

Minutes of 20 January 2020 committee meeting
Attendees
The committee

Stephen Gibson (SG) – **Acting Chair**
Jonathan Cave (JC)
Laura Cox (LC)
Sheila Drew Smith (SDS)
Jeremy Mayhew (JM)
Brian Morgan (BM)
Andrew Williams-Fry (AWF)

RPC Secretariat

Stuart Sarson (SS) – Head of Secretariat (HoS)

Present for item E: CMA staff

Jennifer Halliday (JH) – CMA

BRE

Chris Carr (CC) – Director
Rob Brightwell (RB) – Deputy Director
Nishan Shah (NS) – Deputy Director

A. Matters arising 13:00 – 13:10

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. No apologies were received.
3. The Chair thanked the previous Chair, Anthony Browne for the immense contribution he made to the RPC during his two-year tenure.

Minutes of the committee meeting 11 November 2019

4. The minutes of the November meeting were agreed with no changes. They will be published on the RPC website following the meeting.

Register of Interests and Gifts and Hospitality Register

5. The registers were circulated before the meeting. A number of changes on the Register of Interest and one addition to the Gifts and Hospitality Register were noted. The changes will be made to the registers and the updated versions will be published on the RPC website along with the minutes of the November meeting.

B. BRE update 13:10 – 13:40
Business Impact Target (BIT)

6. CC provided an update to the committee on the developments taking place with regards to the BIT and Red Tape Challenge. The new Government is required under SBEE Act to set the BIT by December 2020.

Red Tape Challenge (RTC)

7. CC observed that the RTC appeared in the Conservative manifesto. The current expectation is that the RTC will be launched in early-March. RB noted that the RTC will allow businesses and others the opportunity to comment on regulation.

C. MSG update 13:40 – 13:45

8. The secretariat updated the committee on the draft case histories guidance on permissive regulation, discussed at the MSG meeting, which has now been sent to departments for

comments. A draft note on appraisal periods was also discussed at the MSG meeting. The secretariat is incorporating comments to produce a revised draft for the next scheduled MSG.

9. The MSG had the final sign off on a short guidance note on the precautionary principle. This has since been published, alongside a short guidance note on the definition of business and a summary of the appraisal and evaluation guidance. Links to these documents have been circulated to departments for feedback and will be put on the RPC's Twitter feed.
10. The MSG and secretariat are continuing with the planned programme of updating the guidance documents. SG thanked AWF for agreeing to take over the role of chair of the MSG from SG.
11. All committee members were invited to the MSG meetings.

D. Engagement update 13:45 – 13:50

12. The Chair highlighted key stakeholder engagements since the last committee meeting and future commitments. The next major event is the RPC 10-Year Anniversary Event at the House of Lords on 23 January.

E. CMA presentation 13:50 – 14:30

13. The Chair welcomed representatives from the CMA. The Chair stated that there was a new link on the RPC website to the CMA's guidance as suggested in its recent report on Regulation and Competition.
14. The CMA introduced the report, which looks at how regulation affects competition in the UK business environment and makes recommendations to support policymakers in developing better regulation. The CMA found that the frameworks and guidance for policymakers in developing better regulation existed but were not used systematically. The CMA sees the report's recommendations, divided into three high-level categories, as a starting point for discussions, not as ends in themselves.
15. The committee discussed the impact of competition on consumers and businesses, and how the CMA took these considerations into account. The CMA also explained its advocacy work and gave an overview of how its recommendations had been adopted by government in the past.
16. The committee expressed a willingness for the RPC to work with the CMA to develop training packages on assessing the impact of regulation on competition.
17. The Chair thanked the CMA and spoke of actively working together to develop better guidance and training. The CMA was invited to attend a future MSG meeting.

F. International Engagement presentation 14:30 – 15:20

18. The secretariat introduced the current objectives of the RPC's international work and the international partners it currently engages with, including RegWatchEurope (RWE) and the OECD. The secretariat gave an overview of the costs and benefits of the international engagement undertaken and how the RPC makes best use of these engagements.
19. The secretariat presented the proposed priorities for international engagement in 2020/21.
20. The committee noted the respect afforded the RPC across RWE and the OECD. The committee expressed their desire to build relationships with US and Canadian counterparts.
21. The committee agreed to focus on new bilateral opportunities and supporting the continued level of international engagement.

G. AOB 15:20

22. No other points were raised in AOB.