

#### Attendees

##### Chairman

Michael Gibbons

##### Committee Members

Jonathan Cave

Alexander Ehmann

Nicole Kar

Jeremy Mayhew

Martin Traynor

Sarah Veale

Ken Warwick

##### RPC Secretariat

BRE Officials

#### 1. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

1. Minutes approved for publication.

#### 2. Corporate report update

2. The secretariat introduced the planned publication schedule for the “Corporate (performance) report”. They highlighted their concerns that the EU referendum purdah period could impact the ability to get the report published before 26 May, and offered alternative approaches. It was acknowledged that there was still some work to do to finalise it and clear for publication.
3. The committee indicated that their preference was to have the report published before purdah. The post 23<sup>rd</sup> June period would be very busy with the EU referendum outcome and our report will be overshadowed. The Secretariat confirmed that the RPC would also be producing and publishing its “Regulatory Overview” report, which would be published after purdah. Therefore, the preference was that the “Corporate report” should be published before the beginning of purdah.

#### 3. Comms and stakeholder update

##### Comms adviser

4. The secretariat updated the committee on the comms adviser recruitment. Two candidates have been interviewed; a final candidate for interview is due in on Tues 17 May. All the candidates who made bids for the contract are individuals, rather than PR companies, who the committee had previously indicated would be their preferred supplier of the contract.
5. As only individuals were being interviewed, the committee noted that this approach may not provide them with the service they ideally wanted, and had hoped would be better delivered by

a PR Company. The Secretariat advised that they are obliged to use Capita recruitment and when submitting the contract for procurement, we had specifically asked them to identify PR companies to make bids. However, feedback indicated that our maximum pay rates and the one-day a week timing were not attractive terms for PR companies hence not having received any bids.

#### **Stakeholder engagement update**

6. The secretariat outlined the stakeholder engagement completed during the last three months. Lord Boswell was a very productive meeting and we have agreed to more follow up with him and his committee after the referendum.
7. The committee observed that Ministerial contact has been poor over the past 12 months and the RPC could do with better access going forwards.

#### **Publication of opinions**

8. Three different options for the publication of opinions were presented to the committee. Publishing the IA at the same time as the opinion is the ideal option.
9. The committee approved option 1, to publish final stage IAs on a quarterly basis – every three months – and publish consultation stage opinions when the consultation goes live and provided the IA is also published. This decision would be communicated to departments and reiterated when writing to Oliver Letwin. The RPC secretariat should liaise with BRUs on how we publish our opinions and how they should communicate they are planning to publish their IAs.