

Met Office Board

Summary

27 May 2017

- Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2017 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- The Board welcomed Catherine Quinn as a new Non-Executive member.
- Rob Varley (Chief Executive) presented his report and the Board noted a number of points, including an outstanding year's corporate performance in FY2016/17 as evidenced by the year's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); the appointment of Prof Simon Vosper as Director of Meteorological Science; work towards developing the business case for the next Met Office supercomputer; new Met Office apprenticeships in technology; agreement on a contractual issue with the West of Scotland Local Authority Weather Service; a Brilliant Civil Service award for the Met Office Content team and a Real IT award for the Informatics Lab; and election of Met Office scientist Prof Jonathan Gregory as a fellow of the Royal Society.
- The Board noted that Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) would take over from Steve Noyes as Deputy Chief Executive and Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) Portfolio lead on Steve's retirement in July 2017.
- The Board discussed the future accommodation of the ECMWF, including the location of a new data centre and stressed the importance placed on retaining the Centre within the UK.
- The Board discussed the Met Office's influence as a leader in the international meteorological community.
- The Board noted that the independent Public Weather Service Customer Group (PWSCG) had agreed that the Met Office had delivered the PWSCG Customer Supplier Agreement for the FY2016/17.
- The Board noted the appointment of the first female Met Office Chief Meteorologist, Laura Paterson.
- Nick Jobling presented the Finance report and the Board noted a number of points, including a good financial audit of the end-of-year figures; strong revenue from services to Government; improved performance by the Business Group in the second half of the FY2016/17; an agreed level of dividend with BEIS; and a voluntary exit scheme nearing completion.
- The Board discussed and noted the annual Health and Safety report and emphasised the importance of staff training, health and well-being.
- The Board discussed the Annual Report and Accounts and approved the accounts for FY2016/17.
- Nick Jobling presented the proposed KPIs for FY2017/18 and the Board discussed and approved these.
- Steve Noyes and Ann Conway-Hughes (T&E Portfolio Director) gave an update on the T&E Portfolio, and the Board noted a number of points, including performance against the plan, Portfolio finances, delivery timelines, communications, and assurance activities, including an independent assurance audit by PwC.
- Steve Noyes presented an update on the Security and Resilience (sub-)board of the Executive and the Board discussed its structure and plans, including physical, information and cyber security, business continuity and resilience, and ISO certification.
- The Board reviewed and discussed the corporate risks.
- Stephen Belcher (Chief Scientist) presented the report of the independent Met Office Science Advisory Committee (MOSAC), on behalf of the MOSAC Chairman, and the Board noted a number of points, including a very positive report; advances in weather & climate science and services; exascale computing and big data technology; world-leading work of the Met Office Hadley Centre; and prediction of environmental risks.
- The Board discussed the report of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.
- Next meeting to be held on 25 July 2017.