

Defra Board Minutes: 24 January 2019

Board members in attendance were

- Michael Gove Secretary of State
- George Eustice Minister of State
- Thérèse Coffey Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
- David Rutley Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
- Lord Gardiner Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
- Clare Moriarty Permanent Secretary
- Tamara Finkelstein Director General EU Exit
- Heather Smith Group Finance Director
- Henry Dimbleby Lead Non-Executive Director
- Colin Day Non-Executive Director
- Elizabeth Buchanan Non-Executive Director
- Lizzie Noel Non-Executive Director

Apologies received from

- Betsy Bassis Director General, Chief Operating Officer
- Shaun Gallagher Director General, Strategy Delivery
- Emma Howard Boyd Non-Executive Ex-Officio
- Ben Goldsmith Non-Executive Director

Also in attendance

- Charlotte Spencer Director of Strategy
- Secretary of State's Private Office
- Board Secretariat

Declarations of interest and review of minutes from previous meeting; reports from sub-committees

There were no new declarations of interest. The minutes from the previous meeting on 5 November 2018 were agreed. The Board was provided with reports from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) and the Executive Committee.

Updates from Non-Executive Directors

Non-Executive Directors gave updates on their activities since the last Board meeting.

25 Year Environment Plan – One Year Update

Sonia Phippard, DG Marine, Natural Environment and Rural, together with colleagues introduced the paper. The Board reviewed activities over the past year and the priorities for the coming year.

EU Exit – No Deal Preparations

Tamara Finkelstein, Director General for EU Exit, introduced the paper and highlighted the heightened preparations for a potential no deal exit from the EU.

Finance Update including Business Planning and the Spending Review

Heather Smith, Group Finance Director, introduced the paper and summarised the financial position in 2019/20 and preparations for the forthcoming Spending Review.

Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.