

Regulatory Policy Committee - meeting minutes

Monday, 17th March 2014

Present: Michael Gibbons (Chairman), Alex Ehmann, Jeremy Mayhew, David Parker, Martin Traynor, Sarah Veale, Ken Warwick; Secretariat.

Apologies: Ian Peters

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

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

2. Business Plan for 2014

The Committee agreed the timetable for finalising the drafting of the plan. The Committee discussed the different options for priorities and their ranking in the plan, with a view to ensuring that these addressed the key areas the Committee wished to take forward.

The Committee agreed the high-level objectives and that a revised version of the plan would be tabled at the next meeting.

3. Impact Assessment Survey

The Committee discussed the survey conducted by the Better Regulation Executive in 2013 which captured departments' experiences with Impact Assessments and the Regulatory Policy Committee.

4. Alternatives to regulation

Officials from DCLG presented the Committee with their ideas for promoting alternatives to regulation and outcomes from their 'trailblazer' approach to using randomised trials to test the impact of adjusting non-regulatory variables.

The Committee welcomed that a department was viewing this area as a key focus, and agreed to discuss whether such approaches could be reflected in future work of the RPC.

5. Methodology issues

The Committee discussed a number of methodology issues including the treatment of EU measures and the scope available to the Committee when finding discrepancies in departments' EU-derived measures' impact assessments.