

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

Tuesday 12 April 2016
Boardroom, London

Present

UK Statistics Authority

Sir Andrew Dilnot (Chair)
Professor Sir Adrian Smith (Deputy Chair)
Mr Jonathan Athow (via telephone)
Dame Colette Bowe (until item 5)
Dame Moira Gibb (via telephone)
Professor David Hand
Professor Jonathan Haskel
Mr Ed Humpherson
Dr David Levy (via telephone)
Mr John Pullinger
Mr Glen Watson

Also in attendance

Mr Robert Bumpstead
Mr Joe Cuddeford
Mr Paul Layland (from item 5)
Ms Heather Savory (via telephone)
Mr Glen Watson
Mr Ben Whitestone (from item 5)

Apologies

None

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

3. Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 February 2016 were agreed.

3.2 The Chair reported on the topics discussed at the meeting of the non-executive directors that had taken place prior to the start of the Board meeting. The non-executives had discussed the Bean review and appointments to the Board.

4. Independent review of economic statistics

4.1 The Chair led a discussion about the Bean review, which had published its final report in March. The following comments were made in the discussion.

- i. The report was to be welcomed. It drew attention to many important issues which the Board had been concerned about and provided useful analysis of these issues. The report was critical of the organisation in a number of respects, and it was important to rise to the challenges that the Bean review had described.
- ii. The basis of the Authority's governance model, including the regulatory function, had been set up by Parliament via the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*. But it was important that this statutory model was supported by strong structures and practices.
- iii. One possible way to address the review's findings about stakeholder engagement might be to set up two groups for economic statistics, one as a technical expert group and another as a high level stakeholder group. These groups would need to be designed carefully to operate in the most helpful way.
- iv. The Bean review had given the organisation added impetus to deliver its strategic goals. This was a golden opportunity.
- v. As well as the focus on economic statistics and data capability, the Bean review could be a catalyst for the whole organisation to change in all areas. It would be necessary to invoke a complete change in culture. The curiosity initiative had made a good start on this.

4.2 The meeting heard that a review of methodology across the organisation had been launched, led by Professor Jonathan Haskel. Plans were being drawn up for the new Data Science Campus, which would include changing the look and feel of the Newport site. Plans were also shaping up for the Centre for Excellence for Economic Statistics. It was agreed that there should be a systematic strategy to seek external input into these and other developments.

4.3 The Board would discuss these issues again at its next meeting.

5. Authority Business Plan and Budget

5.1 Mr Whitestone introduced a revised Business Plan which had been updated in light of the Bean Review. Mr Layland set out an updated Budget.

5.2 The Board considered the plan and the budget and a number of suggestions were made to enhance clarity and ensure strategic alignment. Subject to consideration of these suggestions, the plan and budget were approved.

6. Regulation

- 6.1 Mr Humpherson set out his initial thinking about how to take forward the recommendations from the Bean review that related to regulation. The review had highlighted that the regulatory function was not well understood by those outside of the statistical service. This would be an area for focus in the coming months. The core work of assessment against the Code of Practice had evolved in recent years, but the Bean review suggested it should focus further on work which took a systemic perspective. It was clear that a more distinct voice and identity should be developed for the regulatory function.
- 6.2 It was noted that developing the regulatory function towards the vision set out in the Bean review had significant capability implications. A greater policy and strategic focus would be required.
- 6.3 The binary distinction between National Statistics and other information should be retained but ways of communicating a more complex, nuanced narrative should be developed.
- 6.4 The Board agreed that an enhanced regulatory function should be launched in the autumn, following further reflection and planning over the summer.

7. Any other business

There was no other business. The Authority Board would meet next on Friday 29 April 2016 at 10:00 in London.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY
Special Meeting of the Authority Board
Agenda

Tuesday 12 April 2016
Boardroom, Drummond Gate, 11:00 – 12:30

Chair: Sir Andrew Dilnot
Apologies: None

11:00 to 11:15 – Non-executive session

1	11:15	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declarations of interest 	Meeting of 25-02-16
2	11.20	Independent review of economic statistics	Discussion Sir Andrew Dilnot
3	11:50	Authority business plan and budget	SA(16)12 Mr Paul Layland and Mr Ben Whitestone
4	12.10	Regulation	Discussion Mr Ed Humpherson
5	12.25	Any other business	

Next meeting: 29 April 2016, 10:00 to 15:30, Drummond Gate

SA(16)12 – Authority business plan and budget

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(16)12

Authority business plan and budget

The UK Statistics Authority business plan and Annual Report and Accounts have been published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see the business plan go to:

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/strategy-and-business-plan/>

To view the Annual Report and Accounts go to:

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publications-list/?keyword=&type=annual-report-accounts>