

Regulatory Policy Committee - meeting minutes

Monday 19 January 2015
1 Victoria Street, London

Present: Michael Gibbons (Chair), Alexander Ehmann, Jeremy Mayhew, Ian Peters, Martin Traynor, David Parker, Sarah Veale, Ken Warwick; Secretariat.

Also attending: Scott McAusland (communications advisor), Stephen Hodgson (Better Regulation Executive) Julian Farrell (item 4 BRE)

1. Minutes of the previous meeting, updates and matters arising

Members approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

David Parker confirmed Ofgem had renewed his consultancy. Ken Warwick stated he would be undertaking work alongside Brian Titley (Economics consultant).

The members reflected on the limited coverage the 9th Statement of New Regulation received in the media, including whether the relative lack of wider interest was related to the publication date.

2. Methodology

Magda Barawas presented a summary of the meetings that took place during the morning of 19 January. These were on tobacco plain packaging and the Tobacco Products Directive IAs with the Department of Health and the RPC Methodology sub-group.

The methodology sub-group considered two issues that were related to the Deduction from Wages (Limitation) Regulations 2014 impact assessment. The Committee agreed to the proposed form of words for the OITO Q&A.

3. Annual report

The Chair advised the members that a date had been set and that the minister was confirmed to attend. He praised the secretariat for how well the draft had come along.

Lisa and Mohammad presented to the Committee the first draft of the RPC annual review for 2014 & end of Parliament.

They asked the Committee to provide comments on the structure and content of the report and outlined the timing for the finalisation as:

- Second draft to be circulated to the Committee by Friday 23 January – this will include comments given at the January Committee meeting.
- Comments on the second draft are requested by Friday 30 January.
- Final version of the report will be circulated to the Committee by Wednesday 11 February, for discussion / sign off at the February Committee meeting.
- Report to be sent to the printers on Monday 23 February.
- Launch of report Tuesday 3 March.

The Chair and members provided their specific views on the content:

- Measures bypassing scrutiny, the point should be made that the process must be robustly followed,
- The impact of the Committee should be highlighted to include examples of where government has changed policy following scrutiny,
- Stronger messages regarding the Committees role in Post Implementation Reviews,
- Reference to the Committee in the context of the SBEE should be explicitly made,
- Care to be taken over use of jargon,
- Timeline needs to include 2009,
- Measures which aren't in scope require a clearer definition as to why they are not included.

4. Europe

Julian Farrell outlined to the members the new organisational structure of the commission and presented an overview of current activities and a forward look.

Philip McCrea and Marc Jay presented a paper on the treatment of EU measures in the Better Regulation Framework. The purpose of the paper was to seek the Committee's view on the recommendations for the framework review. The Committee welcomed the paper and agreed to the recommendations set out. More specifically, the Committee expressed a preference for option 2 under the second recommendation. There was a discussion on identifying gold plating in departments' proposals and whether there should be shift in the "burden of proof" towards departments to show that there is no gold plating. It was agreed that a shorter version of the paper, containing the recommendations, would be produced to send to the framework review team. This would be circulated to the Committee

beforehand for any comment.

5. AOB

Mohammad Zayyad advised the members that the 2nd stakeholder survey results will be out later this week

Next committee meeting 16th February 2015