**CFD counterparty set–up: Expert Group meeting – 8 August 2013**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this paper is to update the IFW Expert Group on the work being undertaken by DECC to appoint a Chair, Senior Independent Director (SID) and CEO to the CFD counterparty following previous discussions with the Expert Group on this issue.

**Background**

1. We have previously discussed the skills required by the CFD counterparty/Board and timetable for set up and recruitment with the Expert Group and we are now progressing with planning and executing senior recruitments.
2. The Government has publicly committed to have generic Contracts for Difference available from mid-2014; we are therefore planning on the basis that the CFD counterparty will be operational from July 2014. An essential step in establishing the counterparty is for the Secretary of State to appoint the Chair and SID. Due to the tight schedule for making the CEO appointment, DECC will also manage the early stages of that appointment process until it is handed over to the counterparty Chair. Ideally all of these appointees will be in post by early 2014 so that they can be involved in finalising the set-up of the counterparty.

**Update**

1. DECC has recently engaged Odgers Berndtson to support the appointments process and to undertake executive search activities for the 3 board/senior executive posts. We are currently working with Odgers Berndtson to develop a detailed timetable for the appointments process that is staggered to allow the Chair to be appointed (provisionally by November) in time for that person to then be involved in the shortlisting and selection of the CEO candidate (provisionally by December).
2. DECC has agreed with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) that the appointments process will not need to be OCPA-regulated but that, as best practice, we will conduct the process in the spirit of the OCPA Code of Practice.
3. DECC Ministers will approve the proposed appointment process for the Chair and SID roles with the intention that these roles will be advertised in early September.
4. We are intending to advertise the CEO role later in September once we have the necessary clarity on the role specification and the counterparty location.

**Next Steps**

1. We will share the job adverts and recruitment pack for the Chair and SID roles with the Expert Group once the recruitment is launched.