

SECTION 172 STATEMENT

Drax Energy Solutions Limited

Companies Act, Section 172 statement

The Directors have a duty to promote the success of the Company, having regard to a range of matters and stakeholders. The Board is responsible for ensuring effective engagement with stakeholders and recognises that decisions taken today will have an impact upon stakeholders, as well as shape the longer-term performance of the business. Appropriate consideration is important in enabling Drax to deliver positive outcomes for the climate, nature and people, and to deliver sustainable value creation.

Examples of how the Board have had regard to the matters set out in Section 172 are set out below. Comprehensive details in respect of stakeholders identified across the Drax Group plc group (“Group”), and how we engage with them and have regard to their interests, can be found on pages 26 to 33 in the 2022 Drax Group plc Annual Report and Accounts.

The likely consequences of any decision in the long term

Our purpose is to enable a zero carbon, lower cost energy future. With multi-year time horizons for many of our strategic and investment decisions, we recognise that these decisions can have an impact far beyond our business and well into the future. We see an important role in supporting the decarbonisation of British Industrial and Commercial (“I&C”) businesses through the supply of renewable energy, asset optimisation, Electric Vehicle services and carbon offset certificates, which we believe could evolve in the future to the provision of carbon removals.

The interests of the Company’s workforce

Engaging with our colleagues is a priority and starts with listening to, and better understanding, their views. Established in 2019, our workforce engagement forums (“MyVoice Forums”) are a valuable way for the Board and senior management to undertake such engagement. The MyVoice Forums are made up of colleague members from each part of our business, to ensure representation for every function. They provide us with a view of colleague sentiment and key topics that are on colleagues’ minds. In respect of our annual employee engagement survey, our engagement and inclusion scores have improved since 2021. The 2021 engagement survey highlighted that leading change, our social and environmental commitment, and providing opportunities for careers and development are what matter most to our colleagues.

In 2022, our survey results showed that good progress has been made on leading change on and careers and development. However, there is more work to do to help build colleague understanding around our social and environmental commitments.

A member of the Group Executive Committee and an HR representative support these forums and attend each meeting. The MyVoice Forum chairs meet quarterly with the Chair and CEO of the Group to discuss colleague sentiment and to provide feedback on key topics.

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We also maintain regular dialogue with our workforce through our colleague briefings, weekly updates from the Group CEO with a question-and-answer section responding to colleague questions, our pulse and annual engagement surveys, and communications about the Group's strategy, plans and performance. During 2022, communications included updates about progress against the Group-wide scorecard, which includes KPIs in relation to financial, strategic, safety and sustainability performance. Annual bonuses for colleagues are linked to the scorecard performance, ensuring that employee reward and Group performance are aligned. We actively encourage participation in the Group-wide all-employee Sharesave scheme, offering the maximum discount of 20% and waiving any length of service requirements.

The need to foster the Company's business relationships

Customers

Engagement allows us to build strong relationships with our customers, so we have a better understanding of their needs to improve customer service, develop relevant products and keep them informed. We engage with our customers through channels such as social media, our website, by phone and through our complaints procedure. The cost of energy was a critical issue for our customers in 2022 and we implemented the UK Government's support package for businesses, the Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS). We had regular communication with our customers, which included hosting a dedicated phone line for customers requiring additional support with arranging payments tailored to their needs, and with Third-Party Intermediaries (TPIs). Engagement allows us to create enduring solutions that improves the overall service experience.

Suppliers

Our relationships with relevant suppliers are governed by contracts that include the requirement to comply with relevant regulatory and legal requirements including anti-bribery, corruption and modern slavery regulations, and comply with our supplier code of conduct. These minimum standards are regularly reviewed by our Procurement, Legal, and Business Ethics functions. The Group has also signed up to the Prompt Payment Code, and monitors performance to both continue to improve payment performance and maintain positive supplier relationships.

Regulators

Engagement with Ofgem, BEIS, environmental agencies and the ICO enables us to remain compliant with the latest rules and guidance. We've continued to work with regulators and UK Government to protect our customers and develop options to mitigate the impact of rising wholesale energy costs on consumer bills.

The impact of the Company's operations on the community and the environment

Tackling climate change is at the heart of our purpose, and our strategic objectives are aligned to global renewable energy and decarbonisation agendas. Our Group ambition is to become carbon negative by 2030. For more information, see pages 47 to 62 of the 2022 Drax Group plc Annual Report and Accounts.

Drax is an active participant in the communities in which it operates. Strong community relationships and effective engagement strengthen our ability to operate effectively in those regions. We engage regularly with communities through supporting local initiatives and holding drop-in sessions. To read more about our positive social impact across the Group, see pages 28 and 31 to 33 in the 2022 Drax Group plc Annual Report and Accounts.

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Drax is committed to being a global force for good. In 2022, the Group approved a proposal to set up a global corporate giving model to support this vision. In 2023, the Group launched the Drax Foundation, which will manage and distribute a fund for community investment and giving across the Group's core territories. Covering the UK, US and Canada, the Foundation will be under the governance of a new sub-committee of the Drax Group plc Board. The Foundation will enable Drax to invest in larger-scale and longer-term projects in each of our territories, and to provide financial support and sponsorship to local community projects and charities. The Foundation will provide a tangible link to the Group's sustainability strategy. All projects will require an assessment to ensure they have the potential to deliver at least one of the following outcomes:

- Climate positive: Contributing to tackling the climate crisis
- Nature positive: Contributing to creating and maintaining thriving, sustainable natural environments
- People positive: Helping those most at risk in the transition to net zero to find sustainable, meaningful work and to support education

The desirability of the Company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct

At Drax, we are committed to conducting business ethically, with honesty and integrity, and in compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We do not tolerate any form of bribery, corruption, human rights abuse, or other unethical business conduct.

Our business ethics compliance framework identifies the behaviours expected from colleagues on a broad range of topics. In 2022, we delivered our annual eLearning refreshers and provided additional training to certain 'at higher risk' teams throughout the year on business ethics related topics. For more details on how the business ethics programme is managed, see pages 71 to 73 of the 2022 Drax Group plc Annual Report and Accounts.

The need to act fairly as between members of the Company

Our ultimate parent company is Drax Group plc and therefore we act in the best interests of our immediate and ultimate parent companies and, in doing so, in the best interest of the investors and shareholders of the Group. This ensures that the interests of all relevant stakeholders, and the need to act fairly between members of the Company, are considered during decision-making.

Engagement with shareholders allows us to understand the concerns and priorities of current and prospective investors. We can then take these into account in our decision making in areas such as climate change; sustainability; executive pay; dividend and longer-term capital allocation policy; as well as strategy.

This statement was approved by the Board on 27 June 2023 as part of the Company's 2022 Annual Report and Accounts.