



Minutes

Extraordinary Meeting of the Board
 Wednesday 12th June 2024 9am
 MS Teams

Members

Malcolm Beatty OBE	Board Member
Richard Greenhous	Chief of Staff
Julie Hill MBE	Board Member
Professor Dan Laffoley	Board Member
Dr Paul Leinster CBE	Board Member
Professor Richard Macrory CBE	Board Member
Natalie Prosser	Chief Executive
Dame Glenys Stacey	Chair

OEP Attendees

Peter Ashford	General Counsel
Nicola Edwards	Head of Intelligence (item 24.55)
Joe Hayden	Head of Complaints, Investigation and Enforcement (item 24.54)
Angel Lai	Head of Finance and Corporate Services
Andy Lester	Head of Business Strategy and Planning
REDACTED	Senior Investigations Officer (item 24.54)
Professor Robbie McDonald	Chief Insights Officer
Craig McGuicken	Northern Ireland Lead
REDACTED	Board Secretary and Private Office Manager
REDACTED	Principal Lawyer (item 24.54)
Ellie Strike	Head of Monitoring Environmental Governance (item 24.55)

24.53 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Dame Glenys Stacey.

There were no new declarations of interest.

**24.54 Defra's emergency authorisation of neonicotinoids**

This section has been redacted as it relates to information recorded for the purposes of OEP's functions relating to investigations and enforcement.

24.55 General Election

The Board discussed the impact of the General Election on our work plans, the potential impact of a change of government on environmental protection and improvement and provided feedback to the Executive to inform the readiness activities being undertaken.

The Board AGREED the strategic intent and theory of change set out.

The Board suggested improvements that can be made to the headline story for it to be clearer, more concise and more impactful. The Board judged the tone of the interactions with any change of government to be particularly important. This included ensuring that we remain independent, and evidence-led, and, for example, do not allow our assessment of the state of the environment or progress to be seen to be critical of any previous government. We will wish to be recognised as helpful to government in achieving their aims, and to recognise their priorities.

In planning for engagement, the Board considered the need for interactions with the whole of government including Number 10 and the wider Cabinet. It also argued that the benefits of environmental protection and improvement should be made clear.

The Board discussed areas of the Labour Party manifesto and campaign messages most relevant to our role. This included its statements on the environment and nature, and its commitments in areas such as housing and green energy. It recognised the importance of the manifesto, and the priorities of the Secretary of State, as critical.

The Board noted the need to focus our activity to be able to have a meaningful impact. It commented on those areas priorities to develop in preparation for early engagement opportunities.

24.56 AOB

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 10:25