

## Minutes of OTS Board meeting 21 January 2020

### Present

Kathryn Cearns (Chair)  
Bill Dodwell (Tax Director)  
John Cullinane  
Kathleen Russ  
Teresa Graham  
Beth Russell  
Ruth Stanier (for Jim Harra)

### Apologies

Paul Johnson  
Jim Harra

### In attendance

David Halsey (OTS Head of Office), Bethan Kay (OTS), Sue Youngman (OTS), Zoe Judd (OTS), Chloe Evenson (HMT), Caroline Eele (HMRC), Tom Smith (HMRC)

#### 1. Minutes of previous meeting (18 November 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

Some updates to the register of Board members' interests were noted. There were no other potential conflicts to declare.

#### 3. Board membership

The Chair informed the Board that Paul Johnson was to resign as a member of the Board, as his other responsibilities are making it impossible for him to contribute to the work of the OTS as he would like. It was intended that the role would be advertised.

#### 4. Tax Director's Report

Bill Dodwell spoke to his report, noting

- the range of events and meetings held with representative bodies, academics and other groupings of interested stakeholders both from the UK and abroad, including discussion with representative from Norway about their digital strategy, academics about third party information and digital platforms, and Deloitte in relation to tax education
- staffing changes within the team, including the retirement of Andy Richens

The Board expressed its warm appreciation of Andy Richens' contribution to the OTS, who had been a part of the OTS story right from the beginning in 2010, and has brought a valuable private sector perspective to bear on 15 OTS reviews over that time.

Bill Dodwell also noted the ongoing preparations for the proposed review of Capital Gains Tax, work on claims and elections, and consideration of an update note on the OTS's review of the corporation tax computation.

Beth Russell outlined the new political context following the December election and the potential implications and opportunities arising in relation to future work.

#### **5. Proposed Capital Gains Tax review**

The Board considered the latest draft of a scoping note for the proposed Capital Gains Tax review and offered some comments on this.

#### **6. Claims and Elections**

The Board considered a draft scoping note for a review on claims and elections, which would consider this area generally and then focus on a number of the more common or significant claims in the major taxes, and offered some comments on this.

It was agreed that piece of work should be launched shortly, ahead of the Budget on 11 March.

#### **7. Corporation Tax update**

The Tax Director updated the Board on the discussions held and thinking to date, and the Board discussed potential ways forward. Board members were invited to offer further thoughts directly.

#### **8. OTS Conference**

David Halsey spoke to a proposal for a conference in September 2020, which included an outline agenda and costings. The proposed venue would allow for a larger event than the one held in the early part of 2019, and for the opportunity to attend to be open to all.

It was agreed that the conference should go ahead.

The Board discussed the proposed agenda and made a number of suggestions. A further iteration will be prepared and brought back to the March Board meeting.

The option of live streaming was considered but would not be taken up given the significant costs involved. The OTS would however publish a high-level report on the conference.

#### **9. Administrative matters**

The Board received a report on meetings recently held by the OTS.

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

#### **10. Any other business**

The Board noted the meeting dates for the period up to November 2020.