



Minutes

Extraordinary Meeting of the Board
 Wednesday 27 November 2024 9am
 MS Teams

Members

Malcolm Beatty OBE	Board Member
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
Helen Venn	Chief Regulatory Officer

OEP Attendees

Peter Ashford	General Counsel
REDACTED	Finance Manager (item 24.112)
Mike Fox	Head of Communications and Strategic Relations
REDACTED	Environmental Analysis (item 24.110)
Richard Greenhous	Chief of Staff
Joe Hayden	Head of Complaints, Investigation and Enforcement (item 24.111)
Angel Lai	Head of Finance and Corporate Services
Dr Cathy Maguire	Head of Assessments (item 24.110)
REDACTED	Senior Investigations Officer (item 24.111)
Professor Robbie McDonald	Chief Insights Officer
REDACTED	Environmental Analysis (item 24.110)
REDACTED	Board Secretary and Private Office Manager
REDACTED	Senior Analyst (item 24.110 and 24.111)
Kate Tandy	Head of Litigation and Casework (item 24.111)
REDACTED	Principal Analyst (item 24.110)

24.109 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

There were no apologies for absence.

Natalie Prosser and Helen Venn declared an interest in item 24.122.

24.110 England EIP progress assessment

The paper and final report were presented to the Board. The Foreword and Executive Summary will be added and the whole report considered for approval in the 11 December Board meeting.

The Board gave feedback on the report. It requested that the progress towards the statutory targets be highlighted, as indicators suggest that most targets are not moving in the right direction. Therefore, attention needs to be drawn to these issues. It is not just a matter of speeding up and scaling up, but also catching up.

The Board considered the wider positioning of the EIP progress report within the rest of the OEP's work and how the report can be influential beyond its publication. An extended engagement approach is being developed and will be considered by the Board. ACTION Head of Communications and Strategic Relations.

The Board considered and agreed the recommendations of the EIP progress report. The Board noted the recommendation on green finance and requested that the team consider this section further.

The Board agreed with the recommendations of the paper to approve the existing content of the report in substantially the form at Annex A to the paper (with only non-material amendments, approval of which is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair). The Board noted that the Foreword and Executive summary would be circulated and considered for approval at the 11 December Board meeting.

24.111 OEP investigation into the emergency authorisations of neonicotinoid pesticide Cruiser SB

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

24.112 Pay remit

The Board was informed that the proposal agreed at the 16 October Extraordinary Board meeting had been voted for under a Trade Union ballot and had received majority agreement.

This section has been redacted as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

The Board agreed with the recommendations of the paper and agreed the Pay Offer for staff at SCS grade and the Pay Offer for staff at Grade 6 and below.

24.113 Any Other Business

The General Counsel confirmed to the Board that the legal team is awaiting information from counsel as to the details of the Supreme Court case - *GC Fry v MHCLG* and whether we should consider intervening in the case. It was confirmed that if we want to consider intervening then an additional extraordinary Board meeting may be required by the end of the year due to the timeline as to when the submissions must be made. It was noted that a briefing will be circulated to the Board regarding the case and potential intervention as soon as possible. ACTION General Counsel.