

RPC meeting 13 March 2023 - minutes

Attendees

<p>The Committee Chair: Stephen Gibson Jonathan Cave Daniel Dalton Stephen Gifford Hilary Jennings John Longworth Derek Ridyard Andrew Williams-Fry</p>	<p>RPC Secretariat Stuart Sarson – Head of Secretariat Secretariat staff</p> <p>Better Regulation Executive Rhiannon Harries (RH) – Interim Director BRE staff</p> <p>Brexit Opportunities Unit Chris Carr – Director BOU staff</p> <p>Association of British Insurers Charlotte Clark Carol Hall</p>
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A. Minutes of committee meeting 16 January and matters arising

1. The **minutes** were agreed with a minor addition [and have since been published on the RPC website].
2. **Register of interests:** committee members confirmed the accuracy of their entries in the RPC register of interests [available on the RPC website]. Members were reminded to be clear in distinguishing between personal and RPC roles when making statements on personal media accounts.
3. **Gifts and hospitality register:** committee members confirmed the accuracy of their entries in the gifts and hospitality register [available on the RPC and BEIS websites].
4. All were reminded of the importance of keeping these registers up to date.

B. Brexit Opportunities Unit (BOU) Update

5. Chris Carr gave an update on progress on the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill (REUL Bill) and the likely implications for impact assessments coming to the RPC for scrutiny.
6. CC thanked the committee for its attention and comments. There is still some way to go before the process is finalised which will be done in consultation with BRE and RPC.

C. Better Regulation Executive (BRE) Update

7. Rhiannon Harries (RH) provided an update on progress on the Machinery of Government Changes (MOG) and progress on reform of the Better Regulation Framework (BRF). She explained that what was previously BEIS is now spread across three new departments:
 - Department for Business and Trade (DBT);
 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ); and
 - Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).

BRE and the RPC are now part of the new DBT which has merged the business parts of BEIS with the former Department for International Trade, although one branch of BRE – on innovation friendly regulation – has moved to DSIT.

8. The Secretary of State for DBT is Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP. Portfolios for junior ministers are still being finalised.
9. RH reported that BRE are in the process of revising proposals for a reformed Better Regulation Framework.
10. The chair thanked Rhiannon for her summary and looked forward to receiving the revised proposals when they are ready.

D. Engagement Update External Presentation – Association of British Insurers

11. A list of engagements in which the chair and the committee members were involved had been circulated in advance.

E. External Presentation – Association of British Insurers

12. ABI would like to use the RPC model in financial services – CBA, approach to burden appreciation and so on. They have a broad interest in regulation, not just direct insurance-related regs – e.g. building regulations very strongly affect them/their members, climate policy is increasingly a big area.
13. ABI feels that Whitehall hasn't quite understood how so much has come back "from" EU – regulators especially doing much more than it initially appears. Is there a danger that decisions are being made on the hoof?