

January 2026

Encodar appoints Paul McKie as new CEO



Encodar Limited, the not-for-profit company established to operate the Joint Office of Gas Transporters, has appointed Paul McKie as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective 1 January 2026.

Paul moves into the role from his position as Head of Service Delivery at the Joint Office, where he has been central to leading key industry work programmes. As CEO of Encodar, he will provide strategic leadership, oversee corporate governance and code administration functions, and guide the organisation through its next phase of development.

Paul succeeds former Director Joanna Ferguson, who was seconded from Northern Gas Networks (NGN) to lead the Joint Office through the establishment and incorporation of Encodar. With the company now fully operational, Joanna returns to NGN to take up a new senior role overseeing regulatory, financial and business operations.

Encodar was established to bring dedicated HR, finance and legal capability to the Joint Office and has been fully operational since August 2024. With its corporate foundations now in place, Paul's remit as CEO will focus on organisational growth and ensuring the Joint Office continues to deliver robust governance processes for the Uniform Network Code (UNC)

– the framework that underpins the common transportation arrangements for Great Britain’s gas industry.

Paul brings 15 years of experience in the gas industry, having held senior managerial roles at Transco in the 1990s and early 2000s. After a period working outside the sector, he returned to the energy industry in 2023 with National Gas Transmission before joining the Joint Office in June 2024.

Paul said: “The gas sector is at a pivotal moment, and Encodar is well positioned to support the industry through this next phase. Jo has done a fantastic job establishing Encodar and setting the organisation on a strong footing. With that platform firmly in place, we can now enhance our core operations, strengthen industry engagement and continue delivering high-quality governance services for the gas sector.

Jo said: “Establishing Encodar and supporting the Joint Office through this phase has been an important step in strengthening the organisation for the future. As I hand over to Paul, I’m confident that his leadership will ensure Encodar continues to deliver effectively for the sector.”

Paul will work closely with the Board to develop and implement the organisation’s long-term strategy and further build relationships across the gas value chain. His appointment comes at a time when both Encodar and the Joint Office are increasingly visible within industry and playing a significant role in regulatory discussions.

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