

| RPC meeting 19 January 2026 - minutes | |
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| Attendees | |
| The Committee Chair: Stephen Gibson John Davies Caroline Elliott Hilary Jennings Allan Little Caroline Turnbull-Hall Frances Warburton Ryan Williams | RPC Secretariat Stuart Sarson – Head of Secretariat Department for Business and Trade David Lunn – Director, Regulation Directorate (RD) Dora Addei – Deputy Director, RD External speaker Hazel Cheeseman, Chief Executive, Action on Smoking and Health |

A. Minutes of last committee meeting and matters arising

1. The minutes of the 10 November 2025 meeting were agreed.
2. The Chair suggested the secretariat should advise better regulation units to encourage more concise submissions. Feedback on initial review notices should also make this point. There was a question about whether the guidance material sets out possible categories of market failure and the secretariat confirmed there is basic guidance on this.
3. Register of interests: committee members confirmed the accuracy of their entries in the RPC register of interests (available on the RPC website).
4. Gifts and hospitality register: committee members confirmed the accuracy of their entries in the gifts and hospitality register (available on the RPC website).
5. No starters or leavers were reported.

B. Communications and engagement

6. Committee members received a written update on communications activity and engagements over the previous three months.

C. External speaker

7. The Chair welcomed Hazel Cheeseman (HC), Chief Executive of Action on Smoking and Health. HC provided a presentation on the role of regulation in tobacco control policy.

D. Regulation Directorate update

8. David Lunn (DL) presented an update on Regulation Directorate activity.

25% Administrative Burden Reduction Target

9. The Committee was updated on progress towards the government's target to reduce the administrative burden of regulation by 25% by the end of this Parliament. The overall business burden is estimated at £22.4 billion (excluding tax and building safety), with the target being £5.6 billion in net reductions.

Performance Reviews of Regulators

10. There was a discussion about independent performance reviews of regulators. DL explained that regulators have existing key performance indicators which have been consolidated in a single document on GOV.UK.

Growth Duty for Regulators

11. The Committee discussed the proposed growth duty for sectoral regulators.

Ministerial Engagement

12. The Chair reported that he had met with Minister McDougall the previous week. The meeting was introductory in nature, focused on explaining the RPC's role. The Committee expressed interest in meeting with the Minister, with a meeting potentially scheduled for March.

RPC Framework Document

13. The Chair asked about the draft RPC framework document, which has been awaiting clearance from HM Treasury for approximately 18 months. The Chair requested to see the current version before it is finalised, noting that most current Committee members joined after the document was drafted. RD agreed to take this away as an action.