

Minutes of OTS Board meeting 24 May 2022

Held as a hybrid meeting

Present

Kathryn Cearns (Chair)	Paul Aplin
Bill Dodwell (Tax Director)	John Cullinane
Jonathan Athow (HMRC)	Judith Freedman
Matthew Henty (HMT) <i>for Beth Russell</i>	Kathleen Russ
Teresa Graham (observer) <i>from 15.30</i>	

Apologies

Beth Russell

In attendance

James Konya (OTS Head of Office), Julia Neate (OTS), Sue Youngman (OTS), John Hall (OTS), Caroline Eele (HMRC), Jocelyn Goldthorpe (HMT), Jacob Crofton (HMT)

1. Minutes of previous meeting (March 2022)

- March minutes agreed with no matters arising

2. Register of interests and potential conflicts

- The board were asked to update the Chair and secretariat of any interests for the register.
- There were no conflicts of interest for the meeting.

3. Tax director report

- Bill Dodwell noted continued external engagement and events, and ongoing discussions with officials.
- Bill reported on recruitment for the Secretariat, welcoming James Konya as Head of Office, and noted the secondment of two new members of staff from HMRC: Graham Spencer who was now in post, and Mark Frost who would be joining in July. He also noted that a new member of staff externally recruited was undergoing vetting and should be joining shortly.
- Bill noted that John Hall would be leaving the OTS at the end of the month, and thanked him for all his hard work, particularly on the simplification review.
- On the OTS's workplan, Bill recapped the three potential projects noted in the March meeting (the third sector, hybrid working, and clearances and rulings). On clearances and rulings, consideration was given to expanding the scope to tax certainty more generally. Subject to further consideration, Bill also noted the potential for a project to look at the ease of filling in the personal tax return.
- On the Hybrid and distance working project, the Board recommended looking at those coming into the UK whose normal workplace is overseas (as well as the proposed opposite), and that the project consider the breadth of the other issues around working abroad -e.g. visas, qualifications.

4. Board appointments

- James Konya updated the Board on the progress of preparing for the recruitment process.

5. OTS Skills Matrix

- Further to the recommendation in the HM Treasury review, the Board considered and agreed a matrix of skills needed by the OTS secretariat.

6. Simplification review

- The Board discussed the revised draft of the report.
- Subject to specific drafting points they were positive about the direction and content, feeling that it demonstrated an evolution of the OTS that was a good reflection of the request within the Treasury five-year review.

7. Property

- The Board considered an early draft skeleton of the report, which reflected on areas of emerging interest in the public engagement so far.
- The Board were happy with the direction of the review, and saw this as good territory to explore.

8. Administration and Other Business

- The dates of future meetings were noted, and the meeting came to a close.