

MINUTES
PWSCG (48) Meeting
10:00 – 1600 Wednesday 29th January 2020
The Abbey Centre, 34 Great Smith St, SW1P 3BU

Attendees

Duncan Potts (DP)	PWSCG Chair
Denise Harker (DH)	Independent Member
Tracy Goode (TG)	Welsh Government
Paul Furlong (PF)	Highways Agency
Clare Dinnis (CD)	Environment Agency
Tammy Newey (TN)	MCGA
Colin Hord (CH)	CAA
Nathan Travis (NT)	NFCC
Jonathan McKee (JM)	Northern Ireland Office
Sarah Davies (SD)	PWSCG Secretariat (BEIS)
Chris Money (CM)	MoD
Emer O'Connell (EO)	Public Health England
James Partington (JP)	BEIS
Derrick Ryall (DR)	Met Office
Richard Orrell (RO)	Met Office
Will Lang (WL)	Met Office
Mike Gray (MG)	Met Office
Lisa Martin (LM)	Met Office

Apologies
William Hall
Ian Hault

Actions

	Owner	Action	Date
1.	Secretariat	Actions from the last meeting to be sent round by correspondence	By 14 Feb
2.	Duncan Potts	Look into how MO funding flows and how it works with what it is contracted to deliver.	By 29 th April
3.	Sarah Davies	SD to work with Met Office to arrange a PWS teach in at the next meeting	By 29 th April
4.	Secretariat	Ensure paperwork and slides are issued to members at least a week before the meetings	ongoing
5.	Secretariat	Obtain soft copy of Met Observer and circulate to group	By 14 th Feb
6.	Will Lang	Report back on the CCCCC at the next meeting	By April 29 th
7.	Will Lang	Share the list of invitees to workshops (i) with the Environment Agency to review and for possible input and (ii) with PWSCG for approval.	When available
8.	Mike Gray	Update PWSCG ahead of the next meeting on the stability of PS43	By end March
9.	Derrick Ryall	DR to make one page guide and comms on new HPC available to PWSCG members	ASAP
10.	Secretariat	Secretariat to send out CSA draft in February.	14 th Feb
11.	PWSCG members	PWSCG members to comment on draft CSA by end February.	29 th Feb
12.	Secretariat	All members to be sent new MO strategy.	14 th Feb

1. Welcome & Introductions

DP opened the meeting by introducing himself as the newly appointed PWSCG Chair. Since his appointment he has visited the Met Office (MO), BEIS and met most of the PWSG in person, among other introductory meetings. Attendees introduced themselves to the group. Paul Riches was absent due to illness

Open session including the Met Office

Following the in-camera session, MO attendees rejoined the group.

4.1 Minutes and actions from last meeting

The minutes were agreed, and actions will be circulated after the meeting

4.2 BEIS update

JP gave a BEIS update

- Following the General Election there have been no suggestions about MOG changes or reshuffles to date.
- Positive conversations taking place about the supercomputer; we are in a strong position to say positive things about it. The MO have done a good job of making a case for its need; however, there are some sensitivities around announcing it.
- R&D uplift – positive signs from No. 10, with some interesting conversations taking place.
- Collaboration with Europe - how the UK might engage in big collaborative programmes with Europe being discussed.
- This week an announcement made about the talent visa and changes to the tiers.
- Announcement of a £300m fund over 5 years to fund mathematical science research.
- UK R&D Place Strategy – to be announced in the summer. Need to consider how we can play the MO into those narratives around place.
- ECMWF – some interest in what's happening there
- Public appointments – MO have some coming up, always a lot of political interest.

5 FY 19/20 Performance

WL, Head of Civil Contingencies Service, reported on the period October 2019 to end of January 2020

Generally, it has been a quiet winter. There were some rainfall anomalies. A fair number of Yellow but few Amber and no Red warnings.

WL explained the subjective verification Process, and went through the warnings over the past 3 months

October – false alarm for SE England

November – South Yorkshire floods – a well forecast event, that focussed on where the impacts would be.

However, the short notice amber warning was deemed poor guidance by the PWSCG secretariat during the subjective verification process. A discussion was then had about how useful are short notice ambers, and what would be the strategy for these sorts of warnings with the improvements in nowcasting.

January – Storm Brendan – JM commented that getting the message out was good. These events often generate a lot of public feedback. There was discussion about the different

colours of warning across the island of Ireland due to different warning systems north and south of the border.

NSWWS score of 78% was the last the MO reported. The average is over a three-year period. Due to the misses just discussed the average dropped to 74% (because of the 36-month rolling-mean) which is below the 75% end of year target. If there are no more Amber or Red warnings for the rest of the year, scores will rise. This should not drive forecaster behaviours. Outlook for the coming weeks – a mobile pattern.

5.2 Met Office update on public services

LM – performance over the October-December 2019 quarter and the Public Perception Survey.

First time climate change was included in the perception survey. MO sited as second best place to use for climate change information.

LM described the weather ready campaign, getting advice messages out through partners. Discussion was had around Met Office providing more advice as part of the warning service working with partners.

Enthusiast 2.1 with mapping capability will launch in March, beta version will launch in February. For the enthusiast who has some understanding of weather and meteorology, and who may be impacted by weather.

Public accuracy perception is affected by the way information is presented and the frequency. There is a need to educate the public on the actual accuracy of forecasts for them to judge MO accuracy. MO should make the public more aware of how accurate their forecasts are.

Accuracy perception – what are we asking about when we ask the question about accuracy?

Weather for schools has launched with curriculum linked teacher lesson plans – currently small funding by PWS, could this be linked more with dfe?

Website 2.2 has launched in the past few months.

Climate change resources – launching in February.

5.3 Met Office update in warnings and civil contingencies

LRF's have indicated an increased appetite for climate change information and interpretation of the UKCP18 data set. The CC advisors are designing a package of training materials (Civil Contingencies Climate Change Communication Committee (CCCCC)). It is important these materials are joined up with other departments (eg EA/PHE/DA's).

ACTION: WL to report back on the CCCCC at the next meeting

Hazard Damage demo (redesigned for mobiles) – launched November 2019.

Discussion around the future of the different services (HM/enthusiast/Resilience Direct) and need for thought around the future of these different services

Six Responder workshops in the Summer to update users on:

- What's going on with nowcasting and heat, and other developments
- Review of longer term direction of the NSWWS service including information on actions, changes in behaviour etc
- Review of how warnings are used now the impact based warnings are 10 years old

ACTION – Met Office to share the list of invitees to workshops (i) with the Environment Agency to review and for possible input and (ii) with PWSCG for approval.

5.4 Met Office update on Data, National Capability and International Commitments

UK's future with Copernicus could have impacts on PWS in future

PWSCG were asked whether they were content to sign-off PS43

DP commented that it doesn't appear that PS43 is in a steady state and the data used in the presentation was only over the period of a few days; a longer period would provide a better basis for a decision.

MG responded that the root cause of the (failures) issue was under investigation and they are therefore satisfied that matters are under control. They have the ability to roll-back the system if system failures continue.

Another five weeks of data would be useful to evidence stability.

The group agreed that they would defer sign-off pending confirmation that the root cause had been identified.

DECISION: PWCSG will need to see five more weeks of stable data before they will sign off PS43

ACTION: MG to update PWSCG ahead of the next meeting on the stability of PS43

RO - Data Milestones MS4.1 and MS6.4

Is the PWSCG content to approve and endorse roadmap MS6.4? Currently in tranche 2 (from now to June 2020)

DECISION: PWSCG approves roadmap for MS6.4

5.5 Met Office update on next supercomputer

Derrick Ryall gave an update on the bid for supercomputing 2020+

Current HPC end of life September 2022 – tight timescales to announce, procure and develop new supercomputer.

Already a two-week delay due to Government announcements.

Implications for PWS: improved forecast and warning accuracy, driver for technology and infrastructure benefits, drive lifecycle management of PWS services and products to exploit new models.

Funding for this is not through PWS

Change management and aligning will be challenging

One page guide and comms will be made available to PWSCG members

ACTION: DR to make one page guide and comms on new HPC available to PWSCG members

6 Future plans

6.1 Next CSA

The CSA is part business plan part customer agreement. This is an opportunity to refocus, but not for next year.

MG – Paul Riches note is self-explanatory, not much more to add.

Internally, the MO will need to go through their own approval process for formal sign-off as well. That may impact the timeline, but the sign-off date is achievable, i.e. April 2020.

Secretariat to send draft 1 page CSA draft for comment by the end of February

This will be developed during March for sign off at April's PWSCG

ACTION – Secretariat to send out CSA draft in February.

ACTION – PWSCG members to comment on draft CSA by end February.

6.2 Met Office Strategic Actions

AK outlined the Met Office Strategic Actions .

A request was made by DP for a copy of the Met Office strategy to be sent to all members

ACTION – all members to be sent new MO strategy.

AOB

CH leaving the CAA so this will be his last PWSCG meeting. The Chair thanked him for his valuable contribution to the group.

Future PWSCG Meeting dates:

- **Wednesday 29th April 2020**
- **Wednesday 14th October 2020**