

Attendees

The Committee

Anthony Browne **Chair**

Laura Cox

Sheila Drew Smith

Alex Ehmann

Jeremy Mayhew

Brian Morgan

Andrew Williams-Fry

Lord Henley, Minister for Better Regulation

RPC Secretariat

Hiroko Plant, Head of Secretariat

BRE Officials

Carl Creswell, Director BRE

Apologies

Jonathan Cave

Alex Ehmann

Stephen Gibson

A. Minutes of last meeting and Matters arising

1. The minutes of the June committee meeting were agreed with two changes: Paragraph 8 bullet point 3 should be deleted, as the Chair had not attended the meeting described there, and the Secretariat was asked to check consistency of redactions with regard to individuals' initials.
2. The BRE Director agreed to send an update to the committee on the Regulator Pioneer Fund, and to circulate the evidence base on innovation and regulation as previously agreed

Welcome to the new committee members and matters arising

3. The Chair welcomed Brian Morgan and Sheila Drew Smith to their first committee meeting.
4. The committee were informed of changes to the Secretariat and welcomed new staff.
5. The chair welcomed the BRE officials who were attending their first Committee meeting as sponsors. Jeremy Mayhew asked that a BRE Organogram be circulated to the committee so that they can understand the BRE structure.
6. Action Points – The Secretariat reported on progress against the actions from the previous meeting.
7. Conflicts of Interest – The Register of Interests and potential conflict (Register) was reviewed by the committee. The Chair informed the committee that his role in 'Unmortgage' had changed from advisor to Director. No other changes to the Register were declared.
8. It was agreed that Register of Interests would be circulated before each Committee meeting so that the committee could declare any changes at the meeting.

B. Lord Henley's steers to the committee

9. Lord Henley emphasised the importance of the remit letter and its focus on the independence of the RPC. He hoped that the RPC would feel empowered to act independently, and to call in measures where necessary

C. Stakeholder Engagements

Notes of Chair's Activities since the previous meeting

10. The Chair reported on his activities and meetings since the 12 June committee meeting.

D. BRE/Policy Updates

BEIS Values Award

11. The Chair and BRE Director were proud to see that that RPC and BRE had been recognised in this year's BEIS Values awards, for their collaboration on IA training. They recognised the hard work put in by both teams and were pleased that others in BEIS and across Government had appreciated it.

BRE Activity Update

12. BRE were very pleased to have been successful in applying to a competitive HMT fund for resources to develop research on the cumulative impacts of regulation. The BRE Director agreed to circulate the proposal, and to think about how best to involve the Committee in developing the research.

Better Regulation Network

13. JM asked whether the assumption was that the UK would implement all EU Directives up to the point of exit. The BRE Director said that the Government had made a public commitment that it would implement EU regulations until formal departure.

Framework Document

14. The BRE Director noted that BRE was working with the Secretariat to revise the framework document that formalises the relationship between BRE and RPC.
15. As part of this document, BRE had outlined an escalation process The Secretariat had also set out the existing escalation process for queries about casework. It was agreed that the Committee must have a chance to comment on the escalation processes before they were finalised.

Innovation-friendly regulations

16. BRE (SG) provided an update on Innovation Friendly Regulation. He said that the Pioneer fund Competition had now closed. BRE would inform the committee of the outcome. Action: BRE
17. BRE agreed to circulate the readouts from both the Academic Round Table and the Ministerial Working Group to the RPC members. Action: BRE (SG) within one week of receipt of minutes.

E. Small and Micro Business Assessment (SaMBA)

18. A joint RPC BRE paper on SaMBA was presented to the committee. The Committee were broadly content with the approach, and the plan was agreed. There was some discussion as to whether the default position was that small businesses should be exempted from regulation; the Secretariat agreed to recirculate the note on this point that had been drafted following the last Committee meeting by end of week.
19. The Chair asked that the papers from the working group be circulated to the committee for information after each meeting of the working group.

F. Comms Strategy

20. The Committee agreed the objectives proposed in the paper and felt that it was right that the RPC should set its own media strategy.
21. The Chair noted that media strategy would need to strike a careful balance between visibility for the Committee and maintaining appropriate relationships across Whitehall.
22. The Chair asked the Secretariat to report regularly on the progress of the engagement strategy, and to present a more detailed media strategy to the next meeting.

G. Proportionality guidance

23. AH presented his plan for developing proportionality guidance (now that accuracy thresholds have been set by BRE). This was agreed.
24. The Chair asked that members comment on the proposals in detail, and that comments be sought especially from SG and JC.
25. AH noted that JC and SG had been invited to the proportionality workshops planned for 12th and 20th September.

H. Any other Business and Date of next Meeting

26. There was no further business considered. The next meeting will be held on 12 November 2018 and followed by a Committee dinner.