

Attendees

Committee

Anthony Browne, **Chair**

Committee Members

Alex Ehmann

Jonathan Cave

Martin Traynor (Teleconference)

Sarah Veale

Ken Warwick

Apologies

Jeremy Mayhew

RPC Secretariat

Hiroko Plant, Head of Secretariat (HoS)

Deputy Head of Secretariat (DHoS)

Better Regulation Executive (BRE) officials

Carl Creswell

Rachel Egan

A. Minutes of last meeting and Matters arising

Minutes of February Committee meeting

1. The minutes of the 5th February meeting were **agreed** with a minor typographical correction. The Committee were concerned that the large number of redactions might make the published minutes difficult to read. [**Action:** Secretariat to check that the redacted minutes are appropriately legible before publishing- **Action completed**]

Matters arising

2. Action points – Secretariat reported on progress against the actions from the last meeting. Action 1 to circulate a revised risk register was completed. Actions 2 & 13 to 15 were ongoing or work in progress. Actions 3-12 were discussed in the meeting.
3. Register of declaration of interest and potential conflicts – No new conflicts of interest were declared

B. Updates

Notes of Chair's Activities since the previous meeting

4. The Chair reported on his activities and meetings since the 5 February committee meeting. He had the following meetings:
 - The Director General of the European Parliamentary Research Service, Anthony Teasdale, on 20 February. The Chair was supported by a member of the secretariat. The purpose of the meeting was to share best practice and to exchange views with regard to regulatory activity.
 - The General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, Frances O'Grady and Senior Policy Officer, Hugh Robertson on 26 February. The Chair was accompanied by a member of the Secretariat. The Chair reported that he provided an update on the developments taking place in the RPC such as the *de-minimis* and the announcement of the IVB. The Secretary General asked whether the RPC could provide a guide to the third sector about the way the RPC works and what support it could provide. He agreed that this would be done once the

current changes with regard to the Committee's remit and processes had taken place
(Action: DHoS, RPC to develop third sector guide once the BIT and the processes have been finalised Target date End May).

- The Secretary of State for Business, Greg Clark on 5 March. The meeting was also attended by the Minister for Better Regulation, Lord Henley, Director General for Market Frameworks, Jaee Samant, the SpAD, Private Secretary and from the Secretariat, the HoS and a member of her team. At the RPC meeting, the Chair and the Director of BRE gave an update on the progress RPC and BRE were making.
- The BEIS Board meeting on 12 March. The Chair and the BRE Director had attended the BEIS Board meeting. The Chair said that the Board had had an interesting discussion on innovation and regulation. He said that he had set out the history of reductions in regulation over the last few Parliaments and many of which were intentionally redistributive in nature rather than classical regulation.
- The BRE director had made a presentation on US regulation to the Board, following his recent visit. The US have a one-in, two-out target, defined by the number of regulations rather than by economic impact. There are also targets around burden reduction in economic impact terms for government departments – which amount to at least a net neutral or one in, one out target. Any cost above \$100 Million and all benefits are in scope of the on-in, two-out target. The Director concluded by giving examples of the US interest in the regulation of new technology and the application of artificial intelligence to analyse patterns in regulations.
- Lunch with Baroness Andrews on 5 March. This was an introductory meeting. They talked about the role of the RPC and better regulation.
- CBI Chief Economist, Rain Newton-Smith and Head of Economic Policy, Annie Gascoyne on 15 March. This was an introductory meeting. The CBI asked how they could input into the RPC's scrutiny process. The Chair said that he had asked the Secretariat to work up approaches for drawing in views from stakeholders, perhaps building on MT's experiences on the Business Reference Panel.

Appointments of committee members

5. BRE reported that - the appointments process was proceeding, but appointments could not yet be announced.

C. BRE Policy Update

RPC Remit

6. BRE (RE) explained to the committee that the Ministerial RPC Remit will be given to the RPC once the BIT targets have been agreed and the confirmation of the IVB has been announced. The Chair agreed that this was a sensible approach, though he remained concerned about the long delay before the Committee could have a clear positive remit.

D. Post-Implementation Reviews

7. RPC (KR) set out options to encourage a greater proportion and better quality PIRs to be sent to the RPC. She set out the options which she asked the committee to consider.

D. Upstream Engagement

8. RPC (RG) presented the paper on upstream engagement which is about the approach to dealing with consultation stage IA. It is felt by the RPC that the consultation stage is just as important as the final stage if not more important and advice at consultation stage is most likely to have an impact on the development the analysis and policy.

E. Governance, separation and ways of working

9. BRE and the Secretariat presented a joint paper on ways of working. The committee agreed that it was a very considerable improvement over the draft presented at the previous meeting and that it gave a clearer balance between the two parties. There were some elements of the approach that still needed to be resolved – in particular around support to the Committee and handling of sensitive cases – and these would be reconsidered in the light of the Committee's remit, when devised.
10. The committee commented that the most important issue was maintaining the operational independence of the RPC.
11. Some members suggested drafting changes; it was agreed that the document be accepted subject to those changes. **Action:** The committee were asked to provide comments by the end of the week to HoS to collate and forward to BRE

F. Any other Business and Date of next Meeting

12. There was no further business considered.
13. The next meeting will to take place on 16th April 2018 in the BEIS conference Centre, 1 Victoria St.