

## **RPC meeting – summary minutes**

**Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

**Present:** Michael Gibbons (Chairman), Alex Ehmann, Jeremy Mayhew, Ian Peters, Martin Traynor, Sarah Veale, Ken Warwick; secretariat.

**Apologies:** David Parker

### **1. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting, and reviewed the action points and matters arising.

### **2. Annual report for 2013**

The Committee agreed the timetable for finalising the drafting of the report. The Committee discussed the different options for presenting the data and figures within the report, with a view to ensuring that the presentations were accessible and accurate, without excluding important information.

The Committee also discussed arrangements for the launch event on 4<sup>th</sup> March, including consideration of additional invitees.

### **3. Accountability for Regulator Impact**

The Committee discussed the draft guidance covering the RPC role in relation to Accountability for Regulator Impact (ARI) disagreements. Members stated that it was important that the requirements were not too onerous or unrealistic for small businesses or trade bodies to be able to meet. Subject to the discussed revisions, to ensure there were no unnecessary requirements, the Committee signed off the guidance with a view to publication alongside or shortly after the annual report.

### **4. Discussion with Rachel Sandby-Thomas, Director-General, Enterprise and Skills, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills**

The Committee discussed a number of issues with Rachel. These included: approaches to ensuring the long-term future of independent scrutiny within the regulatory system; the potential tensions that will arise in the final year of the Parliament as a result of the RPC's role in validating departmental estimated impacts of regulations and finalising the Government account; and the challenge of departmental proposals seeking to skip stages of the scrutiny process. The Committee also highlighted the responses to recent published red-rated opinions as evidence of the importance of independent scrutiny and how it illustrated how stakeholders value the Committee's role.

## **5. Challenger Businesses**

The Committee were updated on the recent progress of the Challenger Business programme, and reiterated the willingness to be involved when independent views would be helpful to the process.

## **6. Methodology issues**

The Committee discussed a number of methodology issues including the treatment of international measures with no defined minimum standard, the prospect of a fast-track approach for some post-implementation reviews, and ensuring enhanced fees are captured by either the tax or regulatory scrutiny and accounting frameworks.