

RPC meeting 16 September 2024 - minutes	
Attendees	
The Committee Chair: Stephen Gibson Daniel Dalton (online) Caroline Elliott Stephen Gifford Hilary Jennings John Longworth Ryan Williams Andrew Williams-Fry	RPC Secretariat Stuart Sarson – Head of Secretariat RPC Secretariat Staff Smarter Regulation Directorate Chris Carr - Director of RD RD Staff US Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Professor Richard Revesz

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

1. The **minutes of the 15 July 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).

B. Smarter Regulation Directorate update

4. Chris Carr gave the following updates:

Better Regulations Framework

5. The minister has accepted an invitation to the next RPC meeting in October.
6. Developments on the Better Regulation Framework (BRF) are progressing. The Government is taking a mission-driven approach. One of its core missions is to kick start economic growth and launch a new industrial strategy to build a more resilient economy.
7. This Government has a different approach to the previous administration. They do not see regulation as a barrier but, where it is necessary, it should be proportionate and minimised.

Committee member recruitment and remuneration

8. It was reported that the term of office for five members would finish at the end of January. All except for one member, who has now completed two terms, can re-apply and members have been asked to do so if they wish to be considered for another term. Should there be a delay in the recruitment; to cover any gaps, an extension of six months has been agreed to the current members whose terms expire.

9. An uplift to the Chair's and members' remuneration, which has not risen since 2010, has been recommended. This is subject to agreement by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

C. External Presentation: US Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs work

10. Professor Richard (Ricky) Revesz (RR) gave a presentation on the role of the administrator of the US Office for Management and Budget's, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). He was nominated for the position by President Joe Biden and confirmed by the US Senate by a unanimous voice vote.
11. OIRA is the US Government's central authority for the review of Executive Branch regulations, approval of government information collections, establishment of government statistical practices, and co-ordination of Federal privacy policy.
12. In addition to reviewing drafts of proposed and final regulations under a variety of statutory and Executive Order authorities, OIRA also coordinates a retrospective review of regulations, reviews and approves government collections of information from the public under the Paperwork Reduction Act, and oversees the implementation of government-wide policies in the areas of information, privacy, and statistical policy. OIRA also coordinates agency implementation of the Information Quality Act, including the peer-review practices of agencies, and participates in the implementation of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act. Finally, OIRA coordinates the Administration's efforts to improve regulatory co-operation with key trading partners, including Canada and Mexico.
13. RR stated that his office does almost exactly what the RPC does, they review final rule assessments (what we call final stage impact assessments), evaluate the strength of answer and evaluate the quantified and monetised data. They have a \$200 million threshold before agencies have to consider alternatives; the default is what maximises net benefits. They do not review regulation at the state level very extensively as they have analytical offices in a lot of state offices, although to differing extents. Their work is not public, not even to freedom of information requests. They can, theoretically, be subpoenaed but it has never happened.
14. RR concluded by saying that OIRA has a framework which establishes a US- Canada active partnership that deals with live issues. Maybe a more robust UK-US [regulatory?] relationship could be established, as both parties face similar challenges, a solution to which could benefit both. The Chair concluded that this was a good idea, and that the RPC secretariat should liaise with RR's team for a closer working relationship and exchange of methodologies.

D. Engagement update

15. A list of engagements in which the Chair and committee members have participated had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
 - The Chair commented that he attended an online session of the Australian and New Zealand Regulatory Review conference and gave a presentation on the work of the RPC.
 - Ryan Williams and Andrew William Fry attended the Annual Regulatory Policy Institute conference. There were presentations on the following:
 - Statistics and the use of regulation
 - Planning reform
 - Whether UK energy is sufficiently aligned to deliver current political policy and ambitions.

- Strategic planning and investment in the water sector
- Governance reform.