

RPC meeting 18 March 2024 - minutes	
Attendees	
The Committee Chair: Stephen Gibson Jonathan Cave Daniel Dalton Caroline Elliot Stephen Gifford John Longworth Ryan Williams (on-line) Andrew Williams-Fry (on-line)	RPC Secretariat Stuart Sarson – Head of Secretariat Smarter Regulation Directorate Chris Carr - Director of SRD Dora Addei – Deputy Director Frameworks
Apologies Hilary Jennings	

A. Minutes of committee meeting 15 January 2024 and matters arising

1. The **minutes of the 15 January 2024 meeting were agreed**. The minutes are available 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 of the importance of ensuring that, when making any public personal statements, they are clear that they are not speaking on behalf of the RPC.
3. **Gifts and hospitality register:** committee members confirmed the accuracy of their entries in the gifts and hospitality register (available on the RPC and DBT websites).

A. Smarter Regulation update

SRD update

4. Chris Carr provided an update on the Smarter Regulation Programme. Successive governments have used the lever of regulation as a first choice rather than a last resort through regulating themselves or through allowing independent bodies to regulate. Business is saying that regulation is an obstacle to growth and innovation and net regulatory costs are being added year on year.
5. The Government is taking on this challenge through the Smarter Regulation Programme, with the first principle that a regulatory system should achieve harmony across the relationship with consumers, business, and the environment in a permissive way. Government departments and regulators need to play their part. They have a responsibility to set out the totality of regulation that has been introduced, and the impact. The Minister wants to focus on a culture change with regulators and re-cast the relationship between regulators and government. It is important to maintain the independence of regulators and not interfere with their operational role, but at the same time aligning the regulators’ strategic role with that of government and ensuring good oversight and governance.

B. Engagement update

6. A list of engagements in which the Chair and committee members had participated had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Chair informed the committee that he had had the following engagements:
 - The Hertford Seminar, which Jonathan Cave also attended.
 - A Sense about Science event at which he met Tracey Brown (Chief Executive).

C. Methodology Sub-group (MSG)

7. Jonathan Cave, RPC methodology sub-group Chair, provided a summary of the actions from the 28 February MSG meeting. This included the development of a summary OA scrutiny document for departments, integration of some of the case study work into training material for departments and the preparation of a follow-up paper on 'real' options. The provisional date for the next meeting had been agreed with the new MSG chair, Stephen Gifford (20 May, 12.30-14.00).
8. Stephen Gibson thanked Jonathan for his chairing of the MSG over the past few years.
9. Stephen noted the need, in due course, to review documentation on the RPC website, to see what is relevant to the new Framework and what needs to be revised or produced to fill any gaps. We should also take the opportunity to tidy the website and review its structure. The website could also potentially include training material being produced for departments.