



**SMART ENERGY  
RESEARCH LAB**  
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOR PUBLIC GOOD

## SERL Independent Advisory Board - Terms of Reference

### Background

The Smart Energy Research Lab (SERL) is a £6m, 5-year (2017-2012) programme funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). The SERL Consortium is led by University College London (UCL) and includes:

- UK Data Archive at the University of Essex
- University of Edinburgh
- Cardiff University
- Leeds Beckett University
- Loughborough University
- University of Southampton
- The Energy Saving Trust

SERL's vision is to deliver a world-leading multi-disciplinary research programme, facilitated by a smart meter data portal. The portal will transform GB energy research through the long-term provision of high quality, high-resolution energy data that will support the development of a reliable evidence base for intervention, observational and longitudinal studies across the socio-technical spectrum.

The goals of **the portal** are to provide:

- A consistent, trusted, and sustainable channel for researchers to access large-scale, high-resolution energy data, thereby providing a reliable empirical dataset for research;
- An effective mechanism for collecting energy data alongside other variables from national surveys (e.g. English Housing Survey) or individual research projects;

### Our research partners



- A confidential, ongoing repository of smart meter data enhanced with contextual dwelling, household and neighbourhood attributes for use in secondary data analysis.

The ambition of the SERL **research programme** is to undertake research that will:

- Support government policy;
- Kick-start the development of new products, services and energy markets;
- Help provide solutions to the energy trilemma (security, affordability and environmental sustainability);
- Facilitate better research by developing best practice guidelines and methods to improve data security and enable innovative uses of smart meter data.

## **Scope and Purpose of the Independent Advisory Board (IAB)**

The SERL SMT desires to ensure that our stakeholder engagement, policy influence and industry awareness are given the weight they need in the national and international community, hence the wish to bring together an Advisory Board.

The Independent Advisory Board (IAB) will provide strategic oversight of the work of the SERL Senior Management Team and the two governance Boards (Research Programme Board (RPB) and Data Access Governance Board (DAGB)). Its remit is to make sure SERL provides maximum benefit to the research community, while minimising any risks relating to the roll out of the Smart Meters Implementation Programme and public acceptance of smart meters.

The Advisory Board will have no responsibility for managing the SERL work programme or delivering the outcomes defined in the Case for Support.



## Chair and membership

- Daron Walker, Director of Smart Meters and Systems, Smart Metering Implementation Programme, BEIS (Chair)
- James Fleming, Head of Energy Theme, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Michael Harrison, Head of Benefits and Evaluation, Smart Metering Implementation Programme, BEIS
- Edward Jones, Energy Programme Portfolio Manager, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Jacqui Russell, Head of Metering and Market Operations, Ofgem
- Prof Jim Watson, Director, UK Energy Research Council

## Meeting frequency

It is considered important that the IAB meet every 3-6 months for at least the first year. This is to make sure that during the planning and design phases, SERL maximises the research benefit and minimises any risk to the smart meter roll-out. After the first year, the frequency of meetings will be reviewed.

## Activities of the Board

- Review progress reports from the SMT (and the other governance boards where relevant)
- Review and advise on major changes to the planned programme of work.
- Provide strategic advice relating to:
  - SERL priorities,
  - managing external risks
  - Key opportunities:
    - To demonstrate impact



- Engage with key stakeholders across academia, government, industry etc.
  - alignment with government policy objectives
  - alignment with strategic objectives of the developing research agenda/landscape in the energy sector

## **Responsibilities of the Board**

- Attend all meetings of the board.
- Read and feed back on all relevant reports and documents sent out to the board from SERL.



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