

NATIONAL GRID PLC
Form S-8
October 23, 2012
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 23, 2012

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

NATIONAL GRID PLC

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

England and Wales
(State or Other Jurisdiction of

Incorporation or Organization)

98-0367158
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification No.)

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1-3 Strand

London WC2N 5EH

United Kingdom

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

National Grid USA Companies

Defined Contribution

Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan

(Full Title of the Plan)

Colin Owyang

SVP and General Counsel of National Grid USA

40 Sylvan Road

Waltham, Massachusetts 02451

(Name and Address of Authorized US Representative Agent for Service)

(781) 907-1000

(Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

Copy to:

Alison Kay

General Counsel

National Grid plc

1-3 Strand London WC2N 5EH England

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

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CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities	Amount	Proposed	Proposed	
	to be	Maximum	Maximum	
to be Registered⁽¹⁾	Registered⁽¹⁾	Offering Price	Aggregate	Amount of
		Per Share	Offering Price⁽²⁾	Registration Fee⁽²⁾
Deferred Compensation Obligations	\$8,000,000	100%	\$8,000,000	\$1,091.20

⁽¹⁾ Represents unsecured obligations of National Grid USA to pay deferred compensation in the future in accordance with the terms of the above referenced Plan.

⁽²⁾ Estimated solely for the purpose of determining the registration fee.

In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement also covers an indeterminate amount of interests to be offered and issued pursuant to the Plan.

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PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE

SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

All information required by Part I of Form S-8 to be contained in the Section 10(a) prospectus is omitted from this Registration Statement in accordance with Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act) and the Note to Part I of Form S-8. The document(s) containing the information specified in Part I will be delivered to employees of the Registrant and employees of subsidiaries of the Registrant participating in the plan covered by this Registration Statement as required by Rule 428(b)(1) under the Securities Act. These documents and the documents incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of this Registration Statement, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

ITEM 3. INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE.

The reports listed below have been filed with or furnished to the Commission by National Grid plc (National Grid or the Registrant) and are incorporated herein by reference to the extent not superseded by documents or reports subsequently filed or furnished:

- (a) the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2012, filed with the Commission on 12 June 2012 (File No. 001-14958), pursuant to Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act);
- (b) the Registrant's Current Report on Form 6-K furnished to the Commission on 17 May 2012; and
- (c) the description of the Registrant's American Depositary Shares and Ordinary Shares as contained in its Registration Statement on Form F-4 (Registration No. 333-47324) filed on 4 October 2000, including any amendment subsequently filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents subsequently filed by National Grid pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, and 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this Registration Statement and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement which indicate that all securities have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing such documents. To the extent designated on the cover page as incorporated by reference herein, certain reports on Form 6-K furnished to the Commission shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement from the date that such reports are furnished to the commission.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein, or in any other subsequently filed document which also is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so

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modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

ITEM 4. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES.

Under the National Grid USA Companies' Defined Contribution Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (as amended from time to time, the Plan), National Grid USA (NGUSA) may provide deferred compensation to certain eligible highly compensated employees (each a participant).

The nature and amount of compensation to be deferred by NGUSA for each participant will be determined in accordance with the Plan based on certain percentages of the participant's compensation and certain limits to participant contributions made to NGUSA's Section 401(k) defined contribution plan imposed under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code). Deferred amounts will be credited to an account maintained on the books and records of NGUSA in the name of the participant. The value of a participant's account will be based on the amounts initially credited to the account by NGUSA and the performance of one or more hypothetical investments selected by the participant under the Plan. No amounts credited will actually be invested in any investment and, accordingly, participants will not have any ownership interest in any investment. The National Grid USA Investment Committee has the sole discretion to determine the investments available under the Plan and the measurement mechanisms to determine the hypothetical gains and losses on amounts deemed invested in accordance with the terms of the Plan.

The Plan generally provides for the payment of the deferred amounts to participants in a single lump sum upon their separation from service or disability. Upon the death of a participant, the designated beneficiary will receive payment of the deferred compensation and, if no beneficiary designation is on file, the payment will be made to the participant's surviving spouse or, if there is no surviving spouse, then to the participant's estate. Participant elected deferrals of compensation are not permitted under the Plan.

Payments of the deferred compensation may be accelerated (without penalty) in certain circumstances including in order to comply with a domestic relations order or federal, state, local, or foreign laws, to satisfy tax withholding requirements, and upon certain participant account terminations and liquidations or a failure of the Plan to meet the requirements of Section 409A of the Code.

The deferred compensation obligations are unfunded, unsecured general obligations of NGUSA to pay in the future the value of the participant's account, adjusted to reflect the hypothetical gains and losses resulting from performance of the selected investments in accordance with the terms of the Plan. The obligations will rank without preference with other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of NGUSA from time to time outstanding. The deferred compensation obligations will be paid in cash, and will be subject to withholding for applicable taxes. Nothing in the Plan will be construed to give a participant or any other person rights to any specific assets of NGUSA, its subsidiaries or its affiliates.

The deferred compensation obligations cannot be assigned, alienated, pledged or encumbered. The obligations are not convertible into any other security of NGUSA or the Registrant.

The NGUSA, through actions taken by the Benefits Committee of the National Grid USA Service Companies, may amend or terminate the Plan at any time; provided, however, that no such amendment or termination may adversely affect the rights of participants or their beneficiaries with respect to amounts credited to their Plan accounts prior to such amendment or termination without the written consent of the participant, except to the extent required to avoid adverse tax consequences or required by applicable law.

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ITEM 5. INTERESTS OF NAMED EXPERTS AND COUNSEL.

The opinion of counsel is being given by Ms. Alison Kay, who is General Counsel to the Registrant. Ms. Kay does not participate in the Plan.

ITEM 6. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

Indemnity and insurance

Article 126 of the Articles of Association of Registrant provides as follows:

126 Indemnity and insurance

126.1 To the fullest extent permitted by law, we will indemnify all our Directors and officers out of our own funds against the following:

- (a) Any liability incurred by or attaching to them in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by them in relation to NG other than:
 - (i) any liability to us or any associated company; and
 - (ii) any liability of the kind referred to in Section 234(3) of the Companies Act.

- (b) Any other liability incurred by or attaching to them:
 - (i) in actually or seemingly carrying out their duties;
 - (ii) in using or seemingly using their powers; and
 - (iii) in any other activity connected to their duties, powers or office.

Where a Director or officer is indemnified against any liability in line with this Article 126, the indemnity will cover all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by them.

126.2 As well as the cover provided under Article 126.1 above, the Directors will have power to purchase and maintain insurance for or for the benefit of:

- (a) any person who is or was at any time a Director or officer of any relevant company; or

- (b) any person who is or was at any time a trustee of any pension fund or employees share scheme in which employees of any relevant company are interested.

This includes insurance against any liability incurred by or attaching to them through any act or omission:

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(i) in actually or seemingly carrying out their duties;

(ii) in using or seemingly using their powers; and

(iii) in any other activity connected to their duties, powers or offices;

in relation to:

a) any relevant company;

b) any pension fund; or

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c) any employees' share scheme;
and all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by them in relation to any act or omission

126.3 Subject to the law, we will:

- (a) provide a Director or officer with funds to meet expenditure they have incurred or may incur in defending any criminal or civil proceedings or in connection with any application under the provisions mentioned in Section 205(5) of the Companies Act;
- (b) provide a Director or officer with funds to meet expenditure they have incurred or may incur in defending an investigation by a regulatory authority or against action proposed by a regulatory authority in connection with any alleged negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by him or her in relation to us; and
- (c) do anything to enable a Director or officer to avoid incurring such expenditure, but any funds we provide or other things we do will be in line with Section 205(5) of the Companies Act.

UK Companies Act 2006

With effect from 1 October 2007, the following provisions of the Companies Act 2006 provide as follows:

232 Provisions protecting directors from liability

- (1) Any provision that purports to exempt a director of a company (to any extent) from any liability that would otherwise attach to him in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the company is void.
- (2) Any provision by which a company directly or indirectly provides an indemnity (to any extent) for a director of the company, or of an associated company, against any liability attaching to him in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the company of which he is a director is void except as permitted by
 - (a) section 233 (provision of insurance),
 - (b) section 234 (qualifying third party indemnity provision), or
 - (c) section 235 (qualifying pension scheme indemnity provision).
- (3) This section applies to any provision, whether contained in a company's articles or in any contract with the company or otherwise.
- (4) Nothing in this section prevents a company's articles from making such provision as has previously been lawful for dealing with conflicts of interest.

233 Provision of insurance

Section 232(2) (voidness of provisions for indemnifying directors) does not prevent a company from purchasing and maintaining for a director of the company, or of an

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associated company, insurance against any such liability as is mentioned in that subsection.

234 Qualifying third party indemnity provision

(1) Section 232(2) (voidness of provisions for indemnifying directors) does not apply to qualifying third party indemnity provision.

(2) Third party indemnity provision means provision for indemnity against liability incurred by the director to a person other than the company or an associated company.

Such provision is qualifying third party indemnity provision if the following requirements are met.

(3) The provision must not provide any indemnity against

(a) any liability of the director to pay

(i) a fine imposed in criminal proceedings, or

(ii) a sum payable to a regulatory authority by way of a penalty in respect of non-compliance with any requirement of a regulatory nature (however arising); or

(b) any liability incurred by the director

(i) in defending criminal proceedings in which he is convicted, or

(ii) in defending civil proceedings brought by the company, or an associated company, in which judgment is given against him, or

(iii) in connection with an application for relief (see subsection (6)) in which the court refuses to grant him relief.

(4) The references in subsection (3)(b) to a conviction, judgment or refusal of relief are to the final decision in the proceedings.

(5) For this purpose

(a) a conviction, judgment or refusal of relief becomes final

(i) if not appealed against, at the end of the period for bringing an appeal, or

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- (ii) if appealed against, at the time when the appeal (or any further appeal) is disposed of, and
- (b) an appeal is disposed of
 - (i) if it is determined and the period of bringing any further appeal has ended, or
 - (ii) if it is abandoned or otherwise ceases to have effect.

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- (6) The reference in subsection (3)(b)(iii) to an application for relief is to an application for relief under section 661(3) or (4) (power of court to grant relief in case of acquisition of shares by innocent nominee), or section 1157 (general power of court to grant relief in case of honest and reasonable conduct).

235 Qualifying pension scheme indemnity provision

- (1) Section 232(2) (voidness of provisions for indemnifying directors) does not apply to qualifying pension scheme indemnity provision.
- (2) Pension scheme indemnity provision means provision indemnifying a director of a company that is a trustee of an occupational pension scheme against liability incurred in connection with the company's activities as trustee of the scheme. Such provision is qualifying pension scheme indemnity provision if the following requirements are met.
- (3) The provision must not provide any indemnity against -
- (a) any liability of the director to pay -
 - (i) a fine imposed in criminal proceedings, or
 - (ii) a sum payable to a regulatory authority by way of a penalty in respect of non-compliance with any requirement of a regulatory nature (however arising); or
 - (b) any liability incurred by the director in defending criminal proceedings in which he is convicted.
- (4) The reference in subsection (3)(b) to a conviction is to the final decision in the proceedings.
- (5) For this purpose -
- (a) a conviction becomes final -
 - (i) if not appealed against, at the end of the period for bringing an appeal, or
 - (ii) if appealed against, at the time when the appeal (or any further appeal is disposed of, and
 - (b) an appeal is disposed of -
 - (i) if it is determined and the period for bringing any further appeal has ended, or

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- (ii) if it is abandoned or otherwise ceases to have effect.
-
- (6) In this section "occupational pension scheme" means an occupational pension scheme as defined in section 150(5) of the Finance Act 2004 (c. 12) that is established under a trust.

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239 Ratification of acts of directors

- (1) This section applies to the ratification by a company of conduct by a director amounting to negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the company.
- (2) The decision of the company to ratify such conduct must be made by resolution of the members of the company.
- (3) Where the resolution is proposed as a written resolution neither the director (if a member of the company) nor any member connected with him is an eligible member.
- (4) Where the resolution is proposed at a meeting, it is passed only if the necessary majority is obtained disregarding votes in favour of the resolution by the director (if a member of the company) and any member connected with him.

This does not prevent the director or any such member from attending, being counted towards the quorum and taking part in the proceedings at any meeting at which the decision is considered.

- (5) For the purposes of this section
 - (a) conduct includes acts and omissions;
 - (b) director includes a former director;
 - (c) a shadow director is treated as a director; and
 - (d) in section 252 (meaning of connected person), subsection (3) does not apply (exclusion of person who is himself a director).
- (6) Nothing in this section affects
 - (a) the validity of a decision taken by unanimous consent of the members of the company, or
 - (b) any power of the directors to agree not to sue, or to settle or release a claim made by them on behalf of the company.
- (7) This section does not affect any other enactment or rule of law imposing additional requirements for valid ratification or any rule of law as to acts that are incapable of being ratified by the company.

256 Associated bodies corporate

For the purposes of this Part

- (a) bodies corporate are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate, and

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(b) companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.

1157 Powers of Court to Grant Relief in Certain Cases

(1) If in proceedings for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust against

(a) an officer of a company, or

(b) a person employed by a company as auditor (whether he is or is not an officer of the company)

it appears to the court hearing the case that the officer or person is or may be liable, but that he acted honestly and reasonably, and that having regard to all the circumstances of the case (including those connected with his appointment) he ought fairly to be excused, the court may relieve him, either wholly or partly, from his liability on such terms as it thinks fit.

(2) If any such officer or person has reason to apprehend that any claim will or might be made against him in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust

(a) he may apply to the court for relief, and

(b) the court has the same power to relieve him as it would have had if it had been a court before which proceedings against him for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust had been brought.

(3) Where a case to which subsection (1) applies is being tried by a judge with a jury, the judge, after hearing the evidence, may, if he is satisfied that the defendant (in Scotland, the defender) ought in pursuance of that subsection to be relieved either in whole or in part from the liability sought to be enforced against him, withdraw the case from the jury and forthwith direct judgment to be entered for the defendant (in Scotland, grant decree of absolvitor) on such terms as to costs (in Scotland, expenses) or otherwise as the judge may think proper.

Insurance

Under section 232 of the Companies Act 2006, the Registrant may not provide an indemnity, or include provisions in its articles of association or in separate contracts for the purpose of exempting directors from liability for their negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust. The Registrant may, however, insure its directors (as well as its officers) against any such liability to the Registrant and, in the circumstances set out in section 234, to third parties. Therefore, the Registrant procures, and intends to continue procuring, directors and officers liability insurance coverage for the benefit of such directors and officers, which, subject to policy terms and conditions, provides coverage to such directors and officers in circumstances in which the Registrant and its subsidiaries are not permitted or are otherwise unable to provide indemnity. While defense costs may be met, neither the Registrant's indemnity nor the insurance provides coverage in the event that a director or officer is the subject of criminal or regulatory fines or penalties or is proved to have acted fraudulently or dishonestly. The Registrant also procures, and intends to continue procuring, directors and officers liability insurance coverage for its benefit where it has indemnified directors and officers under the indemnity agreements referred to above.

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ITEM 7. EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION FUNDS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 8. EXHIBITS.

- 4.1 Memorandum and Articles of Association of National Grid plc, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 of the Registrant's 2010 Form 20-F, filed on May 25, 2010, File No. 001-14958
- 4.2 National Grid USA Companies' Defined Contribution Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan
- 5.1 Opinion of Counsel
- 23.1 Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP re 20-F financial statements
- 23.2 Consent of Counsel (included in Exhibit 5.1)
- 24.1 Powers of Attorney (included in the signature pages contained herein)

ITEM 9. UNDERTAKINGS.

(a) The undersigned Registrant and, where applicable, Plan, hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

- (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
- (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective Registration Statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement; provided, however, that paragraphs (i) and (ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, as amended, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

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(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers, and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the provisions discussed in item 6 hereof, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer, or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit, or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer, or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the city of London, England on this 23rd day of October, 2012.

NATIONAL GRID PLC

By: /s/ Steve Holliday
 Name: Steve Holliday
 Title: Chief Executive

The undersigned do hereby constitute and appoint Steve Holliday, Andrew Bonfield, Malcolm Cooper, and Alison Kay all or any one of them, our true and lawful attorneys and agents, to sign for us or any of us in our names and in the capacities indicated below, any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, or any related registration statement that is to be effective upon filing pursuant to Rule 462 (b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents required in connection therewith, and to do any and all acts and things in our names and in the capacities indicated below, which said attorneys and agents, or either of them, may deem necessary or advisable to enable said corporation to comply with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and any rules, regulations, and requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, in connection with this Registration Statement; and we do hereby ratify and confirm all that the said attorneys and agents, or either of them, shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated above.

Signature	Title
/s/ Steve Holliday Steve Holliday	Chief Executive (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ Andrew Bonfield Andrew Bonfield	Finance Director (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)
/s/ Peter Gershon Sir Peter Gershon	Chairman and non-executive Director
/s/ Linda Adamany Linda Adamany	Non-executive Director
/s/ Philip Aiken Philip Aiken	Non-executive Director
/s/ Nora Mead Brownell Nora Mead Brownell	Non-executive Director
/s/ Paul Golby Paul Golby	Non-executive Director

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/s/ Kenneth Harvey Kenneth Harvey	Non-executive Director
/s/ Ruth Kelly Ruth Kelly	Non-executive Director
/s/ Tom King Tom King	Director
/s/ Maria Richter Maria Richter	Non-executive Director
/s/ George Rose George Rose	Non-executive Director
/s/ Mark Williamson Mark Williamson	Non-executive Director
/s/ Nick Winser Nick Winser	Director
/s/ Colin Owyang Colin Owyang	(Authorised Representative in the United States)

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EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
4.1	Memorandum and Articles of Association of National Grid plc, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 of the Registrant's 2010 Form 20-F, filed on May 25, 2010, File No. 001-14958
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