



Met Office Board

Summary

21 May 2015

- The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2015 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- The Board briefly discussed advertising on the Met Office website and noted that anything considered inappropriate would not appear.
- The Board discussed the conclusions of a Board Effectiveness Review, agreeing that it was an appropriate and efficient mechanism, and a number of actions would be taken forward. These actions related to agenda items, effective reporting of risk, and maximising engagement between Board and Executive.
- Rob Varley (Chief Executive) delivered his report to the Board and the Board noted a number of points, including Rob Varley's election to Chairmanship of the organisation for cooperation between European Meteorological Services (EUMETNET), Professor Dame Julia Slingo's (Chief Scientist) nomination to Fellow of the Royal Society, and the forthcoming 25th anniversary of the Met Office Hadley Centre.
- Rob Varley's report also covered the latest forecast verification scores and finance report. The Board noted the Public Weather Service (PWS) Annual Report, provided by the independent PWS Customer Group.
- The Board discussed the outcome of the recent General Election, the need to brief new Ministers and likely path to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and its potential impacts on funding.
- Andrew McKean (Exec Head of Finance) and Steven Green (Head of Internal Audit) introduced the Annual Report and Accounts, which were in the process of being audited.
- The Board discussed, with Andy Cooper (Head of Plans and Performance), the BPMs and targets for the 2015-16 financial year, and the Board approved these.
- Sophie Purdey (Head of Government Services), Claire Craig (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills – BIS and Government Office for Science), Elizabeth Perelman (BIS) and Katrina Lidbetter (BIS) joined the meeting to discuss the outcomes of the independent Met Office General Review.
- The Board noted that the General Review was an exercise to create an evidence base with which to inform future decisions post-election/during the CSR, and that the estimated value of the Met Office to the UK over the next ten years of around £30bn, which equates to a benefit:cost ratio of around 14:1.
- Arwel Griffiths (Business Development Director) and Dave Prebble (Technology Lead) presented outcomes of a Commercial Review of the Met Office, outlining options for structuring future business activities.
- The Board discussed a possible joint business venture in the oil and gas sector with Patrick Sachon (Head Oil and Gas and Renewables Business).
- Claire Goldstraw (BBC Strategic Relationship Director) gave an overview of the BBC weather services bid. The Board noted the strong commercial competition and approved the ongoing process.
- Paul Rew (NED) gave a brief overview of the Audit Committee report and latest items in the Risk Register.
- Next meeting to be held on 22 July.