

MINUTES OF THE CMA BOARD

Meeting date: 21 July 2021
Venue: By video conference

Members present¹

Jonathan Scott (Chair)
Kirstin Baker
Martin Coleman
Andrea Coscelli (CEO)
Amelia Fletcher
Michael Grenfell
Erik Wilson (COO)

CMA staff present

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

Teams

The meeting was attended by staff from across the CMA including Directors from the delivery teams and the new functions, and staff from the Executive Office and the Markets teams.

Advisors present

Sarah Cardell, General Counsel
Mike Walker, Chief Economic Adviser

Observer present²

James Moss, Information Commissioner's Office, Seconded to the CMA

Apologies

Cynthia Dubin
Bill Kovacic

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed the Board members to the meeting. There were no new conflicts declared or declarations of gifts or hospitality.

2. Minutes

The Board approved the minutes and actions from the CMA Board meetings held on 23 June 2021 with no changes.

The Board acknowledged the committee minutes received.

¹ MG joined the meeting towards the end of item 4.

² JM observed items 6-8.

3. RemCo update

The Chair of the Remuneration Committee (RemCo) updated the Board on the RemCo meeting on 5 July.

4. Chief Executive's update including Corporate risk register and External guidance tracker

The CEO updated the Board on developments at the CMA, including the recently launched Government consultations on reforming competition and consumer policy and digital markets; and developments in CMA cases and projects. The Board also noted the Risk Register and the External guidance tracker.

5. CMA Board evaluation 2021

The Board discussed the recent Board evaluation, agreeing the recommendations with one small change. It noted that the final draft of the Evaluation will be sent to BEIS, and that updates on progress to implement the recommendations will be put to the Nominations Committee.

6. Future operating model

The Board was updated on plans to introduce hybrid working to the CMA, and also to fully reopen the offices in the CMA estate. It noted that the plans would be reviewed in the coming weeks in line with the changing public health situation.

7. Electric vehicle charging market study final report

The Board discussed the final report of this market study, noting that the report will be published on 23 July. It considered the ongoing work to ensure that the recommendations will be adopted, and the team highlighted its plans for engagement with stakeholders around the final report. The Board commended the team on the completion of this study well within the statutory timetable.

8. Children's social care market study

The Board was updated on progress in this market study and approved the decision to not move to a market investigation reference and to publish a notice to this effect in early September, as required by the legislation. The Board noted the plans to publish an interim report containing our emerging thinking and analysis in late September.

9. Progress on establishing the CMA's eDiscovery capability

The team updated the Board on cross-CMA work to improve the CMA's use of technology for evidence handling to equip teams with the best tools for tackling casework in competition cases or mergers. The Board supported this work, focussing on the plans for implementation of the new eDiscovery software. It endorsed the future plans of the team to improve other aspects of the CMA's casework.

10. Open Banking Committee update

The Board was updated on the recent work of the Committee.

11. AOB

The Board noted two papers received for information:

- Quarterly MI report
- Edinburgh Board meeting and proposed symposium – 17-18 November 2021

The Chair thanked all the teams involved and wished all CMA staff a relaxing, much-needed and thoroughly well-deserved break over the summer.