

Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England

Challenge Group – Terms of Reference, Members

Background:

Defra is carrying out triennial reviews of its Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) in the 2011-14 period in line with Cabinet Office Guidance on Reviews of NDPBs.

The Guidance set out that the purpose of triennial reviews is:

- To provide a robust challenge of the continuing need for individual NDPBs, including both their functions and their form;
- Where it is agreed that a particular public body should remain as an NDPB, to review the control and governance arrangements in place to ensure that the public body is complying with recognised principles of good corporate governance.

A joint triennial review (the Review) of the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England (NE) will take place in 2012/13.

In line with Cabinet Office Guidance, a Challenge Group is being established to provide robust external challenge and scrutiny to the Review. The Challenge Group are part of the assurance process to lead to informed decisions by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who has commissioned the Review.

Role and meeting schedule:

The role of the Challenge Group (the Group) is rigorously and robustly to test and challenge the scope, Terms of Reference, assumptions, methodology and conclusions of the Review.

The Group will also ensure that the six principles for the appropriate conduct of triennial reviews, as set out in Cabinet Office Guidance, are followed. These state that triennial reviews should be proportionate, timely, challenging, inclusive, transparent and offer value for money¹.

¹ Cabinet Office Guidance on Reviews of Non Departmental Public Bodies p.4-5 - http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/triennial-reviews-guidance-2011_tcm6-38900.pdf

The Group is expected to meet at least around the following key milestones during the course of the Review. The Group met early in December to consider the proposed scope and launch of the Review, and may meet on other occasions by agreement, including:

- towards the end of the first stage of the Review, which will focus on the emerging findings on functions and form (early 2013); and
- towards the end of the Review, to test and robustly challenge the emerging conclusions (Spring 2013).

Members:

Members are appointed in their personal capacity and not to represent any interest group.

Chair

Dame Deirdre Hutton – Chair of the Civil Aviation Authority and HM Treasury Non-Executive Director

Members

Dr Andrew Brown

Professor Richard McCrory

Ed Welsh – Cabinet Office Executive Director of Efficiency and Reform Group

Iain Ferguson – Defra Non Executive Director

Ian Trenholm – Defra Chief Operating Officer

Members' biographies

Dame Deirdre Hutton, Chair of the Civil Aviation Authority

Dame Deirdre Hutton, CBE became Chair of the Civil Aviation Authority on the 1st August 2009 and was previously Chair of the Food Standards Agency until July 2009. She has served on a number of public bodies and has considerable experience of corporate governance, risk-based regulation and consumer policy. She is Honorary Vice-President of the Institute of Food Science and Technology and Honorary Vice President of the Trading Standards Institute. She is a Non-Executive member of the HM Treasury Board and sits as a Non-Executive on the board of Thames Water Utilities Ltd and Castle Trust.

She was, until June 2008, the Vice-Chair of the European Food Safety Authority Management Board and was Deputy Chair of the Financial Services Authority until December 2007. During 2008, she was on the three-member panel that conducted an independent review of postal services on behalf of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. For five years, until 2005, she was Chair of the National Consumer Council, having formerly chaired the Scottish Consumer Council. Prior to her appointment at the Food Standards Agency, she was a member of the Better Regulation Task Force.

She has held a number of positions on bodies dealing with food issues, including Chair of the Foresight Panel on the Food Chain and Crops for Industry, Chair of the Food Chain Centre, and membership of the Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food (the Curry Commission).

In April 2010 she was awarded a Fellowship of City and Guilds.

Dr Andrew Brown

After undertaking research for a PhD in freshwater ecology Andy began his career working as a university lecturer in northern Nigeria. He then joined the Nature Conservancy Council, and later became the Chief Officer of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and subsequently the Chief Executive of English Nature.

For the last 6 years Andy has been a Board member of the Environment Agency and for the last four years he has been Deputy Chairman. He also works as an independent environmental advisor overseas on a range of organisational development, environmental and conservation projects. He is a Trustee of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, a Director of the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism, and is a Fellow of the Linnean Society and the Institute of Biology.

Andy has been the Chair of the UK Biodiversity Information Group, Chair of the IUCN UK Committee, Vice Chair of the National Biodiversity Network Trust, Member of the Rural Climate Change Forum and a Member of the World Heritage Site Review Panel.

Ed Welsh, Director of Efficiency and Reform Group, Cabinet Office

Ed joined the Efficiency and Reform Group of the Cabinet Office in 2012. As Executive Director of the Transformation cluster, he leads a team focused on transforming the way Government delivers public services, through a number of initiatives including changing the way Government partners with the private sector, delivering services digitally and sharing of services.

Ed spent the previous 14 years as an investment banker at Rothschild, latterly as co-head of Global Business Services. Ed is a qualified accountant.

Professor Richard McCrory

Richard Macrory is a barrister based in Brick Court Chambers, London, and professor of environmental law at University College, London where he directs the Centre for Law and the Environment. Richard Macrory has been a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, and between 1999 and 2004 was a board member of the Environment Agency, England and Wales. He has been chairman of the network of European Environmental Advisory Bodies, and was hon. president of the National Association for Clean Air and the Environment 2004-2005. Professor Macrory led the 2005 Cabinet Officer Review of Regulatory Sanctions.

Iain Ferguson, CBE

Iain is the Chairman of Wilton Park (FCO Agency) , the Lead Non-Executive Director for Defra, Chairman of Berendsen plc, a Non –Executive Director on the Boards of Balfour Beatty plc, and Gregg's plc and was a Member of the PWC(UK llp) Advisory Board (2009—2011). He is also a member of the Better Regulation Strategy Group(BIS) and the Honorary Vice-President of the British Nutrition Foundation. He has been President of The Food and Drink Federation (FDF) and of the Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD) and was a member of the Council of Food Policy Advisors (Defra) and The Foresight Global Food and Farming Project. He has also served as a Non-Executive Director on the Boards of Companies House, Rothamsted Research and Sygen plc.

He was CEO of Tate & Lyle plc from May 2003 until the end of 2009 and had previously been with Unilever for 26 years (from 1977) following graduation from St Andrews University.

Iain is married to a historian, Catherine and they have one daughter.

IanTrenholm, Chief Operating Officer, Defra.

A Geology graduate of the University of London, Ian started his career as an Inspector with the Royal Hong Kong Police and then moved to Surrey Police before working in the private sector. Ian holds an MBA from Durham University Business School.

Ian first worked in government as a project manager for a Business Process Outsourcing company, before joining Buckinghamshire County Council as Strategic Director of Resources in 2003. Ian was appointed Chief Executive of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in 2008 and joined DEFRA as Chief Operating Officer in June 2012.