

## **Met Office Board**

### **Summary**

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Held virtually and in person Exeter HQ, Met Office**

- Rob Woodward (Chair) welcomed attendees and confirmed the meeting was quorate. Rob Woodward expressed his heartfelt thanks to Hunada Nours who was stepping down as ARAC chair after a six year tenure.
- Minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- Penny Endersby (Chief Executive) presented her report to the Board, noting:
  - Positive engagement with several areas of the new government, strong signals on engagement with expertise and collaboration with the Civil Service.
  - A meeting had taken place to discuss climate security ahead of the spending round.
  - WOW verification (using crowd-sourced data) is now live, providing a better understanding of the performance of 'IMPROVER' temperature forecasts. Early indications show the improvement is substantial
  - The Corporate strategy update is gaining pace. The strategic insights team are assisting in gathering stakeholder insights. Non-Executive Directors will be contacted to gain their individual views.
- Adam Jackson (DSIT representative) reported that the new government so far had been quite internally focused but were now reaching out more extensively to stakeholders. The Spending Review Phase 1 (2025/26 budgets) was underway. The Clean Energy mission is mitigation focused with two key strands, the decarbonisation of the energy grid by 2030 and accelerating the pathway to Net Zero.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) introduced the finance report. This included the first forecast for the year to AP3 (Accounting Period 3). The AP6 one would be the next to be finalised. The FTE (Full Time Equivalent) headcount graph was discussed highlighting issues with resourcing.
- Simon Brown (Services Director) presented the Space Roadmap. This was a follow up to the Met Office Space strategy that was presented to the Board in July 2023. Consideration was given to how best to manage and resource the activity incorporated in the roadmap. There are three key areas, Space based Meteorological Earth Observations, Space related services and Copernicus services.
- Simon Brown (Services Director) presented to the Board the recommendation to approve the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) Sterna Business Case prior to the submission to the DSIT Investment Committee. The business case represented a £124.3 million investment over the period 2025 -2042. The UK is a signatory to the EUMETSAT convention which requires it to operate a polar orbiting satellite capacity which EPS-Sterna will be part of. The Board were happy to approve this. A final decision on the business case is expected by DSIT in May 2025.
- Steve Calder (Director of Government and Industry Relations) presented the Weather and Climate Science to Services Programme (WCSSP) business case for approval by the Board. This has been delivered by the Met Office since 2014 and is made of up of five partnership projects, Brazil, India, China, South Africa and DSE Asia. A further presentation will be given to the Board on the work within the programme. The business case was approved.
- Adam Scaife (Principal Fellow and Head of Long Range Forecasting) presented a NWP (Numerical Weather Prediction) update. This was an overview of Met Office long range seasonal forecasting and operations, including a summary of the modelling system used to produce forecasts and how it continues to demonstrate world leading prediction skills. Research highlights continue to come from this area and recent examples have been published in the leading journal Science.
- Chris Walsh (Head of Warnings and Guidance) reported on the summer seasonal weather update. The 'IMPROVER' Forecast Accuracy Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is on track, with IMPROVER temperature forecasts significantly outperforming the old post processing system during the hot spell at the end of July. Summer 2024 has seen a lower than average amount of National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS) warnings issued due to very few significant weather events during the summer. The most prominent was Storm Lillian - the twelfth named storm of the season.

- Jason Lowe (Principal Fellow Applied and Climate Science) and Melissa Welsh (Head of Government Business) gave a presentation on Climate Services. This revisited a Board presentation in March. Scalable climate services are intended to bridge the gap between climate science and data science. It should provide end users and beneficiaries with enhanced social and economic benefits with a central estimate of £12bn of benefits over the next decade. External papers have been published by Climate Services and delivery is currently being achieved by cross office teams with internal support.
- An update was given on the recruitment of the MOSAC (Met Office Science Advisory Committee) Chair and the new process around it.