

**COMPETITION AND MARKETS AUTHORITY**  
**Minutes of the Board**  
**15 April 2015**

**Present:**

Philip Lowe (Chair)  
Alex Chisholm (CEO)  
Sonya Branch  
Sarah Cardell  
Andrea Coscelli  
Carolyn Fairbairn (left the meeting part way through item 7)  
Alan Giles  
Bill Kovacic (by telephone, joined the meeting from item 4)  
Jill May  
Mike Walker  
Erik Wilson  
Roger Witcomb

**Apologies:**

David Currie  
Annetje Ottow

**CMA staff:**

Paul Latham  
Ann Pope

**Executive Office:**

Sean Cornall  
Rebecca Lyon (Minutes)

**Introduction**

**1 Introduction**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, noting that this was Sonya Branch's last meeting before her departure to join the Bank of England.

**Declaration of conflicts and recusals**

There were no declarations of conflicts or recusals related to the agenda.

**Gifts and hospitality**

There were no declarations of gifts or hospitality offered or accepted in relation to Board member's roles with the CMA.

**2 Review and approval of draft private and public minutes of the March Board meeting**

The Board approved each set of minutes, subject to a minor drafting change to the public minutes.

### **3 Chief Executive's update**

The Chief Executive updated the Board on key developments and highlights since the last meeting and provided a forward look for the next month, as well as an organisational health check and overview of the Board agenda.

The Director, Strategy, Communications and Devolved Nations, provided an update on the election manifestos of the Labour and Conservative parties which had been published in the recent days. The Liberal Democrats manifesto was due to be published shortly and a summary would be provided to the Board.

## **Organisational Management**

### **4 Q4 2014/15 performance report**

(Erik Wilson, Sean Cornall, Jennie Halliday, Rebecca Lambot, Nick Milford)

The team introduced the paper, providing an assessment of the CMA's performance against its quantitative commitments over Q4 2014/15.

Reflecting on the year as a whole, the Board agreed that good progress had been made across the CMA. It considered the report, focussing on finance and the presentation of the report, including possible refinements to the KPIs for 2015/16.

### **5 Review of the CMA Panel**

(Erik Wilson, Sean Cornall)

The team introduced the paper, providing an overview of how well the arrangements to use and integrate the CMA Panel within the CMA had operated in its first year. The Board discussed the outcomes of the review and the proposed next steps. It was content that the independence of Group decision-making had been preserved in the CMA's first year. The Board agreed that it was important to take steps to integrate the Panel members more fully with the rest of the CMA, while continuing to preserve independence.

### **6 Update on CMA Positive Impact 2014/15**

(Mike Walker, Mat Pearson, Borbala Szathmary, Tom Willman)

The team introduced the paper, updating the Board on work to assess the CMA's impact, which would be finalised following the end of the financial year.

### **7 Looking ahead: priorities for 2015/16**

(Sonya Branch, Sarah Cardell, Alex Chisholm, Andrea Coscelli, Mike Walker, Erik Wilson)

Each member of the Senior Executive Team provided the Board with an overview of their priorities for 2015/16 beyond the work programme set out in the CMA Annual Plan.

## **8 Cartels and Criminal Group Enhancement project: mid-term review**

(Review Panel: Simon Polito, Frances Barr, James Hart, Sheldon Mills, Sarah Northam; Response: Sonya Branch, Stephen Blake)

The Review Panel introduced the paper, providing an update on its findings related to progress made at the mid-term stage of the Cartels and Criminal Group Enhancement project, the key objective of which was to enable the CMA to achieve “a step change in cartel enforcement”. The Review Panel was content with the progress made in the project during its first year, noting that the second year of the project would be critical in demonstrating how the improvements made in year one would translate to a “step change in cartel enforcement”. The Executive Director, Enforcement and the Senior Director, Cartels and Criminal, responded to the Review Panel, setting out their priorities for the coming months to build on the good progress made in year one. The Board welcomed the update and the progress made to date.

## **9 Minutes of Committees**

The Board noted the minutes of the Executive Committee and Case and Policy Committee meetings held since its last meeting.

## **AOB**

### ***For information papers***

The Board noted the papers provided to it for information.

### ***Sonya Branch departure***

The Board thanked Sonya for her significant input and commitment to the CMA and the Board during its first year, wishing her well in the next stage of her career.