

SCOTTISH WATER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date	26th February 2025
Start Time	10:00am
Finish Time	3:35pm
Place	Conference Room, Fairmilehead Office, Edinburgh

Present:	Mrs Deirdre Michie	Chair
	Mr Alex Plant	Chief Executive
	Mr Peter Farrer	Chief Operating Officer
	Mr Alan Dingwall	Chief Financial Officer
	Mrs Catriona Schmolke	Board Member
	Mr Steve Dickson	Board Member
	Mr Iain Lanaghan	Board Member
	Mr Graham Dalton	Board Member
	Mr Ken Marnoch	Board Member
	Mr Ian McAulay	Board Member
In attendance:	Mrs Emma Campbell	Group Legal Counsel & Director of Governance and Corporate Secretary
	Ms Paloma Paige	Carlyle Associates (Item 5 only)
	Ms Alice Deakin	Carlyle Associates (Item 5 only)
	Ms Carol-Ann Searles	Carlyle Associates (Item 5 only)
	Mrs Wendy Kimpton	Director for Strategy & Regulation (Item 6 only)
	Professor Simon Parsons	Director of Environment, Planning & Assurance (Item 6 only)
	Mr Robert Stewart	General Manager – Investment Prioritisation (Item 6 only)

PART I

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Allan Clow.

2. DECLARATION AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS/MATTERS ARISING

There were no interests which required declaration or registration. There were no matters arising.

3. BOARD MINUTES (Part I)

- (i) Draft Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 29th January 2025
The draft Minutes of the Board meeting held on 29th January 2025 were approved.

The Chair led a review of the status of the actions from the previous meeting, noting that a summary had been circulated in advance.

Paper 09/25 approved.

4. MONTHLY / QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE

(i) Safety, Health & Wellbeing Report

Mr Farrer presented the paper, reporting a slight increase in the RIDDOR Injury Frequency Rate across both Scottish Water and its contractors and an increase in contractor Lost Time Accidents (LTAs). The Board considered the background to and the issues arising from one incident which had been assessed as significant during January 2025. In response to a query from the Board, Mr Farrer explained that the development of a common standard for pipe loading/unloading would be led by one of Scottish Water's Alliance Partners. He noted that Scottish Water would lead the communication and engagement plan in respect of the common standard, as part of our industry collective. The Board welcomed this approach. Further to a query from the Board, Mr Farrer confirmed that there had been an increase in slips, trips and falls over the winter period. Following a suggestion from the Board, it was agreed that future Safety, Health & Wellbeing papers would include examples of positive health and safety performance.

Action 1 – Mr P Farrer

Paper 10/25 noted.

(ii) Chief Executive Report

Mr Plant presented the paper, highlighting recent political and stakeholder engagement and noting Scottish Water's role in supporting the Scottish Government's plans for a National Conversation on water.

Mr Plant reported strong performance, acknowledging great work from teams across Scottish Water, and that performance in some areas was helped by improved planning and learning drawn from previous incidents, together with largely benign weather conditions. Further to a comment from the Board, Mr Farrer outlined how Scottish Water seeks to drive improved performance across both normal operations and incidents. Mr Plant noted Scottish Water's increasingly proactive approach, highlighting in particular the work being undertaken through the Intelligent Control Centre (ICC). The Board commended progress in reducing the number of Environmental Pollution Incidents (EPI). Further to a query from the Board, Mr Plant explained that leakage had increased in December 2024, but he remained confident of a return to the long-term trend of leakage reduction by the end of the year, through increased investment and delivery of the Leakage Reduction Action Plan.

In response to a query from the Board, Mr Dingwall confirmed that total repairs and investment were at the top of the target range. He noted that this increase had been included in the budget but highlighted the increasing trend. The Board noted the need to consider this in the wider context of progress in relation to the investment programme and the Long-Term Strategy (LTS).

Paper 11/25 noted.