

Decom RegHub





David Ogilvie, Project Lead
Decommissioning Regulators Hub

www.decomreghub.org.uk

Regulators Pioneer Fund

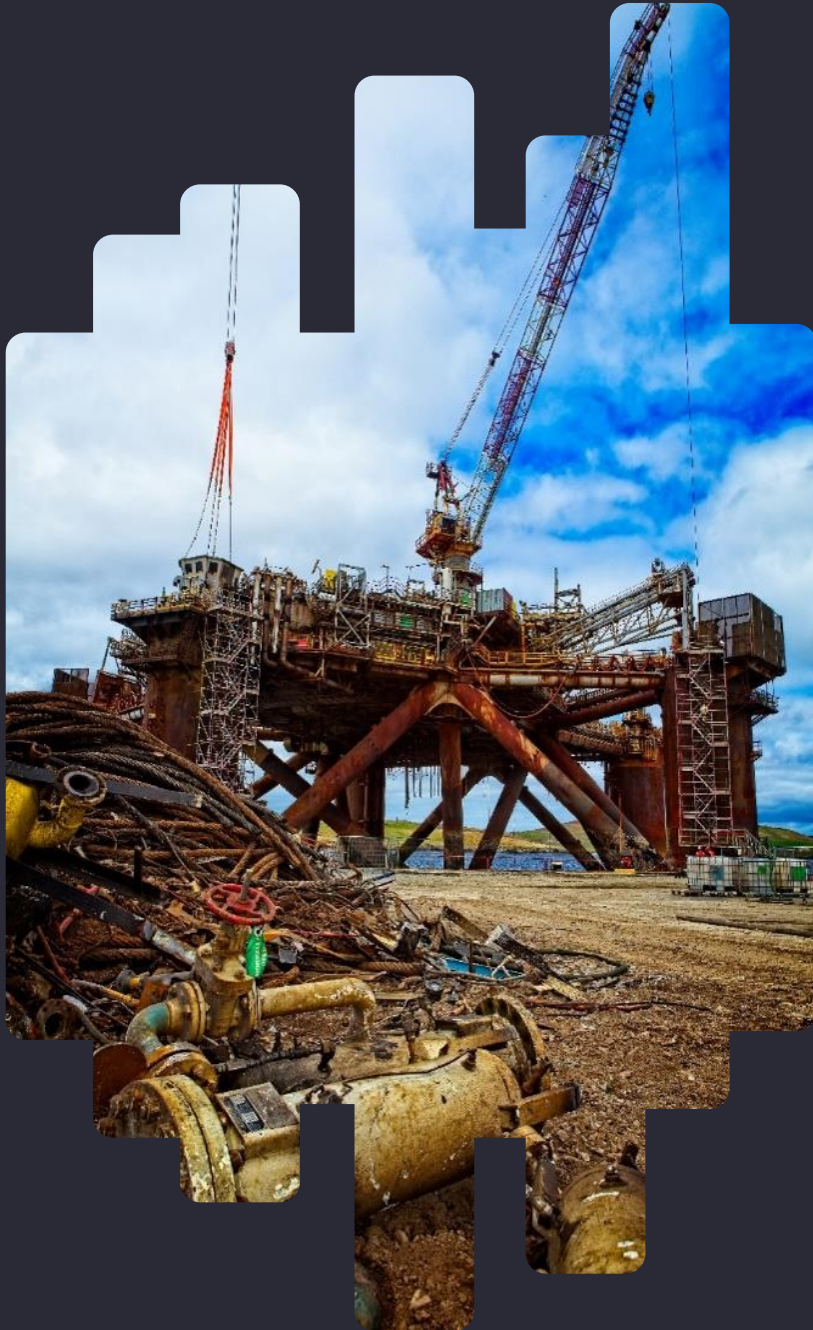
- Grant awarded October 2018
- Project duration November 2018 – April 2020

Innovate UK







Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

www.decomreghub.org.uk



Partner Agencies:



 <p>Oil & Gas Authority</p>	 <p>Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning</p>	 <p>HSE</p>	 <p>Environment Agency SEPA Scottish Environment Protection Agency Buidheann Dìon Àrainneachd na h-Alba</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Act 2015 • Energy Act 2016 • MER UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petroleum Act 1998 (as amended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 • Safety Case Regulations 2015 • Prevention of Fire, Explosion and Emergency Response Regs 1995 • Management and Administration Regs 1995 • Offshore Installation and Wells (Design and Construction) Regs 1996 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Permitting (E&W) Regs 2016 • Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007 • Waste Management Licensing Regs 2011; The Control of Mercury Regulations 2017; Special Waste Regulations 1996; • Ship Recycling Facilities Regulations 2015 • Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012 • Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 • Radioactive Substances Act 1993; Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations 2018

Streamlining the regulatory journey for offshore oil and gas decommissioning



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Safety



Environment

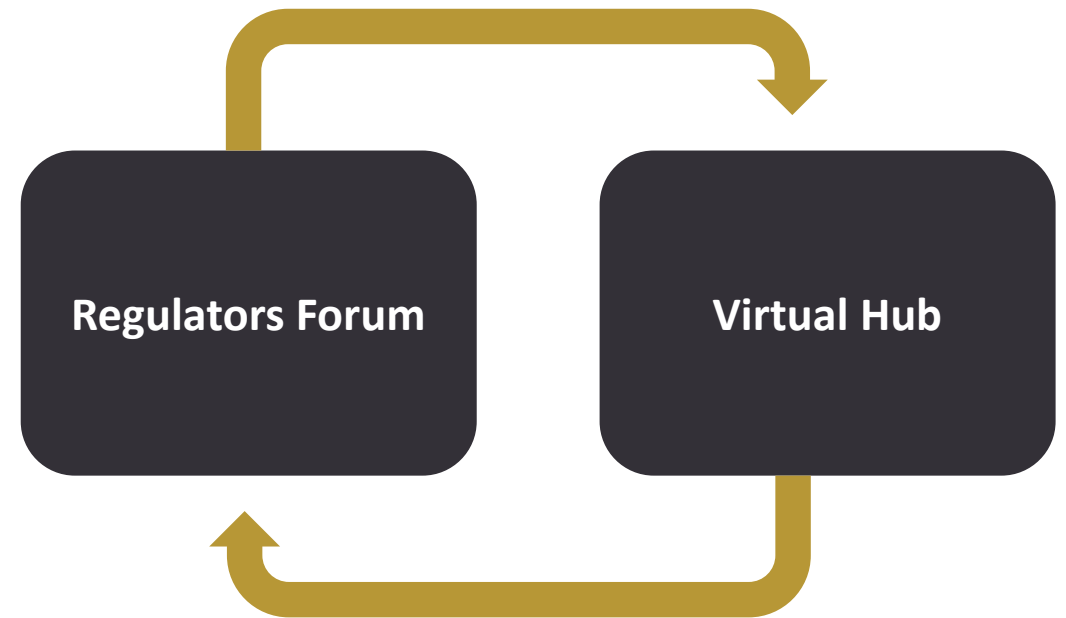
Cost

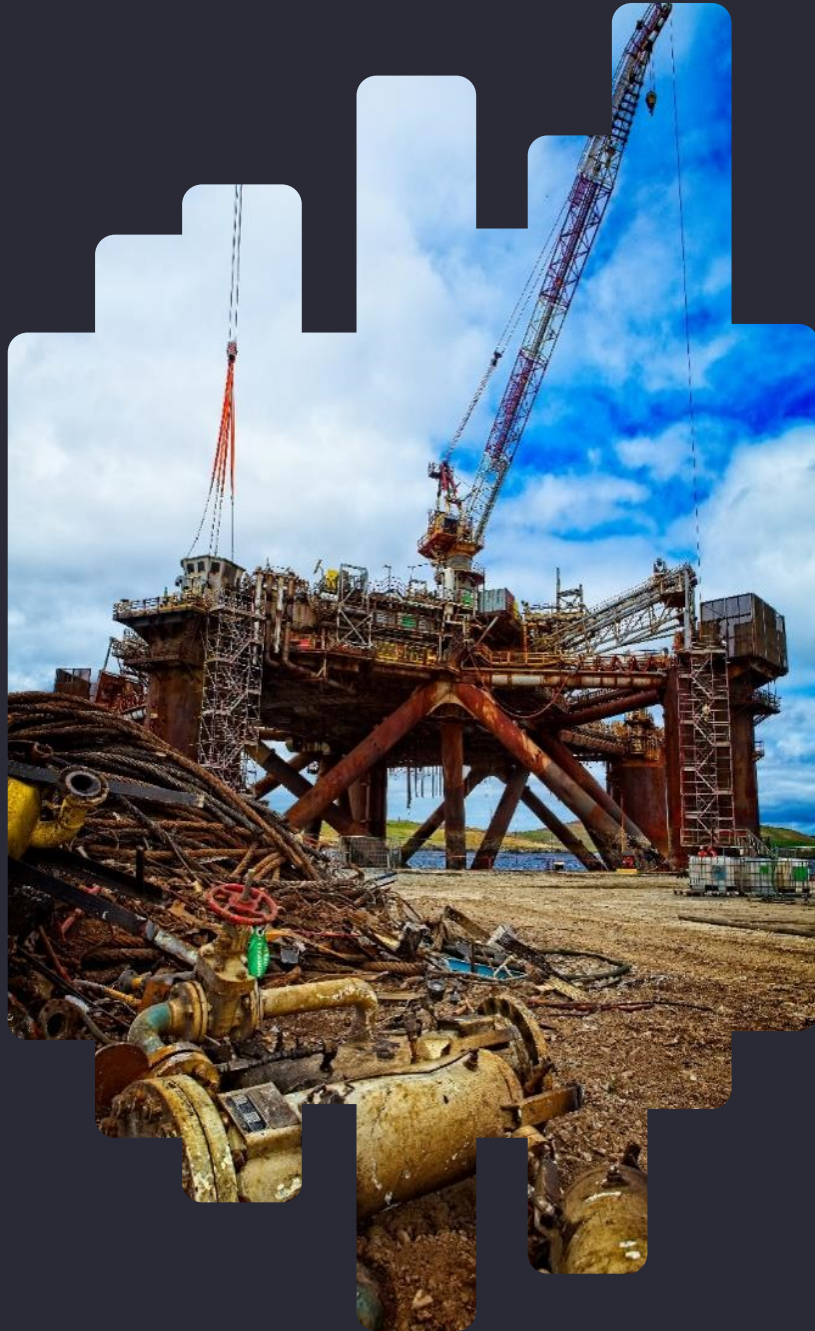


Timescales

Different regulators, different regulations,
different requirements, different directions?

1. A **Virtual Hub** to
 - Support decommissioning
 - Create regulatory clarity for operators & supply chain
2. A **Regulators Forum** to:
 - Understand each other better
 - Identify regulatory pinch points and facilitate resolution





Virtual hub:

DecomRegHub [Home](#) [Partners](#) [Decom Regulation](#) [Resources](#) [Forum](#) [FAQs](#) [Contact Us](#)

Streamlining the regulatory journey for offshore oil and gas decommissioning

Welcome

Over 200 oil and gas fields in the UK Continental Shelf will be decommissioned in the next decade, at an anticipated cost of over £20 bn ([OGA Cost Estimate Report 2019](#)). The UK has the opportunity to become a world leader in the safe, cost effective and environmentally sound decommissioning of our offshore assets.

The Decommissioning Regulatory Hub (DecomRegHub) is a partnership of regulatory agencies with a shared interest in oil and gas decommissioning. Our goal is to build a hub to help the decommissioning sector understand their regulatory obligations, from planning for decommissioning through safe dismantling of infrastructure and disposal of waste.

The DecomRegHub's initial focus will be on decommissioning offshore oil and gas infrastructure in the UK Continental Shelf. The scope of DecomRegHub's work is defined as "the collective activities involved in withdrawing oil and gas infrastructure from operation at the end of its economic life, including the safe and legal processing of materials returned to shore, as far up the waste hierarchy as possible".

In order to do this, we have developed a Regulatory Forum and a Digital Hub to:

www.decomreghub.org.uk

Decommissioning Journey



Operational Activities



Decommissioning & Dismantling



Recycling & Disposal

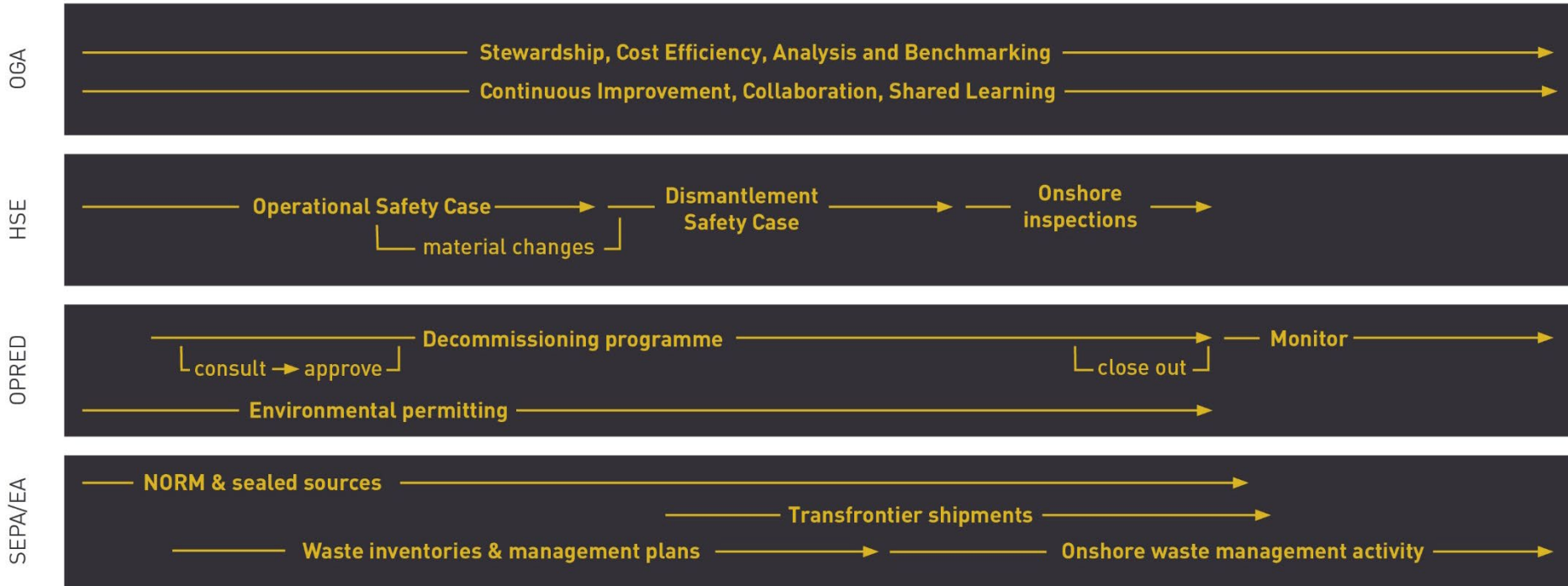


Monitoring

Business Activities

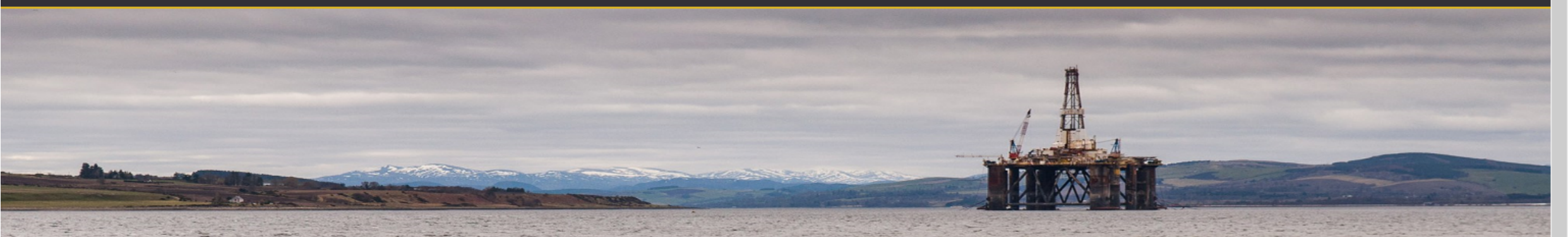


Regulatory Activities



* This image is illustrative of some of the key regulatory interactions throughout a 'typical' decommissioning programme. Not all relevant regulatory or policy activities are shown. Please contact individual regulators for further details

DecomRegHub



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In order to do this, we have developed a Regulatory Forum and a Digital Hub to:

- Signpost to regulatory resources
- Share information and learning across all regulators
- Acknowledge and address situations where there are competing regulatory demands

The DecomRegHub design phase ran from November 2018 to March 2020. It was co-funded by [InnovateUK](#) (IUK), the UK's innovation agency, through the [Regulators Pioneer Fund \(RPF\)](#) on behalf of the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy \(BEIS\)](#) Better Regulation Executive. The RPE aims to



Streamlining the regulatory journey for offshore oil and gas decommissioning

DecomRegHub Webinar, 2 June 2020

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Posted by DecomRegHub team

DecomRegHub project lead, David Ogilvie, will be presenting a Decom Digital Webinar hosted by Decom North Sea on Tuesday 2 June at 14:00 GMT. David will talk about the Decommissioning Regulatory Hub, a joint project between OGA, OPRED, HSE, EA and SEPA to streamline the decommissioning regulatory journey and address cross-regulatory challenges brought about by the anticipated rise in decommissioning activity over the next decade.

You can sign up for Tuesday's webinar, and view the programme of future presentations in the DNS Decom Digital series [here](#)

In the news

[DecomRegHub website goes live](#)

[New SEPA Compliance and](#)

Latest news

[DecomRegHub Webinar, 2 June 2020](#)

DecomRegHub Project Lead, David Ogilvie, will present a webinar on the



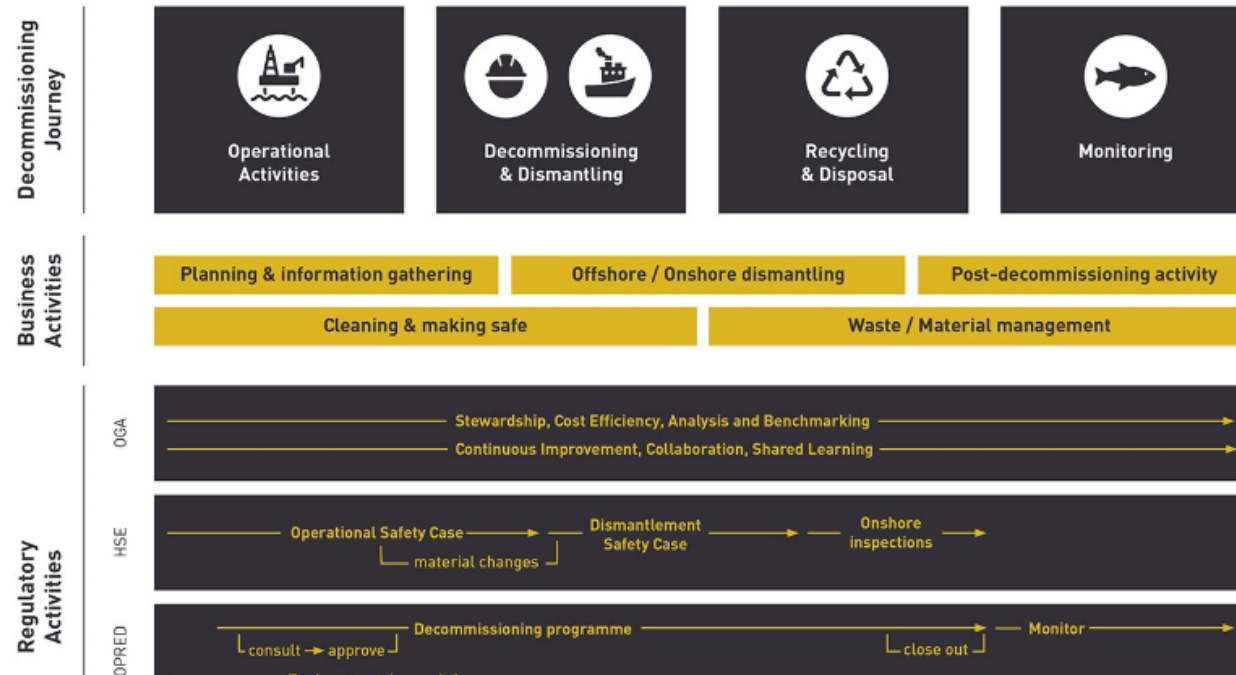
Decom Regulation, Policy and Guidance

How is decommissioning regulated in the UKCS?

Decommissioning of offshore oil and gas is impacted by different regulation, policy and guidance. As every decommissioning project is unique, the regulatory journey will reflect the specific needs of every project and activities may not always be undertaken in the same order every time. We always recommend early engagement with the individual regulators at the start of any decommissioning project to ensure you are aware of the key regulations and any changes which may have occurred.

A high level overview of the regulatory requirements of each of the regulators participating in the DecomRegHub is illustrated below. A higher resolution version of this image can be accessed [here](#)

More information can be found below or in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).



Resources

The DecomRegHub aims to make the regulatory journey clearer for all those with an interest in offshore oil and gas decommissioning, providing a route to engage with multiple regulators at the right time.

All regulators advise early engagement to ensure expectations are clear and timescales for decommissioning can be met. This is particularly important where new technology or innovative approaches are proposed

A typical regulatory journey through decommissioning of an asset is shown on our [Decom Regulation](#) page. For ease of use, we have aligned the resources with the 'Business Activities' of a typical regulatory journey as shown in the infographic, so the types of regulatory activity needed at each stage of decommissioning is visible. Remember that each decommissioning project will be different and you may need to access resources in an order which best suits your project.

This page provides links to key information and guidance from regulators which may be useful at different stages of the decommissioning journey. To jump straight to a short summary for each regulator, please click the relevant link:

[HSE](#)

[OPRED](#)

[OGA](#)

[SEPA](#)

We plan to add more resources as the site develops, and we welcome comments or suggestions on content through our [contact](#) page.

- [Preparation for Decom and Late Life Operations](#)
- [Well Plug and Abandonment \(P&A\)](#)
- [Cleaning and Making Safe](#)
- [Offshore Dismantling and Removal](#)
- [Onshore Dismantling and Removal](#)
- [Current Activities And Lessons Learned](#)

Streamlining the regulatory journey for offshore oil and gas decommissioning

Resources

[Preparation for Decom and Late Life Operations](#)

[Well Plug and Abandonment \(P&A\)](#)

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[Current Activities And Lessons Learned](#)

[Other Links and Resources](#)

[DecomRegHub Resources](#)

Cleaning and Making Safe

Once an installation has ceased production it will need to be cleaned and made safe and engineered down before main dismantlement activities commence. As the work progresses and the safety profile of the installation changes, and certain safety or environmental critical components are changed or retired, material changes to the Safety Case, or amendments to environmental discharge permits may be required.

HSE

OSDR assessment of a material change to a safety case will follow the same framework and process as a full Safety Case assessment. Guidance on when a material change may need to be made is contained in The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive)(Safety Cases) Regulations 2015 Approved Guidance on Regulations booklet

Safety Case Competent Authority Portal (CAP) A link to the CAP portal for submitting documentation relating to Safety Cases, Material Changes and reviews

[go to resource](#)

Safety Case Guidance A guide which explains the regulatory requirements of SCR 2015 to duty holders, including licensees, installation operators and well operators

[go to resource](#)

OPRED

Cleaning or emptying of tanks, pipes and other components prior to dismantling may result in a change in the quantity and chemical composition of discharges. Changes from operation to decommissioning may heighten risk of incidents if not managed correctly.

Offshore Oil and Gas Environmental Legislation environmental regulations and guidance on licensing for offshore decommissioning activities and assessing the environmental impact of decommissioning

[go to resource](#)

DecomRegHub Regulatory Forum

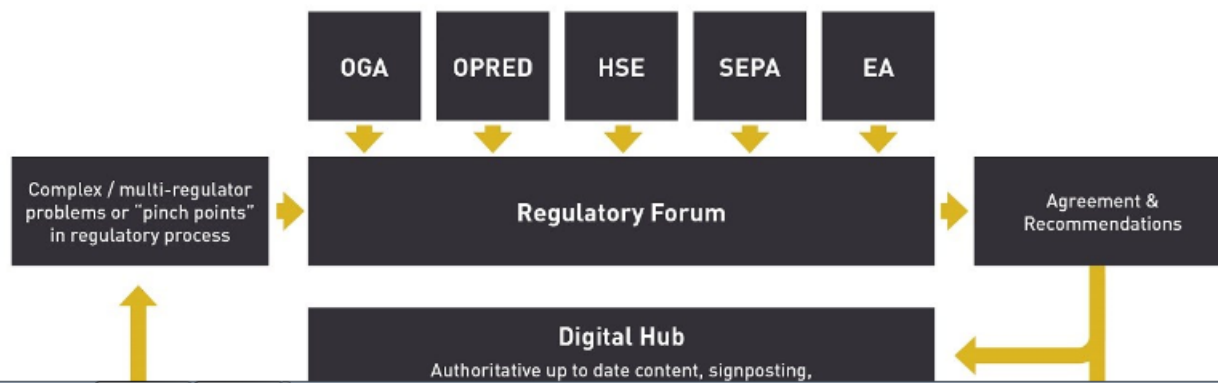
The DecomRegHub partnership aims to support UK and Scottish Government objectives of minimising the cost of decommissioning to the taxpayer and industry whilst ensuring high standards of environmental protection and safety. It was set up to streamline the regulatory journey for offshore oil and gas decommissioning, promote regulatory clarity and coordination around decommissioning, and help industry understand compliance expectations, meet their obligations efficiently, and identify and exploit opportunities

The **Regulatory Forum** provides a platform where regulators working in offshore oil and gas decommissioning can collaboratively address key cross-regulatory challenges and problems in the decommissioning life cycles, and identify shared opportunities for innovation. The Forum is supported by senior managers from each participating regulator, with support from regulatory and technical staff as required.

The Forum operates on five key principles:

- Collegiate - the Forum is transparent and consultative, dealing with subjects that affect multiple regulators
- Multi-regulator - the Forum will not be used to solve problems that are the sole concern of only one partner regulator
- Progressive - the Forum will achieve goals that positively impact the regulatory process and the decommissioning sector
- Outcomes effectively communicated - the Forum will record any agreed decisions and positions and make these available as appropriate
- Independent - the Forum will not intervene in the decision making processes of any participating regulator

Our model for the Forum's operation is shown below.



Q. What help and advice can I get from the DecomRegHub?

A. DecomRegHub provides a single port of call for industry, through the Digital Hub, to essential resources about decommissioning regulation, case studies and the latest regulatory news. The Regulatory Forum can help answer questions about regulatory challenges and problems, where the issues involve more than one of the partner regulators. If an enquiry is only relevant to a single regulator, we will highlight this and signpost to where you can get more information. For examples of the types of enquiries the Forum can help with, please click here [IN PROGRESS]

Q. What do we mean by offshore oil and gas decommissioning?

A. With multiple regulators applying several unrelated pieces of legislation at different stages of the process, it is not always clear where 'decommissioning' starts and ends. For the purposes of the project, the DecomRegHub partners agreed the following definition of decommissioning:

"Offshore oil and gas decommissioning is the collective activities involved in withdrawing oil and gas infrastructure from operation at the end of its economic life, including the safe and legal processing of materials returned to shore, as far up the waste hierarchy as possible."

Decommissioning starts with the planning and preparation for decommissioning and finishes at 'end of waste' - when all materials and waste from the decommissioning project have been reused, repurposed, recycled or disposed.

Q. Why do we decommission?

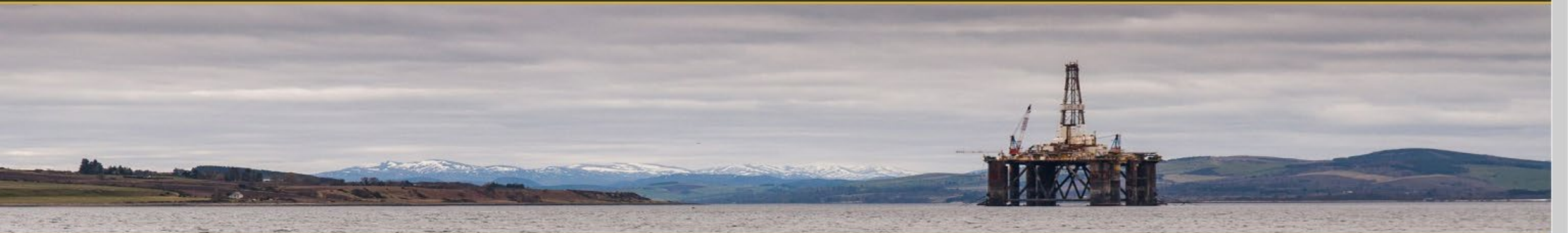
A. International treaties and conventions place obligations on signatory states relating to the management of redundant oil and gas infrastructure. When taken together, the purpose of these obligations is to protect the environment and human health, and ensure that other marine activities such as fishing and shipping are not hindered by the abandonment or dumping of platforms. More information on some of the key international agreements affecting the UKCS can be found [here](#)

Q. What UK regulations apply to decommissioning?

A. Information on the regulations which apply to onshore and offshore activities, and which regulator is the competent authority for each, can be found on our [Decom Regulation](#) page.

Q. When should I contact the regulators about my decommissioning plans?

A. The best outcomes are reached when regulators are engaged early in decommissioning planning. We recommend including regulators in early-phase stakeholder engagement and production of decommissioning plans, instead of waiting until statutory notification is required. It is important to note regulators can only advise on compliance with their own legislation, and engagement should include all regulators who may be required to grant approvals or permits at any stage of the project. This reduces the likelihood of 'showstoppers' later in the project.



Streamlining the regulatory journey for offshore oil and gas decommissioning

Contact the hub

Please get in touch to find out more about our services or to discuss your project needs.

* denotes a mandatory field

Contact Name

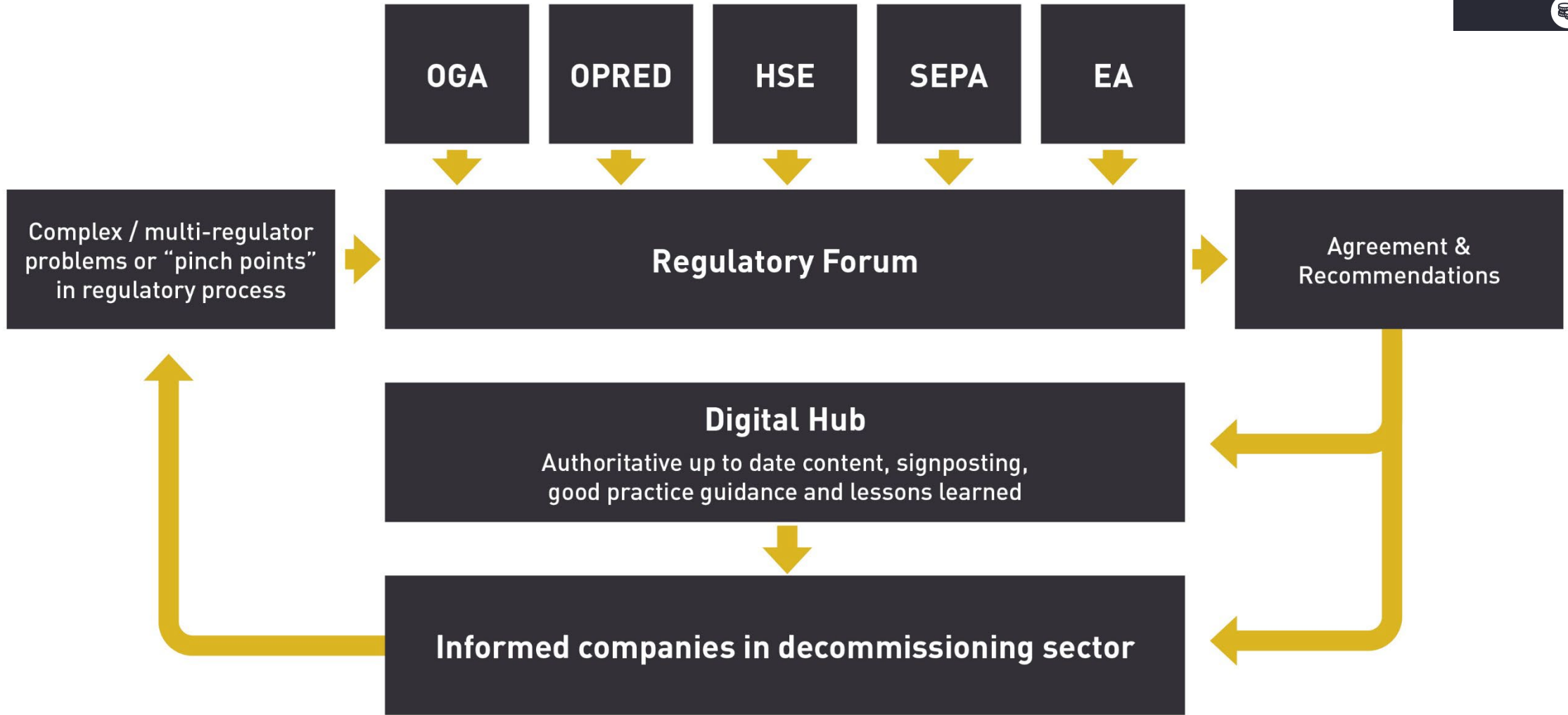
Company

Contact Email*

We'll never share your email with anyone else.

Your Message*

How does the forum work?





Benefits of all this



Collaborating and Innovating



Managing Costs and Benefits



**Operational
Activities**



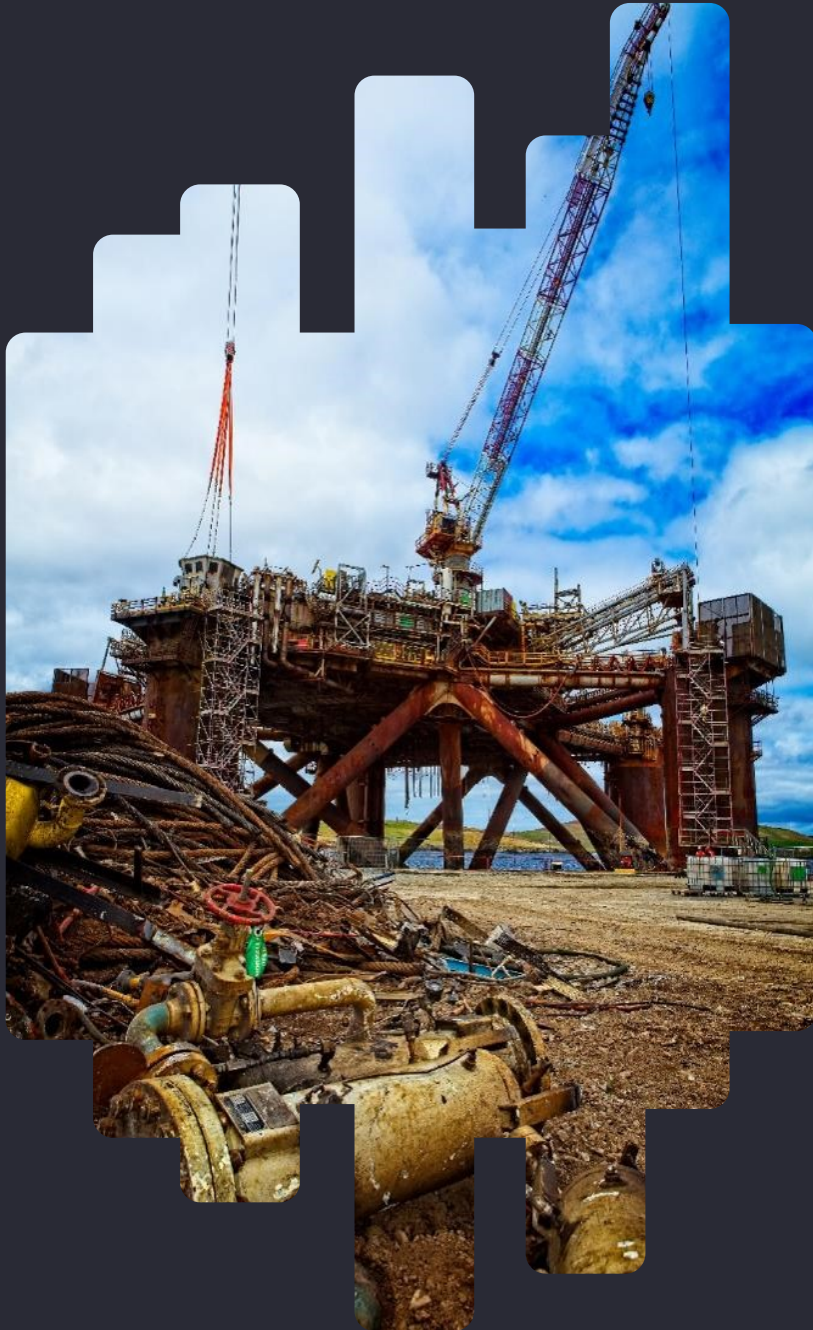
**Decommissioning
& Dismantling**



**Recycling
& Disposal**



Monitoring



- Forum and website design complete
- Implementation from 1 April 2020
- Project support beyond funded phase:
 - Forum participation
 - Website maintain/develop
 - Engagement with users
- Comments welcome!



Thank You

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Louise.Brown@sepa.org.uk

www.decomreghub.org.uk





1. Partners
2. Regulations
3. Resources
4. Forum
5. FAQs
6. Contact us

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Streamlining the regulatory journey for offshore oil and gas decommissioning

Decom Regulation, Policy and Guidance

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regulatory requirements, the regulators participate in the regulatory process. DecomRegHub is illustrated in the diagram below.

Questions.

comments or suggestions on content through our contact page.

Decom and Late Life Operations

- Well Plug and Abandonment (P&A)
- Cleaning and Making Safe
- Offshore Dismantling and Removal
- Onshore Dismantling and Removal
- Current Activities And Lessons Learned
- Other Links and Resources
- DecomRegHub Resources

Latest news

How do international treaties apply to decommissioning in the UKCS?

Decommissioning of offshore oil and gas decommissioning is driven by our obligations under international conventions or EU legislation. In order to meet the conditions of these treaties and agreements, we ensure, as far as possible, that decommissioning is carried out in a way which protects the environment, keeps other users of the sea safe, and considers the health and safety of people and communities. Some of the requirements of international treaties and agreements may be used to steer government or regulatory bodies' policy and strategies; other requirements are transposed into UK law and are implemented by the relevant regulatory bodies. The table below shows the key regulatory instruments and activities carried out by the DecomRegHub partner agencies:

Agency	Oil & Gas Authority	Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning	HSE	Environment Agency / SEPA
Key Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Act 2015 Energy Act 2016 MER UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petroleum Act 1998 (as amended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 Safety Case Regulations 2015 Prevention of Fire, Explosion and Emergency Response Regs 1995 Management and Administration Regs 1995 Offshore Installation and Wells (Design and Construction) Regs 1996 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Permitting (E&W) Regs 2016 Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007 Waste Management Licensing Regs 2011; the Control of Mercury Regulations 2017; Special Waste Regulations 1996; Ship Recycling Facilities Regulations 2015 Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012 Water Environment (Control) Act 2011 ...