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| **RPC meeting 11 November 2024 - minutes**  |
| **Attendees** |
| **The Committee**  Chair: Stephen GibsonDaniel DaltonCaroline ElliotStephen GiffordHilary JenningsJohn LongworthRyan WilliamsAndrew Williams-Fry (Online) | **RPC Secretariat**  Stuart Sarson – Head of Secretariat**DBT**Gavin Lambert – Director General, CMRR**Regulation Directorate**Chris Carr - Director of RDDora Addei – Deputy Director, Frameworks**UK Hospitality**Kate Nicholls - CEO |

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| 1. **Minutes of committee meeting 16 September 2024 and matters arising**
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1. The **minutes of the 16 September 2024 meeting were agreed** with the following comments:
* Para 16: The committee remuneration has not risen since 2010, not 2013.
* Following the US elections, Professor Richard Revez is unlikely to be the Head of the US Office of Information and Regulatory Reform (OIRA) and so we should make contact once his replacement has been announced. The Head of Secretariat mentioned that he had already been liaising with OIRA on this.

The minutes of 16 September 2024 are available on the RPC website.

1. **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.

1. **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).

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| 1. **Presentation by Gavin Lambert, Joint Director General**
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1. The Chair welcomed Gavin Lambert (GL), Director General for Competition, Markets and Regulatory Reform in DBT, and introduced the committee members.
2. GL thanked the committee for its work. He welcomed the RPC’s 15-year document. GL reflected on the new Government’s programme of legislation, which is moving at speed, and thanked the committee for its work on IAs for urgent legislation, and in particular for its fast turnaround on the IA for the Employment Rights Bill.
3. The committee expressed concern about the declining quality of IAs in recent years. More needs to be done to ensure a broad focus is taken to ensure that evaluation of legislation is carried out and lessons are learned before new legislation is proposed. Is legislation still necessary, is it being done in a way that will keep up with rapidly changing technology and encourage innovation? The RPC is thinking of a number of ways which it can help, including through providing training and information to bring issues to the fore.
4. The committee welcomed GL’s support and thanked him for joining the meeting.

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| 1. **Regulation Directorate update**
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**Better Regulation Framework**

1. Chris Carr updated the committee on the work of Regulation Directorate. Regulation has been moving up the political agenda and will continue to do so. The PM said, at the global Investment summit, that regulation has a key role to play in growth. Describing regulation as good or bad is too simplistic and recognised the need he need to remove unnecessary regulation holding back growth, and pledged to reduce bureaucracy that blocks investment and making sure that every regulator takes growth seriously.
2. CC went on to report that:
* DSIT announced in October the establishment of the Regulatory Innovation Office, the aim of which is to highlight the cross-cutting nature of emerging technologies requiring a new holistic approach to regulations.
* DBT had published the Industrial Strategy green paper, which includes a chapter on regulation making clear what is effective regulations.
* work is continuing on the better regulation framework, with a re-launch of BRF training.
1. The committee welcomed these initiatives and asked to be kept informed as things developed.

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| 1. **Methodology Sub-Group (MSG) update**
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**Issues arising from the MSG meeting (21st October)**

1. Stephen Gifford summarised the actions from the two items discussed at the October meeting: monitoring & evaluation plan guidance and MSG review/forward look. The latter concluded that the MSG chair should bring, for the committee’s consideration, revised terms of reference (ToR). There were two revisions to the existing ToR document: an addition to the aims of the MSG - to review new RPC methodology guidance prior to committee approval; and amended text to make it clear that non-economist committee members are also welcome to be members of the MSG and attend its meetings. The committee agreed the revised TOR.

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| 1. **Engagement update**
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1. A list of engagements in which the Chair and committee members had participated had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
2. The Chair commented on his meeting with Dr Felix Martin, the Chair of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Cost Benefit Panel. They compared the approaches taken by the RPC, the FCA and Bank of England on scrutiny of CBA.

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| 1. **External presentation: Kate Nicholls (CEO, UK Hospitality)**
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1. Kate Nicholls described the wide range of businesses within the Hospitality sector, many being small and micro, and straddling both the public and private sectors. Kate saw the role for UK Hospitality, in relation to engagement with government, as one of critical friend, offering input, data and advice on policies impacting the sector.  Kate explained that, as a result of the way in which policies impacting the sector were covered by government, this meant that UK Hospitality engaged mainly with three departments – Defra, DCMS and DBT. The most effective route for this was via sector councils which allowed the sector to assist these departments as and when they created assessments associated with their policies. UK Hospitality is seeking a similar level of engagement with both HO and DHSC. UK Hospitality values the importance of challenging the evidence base and stress testing the rigour of Impact Assessments. Kate therefore welcomes the independent scrutiny role of the RPC and the continual level of engagement it has with UK Hospitality, particularly on impact assessments such as the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. Kate explained they have concerns around the level of consultation and its importance to those impacted by proposed regulation; the need for more consideration of using alternatives to regulation; and the cumulative impact of a series regulation on a specific sector i.e. the impact of the stock of regulation.

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| 1. **AOB**
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1. Ryan Williams gave an update on the work exploring the use of AI by the RPC. An update on the developing use of AI within DBT and across government was also provided. It was felt that it was not cost effective for departments to develop their own AI tools, and this would be better done across government. The intention over the next few months is for the RPC to collaborate with the DBT digital team as part of their overarching project to develop an AI tool for use.