



HM Treasury

Relevant Authorities Working Group Update

Issue:	To update the Board on the sixth 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 sixth meeting of the Relevant Authority Working Group and the forward plan.
Timing:	Ongoing.

DETAIL

Background

1. The Relevant Authorities Working Group (RAWG) is a forum for representatives from the relevant authorities to discuss common themes and issues together.
2. The group usually meets three times a year. This meeting was the first in 2021 and held on 15th of March.
3. The RAWG Memorandum of Understanding presented in [FRAB 136 \(12\)](#), sets out the relationship between FRAB and the working group.

Summary of discussion points

1. The group received roundtable updates from all of the relevant authorities. The common theme discussed was the focus on the year-end audit timetable, and challenges faced due to audit delays stemming from 2019-20. The issue regarding the delay for audits and laying dates has been raised by multiple departments.
2. An update from HMT was provided in relation to the key changes to the 2020-21 and 2021-22 FReMs, the best practice examples report for 2019-20, non-financial reporting and the sustainability reporting guidance.
3. The group discussed and provided feedback on the Grantor accounting application guidance and whether RAWG should develop materiality guidance to be used by preparers of public sector annual reports and accounts.
4. The group discussed the financial management document (GANTT chart), highlighting interdependencies between guidance released by the relevant authorities (e.g. the release of the FReM impacts the release of the GAM). The group raised concerns regarding the additional PES papers being issued later in the financial year, making clear that while unique challenges (namely EU Exit, COVID-19) necessitated their use, additional reporting requests to departments late on in the reporting cycle should be the exception and not the rule.
5. The group agreed to hold the next meeting in September 2021, unless there are any specific areas identified as requiring group discussion in relation to the FRAB meeting in June 2021.
6. The Board is invited to note the contents of this paper and is invited to make any comments on the discussion points from the sixth meeting of the Relevant Authority Working Group and the forward plan.

HM Treasury
25th of March 2021