

Report to the PWSCG of the 10th Meeting of the PWS Assurance Group

The meeting took place at the Met Office, Exeter, on 15th March 2018. PAG members present were Wyn Williams, Denise Harker, Colin Hord and Sarah Jackson.

The PAG:

- agreed that the National Capability and International Commitments Themes had been delivered;
- were pleased to hear that a thorough investigation of events of 23 Jan (the “fire”) was underway and asked to see a copy of the report being prepared for the May meeting of the Met Office Board;
- were encouraged that lessons had been learnt and actions taken following capacity issues on 10th December. They were pleased that appropriate actions could be taken in late Feb/ early March to maintain services for the public when they were most needed;
- were concerned about the future affordability of the Observations Programme and asked that the Obs Strategy (including requirements) be reviewed. They asked that the revised Obs Strategy together with work to assess the appropriate balance of funding across the National Capability theme be presented to a future PAG;
- Offered their support to Nick Jobling in his role as interim Chief Exec;
- Remain extremely concerned about the tight timescales associated with T&E and particularly the People & Process strand, noting that the staff reductions need to be implemented by FY19/20;
- Asked for a new risk to be added to the risk register reflecting the potential loss of international influence as a consequence of Rob Varley’s departure.

Colin Hord expressed thanks to the Met Office on behalf of the CAA for the advice that had been provided ahead of and during the snow. In particular he thanked the embedded forecasters based at Heathrow and NATS.