

Regulatory Policy Committee - meeting minutes

Monday 15 December 2014
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), Stuart Roberts (Better Regulation Executive, item 5), Stella Yarrow (Better Regulation Executive, item 5)

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

Members approved the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to minor drafting changes.

There were no new declarations of potential conflicts of interests.

The Chair noted the strong performance by the RPC on turnaround times in November. This was especially pleasing considering the 50% higher volume of submissions.

The Chair thanked Sarah Veale for her work engaging with stakeholders during November.

2. Methodology

Magda Barawas presented a summary of the discussion that took place during the Methodology sub-group meeting on the morning of 15 December. The subjects covered were:

- standardised packaging for tobacco products;
- changes in the costs of industry-funded regulators;
- Regulatory Framework Group (RFG) policy paper on the treatment of out-of-scope regulatory impacts when scoring measures under OITO (linked to Working Time Directive/Holiday Pay case).

3. SNR Communications

Scott McAusland outlined to the Committee the strategy for communications for SNR 9.

Members discussed their annual report launch and suitable speakers they would like to invite.

4. Annual Report

Mohammad, Kimon and Gareth presented the analysis to be used in the Annual report. The Committee requested further background context,

clarification of key messages and accompanying text to discuss at the next meeting.

Members discussed the following areas for inclusion and how they should be presented:

- RPI/CPI measures,
- NPV and Business NPV.

5. BRE Framework review

Stuart Roberts and Stella Yell presented the item on BRE's Framework review explaining the purpose was to provide a foundation of solid options for future ministers.

Members expressed the following views:

- that a revised Framework should really look at the overall quality of regulation and not just costs to business,
- that the Committee would encourage change but only if this brought improvements to the system,
- that the findings from the review should be tested with external stakeholders.

6. AOB

None raised.

Next committee meeting 19th January 2015