

**COMPETITION AND MARKETS AUTHORITY
Minutes of the Board
25 February 2015**

Present:

David Currie (Chair)
Alex Chisholm (CEO)
Sonya Branch
Sarah Cardell
Andrea Coscelli
Carolyn Fairbairn (items 1-5 only)
Alan Giles
Bill Kovacic (items 1-10 only)
Philip Lowe
Jill May (left the meeting part way through item 7)
Annetje Ottow
Mike Walker
Erik Wilson
Roger Witcomb

CMA staff:

Rachel Christopher
Paul Latham

Executive Office:

Tim Jarvis
Rebecca Lyon (Minutes)

Introduction

1 Introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

Declaration of conflicts and recusals

It was noted that Jill May was recused on Higher Education and would leave the meeting for agenda item 5.

Gifts and hospitality

Alan Giles noted that he had been invited to attend a 2-day competition event hosted by a law firm, which he had declined. There were no other declarations of gifts or hospitality offered or accepted in relation to Board member's roles with the CMA.

2 Review and approval of draft private and public minutes of the January Board meeting

The Board approved each set of minutes.

3 Chief Executive's update

The Chief Executive updated the Board on key developments and highlights since the last meeting, as well as a forward look for the next month:

Core updates and thematic reviews

4 Refocusing consumer protection

(Nisha Arora, Gordon Ashworth, Mike Coates, Cecilia Parker Aranha, Linzi Talbot)

The Board was updated on progress, plans, challenges and risks related to the CMA's approach to delivery of its strategic objective to refocus consumer protection, focusing on four key areas: i) capacity and capability to deliver; ii) ICPEN Presidency; iii) consumer engagement; and iv) the broader consumer landscape. The Board was strongly supportive of this work and the good progress made, emphasising the importance of keeping consumers at the heart of the CMA's work. It discussed the various aspects of the update.

5 Review of competition and regulation in Higher Education in England¹

(Nisha Arora, Gordon Ashworth, Kate Blatchford, Helen Fleming, John Kirkpatrick, Yael Shine)

The Board was updated on the CMA's review of the regulatory system for Higher Education in England.

6 Briefing on Energy market investigation

(Daniel Gordon, Erika Lewis, Simeon Thornton, Roger Witcomb)

In fitting with the agreed protocol for the Board to be provided with updates on progress in Phase 2 markets investigations, so that it was aware of developments at key points, consistent with paragraph 49(2)(b) of Schedule 4 to ERRA 2013, the Board was updated on the Energy market investigation, following the recent publication of the updated Issues Statement. The focus of the briefing was on the progress of the investigation to date and the content of the updated Issues Statement. The Board noted the information provided.

7 Addressing key challenges in CMA markets work

(Andrea Coscelli, Daniel Gordon, Adam Land, Rachel Merelie, Jon Riley)

The team introduced the paper, providing an update on progress in addressing the strategic challenges identified in February 2014 in relation to carrying out markets work at the CMA. The Board discussed the good progress made.

8 Annual Concurrency report 2015

(Andrea Coscelli, Michael Grenfell, Sharon Horwitz, James Lambert, Graeme Thomas)

The team presented a draft of the CMA annual concurrency report for 2015, including information on how the arrangements for cooperation between the CMA and the sector regulators had operated during the past year. The Board welcomed the draft report and made a few suggestions to improve its drafting.

¹ Jill May recused herself from this item.

Organisational Management

9 Political landscape

(Erik Wilson, Mark Dungworth, Simon Jolley, Paul Latham)

The team introduced the paper, setting out issues to consider and the CMA's political engagement strategy.

10 Annual Plan 2015/16

(Erik Wilson, Mark Dungworth, Simon Jolley, Paul Latham)

The team presented a revised draft of the Annual Plan 2015/16, reflecting consultation responses received.

The Board welcome the revised draft Plan, which it considered to be well-written. It was content that the points raised during the consultation had been addressed. It made a few suggestions to improve the drafting of the Plan.

11 Staff Survey Results Corporate Action Plan and Even Better

(Erik Wilson, Carmel Flatley, Jeanette Forder, Gulzar Gill, Freya Guinness)

The team introduced the papers, setting out the approach taken to action planning on the back of the staff survey undertaken in October, as well as an update on the Even Better project and plans for the next phase of organisational transformation. A Corporate Action Plan was in the process of being developed to address the key issues arising from the staff survey results, which would be shared with staff for consultation at end-March, with an accompanying narrative of progress and plans. In parallel, more focussed local action plans were being developed at Director level. The HR team and Organisation Transformation team would work together to deliver the Corporate Action Plan and would provide regular updates to the organisation on delivery.

12 Minutes of Committees

The Board noted the minutes of the Executive Committee and Case and Policy Committee meetings held since its last meeting.

13 Q3 expenses: Board and Panel members

The Board approved the Q3 expenses for publication.

AOB

For information papers

The Board noted the papers provided to it for information.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

A Non-Executive Director only session, with the Chair, was held following this meeting, to discuss how the Board was operating. The CEO joined the second part of this session.