



Met Office Board Summary

30 September 2015

- The minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2015 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- Rob Varley (Chief Executive) delivered his report to the Board and the Board noted a number of points, including the increasing challenges owing to staff pay restraint and its effects on delivery of corporate targets.
- The Board discussed the ongoing submissions to government departments and negotiations as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and the Met Office's developing plans for a Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) programme as part of the response to potential government spending cuts.
- The Board noted that meetings of the Inter-Departmental Met Office Strategy Group (IMOSG), which is examining cross-government impacts of individual departmental spending cuts, continue constructively.
- The Board discussed leadership, structure and planning of the T&E programme aimed at delivering efficiencies, whilst minimising effects of spending reductions on service delivery.
- Rob Varley informed the Board that the Met Office is planning to submit an Expression of Interest to host the next European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) high-performance computer (HPC).
- The Board discussed the Met Office's down-selection from the BBC weather services tender process, including its implications on effective communication with the public at times of severe weather, and concerns amongst stakeholders.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Finance Officer) presented the finance report.
- Phil Evans (Government Services Director), Sophie Purdey (Head of Government Services) and Kate Sargant (Government Services Project Manager) introduced the National Statement on Weather and Climate Services: an outcome of the independent Met Office General Review, aiming to set out agreed cross-governmental priorities for Met Office weather and climate services.
- The Board discussed the importance of the National Statement on Weather and Climate Services and discussed the Met Office's public task and priorities.
- Dame Julia Slingo (Chief Scientist) presented the finalised Met Office Science Strategy.
- Ian Cameron (Exec Head of Aviation Business) gave a summary of some discussions over the future of services to Heathrow Airport.
- Bruce Truscott (Head of International Relations) presented an update on Met Office International strategy.
- Dee Cotgrove (Exec Head of Communications) and Owen Tribe (Head of Digital and Global Media) presented the Met Office Communications Strategy.
- Next meeting to be held on 1 December.