Terms of Reference – Chair of Better Regulation Executive

William Sargent is appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as Chair of the newly created Better Regulation Executive (BRE).

Role specification

The Government is committed to raising the bar for what our regulatory system can deliver to support growth, innovation and business investment, as well as public sector productivity.

To support this, the Government is appointing a Chair of the newly created BRE. The Chair's objective will be to support and challenge the Government in delivering its ambition to reduce the burden of regulation on businesses through better regulation and to improve regulator performance and effectiveness across the system.

The Chair will drive change from the centre, working closely with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade. They will provide advice to these Ministers and convene, support and provide challenge where appropriate to departments and regulators as they deliver the Government's commitments to a better and more proportionate regulatory system.

The Chair will focus on:

- driving delivery of the Government's target to reduce the administrative burdens from business regulation by 25% by the end of the Parliament;
- working with departments to review the stock of existing regulation on the public and private sectors, removing those that are no longer fit for purpose and ensuring that others continue to meet the needs of today;
- more closely gripping the flow of new regulation, including ensuring that the cumulative burdens of potential new regulation across the system are properly understood and surfaced as part of the cross-government decision-making process;
- holding sponsor departments and regulators more closely to account in driving up regulatory performance and effectiveness, including on inspection and enforcement; and
- identifying opportunities to support public sector productivity, including through the Government's wider Rewiring the State and Simplification and Agency of Government agendas.

Reporting, governance and ways of working

The appointment will begin on 16 November 2026 and will run until 16 May 2028.

The role will be a paid, non-executive, non-statutory office within HMT, with an expected commitment of two days per week. The postholder will be supported by the BRE, working closely with officials on a confidential basis.

The Chair will have a formal duty to provide advice to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade.

Conflicts of interest

A full declaration of interest process has been conducted in the usual way for direct ministerial appointments and mitigations have been agreed to minimise any potential, actual or perceived conflicts. The postholder will comply with the measures and mitigations set out by HM Treasury's Permanent Secretary, with support from the Propriety and Ethics Team if required.