership arrangement with NIE Networks – joint working to support DfE deliverables.</li> </ul> <p>One key strategic area of engagement is in relation to Offshore. SONI has representation on both Offshore steering group and working groups established by DfE. SONI envisages the work we are undertaking in TESNI<sup>2</sup> will act as a key input to the Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan</p> <p>DfE has recently established a working group to focus on the grid aspects of Offshore. SONI have allocated a number of technical and regulatory experts to support this group. The objective of this working group is to provide insight, advice and evidence into offshore transmission and strategic network planning matters to contribute towards policy/regulatory development. We anticipate the work we have completed in Shaping our Electricity Future, the ongoing connections applications we are progressing and the work on TDPNI and TESNI will allow us to bring independent expert advice to this forum and allow informed policy and regulatory decisions to be made.</p> <p>SONI will also continue to support DfE in its considerations in relation to RESS and Flexible systems.</p>
<p><b>Key Benefits</b></p>	<p>The key benefit associated with supporting the NI Energy Strategy is where SONI can bring a depth of knowledge and experience to the forefront of discussions and advise and inform policy makers,</p> <p>The achievement of the Government set targets in relation to climate change is a key focus and SONI considers it has a key role on this journey.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Please see FWP24-05: Tomorrows Energy Scenarios Northern Ireland (TESNI) later in this appendix for further information.

Strategic Theme	<p><b>Whole system collaboration and coordination with 3rd parties, and NIE Networks across its various roles as a TO, DNO and DSO</b></p> <p><b>A culture of open and collaborative innovation</b></p> <p>The key theme behind this programme of work will be working in collaboration with partners. The NI Energy Strategy Path to Net Zero sets significant objectives for Northern Ireland that can only be achieved by embracing the changes required and working together in partnerships. SONI has joined a number of working groups surrounding the activities which are key to the Transmission System Operation and also are aligned with NIE Networks TO / DNO / DSO priorities. We have commenced work on this pathway and are working together in partnership with others in each working group to establish a programme of activities and deliverables associated with bringing about the changes required as a result of the energy strategy targets.</p>			
Engagement	<p>SONI will be involved in various engagement activities over the period. We are involved in a number of working groups organised by the Department for the Economy in order to bring our knowledge and expertise to discussions on how best to achieve the renewable targets.</p> <p>For instance, SONI will be a key facilitator in the progression of offshore wind, through our Connection Offer Process. We will be engaging over what actions SONI needs to take proactively in order to be able to progress these types of connections.</p> <p>We also expect to have more engagement with DAERA in terms of the Climate Change Act.</p>			
Performance Measure	<p>As the DfE's action plan is continuing to evolve this programme of work will be monitored throughout the period to ensure we are progressing and achieving the deliverables set out in the DfE action plans and DAERA plans.</p> <p>Continue to support DfE via Annual action plan and established working groups – ongoing throughout the year.</p> <p>Continue to support DfE on its Offshore Ambitions and how TESNI can support this - ongoing throughout the year.</p> <p>Participate and respond to UR/DfE consultation on NI Connections Policy - early 2024</p> <p>Review DfE Action plan for 2024 and identify areas where SONI can support - expected early 2024.</p>			
Timescale	Throughout 2023 – 2024			
Cost Scale	Low			
SONI Outcome	Decarbonisation	Grid Security	System Wide Costs	Stakeholder Satisfaction

## Annual Innovation Report

Deliverable	FWP019: Annual Innovation Report
<p>Description of Activities</p>	<p><b>Preparation and Publication of the SONI Annual Innovation Report.</b></p> <p>As part of this annual innovation reporting process, we will seek to prepare and consult on our multi-year innovation programmes.</p> <p>The proposed strategic innovation programmes are SONI’s view of the crucial areas of innovation that need to be investigated to ensure we can respond effectively to the challenges ahead.</p> <p>SONI plans for the Annual Innovation Report to be published in February 2024, with a consultation to be open for feedback from February 2024 to March 2024. SONI will then consider all responses provided and use this feedback to inform our decision-making process on which projects stakeholders consider bringing the most benefit to the transmission system and grid security.</p> <p>A final version of the Annual Innovation Report will then be published by April 2024.</p> <p>In preparation of this work, SONI will continue to work closely with key stakeholders such as NIE Networks on knowledge sharing as well as engagement with academia.</p>
<p>Key Benefits</p>	<p>This activity will provide transparency with our stakeholders and allow SONI to listen to feedback from stakeholders on new developments and which activities are considered to bring the most benefit to consumers.</p>
<p>Strategic Theme</p>	<p><b>A culture of open and collaborative innovation</b>  <b>A culture of effective engagement and collaboration</b>  <b>A culture of organisational learning, accountability and planning that supports SONI agility and responsiveness in meeting policy, regulatory and market development.</b></p> <p>Our Annual Innovation Report provides detail around the projects being considered for the year ahead, that SONI considers to be an important enabler in order to meet government targets and operate a safe, secure and reliable Transmission System in a net zero future.</p> <p>It will involve working with partners to bring about positive change and listening and discussing with industry the projects we consider add value and their thoughts and views on whether these are appropriate, more should be done or provide insight on other potential projects which we could be considering.</p>
<p>Engagement</p>	<p>Engagement will be a key activity for the publication of the Annual Innovation Report. SONI intends to publish a version of the report for consultation on and encourage all stakeholders to participate so that we receive submissions from all perspectives on any potential projects for the future.</p> <p>There will be internal engagement during the preparation of the consultation and following receipt of all submissions so that we can deliberate over the</p>

	feedback which will be provided and use these submissions to inform our future innovation plans.			
Performance Measure	Timely publication of the Annual Innovation Report and stakeholder engagement to inform which projects should progress.			
Timescale	April 2024			
Cost Scale	Low			
SONI Outcome	<b>Decarbonisation</b>	<b>Grid Security</b>	<b>System Wide Costs</b>	<b>Stakeholder Satisfaction</b>

## SONI Mid-Year Performance Review

Deliverable	FWP23-15: SONI Mid-Year Performance Review
<p>Description of Activities</p>	<p><b>Publication of a Mid-Year Performance Review and Industry Workshop</b></p> <p>As part of the Evaluative Performance Process, SONI will be providing a mid-year update on the deliverables which are detailed within this Forward Work Plan for 2023-2024.</p> <p>This will involve a publication which will detail the progress made to date on each project, what has been achieved and what is to be achieved by September 2024.</p> <p>SONI will also hold an industry workshop to present our mid-year update to stakeholders and be available for questions from stakeholders on our achievements to date and planned deliverables over the second half of the period.</p>
<p>Key Benefits</p>	<p>The key benefit of the Mid-Year Performance Review is we have the opportunity to reflect on our achievements to date, what successes occurred and what learnings we have made.</p> <p>This will be open and transparent with stakeholders so that they can see the progress being made and provides the opportunity to inform stakeholders and gather information from stakeholders on their views or concerns and a key opportunity for any and all feedback.</p>
<p>Strategic Theme</p>	<p><b>A culture of effective engagement and collaboration</b>  <b>A culture of organisational learning, accountability and planning that supports SONI agility and responsiveness in meeting policy, regulatory and market development.</b></p> <p>The Mid-Year Performance Review can be used to provide stakeholders with an updated position on all programmes of work in the 2023 – 2024 Forward Work Plan and listen to stakeholder views. This will provide SONI with an excellent opportunity to receive stakeholder opinions which may be beneficial in putting into practice in the future.</p>
<p>Engagement</p>	<p>SONI will be inviting stakeholders and industry to attend a mid-year performance update workshop as per the UR’s Guidance on the Evaluative Performance Framework.</p> <p>This will provide SONI with an opportunity to update all stakeholders on the progress of the 2023 – 2024 Forward Work Plan and also provide an opportunity for all stakeholder voices to be heard regarding their views on the progress to date and expectations for the future.</p>
<p>Performance Measure</p>	<p>Successful SONI Mid-Year Review Workshop – SONI will be able to assess the quality and quantity of feedback received, during the event and following the event, feedback pertaining to how the event was held from the UR and the independent panel and use this to measure our success.</p>
<p>Timescale</p>	<p>Publication of Mid-Year Update – April 2024  Mid-Year Update Workshop - May 2024</p>

<b>Cost Scale</b>	Low			
<b>SONI Outcome</b>	Decarbonisation	Grid Security	System Wide Costs	<b>Stakeholder Satisfaction</b>



## SONI Publication of the Forward Work Plan 2024-2025

Deliverable	FWP022: SONI Publication of the Forward Work Plan 2024 – 2025
Description of Activities	<p>During the period, SONI will be progressing our implementation of the Evaluative Performance Framework (EPF). This will include following the processes involved in a standard year of the EPF as per the guidance issued by the UR. A key milestone will be the publication of our annual Forward Work Plan for the period 2024 – 2025 which will be targeted for the end of September 2024.</p> <p>Over the period SONI will be monitoring the progress of the 2023 – 2024 plan. In early 2025, SONI will receive feedback from the UR and Independent Panel on our plan for the period. The UR will also invite stakeholders to provide submissions on the 2023 – 2024 plan following its publication. These opportunities for feedback will be significant to SONI in considering its preparation for our 2024 – 2025 Forward Work Plan.</p>
Key Benefits	<p>This activity will enhance our transparency with our stakeholders and allow SONI to listen to feedback from stakeholders in which activities are considered to bring the most benefit to consumers. This will provide clarity to stakeholders regarding what activities are being held over the period which may be of importance to them and provide them with the opportunity to engage with SONI.</p> <p>It will also provide a number of opportunities for SONI to receive direct feedback from stakeholders and the independent panel as to our performance and views on our plans.</p>
Strategic Theme	<p><b>A culture of effective engagement and collaboration</b>  <b>A culture of organisational learning, accountability and planning that supports SONI agility and responsiveness in meeting policy, regulatory and market development.</b></p> <p>The Forward Work Plan 2024 – 2025 provides SONI with an opportunity to engage for better outcomes for all.</p> <p>The publication facilitates external engagement, through the UR’s call for stakeholder submissions on the plan, the UR’s stakeholder event and the independent panel and UR’s determination on our performance.</p> <p>The theme that ties the publication together is that our activities correlate to the operation, development and enhancement of the Transmission System. All activities included in our plan can be linked back to this core theme.</p>
Engagement	<p>SONI has used the feedback obtained from both the 2021 – 2022 and 2022 – 2023 Forward Work Plans to inform our 2023 – 2024 Plan; stakeholder submissions to the UR, the feedback received during the UR’s stakeholder event on both previous plans, the independent panel’s reports and the UR’s final determinations.</p> <p>Engagement activities for the publication of the 2023 – 2024 Forward Work Plan also include the UR’s call for stakeholder submissions and a stakeholder event held by the UR on 23 November 2023. These engagement activities will provide SONI with an opportunity to hear stakeholder views on</p>

	<p>the plan, as well as give SONI an opportunity to present on our plan, listen to stakeholder views and respond to stakeholders directly.</p> <p>Stakeholder Satisfaction is one of the four SONI outcomes in relation to the Evaluative Performance Framework and as such engagement is also a key activity associated with the publication of the plan.</p>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<p>The timely publication of the SONI Forward Work Plan, the quality and quantity of feedback received during the UR's call for stakeholder submissions, stakeholder event and the independent panel and UR's final determinations on the plan will all contribute towards SONI's measure of success.</p>			
<b>Timescale</b>	<p>September 2024</p>			
<b>Cost Scale</b>	<p>Low</p>			
<b>SONI Outcome</b>	Decarbonisation	Grid Security	System Wide Costs	<b>Stakeholder Satisfaction</b>

## Balancing Market Principles Statement

Deliverable	FWPO21: Balancing Market Principles Statement			
Description of Activities	<p><b>Consulting upon Balancing Market Principles Statement (BMPS) V8.0</b></p> <p>An important business improvement activity is the enhancement of the Balancing Market Principles Statement (“BMPS”). SONI will shortly begin the review process of the BMPS, which will then be consulted on with industry, stakeholders, and the UR. SONI will then be responsive to feedback and prepare a final version for publication.</p> <p>The intention is that the Balancing Market Principles Statement is informative and comprehensive, and that it is striking a balance between detail on the technical complexity of the scheduling and dispatch process and accessibility for informed industry participants.</p> <p>This will take place over the period 2023-2024, with the final version BPMS V8.0 due to be published by June 2024.</p>			
Key Benefits	<p>Revised version of Balancing Market Principles Statement available to inform stakeholders.</p> <p>It also brings increased transparency, as this document describes what we do and how we make our decisions.</p>			
Strategic Theme	<p><b>A culture of effective engagement and collaboration</b></p> <p>SONI will be engaging internally in the preparation of version 8 of the Balancing Market Principles Statement, challenging the document to ensure appropriate revisions are made. This will then be consulted on with industry, stakeholders, and the UR to provide SONI with their views on potential changes that may be required in order to better strike that balance as described above.</p>			
Engagement	<p>As described above, engagement will be a key activity (both internally and externally) in the preparation and consultation of the Balancing Market Principles Statement Version 8.0.</p> <p>SONI will be engaging with industry, stakeholders and the UR in early 2024.</p>			
Performance Measure	Timely consultation process, assessment of stakeholder feedback and the timely provision of the document to the UR for approval.			
Timescale	June 2024			
Cost Scale	Low			
SONI Outcome	Decarbonisation	Grid Security	System Wide Costs	Stakeholder Satisfaction

## Security of Supply Publications

Deliverable	FWP23-22: Security of Supply Publications
<p>Description of Activities</p>	<p>Over the period SONI will make a number of publications which can be captured under Security of Supply. These include:</p> <p><b>All Island Generation Capacity Statement</b>  SONI is required to produce an annual Generation Capacity Statement (“GCS”), in accordance with Condition 35 of the TSO Licence. The development, planning and connection of new generation capacity to the transmission or distribution systems can involve long lead times and high capital investment.</p> <p>Consequently, this report provides information covering a ten-year timeframe. The main purpose of the GCS is to inform market participants, regulatory agencies and policy makers of the likely minimum generation capacity required to achieve an adequate supply and demand balance for electricity for the next decade.</p> <p>SONI will be publishing the next GCS for the period 2024-2033 prior to Autumn 2024, subject to Regulatory Approval from UR.</p> <p><b>Winter Outlook</b>  The Winter Outlook presents a more detailed view focusing on the upcoming winter in Northern Ireland. This document is published annually in October and helps inform the electricity industry and supports preparation for the coming months. We study the expected generation capacity and the forecast demand to determine if there is adequate generation capacity margin.</p> <p>Security of Supply is a significant priority for SONI, and we continue to engage with the UR and DfE over the period to ensure the continuity of a safe, secure and reliable Transmission System.</p>
<p>Key Benefits</p>	<p>Providing these publications gives a transparent view of the operation of the Transmission System of SONI and our performance across the system which informs stakeholders but also groups such as the UR, DfE and government to assist them with their decision-making processes.</p>
<p>Strategic Theme</p>	<p><b>A culture of effective engagement and collaboration</b>  <b>A culture of organisational learning, accountability and planning that supports SONI agility and responsiveness in meeting policy, regulatory and market development.</b></p> <p>The Publication of these materials provides an important perspective of the potential issues concerning Security of Supply. These themes occur throughout this role as it is primarily the sharing of information, derived from modelling and analysis, to inform stakeholder, regulators and government of the situation over the short-term and long-term in order to facilitate longer term planning and highlight any critical issues that need immediate review and consideration. This also incorporates organisational learning from previous iterations, the questions posed during the preparation process and modelling and using those learnings to make improvements to the overall publication process.</p>

<b>Engagement</b>	Engagement at an early stage is important in order to ensure we achieve our target date of publication for the GCS. SONI is planning to engage regularly with the UR throughout this process to ensure transparency.			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	Timely publication of the Generation Capacity Statement and Winter Outlook documents as well as internal feedback and external feedback on the associated drafting/publication processes and final publication.			
<b>Timescale</b>	June 2024 to October 2024 as detailed above			
<b>Cost Scale</b>	Low			
<b>SONI Outcome</b>	<b>Decarbonisation</b>	<b>Grid Security</b>	System Wide Costs	<b>Stakeholder Satisfaction</b>

## SONI TSO – DSO Operating Model

Deliverable	FWP23-23: SONI TSO – DSO Operating Model
<p>Description of Activities</p>	<p><b>Implementation plan for TSO/DSO operating model.</b></p> <p>The aim of the project is to ensure that SONI and NIE Networks are working together in a collaborative and effective manner to jointly address electricity system and customer needs, and to deliver whole-of-system solutions to deliver on the Government’s policy ambitions.</p> <p>SONI and NIE Networks are working together and have developed a TSO-DSO joint programme of work.</p> <p>Development of the enduring TSO-DSO Operating Model is a key focus.</p> <p>The key deliverable over the 2023/2024 period will be to develop a high-level implementation plan for TSO-DSO Future Operating Model for Northern Ireland</p> <p>As part of that plan, activities over 2023/2024 will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop documents to summarise the model proposals and outline protocols in more detail.</li> <li>• Develop a document to summarise the Flex trial intentions and communicate with participants.</li> <li>• Update model proposals following lessons learned from the Flex trial.</li> </ul>
<p>Key Benefits</p>	<p>Initial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling the establishment of a Flex trial by NIE Networks for Q4/2023 with a clear approach to coordination, information sharing, and operational roles, able to take learnings from trial to make improvements and changes for enduring model.</li> </ul> <p>Enduring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TSO and DSO will be able to operate the respective systems with pioneering levels of variable renewable generation and low carbon technology with local and system wide markets.</li> <li>• Customers will be able to avail of opportunities to more effectively participate in local and system wide markets, enabling greater competition in markets.</li> <li>• Maximising availability of distribution system flexibility, increasing efficiency, and ensuring certainty for system security.</li> </ul>
<p>Strategic Theme</p>	<p><b>A culture of effective engagement and collaboration</b>  <b>Whole system collaboration and coordination with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, and NIE Networks across its various roles as a TO, DNO and DSO</b></p> <p>In order to develop and agree a TSO/DSO operating model vision and principles, SONI will be working in partnership with NIE Networks in order to bring about a positive change.</p>
<p>Engagement</p>	<p>SONI is engaging with NIE Networks and together have developed a joint TSO – DSO programme of works, including a number of in-depth workshops, and over the period will be developing and agreeing the TSO – DSO operating model vision and principles.</p>

<b>Performance Measure</b>	Our performance will be measured against the achievement of a high-level implementation plan, developing the required documents, implementing the operational changes and data exchanges processes, and enabling the Flex trial to be operational in Q4/2023.			
<b>Timescale</b>	<p>Develop documents for model proposals and Flex trial – October 2023</p> <p>Update model proposals following lessons learned from Flex trial - April 2024 (dependent on the conclusion of NIE Networks' Flex trial)</p> <p>Target completion date of end of 2025 for- Enduring Operating Model to be defined.</p>			
<b>Cost Scale</b>	Low			
<b>SONI Outcome</b>	<b>Decarbonisation</b>	<b>Grid Security</b>	System Wide Costs	<b>Stakeholder Satisfaction</b>

## SONI Price Control 2025+

Deliverable	FWP24-04: SONI Price Control 2025+
<p>Description of Activities</p>	<p>Price controls are used by regulatory authorities, such as the Utility Regulator, to set the amount of money available to companies like SONI over a particular period of time, in this case five years.</p> <p>The UR recently published its decision to defer the next SONI Price Control by 1 year<sup>3</sup>. This paper included an indicative timetable – the activities scheduled for the assessment year includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approach Consultation - Initial Planning January - February 2024</li> <li>• Final Approach Published end of March 2024</li> <li>• Information Requirements Published end of March 2024</li> </ul> <p>In addition, it is expected that the UR will also consult on the allowances for the one-year extension to the existing price control in this time period.</p> <p>Whilst the timetable presented by the UR is indicative, SONI plans to progress the following activities in preparation of the price control. These are subject to change depending on any decisions taken by the new SONI Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with UR and response to Approach Consultation</li> <li>• Preparation of 5-year strategy for SONI.</li> <li>• Wide Stakeholder engagement on SONI Strategy.</li> <li>• Preparation of SONI Business Plan (and further associated Stakeholder engagement) and population of Information Requirements templates.</li> </ul>
<p>Key Benefits</p>	<p>This process allows SONI to have a clear plan of the priorities up to and beyond 2030 and ensures that the funding arrangements are in place to allow the business to run efficiently and effectively for the good of all customers.</p> <p>It is a key project for any regulated entity.</p>
<p>Strategic Theme</p>	<p><b>A culture of effective engagement and collaboration</b>  <b>A culture of open and collaborative innovation</b></p> <p>The next SONI price control will cover a key period in terms of decarbonisation. It is expected that extensive engagement and collaboration will be needed as part of this process and an innovate approach needs to be taken on how SONI can continue to deliver on its obligations and support the Government on the achievement of the energy related policies.</p>
<p>Engagement</p>	<p>SONI expects to engage with all Stakeholder on the development of the SONI Strategy and the business plan for the next price control period.</p> <p>We expect this to take the form of industry forums, bilateral meetings, and written feedback on SONI's strategy and ambition.</p>
<p>Performance Measure</p>	<p>Response to Approach Consultation            Publication of 5-year strategy for SONI following stakeholder engagement.</p>

<sup>3</sup> [SONI price control start date deferral - decision paper - August 2023.pdf \(uregni.gov.uk\)](#)



Timescale	<p>Engagement with UR and response to Approach Consultation – December 2023 – February 2024</p> <p>Preparation of 5-year strategy for SONI – April 2024</p> <p>Wide Stakeholder engagement on SONI Strategy. – June 2024</p>			
Cost Scale	Low			
SONI Outcome	Decarbonisation	Grid Security	System Wide Costs	Stakeholder Satisfaction

## Tomorrows Energy Scenarios Northern Ireland (TESNI)

Deliverable	FWP24-05: Tomorrows Energy Scenarios Northern Ireland (TESNI)
<p>Description of Activities</p>	<p>SONI is responsible for a safe, secure and reliable electricity transmission system, now and in the future – we must accommodate existing and future energy demands. Shaping Our Electricity Future included extensive stakeholder engagement to understand the electricity system investments required to address decarbonisation and energy security needs up to 2030. Looking out beyond 2030, Tomorrow’s Energy Scenarios 2023 will outline a range of credible pathways for Northern Ireland’s clean energy transition, with specific focus on what this means for the electricity transmission system from 2030 to 2050.</p> <p>TESNI must be done in a way that tends towards our decarbonisation goals for Northern Ireland (informed by the sixth Carbon budget and the Climate Act 2022). Following significant changes in energy and climate policy, we have adopted a new approach for TES 2023 scenarios and analysis. Scenarios represent various approaches and speed of decarbonisation.</p> <p>Following a period of model development and pre-consultation engagement in 2023, SONI will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commence a consultation - planned to commence in October for 4-6 weeks.</li> <li>• Consultation report to be available on the SONI website and shared directly with targeted stakeholders.</li> <li>• Briefings on findings to be offered to target stakeholder groups – government, industry, and academia.</li> <li>• Following consultation, review and update of analysis and final TES 2023 report</li> </ul>
<p>Key Benefits</p>	<p>SONI will use the findings from TES 2023 to help guide future electricity system planning - understanding how we should develop and maintain the electricity system and transition to more renewable generation.</p>
<p>Strategic Theme</p>	<p><b>A culture of open and collaborative innovation</b>  <b>A culture of effective engagement and collaboration</b>  <b>A culture of organisational learning, accountability and planning that supports SONI agility and responsiveness in meeting policy, regulatory and market development.</b></p> <p>This is an important strategic project that SONI envisages will assist government departments and policy makers in the collective effort to meet the targets set for decarbonisation.</p> <p>We expect a wide range of stakeholders to be involved in the consultation process.</p>
<p>Engagement</p>	<p>Engagement at an early stage is important in order to ensure we achieve our target date for TES consultation.</p> <p>During the consultation engagement will be undertaken with government, industry and academic stakeholders. Briefings will be offered to target stakeholder groups.</p>
<p>Performance Measure</p>	<p>Timely commencement of TES 2023 consultation  Stakeholder engagement and feedback to the TES 2023 consultation  Publication of final TES 2023 report</p>

<b>Timescale</b>	Publication of TES Consultation – October 2023 Publication of final TES 2023 report- December 2023 (subject to scale of responses received)			
<b>Cost Scale</b>	Low			
<b>SONI Outcome</b>	<b>Decarbonisation</b>	<b>Grid Security</b>	<b>System Wide Costs</b>	<b>Stakeholder Satisfaction</b>