

RPC meeting 17 January 2022 - minutes	
Attendees	
<p>The Committee Chair: Stephen Gibson (Chair) Jonathan Cave (JC) Laura Cox (LC) Sheila Drew Smith (SDS) Jeremy Mayhew (JM) Brian Morgan (BM) Andrew Williams-Fry (AWF)</p> <p>New Committee members (Appointments to be confirmed) [Post meeting note: new members were formally appointed on 31 January]</p> <p>Daniel Dalton (DD) Stephen Gifford (SG) Hilary Jennings (HJ) John Longworth (JL) Derek Ridyard (DR)</p>	<p>RPC Secretariat Stuart Sarson – Head of Secretariat RPC Secretariat staff</p> <p>Better Regulation Executive Chris Carr – Director BRE staff</p> <p>NCVO Chris Walker</p>

A. Welcome and Introductions

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
2. As new members were joining for the first time, members introduced themselves, providing a brief background of their knowledge, skills, and experience.

B. Matters arising

3. The **minutes of the November committee meeting** were agreed
4. **Register of Interests:** The committee members confirmed the accuracy of the January Register of Interest. The register will be published on the RPC website once all the committee members have been formally appointed.
5. **Gifts and Hospitality Register:** No new gifts or hospitality were declared. The January register is available on both the RPC and BEIS websites.

C. BRE update

6. Chris Carr introduced himself and welcomed the new RPC members. He explained the current situation regarding the government consultation on the better regulation framework, which had

become complicated by the resignation of the Brexit Opportunities Minister, Lord Frost. Nevertheless, BRE hoped to be in a position to publish the response to the consultation soon.

7. CC thanked the committee members and said that he will keep them informed of developments on the BRF.

D. New committee members

8. Introductory meetings have been arranged for all new committee members with the Chair and an induction session has been arranged for 21st January.
9. All new members have now been security cleared and will be appointed formally on 31 January for three-year terms from that date.

E. External Engagements

10. The Chair informed the committee of the following engagements:
 - He had made a presentation to the Forum of Indian Regulator (FOIR) on the UK approach.
 - He had been invited to draft a chapter in a book being produced by the FOIR on 'International Regulations and Governance'. He will be writing this in a personal capacity.
 - He has been invited to speak at a seminar organised by the Hansard Society on 19th January on 'Parliamentary Scrutiny, Evidence and the Rule of Law'.
11. Jonathan Cave reported on the following:
 - He has also been asked to contribute to a chapter in the FOIR book.
 - He has been invited to contribute a chapter to a special issue of the journal Digital Society on "EU digital policies and EU in the world".
 - The previous week he had met Jum Murai and Jiro Kokuryo of Japan's Digital Agency, to discuss the assessment and evaluation of digital regulation policies, and in particular the engagement of government regulators with large global platforms such as Google and AWS, particularly in relation to 'regtech' and other aspects of outsourcing regulation-relevant data analytics.

F. 2022 Committee meeting dates

12. The Committee meeting dates for 2022 were agreed.
13. It is anticipated that from March, full meetings will be held in 1 Victoria Street with members attending in person if possible. Meetings will in future be "hybrid" to enable those who cannot attend in person to join.
14. The interim meetings in alternate months will remain virtual.

15. NCVO

16. Chris Walker from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations presented to the Committee. He explained that the NCVO covers England and has 17,000 members – some big and nationally

prominent but most small. The organisation exists to make the case for charities in government policy generally and also spread best practice to members. Most of their work with government is via DCMS, and they have to prioritise what to work with government due to significant resource constraints. Most of their work is done behind the scenes, where they speak for a charitable sector that totals 163,000 voluntary organisations overall, employing 950,000 people and with over 16 million formal volunteers.

17. NCVO are generally in favour of the content of the current Charities Bill, as it gets rid of unnecessary burdens on trustees, such as current problems on areas like disposing of land. However, it is not just specific charity legislation that affects charities – they are often just as affected as businesses in regulation on areas like health and safety or the environment.
18. Income through trading is a bigger area (and regulatory burden) for charities than one might think. Further, some regulations might actually conflict with charity-specific regulations, as does sometimes the different status of employees and volunteers – sexual harassment legislation is an example. Chris cited how they worked with government to modify the Protect Duty, as community venues are often entirely volunteer run. After consultation, government acknowledged this could be an issue.
19. On IAs, Chris Walker described how charities rarely have the capacity to engage with them but do respond to consultations if on their key areas. The RPC is not well known in sector, but the NCVO is very happy that we have reached out and been able to talk to us/the Secretariat on specific areas. NCVO think most valuable role is when RPC can facilitate contact between NCVO (or their individual members) and relevant ministers.
20. The NCVO think that it has been especially hard to keep up with the Covid regulations – small charities especially have found them confusing, and it may have put off volunteers generally. They are also worried about Elections Bill in terms of how it might affect campaigning by their members.
21. It is still a big challenge for NCVO to help “professionalise” members – especially with trustees’ limited time and their voluntary status. This will continue to be a large part of their work, and they are interested in potentially helping their smaller members to get their message across and become more confident in accessing government contracts.
22. The Chair thanked Chris for an interesting presentation.

End of meeting