



Met Office Board

Summary

29 June 2010

- The minutes of meeting held on 1 June 2010 were agreed to be an accurate record. Highlighted actions were reviewed and closed.
- Rob Varley reported that the forecasting accuracy KPT was currently on track, noting that planned model improvements should deliver further improvement.
- John Hirst delivered his Chief Executive report, updating the Board on the Volcanic Ash issues. JH informed the Board that discussions regarding cost recovery were ongoing. He also informed the Board that operational developments and international discussion were being carried out to improve resilience the range of service. An MOU had been signed between the Met Office, NERC, IMO and BGS for joint working on the science. The Board were informed a tender had been issued for the provision of a civil contingency research plane.
- The Board discussed the risk of further eruptions and how these might be handled by the government.
- JH reported on a number of recent international meetings he had attended. He reported progress with the MTG programme.
- JH informed the Board about the ECMWF accounts and budget discussions. JH reported he had stressed that the ECMWF budget proposals were unacceptable and ECMWF had undertaken to consider further.
- The Board noted a summary of the John Beddington Committee meeting held on 17 June, discussing the future of the Met Office Hadley Centre. JH informed the Board that the outcomes from the meeting currently looked hopeful.
- The Board discussed and endorsed the requirement for the role of PWSCG chair.
- The Board also heard about the recent flooding in France and the quality of the Met Office forecasts.
- Positive feedback was received, from a presentation given by the Met Office's ThinkUp team at a recent innovation conference.



- The Board discussed issues emerging from the new Coalition Government. Phil Evans updated the Board on Parliamentary engagement, noting that JH had written to the Met Office's new owning Minister and invited him to visit Exeter. He reported there was also interest for ministerial visits from DECC and Defra.
- Nick Jobling delivered the AP02 finance report, noting that the figures did not currently take account of the recently introduced spending controls, which would have some impact.
- The Plans and Performance Manager updated the Board on the Corporate Risk matrix, noting the addition of volcanic ash related issues, as requested by the Audit committee. It was reported that corporate risk management had been given full assurance following a recent internal audit.
- Spending Controls and Implications were discussed and Nick Jobling updated the Board with the latest position, and the areas where further clarity was being sought.
- The Met Office Defence Programme Manager updated the Board on developments within the Defence area. The Board heard that the customer was reviewing services against the SDSR framework. The Board heard the work the Met Office was doing to assist with this and also of a planned visit to the Met Office from ACDS (IC).
- Mike Goodfellow reported he had a detailed discussion with the Met Office Health, Safety, Security and Environment Manager. It was confirmed that the principle of accountability in the line was properly understood.
- The next meeting was noted to be in Taunton, starting at 1800 on the 26 July and continuing the following day. The Board also agreed to start the September meeting at 0830, and to include a review of the Board.
- **Close of Meeting**