

<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>The Committee</b>	<b>RPC Secretariat</b>
Stephen Gibson (SG) – Acting Chair	Stuart Sarson (SS) – Head of Secretariat
Jonathan Cave (JC)	
Laura Cox (LC)	<b>Present for specific items</b>
Sheila Drew Smith (SDS)	Scott Steedman (SSt) – British Standards Institution (item G)
Jeremy Mayhew (JM)	Richard Collin (RC) – British Standards Institution (item G)
Brian Morgan (BM)	
Andrew Williams-Fry (AWF)	
	<b>BRE</b>
	Chris Carr (CC) – Director
	Joanna Rodin (JR) – Deputy Director
	Jim Foudy (JF) – Deputy Director
	Rob Brightwell (RB) – Deputy Director

#### **A. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

1. SG introduced himself as Acting Chair until the General Election.
2. No apologies were received.

#### **Minutes of last meeting**

3. The minutes of the September meeting were agreed with no changes. They will be published on the website after purdah.

#### **Register of Interests**

4. A number of changes were noted. The changes will be made to the Register and the updated version will be published on the RPC website with the minutes.

#### **Gifts and Hospitality Register**

5. The Gifts and Hospitality Register was agreed; there were no new items to be added.

#### **B. BRE Update**

6. BRE have successfully engaged with DEFRA in relation to the Agriculture and Fisheries Bills. The collection of draft assessments obtained by BRE have been circulated to the Secretariat for further comment.

#### **Business Impact Target**

7. The 2018-19 BIT annual report and the interim report for the 2017-19 Parliament were laid before Parliament on 5 November 2019. CC thanked the BRE Frameworks

team for producing these two documents and publishing them before purdah. BRE plan to publish a final report after purdah.

### **Brexit Red Tape Challenge**

8. BRE have not yet received write-round clearance for the Brexit Red Tape Challenge (BRTC). A decision on whether to proceed will now depend on what happens in the General Election.
9. SG asked what the RPC's role in any BRTC would be. CC clarified that this was yet to be discussed at a cross-Whitehall level.

### **Innovation Test**

10. BRE provided an update on the innovation test pilot. The first pilot case has been identified from DHSC. BRE will review the pipeline of cases following the General Election and are continuing to proactively seek out other areas of testing.
11. BRE recognise that it seems to cover similar ground to the CMA's competition test and are working closely with the CMA sponsorship team within BEIS.

## **C. Engagement Update**

### **Committee Updates**

12. AWF reported back on an introductory discussion with the Advertising Standards Authority. The engagement was well received by the Advertising Association and its members in attendance, which has led to an upcoming meeting with ITV.
13. JC reported on an event in Berlin with the NKR (Normenkontrollrat), the German equivalent of the RPC. He observed a presentation to mark the NKR's five-year review. He also presented to a RegWatchEurope audience on the UK's experience with one in one out. He observed that the NKR had a high profile within the German Government.
14. SG reported meetings with DEFRA and MoJ Chief Economists, John Curnow and Alex Wilkes respectively. Both positive responses with good engagement. The MoJ was grateful to the RPC for how we approached recent cases and the support provided.

### **International Engagement**

15. SG requested a briefing for committee on the RPC's international engagement and the work of similar organisations in other countries.

## **D. Methodology Sub-Group Update**

16. SG summarised the recent Methodology Sub-Group (MSG) meeting. A draft short guidance note has been produced that summarises the different guidance material relevant to the production of IAs.
17. The MSG has produced a guidance note on the definition of a business, which considered international businesses operating within the UK.

## **E. PIR Update**

18. The Secretariat introduced the paper in the context of the full PIR report, which will be reviewed by the committee before being published in January 2020. The paper presented recommendations for changing the current PIR system.
19. Within PIRs, the committee was keen to see greater specificity of the definition of what success is, in relation to the stated objectives.
20. The committee approved the recommendations, with suggested changes.

#### **F. Trade Update**

21. In a pilot-period, departments have been asked to include information on whether a measure will have impacts on trade or investment; the RPC has provided informal scrutiny during this period. The Secretariat presented a draft plan for reviewing the success of the trade-test pilot-period with departments and asked for the committee's views on whether there was anything missing from the plan, and if there was anything that was particularly important.
22. The committee suggested developing a metric for the quality of analysis for the trade-tests and stressed the importance of proportionality given that departments have only recently been asked to consider trade and investment impacts.

#### **G. British Standards Institution Presentation**

23. SG thanked Scott Steedman for coming to present from the British Standards Institution (BSI).
24. SSt introduced the BSI, which is appointed by BEIS as the national standards body to fulfil a function for UK stakeholders to participate in international standards. Standards are voluntary; the 37,000 standards under the management of BSI are entirely consistent and non-conflicting, working in regional, national and international domain. BSI does not set standards, but rather facilitates debate so that consensus on standards can be reached by stakeholders, including consumers, academics and regulators.
25. BSI is required to remain a full member of European organisations following EU Exit, to continue to have input in discussions about the single national standards model that is widely adopted across Europe.
26. BSI is keen to continue to work with the RPC, to discuss how standards interface with regulation.
27. SG thanked SSt for his time. SSt confirmed he was happy to answer any questions from the committee through correspondence.

#### **H. AOB**

#### **Whitehall Engagement**

28. The Secretariat presented a revised approach to the Whitehall engagement plan, inserting a step to gather evidence across the RPC of the level of *de minimis* assessments and consultation stage impact assessments currently being submitted voluntarily. Following this, the RPC plans to work with BRE to engage with departments.

29. The committee was content with the approach, subject to an update at the next meeting or by correspondence.

#### **Future Committee Meetings**

30. The May and September 2020 committee meeting dates were confirmed as 11 May and 7 September (both at 13:00-17:00).
31. The date of the March 2020 meeting was agreed as 9 March, with the timings to be confirmed by correspondence.

#### **Purdah**

32. The committee discussed restrictions of the RPC and personal restrictions within purdah. SS provided further clarity on specific restrictions. The RPC will not publish any opinions before the formation of the new government.