

Attendees

Chairman

Michael Gibbons

RPC Secretariat

Committee Members

Jonathan Cave
Alex Ehmann
Jeremy Mayhew
Martin Traynor
Sarah Veale
Ken Warwick
Nicole Kar

Better Regulation Executive (BRE) officials

1. Matters arising

Minutes of December Committee meeting

1. Minutes of the December meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

2. No members declared any new conflicts of interest.

2. Verbal updates

Meeting with Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Permanent Secretary (PS), 17 January

3. The meeting was attended by the Chairman and Head of Secretariat (HoS). The purpose of the meeting was to explain the role and modus operandi of the RPC to the PS and discuss BEIS performance of BIT assessments. The Chairman said that the meeting was very positive and he was struck by the question posed by the PS with regard to measuring the effectiveness of the RPC as a body. The Chairman explained that effectiveness was measured through several metrics, including, satisfaction surveys, views expressed by business stakeholders, identifying the difference between the departmental/regulator estimates and a more accurate reflection of the costs and benefits to civil society and the impact of the RPC in improving the quality of impact assessments – those fit for purpose at the first time of asking. However, it was agreed that more work needed to be done to set out how the RPC should or could measure its performance. The secretariat had already started work on this area and it would be developed further (**Action:** HoS). The PS said he was keen to support RPC initiatives on post implementation reviews and on small and micro business assessments. This was welcomed by the Chairman.

Meeting with Deregulation Minister 24th January

4. The meeting was attended by the Chairman and HoS. Following the last ministerial reshuffle, the purpose of the meeting was to explain the role of the RPC to the new deregulation Minister and to seek his views on the work and direction for the RPC. The Chairman said the Minister was very engaged and he is keen to be involved in RegWatch. The Minister confirmed that he has signed off the papers for the extension of the Chair and the two committee members whose terms of appointment would otherwise finish at the end of March.

Meeting with British Chamber of Commerce (BCC)

5. The Chairman met the Director General of the British Chamber of Commerce, on 23 Jan 2017. The Chairman said that there was a good exchange of views. The BCC commented that the RPC was doing an important job. They were keen to be a part of a joint organisational letter of support if there was a risk of the RPC remit being weakened in the future.

Meeting with the Trades Union Congress (TUC)

6. The Chairman met the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress. He said that it was a very constructive meeting. The TUC welcomed a potential role for the RPC in looking at wider societal impacts as this is a subject of great interest to their members. Supportive quotes of RPC work were provided for the launch of the six-monthly report. The TUC would also be happy to give its backing to a joint letter of support for the RPC.

Future Meetings

7. The committee were updated on upcoming meetings with:
 - Federation of Small Businesses
 - Institute of Directors
 - Confederation of British Industries
 - EEF
 - EEF Dinner; and
 - Office of Tax Simplification.

Action

RPC effectiveness metrics to be developed further and discussed at the next committee meeting.

3. Risk Register

8. Key changes to the risk register were outlined along with other minor changes, namely replacing objectives with outcomes and the addition of a new key risk (3). The revised risk register was agreed.

There was a detailed discussion on risk 3, which states that 'Departments object to the recommendations in response to the PAC review and seek to undermine the Framework'. A Committee member queried why this risk is worded as it is. It was agreed that risk needed to be reworded (**Action:** DHoS). The Secretariat and BRE provided further background on the reasons for the risk being added." **4. Brexit Paper**

9. BRE presented a paper on Brexit, which set out BRE's expectation for Impact assessments relating to the Great Repeal Bill (GRB) and subsequent secondary legislation. The paper was based on the discussions BRE had with the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) officials.
10. BRE was not currently considering any change to the framework in respect of Brexit, so normal arrangements would apply. BRE confirmed that, under existing rules, any changes resulting from Brexit that resulted in regulatory provisions affecting business would follow the normal procedures for Impact Assessments and scrutiny by the RPC. This session was concluded by BRE

saying that once plans were more developed it would consider the implications for the RPC in terms of throughput and resourcing.

4. BIT Metrics

11. BRE presented the BIT metric paper – annex 4. The paper set out the emerging conclusions. The review was commissioned by the Secretary of State for BEIS. The paper considered possible alternative options for the BIT metric, with a particular focus on including indirect business impacts. The work was undertaken in conjunction with a Whitehall steering group.
12. This session was concluded by BRE saying that BRE would come back and report to the RPC when the possible options are further developed.

5. A.O.B

13. No AOB.