

MINUTES OF THE CMA BOARD

Meeting date: 14 October 2020

Venue: By video conference

Members present

Jonathan Scott (Chair)
Kirstin Baker
Martin Coleman
Andrea Coscelli (CEO)
Cynthia Dubin
Amelia Fletcher
Andrea Gomes da Silva
Michael Grenfell
Bill Kovacic
Erik Wilson (COO)

CMA staff present

Kate Bridge, Director of Executive Office
Stuart Hudson, Senior Director, Strategy,
Communications and Advocacy
Sukhinder Lalli, Legal Director, Governance,
Compliance and Risk
Board Secretary (minutes)

Teams

The meeting was also attended by staff from the Internal Communications, Strategy, Advocacy & External Relations, Devolved Nations, Litigation and Policy teams.

Advisors present

Sarah Cardell, General Counsel
Mike Walker, Chief Economic Adviser

Apologies

There were no apologies.

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed the Board members to the meeting.

2. Minutes

The Board **approved** the minutes of the CMA Board meeting held on 16 September 2020.

3. RemCo update

Amelia Fletcher, Chair of the Remuneration Committee, **updated** the Board on its recent meeting.

4. ARAC update

Cynthia Dubin, Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, **updated** the Board on its recent meeting.

5. Chief Executive's update including Corporate Risk Register Reoccupation Update and Spending Review 2020 Update

The CEO **updated** the Board on recent cases and other developments in the CMA. The COO **updated** the Board on the work around reoccupying the CMA's estate and the upcoming Spending Review.

The Board **reviewed** the latest version of the Corporate Risk Register.

6. Annual Plan 2021-2022

The Board **reviewed** the skeleton for the CMA's next Annual Plan, agreeing with the proposed direction and the themes outlined by the team. It **approved** the consultation timetable, and **noted** that it would be considering the draft Plan at its November meeting before this is laid in Parliament for consultation.

7. Advocacy and external relations – proposed strategy

The Board **discussed** the CMA's Advocacy and External Relations strategy. The Board **noted** that the Advocacy and External Relations and Devolved Nations teams are working increasingly closely and welcomed this development. It **agreed** the proposed strategy, noting the team's recognition of the need to be flexible during these difficult times.

8. Update on the Office for the Internal Market

The Board **discussed** the ongoing work to prepare for the potential establishment of an Office for the Internal Market (OIM) under the umbrella of the CMA as set out in recent developments to the UK Internal Market Bill. It noted that the Office for the Internal Market has now been written onto the face of the Bill. It acknowledged that the Bill is currently proceeding through the legislative process so could still attract amendments. The Board discussed how the function might operate in practice, noting that work was ongoing by the project team to scope this activity. The Chair thanked the team for its helpful paper and formally recorded the Board's thanks for the wider team's work on the OIM to date.

9. Litigation update

The Board **was updated** on the work of the litigation team, its strategy, how it works with case teams, and its plans for the future. The Board **discussed** the CMA's recent litigation record in the courts, and thanked the team for its hard work.

10. Update on the Reform Programme

The Board **was updated** on the CMA's work with BEIS on the reforms outlined in Lord Tyrie's letter of February 2020.

11. Board member internal engagement

The Board **considered** the proposal from the Internal Communications teams for the Non-Executive Directors to become better connected with and more visible to staff, and to hear different perspectives on the CMA's work and experiences of working for it. The team invited Board members to choose activities in which they may like to be involved, noting they will have individual conversations with each NED to refine and support their choices. It was highlighted that the activities proposed can be conducted virtually, removing the usual logistical barriers to meeting in person, and rendering it perhaps easier than before the pandemic. The Chair thanked the team for the plans which will both reinforce the work of the CMA and enhance the morale of the organisation.

12. Any other business

- The Board discussed the future plans for the Covid-19 Taskforce, noting the need to remain flexible during the increased restrictions given the rising level of infections.
- The Board noted the high level of the quality of the papers considered during this meeting.