

Offshore Major Accident Hazard Advisory Committee (OMAHAC)

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Chair: Mark Wilson

Attendees

Name	Company	Name	Company
Howard Harte	HSE	Andy Taylor	OPRED
Craig Wiggins	Step Change in Safety	Ann Joss	RMT
Stuart Clow	IADC	Mark Wilson	OEUK
Graeme Christie	BROA		

Meeting Details

Item	Detail
01	Introduction, minutes and actions

Introductions and AOB

- MW opened the meeting and formally recognised the role of the Health and Safety Executive as the OMAHAC secretariat over the past 2 years.
- No items of AOB were raised.

Review minutes of last meeting and action update

- The last meeting was 7 May 2025, and the minutes were agreed by those attending.
- Actions outstanding from the previous meeting in relation to handover of the secretariat role to OEUK are closed. A summary of progress for the action on potentially widening OMAHAC representation to include other energies is included below with follow up actions at the rear of these minutes.

02	OMAHAC composition discussion
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Consideration of inclusion of renewable energies stakeholder discussion

Views on widening the scope of OMAHAC to include other energies was discussed with the views listed below. The key action from the discussion is to outline the stakeholders that are involved in the wider energy landscape to allow a final decision to be reached.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

- The focus of OMAHAC is offshore oil and gas major accidents hazards and there is a concern that this maybe be diluted by the inclusion of windfarms.
- Windfarms are high hazard facilities where the focus is primarily lifting and falls from height.
- Offshore oil and gas installations are regulated within a full permissioning regime, requiring safety case acceptance. The focus is on fire and explosion major accident hazards.

International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC)

- IADC takes the view to keep it separate.

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Step Change in Safety (SCiS)

- Step Change in Safety is to bring them into OMAHAC and look to how we interact across all industries. Recommend OMAHAC map out everything we do and where are the connections.

British Rig Operators' Association (BROA)

- Regarding the proposal to expand OMAHAC to include Offshore Wind, we need to review its terms of reference and purpose. OMAHAC's focus on Offshore Major Accident Hazards might limit its relevance to offshore wind, where there is no hydrocarbon risk. Offshore Wind representation could be more valuable within EERTAG, given its greater overlap and previous engagement efforts. Nevertheless, BROA does not object to their inclusion, though questions about relevance remain.

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED)

- Also attached is the regulators list for oil & gas, wind, CCUS and hydrogen that was drafted for a North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum meeting back in 2022. There might be some minor changes to this in Welsh waters as the Welsh DA gained some additional powers for energy in the last few years. While safety rests with HSE across all these it's far more complex for environmental matters and for CCUS the NSTA has the inspection powers for the storage site.

The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT)

- View from RMT would be to bring in the other energies and there is a place for them to be part of OMAHAC.

Offshore Energies UK (OEUK)

- Recognise the challenge that a widening the scope of OMAHAC from a stakeholder perspective would bring and feel that the optimal approach would be to ensure that EERTAG cover the full range of offshore energies. At a suitable point in the future there may be merit in widening the OMAHAC scope, however given offshore wind has been in existence for over 20 years then a lot of hazards are in a managed state.
- It is also recognised that the current make up of OMAHAC has a natural cross over into the wider offshore energies based upon role expansion.

03 EERTAG minutes

Summary points from the EERTAG minutes for meeting held on 19 August 2025

- Reinforcement of the Governance link to OMAHAC.
- Industry update on the following:
 - Big persons in lifeboats 12/2008 update – delay in getting this online.
 - HSE issued motion compensated gangway safety alert.
 - Human performance during emergency response linked to safety critical task analysis.
 - Emergency response related competence – action to follow up at next EERTAG
- EERTAG seeking new Chair – ongoing
- Next EERTAG meeting on 8 December 2025.

04 Member organisations update

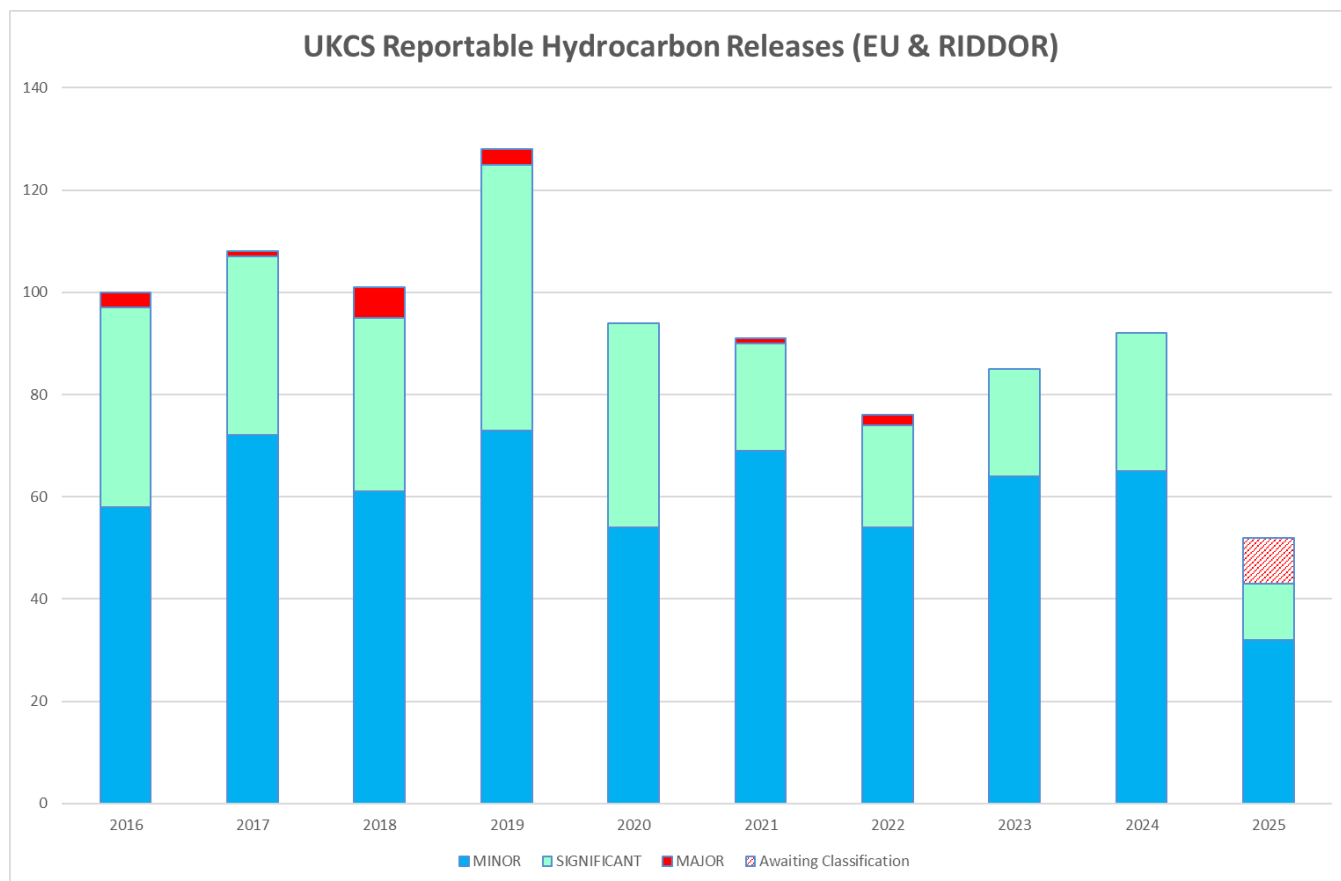
Updates

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

- **Hydrocarbon Release Performance** – 2025 performance up to the end of September is showing a positive position. Releases to date are comparable to 2022 and if the same level of performance is maintained to the end of the year, then the results will arrest the declining performance observed over the last couple of years. It is important to remember that the data represents those releases which are reportable to HSE and that other releases will be occurring which are important to learn from. Asset

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integrity continues to dominate the cause of release with c. 60-65% of releases being asset integrity related. OEUK has an online HCR tool which allows for interrogation of historical releases and can be found at [HCR AI Assistant | Offshore Energies UK \(OEUK\)](#). The tool uses HCR information held by HSE and supplied to OEUK up to the end of 2024.



- SIRP Webinar** – HSE are hosting a webinar on Safe Isolation and Reinstatement of Plant (SIRP) on the 4 December. The webinar will focus on highlighting SIRP related issues identified by HSE during proactive interventions and reactive investigations. The webinar will discuss the common SIRP failings with links to real incidents, identifying the common pitfalls and the expected standards to be achieved. The webinar will be hosted by members of the HSE Offshore Process Engineering team and will include opportunities for Q&A. If there are any specific areas the industry would like to discuss, then HSE welcomes early advance questions to support the event.
- Process Safety Leadership** – Following completion of HSE's PSLP inspection program and issue of the findings report, embedding of the Process Safety Leadership Principles (PSLP) continues to be a key strategic objective for HSE. Rather than HSE inspections, the focus for embedding the principles is now on duty holder annual review action plans and where necessary, undertaking additional PSLP inspections if there are concerns about a Duty Holder's performance. HSE continues to engage with OEUK and SCiS to maintain the focus on process safety leadership.
- Motion Compensated Gangways** – HSE issued a Safety Alert to all offshore oil and gas (and renewable energy) duty holders following an auto-retraction incident on a Motion Compensated Gangway (MCG), which occurred without suitable warning to those on the gangway.

[Motion Compensated Gangways Auto-retraction - HSE](#)
- The Safety Alert advised manufacturers and operators of MCGs to "review their gangway arrangements to identify any gangways that do not provide sufficient warning prior to auto-retraction. If it is found that

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the gangway can retract without sufficient warning the gangway should not be used until suitable controls and additional risk reduction measures are in place", and "carry out a suitable and sufficient technical risk assessment to understand all operational states of the control system under which the gangway may auto-retract, including that the control system will only result in auto-retraction if personnel are not at risk."

- Several gangway manufacturers and other duty holders responded to the Safety Alert with confirmation that the gangway had been designed with, or subsequently modified to provide, a suitable delay between alarm and retraction and other safeguards. HSE are engaging with the remaining manufacturers and duty holders.
- **Extreme Weather** – Severe weather action plans (SWAPs) have been received for all fixed installations at risk from a negative air gap. Material changes to safety cases are expected to be submitted to HSE where this was not declared as a previous mitigation measure. HSE welcomes the proposed OEUK extreme weather and security drills desktop exercise in the coming months.
- **Maintenance Backlog** – An HSE internal review of backlog data and Duty Holder progress was conducted in early July 2025 to ensure that the highest risk continues to be targeted. This work is considered a key element of PSLP relating to asset integrity.
- The poorest performing “red category” Duty Holders and installations will be aware of this ranking through IMT meetings / Major Hazard Management Annual Reviews. HSE is awaiting the official post Q3 2025 data from OEUK which will hopefully indicate a downward trend following significant shutdown periods and work deferred until this time. External scrutiny on backlog by stakeholders remains high.
- **Active Fire Protection Performance** – HSE has become concerned about the performance of offshore Active Fire Protection systems and as a result has taken enforcement action. At the same time HSE has been engaging with the offshore verifiers and has also updated and re-issued the Active Fire Protection Inspection Guide.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/assets/docs/ed-active-fire-protection.pdf>

- Going forward HSE will be inspecting Active Fire Protection systems using a prioritized inspection approach, the first stage being a questionnaire sent to all duty holders. The questionnaire will be issued in early November 2025, followed by analysis of the results and the targeting of specific installations for offshore inspection in 2026.
- **Asbestos Duty to Manage** – As part of HSE’s strategic health objective to reduce work related ill health a campaign on “duty to manage” (DTM) asbestos has been initiated. The campaign consists of 2 main stages.
- Stage 1 – In early 2024 duty holders were requested to complete a questionnaire. These results were triaged and assessed as, green, amber or red. Green flags were closed out; amber flags were filtered to stage 2 and red flags were followed up for investigation. This stage is complete and a big thank you to all the Duty Holders involved.
- Stage 2 – The second stage is a more detailed review of the asbestos management system used by Duty Holders and will be undertaken in **4 phases** during 2025 and 2026.
- Phase 1 of Stage 2 is now complete with 5 Improvement Notices and numerous letter items issued across 8 out of 12 duty holders. The key concern was the absence of site-specific Asbestos Management Plans. Phase 2 of Stage 2 started in October and will inspect 10 more duty holders, with Phase 3 starting early in 2026. To support this work, an Asbestos Management Inspection Guide was published in June 2024.

[The Offshore Asbestos Management Inspection Guide \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/assets/docs/ed-asbestos-management-inspection-guide.pdf)

Question was raised with regards to extensions requested by Duty Holders for HSE enforcement action. It was clarified that extensions can be provided, however requires a clearly justified argument around why the time extension is required. In addition, it was questioned how the improvement is measured and the HSE have a notification system (COIN) that provides an auditable trail of the improvement. Letters written by the Duty Holder to outline the actions to close out the enforcement notice should be copied to Elected Safety Representatives.

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Step Change in Safety (SCiS)

- Step Change in Safety have issued 4 high value learnings (HVL) since the last meeting. These are attached to the distribution of these minutes for further sharing.
- SCiS held their first two-day Safety Leadership Development Course focussed on Site Managers (Offshore and Onshore) focussed on the IOGP Human Performance Principles. Plan to do more in 2026.
- SCiS have held our first 1 Day Continuous Improvement Course focussed on Site Managers. Good feedback and plan to do more in 2026.
- SCiS are investigating what they could do to look at further development of our Elected Safety Representatives.
- Human Performance – SCiS are issuing simplified safety critical task analysis (SCTA) guidance very soon. Looking at Learning from Normal Work. We are also working on Performance Influencing Factors in toolbox talks (TBT).
- Process Safety Leadership Work Group – Holding peer assist workshops focusing on onshore process safety competency, risk management, contractor management, and action management.
- Process Safety Leadership Work Group - Intend to issue 8 Step Guidance for Process Safety Improvement Plans. Looking for all signatories of the Principles of Process Safety Leadership to endorse.
- SCiS Major Accident Hazard Understanding work group is relaunching as an Operational Excellence Work Group focused on continuous improvement. Issues such as SIRPs, Structed Day and others will be addressed.
- Safe Working Essential Work Group is being revitalised. Looking at incorporating the Process Safety Fundamentals, PIFS and potentially including the PIFs.
- Continue to promote Sharing and Learning across the industry.

International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC)

- IADC have a new process for submitting safety alerts, link on IADC website, company able to populate template which will then be review and published to the industry.
- Received a safety alert from one of our members regarding a jacking incident on a drilling unit operating in West Africa, motor failed while jacking rig, still in the process of producing a small video.
- Currently 2 semi submersibles and 10 jack ups operating in the UKCS.
- Working on updating the IADC standard rig equipment for jack ups - semi submersibles is completed and available for anyone to use.
- Asked by OEUK if IADC carries out any well control training for CCUS, something we're now looking into and checking with other training providers.
- New safety weight policy, meeting yesterday with HSE managers, so far, no negative feedback from IADC members.
- Continue to support the MHiE charter, currently 53 companies that have signed up.

British Rig Operators' Association (BROA)

- BROA is actively collaborating with HSE on various operational matters that don't necessarily fall under Major Hazards. These include Motion Compensated Gangways, Negative Air Gaps (we are still awaiting a response to our letter from November 2024), SWAPs, BPO, LSA Evacuation, and PFAS. BROA members and we are working constructively and cooperatively with HSE on these issues.
- There is a concern regarding the MCA's strict implementation of Industrial Personnel (IP) Code, coming into force in January 2026. The UK implementation may prevent various specialised offshore vessels—such as some older dive support, pipelay, and cable lay vessels—from operating in the UKCS from UK ports. The MCA position to not award grandfathering rights for vessels to carry Industrial Personnel built to the SPS 1983 Code, or for vessels built to SPS 1983 Code (with exemptions) to carry Special Personnel, and may necessitate vessels to leave the UKCS. This position is different to a number of

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other European administrations and whilst is directly outside HSE's remit, poses an operational risk if long-serving vessels are no longer able to operate from UK ports to service UKCS offshore infrastructure..

International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA)

- No update at this meeting.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)

- No update at this meeting

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED)

- Six Tier 3 pollution exercises for 2025 all completed. Tier 3 pollution exercises is where the operator tests the interface arrangements with the Government response organisations under the UK National Contingency Plan (NCP) for a significant pollution incident. Seven Tier 3 exercises expected for 2026.
- Planning will soon start for the next oil & gas NCP exercise which tests the response agencies response to a major pollution incident. Expected that the exercise will take place sometime around end 2026 or early 2027.
- Updated EIS guidance covering scope 3 emissions has been published and updated Rosebank ES has been received and out for public consultation.
- Management of ageing infrastructure, maintenance and atmospheric emissions remain a focus for onshore / offshore inspection.
- Ongoing changes in operator demographics of the UKCS with change of operatorship and company mergers being a focus.
- Ongoing discussions with operators regarding decommissioning and derogations who are seeking combined meetings with OPRED, NSTA and HSE.
- Decommissioning consultation ongoing which will hopefully allow for decisions to be made on derogations.

The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT)

- From a safe weight limit perspective there are concerns that a number of organisations are not providing the information to their employees.
- Concerns raised over Special Project Agreements (SPA) that have safety performance caveats within them in. The view is that this can cause people not to raise safety concerns due to financial impact. RMT will not support these type of SPAs due to the actions that could be taken to not report safety related events. SCiS outlined the work they will be doing with safety in decommissioning that could factor in areas of reporting to ensure transparency.
- There was a concern raised around vocal Elected Safety Representatives that were initially invited to meetings, however have had that invite rescinded after raising questions.

Unite The Union

- No update at this meeting.

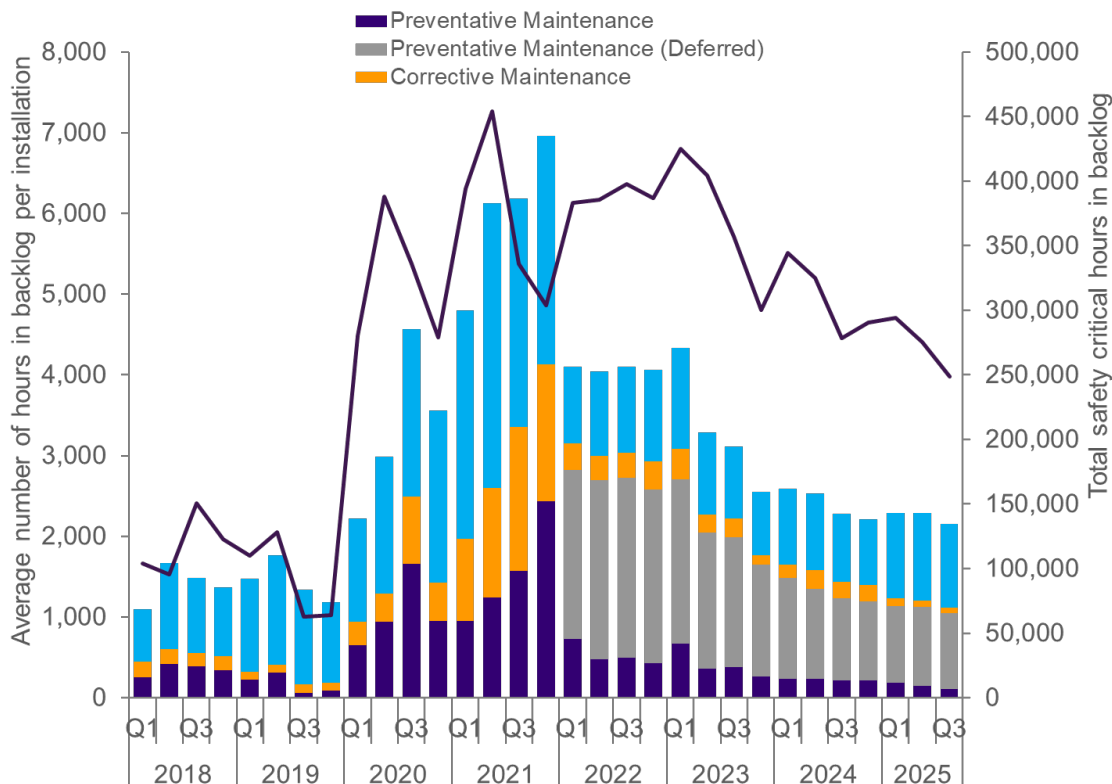
Offshore Energies UK (OEUK)

- The awareness phase of the Safe Weight Limit went live on 1 November 2025 and there is a year to go until the mandatory introduction of the 124 kg weight limit on 1 November 2026. Engagement will continue and any questions should be directed to OEUK for answering. There is awareness material, including Q&As at the following link.

[Safe weight limit policy | Offshore Energies UK \(OEUK\)](#)

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- Maintenance backlog continues to be monitored across industry. The latest data is below, and this shows another positive reduction over the summer months. The industry is not complacent though and continues to adopt a risk-based approach to reduction.



- The next Process Safety Leadership Principles (PSLP) signatory meeting takes place on 18 December 2025. OEUK are currently reviewing their 2025 Strategy, which will be updated for 2026. Review will involve HSE focal points and workgroup chairs. This strategy is OEUK specific.
- OEUK guidance that is being updated includes; Planned Maintenance Shutdown update due soon, Cumulative Risk we will be consulting with HSE shortly on the update. Medical Guidelines have now been published with the latest revisions.
- Update to the HSE guidance on offshore active fire protection system

05 AOB

AOB

- Shoulder measurement is now transferring to OPITO and SCiS is backing out of the process. Further information will be shared.

Next meeting

- 13 May and 4 November 2026

06 Action summary

Actions (still open/ new)

- OEUK to undertake stakeholder mapping in relation to regulators, trade associations, etc that have an interest in hazard aspects of other offshore energies (wind, CCS, hydrogen). This should then be submitted to OMAHAC to aid the final decision-making process.