

## Representation received by Email

### UNC Independent Panel Chair

**Date:** 10 February 2014

**Organisation:**

I&C Shippers and Suppliers (ICoSS)

**Abstract:**

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

It is essential that the UNC Chair can be seen to be truly independent of any group that has a vested interest in the development of the UNC; this can only be achieved if they do not have any active form of commercial or financial relationship with any of the UNC related parties, not only UNC signatories, but also suppliers, consumer representatives and the regulators themselves. This ensures that there can be no perception of bias in their activities. With this foundation in place, it should be a relatively straightforward to run a process that results in the appointment of an individual capable of being even-handed.

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?*

In line with our comments above, any individual seconded from a UNC party, or an organisation with a commercial interest in how the UNC is governed, cannot be considered as a completely disinterested, and hence truly independent, chair; this would be as relevant for an individual appointed via the UNC Panel (where commercial interests would play a part) as much as placing the responsibility for panel appointment with a single, or group of, licence holders.

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

It is difficult to find any one organisation or body that can undertake the appointment process who is impartial, but with the necessary understanding of the market to ensure an appropriate choice is made. Our preference is that the authority undertakes the process, as the one organisation that best fits the criteria identified above. It is important however that any process is transparent and ensures that a candidate with suitable understanding of the market is appointed.

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

No.

Independent Panel Chair  
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Page 1 of 1

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