



HM TREASURY

Relevant Authorities Working Group

Issue:	To update on the second meeting of the Relevant Authorities Working Group.
Impact on guidance:	N/A
IAS/IFRS adaptation?	N/A
Impact on WGA?	N/A
IPSAS compliant?	N/A
Interpretation for the public sector context?	N/A
Impact on budgetary and Estimates regimes?	N/A
Alignment with National Accounts	N/A
Recommendation:	The Board is invited to note the discussion points from the second meeting of the Relevant Authority Working Group and the forward plan.
Timing:	On going.

DETAIL

Background

1. The Relevant Authorities Working Group is a forum for representatives from the relevant authorities to discuss common themes and issues together.
2. The Group held their first meeting in February 2019, with a second productive meeting held in May 2019.

3. At the FRAB meeting in April, the Board agreed there would be no direct governance relationship between FRAB and the Group, but that FRAB would receive sight of the discussion points from each meeting and the forward plan.

Summary and recommendation

4. The Board is invited to note and make any comments the discussion points from the second meeting of the Relevant Authority Working Group and the forward plan.

HM Treasury
13th June 2019

Discussion points from the Relevant Authority Working Group Meeting Held on Tuesday 21st May 2019 at HM Treasury

Present:

Vikki Lewis (Chair)
Gareth Caller
Gareth Davies
Matt Hemsley

On the Phone: Kathryn Allen, Alison Douglas, Steven Wareing

Secretariat: Josh Rushbrooke

Apologies: Kim Jenkins, Eleanor Shirtliff

Invitees: Sam Calvert, Ruth Ward

Discussion points:

1. The Group went through and agreed amendments to the Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure they were fit for purpose for the agreed governance structure and aims of the group.
2. The Group discussed the summary workbook that set out the timing of each Relevant Authorities' financial management process interdependent to each other. This led to a useful discussion regarding the potential for publications dates of documents to be adjusted to aid collaboration and consistency. For example, the benefits to each Relevant Authority of having the FReM published slightly earlier in December than it currently is.
3. The discussion also focused on the importance of the ability to identify which dates were critical for each Relevant Authority to aid the further alignment in the Relevant Authorities financial management process. Therefore, each Relevant Authority agreed to identify dates in their processes which are critical and which are desirable with the intention of comparison to each other and improve the timeliness and alignment of guidance publication.
4. The Group discussed HMT's planned IFRS 9 and IFRS 15 post implementation review, scheduled in summer 2019, including the involvement of all the Relevant Authorities in this process, to ensure that the outcomes of this work reflected the opinions from across the public sector. Feeding into this discussion was also a reminder of the technical groups that currently exist and how Relevant Authorities can make best use of this resource.
5. The Group received updates on how both the IFRS 16 and IFRS 17 implementation plans are progressing, which includes an agreement on how all Relevant Authorities will be involved in the IFRS 17 implementation process with the aim of maintaining consistency in application and timeliness where possible across the public sector.

6. Each of the Relevant Authorities provided the Group with an update on ongoing developments in their respective authority workplans. These updates were followed by the Group discussing where similarities lay between these developments and where it would be useful for other Relevant Authorities to be involved and kept regularly updated on particular developments.
7. The Group agreed the forward plan, with the topics included on it being those that were determined to be of highest priority for supporting the aims of consistency and alignment across the public sector – see forward plan below.

Relevant Authority Working Group Forward Plan

- Timing of Relevant Authority Financial Management Process (September meeting)
 - Follow-on discussion from the May meeting
 - Discuss complete document
 - Implication for any changes to meetings
 - Will include the additional information on the critical and desirable dates

- Updates on changes in financial reporting (on-going)
 - Each Relevant Authority to update their on-going changes in financial reporting
 - Add a specific slot on the agenda for a Relevant Authority as requested

- Updates on financial standards (on-going)
 - HMT feedback on the indexation of PFI issue
 - On-going implementation of leases
 - Preliminary work on implementing IFRS 17

- NAO code of practice (September meeting)
 - Group to discuss the implications of the updates to the code

- Horizon scanning (on-going)
 - Changes to financial reporting in the international and private sectors
 - Stakeholder engagement with standard setters
 - How to feed into to technical accountant strongholds e.g. TACoE and RASIG

- IFRS 9 and IFRS 15 post implementation review (September meeting)
 - Update on the post implementation review
 - Feedback from all Relevant Authorities on their experience