

Minutes of OTS Board meeting 10 July 2019

Present

Kathryn Cearns (Chair)
Bill Dodwell (Tax Director)
John Cullinane
Teresa Graham
Kathleen Russ
Beth Russell (HMT)
Jim Harra (HMRC)

Apologies

Paul Johnson

In attendance

David Halsey (OTS Head of Office), Daphna Jowell (OTS), Bethan Kay (OTS), Andrew Parrock (OTS), Sophia Cogliano (OTS), Lucy Greenslade (HMT), Tom Smith (HMRC), Alistair Sutcliffe (HMRC)

1. Minutes of previous meeting (23 May 2019)

These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were confirmed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

2. Register of interests and potential conflicts

An updated register of Board members' interests had been circulated. There were no other potential conflicts to declare.

3. Annual Report

The Board considered and approved the final draft of the Annual Report, which it was expected would be published later in July.

4. Tax Director's Report

Bill Dodwell spoke to his report, noting recent attendance at the CIOT Parliamentary reception where the main speaker was the new Financial Secretary to the Treasury Jesse Norman MP, his involvement with the Scottish Government's Devolved Taxes Legislation Working Group and an increasing number of approaches from and meetings with a wide range of organisations.

5. Future work

A number of planned areas of future work were discussed.

a) Reporting and payment

The Board noted the final version of the scoping document for this work, which had been discussed at previous meetings, to explore ways in which the tax information-reporting and payment arrangements for self-employed people might be simplified. It would be published later in the week.

b) Capital Gains Tax

The Board considered and offered comments on an initial draft of a scoping note for a potential review of CGT (including aspects of the taxation of the chargeable gains made by individual companies) following the discussion at the May meeting.

c) Tax Administration

Work was continuing to proceed in relation to potential areas of tax administration where it was hoped the OTS could conduct one or more pieces of work over time.

d) Other areas of future work

The Tax Director noted recent recommendations made by the OTS that reviews be considered in relation to (i) aspects of pensions and (ii) aspects of the PAYE system.

Work was also in progress to develop plans for publishing a brief paper evaluating the impact of the OTS's more significant recent pieces of work, to be discussed at the September meeting.

6. Inheritance Tax – Second Report

The Board noted with pleasure the successful publication of the OTS's second IHT report on 5 July and the extensive and generally balanced coverage it had received, and offered its congratulations to all those involved, not least Daphna Jowell who had led work on the review.

7. Life Events

The Board considered a draft Executive Summary for this review, and offered a range of comments, including in relation to the high income child benefit charge, pensions allowances and tax education.

8. Administrative matters

The Board received a report on meetings recently held by the OTS, including with representatives of some overseas governments, the OBR and the NAO.

The Head of Office updated the Board on staffing and finances.

9. Any other business

The Board noted the Board meeting dates for the rest of 2019 and noted that dates had been set for 2020.