

Attendees

The Committee

Anthony Browne, Chair
Laura Cox
Sheila Drew Smith
Jeremy Mayhew
Brian Morgan
Andrew Williams-Fry
Jonathan Cave
Alex Ehmann
Stephen Gibson (StG)

RPC Secretariat

Hiroko Plant, Head of Secretariat (HoS)

BRE

Carl Creswell, Director, BRE
Joanna Rodin, Deputy Director, BRE

Apologies

Brian Morgan

A. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes of November Committee meeting

1. The minutes of the January meeting were agreed without any changes. It will be published on the RPC website

Register of interests

2. The Register of Interests (RoI) was agreed by the committee. No additional interests were declared. The RoI will be published on the RPC website within a fortnight of the meeting.

Register of Gifts and Hospitality

3. The register of gifts and hospitality was agreed. Clarification was given on what constitutes gifts and hospitality which includes offers of training and also as to what extent members should record it. The register will be published on the RPC Website within a fortnight of the meeting. Only the names and details of the gifts and hospitality would be published

B. Engagement updates

4. The chair and the committee engagement leads set out their activities since the last meeting. The chair had attended the Ministerial Working Group and also had his annual meeting with the SoS and Minister. The SoS and the Minister praised the work of the RPC.
5. SG met with Joseph Lowe (JL), who is responsible for updating the Green Book. JL confirmed that the RPC proportionally guidance was consistent with the green book. It was agreed that that JL should be invited to the RPC Methodology sub Group (MSG) and that a member of the MSG should attend the Chief Economists Appraisal Group that Joseph runs.
6. Martin Traynor was recently appointed as Small Business Crown Representative. The RPC agreed to engage with Martin Traynor with regard to developing work on SMBs.
7. SDS met Alex Watkinson, the Board level Champion, who was keen to compare his department's performance with other departments and wanted to follow up on training and guidance. It was agreed that the Secretariat should follow up with this and arrange a meeting with him.

8. LC reported on meetings held with the NCVO, the Charity Commission, Equally Ours (formerly known as the Equality and Diversity Forum) and the Hansard Society.

C. Quarterly sponsorship meeting

9. The quarterly sponsorship meeting with BRE went well. The specific issues reported will be discussed below in the minutes. It was agreed that ways of working with BRE will be a regular agenda item in the future quarterly sponsorship meeting

D. BRE/policy updates

Directors Report

10. CC informed the committee that he is under pressure to offer resources for EU exiting and this will impact on the sponsorship relationship. However, he will limit, as far as possible, the impact of this on the RPC. BRE/CC to keep RPC informed of any EU exit resource pressures that may impact on RPC

Innovation and Regulation and Ministerial Working Group

11. The Ministerial Working Group on Future Regulation met on 5 February to consider the reforms needed to make our regulatory system more supportive of innovation, whilst protecting consumers; including the recommendations made by the Prime Minister's Council on Science and Technology.
12. The Secretary of State announced a new partnership between BRE and the World Economic Forum at their annual conference in Davos. BRE will partner with the World Economic Forum Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, based in San Francisco, to jointly push forward a modern 'agile' regulatory approach that fosters innovation whilst protecting consumers.

Framework Document – Update on clearance process

13. The Framework document is with the Rt Hon Lord Henley. The SPADs are content. It should be signed off soon and published.

Regulatory Frameworks Group – Report on first meeting

14. There was uncertainty from departments as to how primary legislation should be handled regarding the *de minimis* threshold. There are plans to revise the guidance.

OECD: Review of International Regulatory Cooperation

15. The UK's approach to international regulations was presented. It is anticipated that post-Brexit there will be opportunities for multilateral trade between the UK and other countries and opportunities to reduce non-tariff barriers. A meeting is to be held with Canada and New Zealand peer reviewers. It was agreed that the Secretariat would seek the Committee's views ahead of the meeting and send to BRE. BRE to circulate TOR to RPC committee members.

IA Templates Review

16. BRE sought feedback on the revised template. Previous RPC views had already been fed in.

E. Trade Methodology (TM)

17. The TM guidance will be used departments when producing IAs and by the Secretariat when scrutinising IAs. The committee was asked to comment as to whether the guidance was comprehensive enough and if any further areas should be considered.

F. Pipeline and call in

18. Pipeline and call in process is underway. (During the discussion SG withdrew from the meeting when obesity was discussed as he was conflicted). A revised process was underway for handling pipeline and call in. Call ins would be sent to all the committee members for initial assessment. Monthly teleconference arrangements would be held but would be cancelled if no material is received within two weeks of the meeting.
19. Secretariat to write second letter on Immigration Bill within a week of the meeting
20. Discussion took place on how to make the pipeline and call in process transparent and effective and at the behest of RPC rather than BRE, specially to satisfy external stakeholders with regard to providing assurance. It was agreed that the Secretariat would produce proposals for consideration at the next meeting.

G. When is an IA no an IA

21. Consideration was given regarding how to handle regulatory issues outside of the agreed scope of the framework when there were clearly regulatory issues that needed to be addressed by the RPC. There was discussion as to whether we could learn from European guidance and how the broader issues could be considered and brought within the scope of RPC work. The current binary system is inadequate for dealing with wider issues. One option was greater alignment with ROAMEF and to change the Framework. This would need to be done working with BRE's agreement. It was agreed that the Secretariat would put forward proposals for discussion at the next meeting clearly setting out the issues and where the Framework needs to change.

H. Progress on Small and Micro Business regulatory policy'

22. The small and micro business checklist had been circulated to departments and it has gone down well with both policy makers and analysts. The issue is to ensure that policy makers think about small and micro businesses when developing policy. The Chair is to meet with the Minister for Small Business, Kelly Tolhurst, on 21 March as to how to disseminate the message across Whitehall at Ministerial level. A report will be given at the next meeting

I. Post Implementation Reviews (PIR)

23. Concern was expressed that the PIR system was not working effectively in government and that more needs to be done. PIRs were not being undertaken in sufficient numbers and there was not much Ministerial imperative. The committee discussed various options for how the PIR process can be made more effective. It was agreed that the secretariat take forward the actions outlined in the PIR paper. Furthermore, the Secretariat working with BRE produce a draft report for consideration at the next committee meeting as to how the PIR system is working and what can be done to improve it.

K. Any other business & date of next meeting

24. There was no other business.
25. The next Committee meeting will take place on 13 May 2019.