

Met Office Board

Summary

28 January 2020

Meeting held Permanent Joint HQ, Northwood

- Apologies from Stephen Belcher (Chief Scientist) were noted.
- The Board thanked Phil Evans (COO) for his long and dedicated service to the Met Office and wished him well in his new role.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2019 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.
- Phil Evans presented the interim Health and Safety report, which was in a revised format.
- The Board discussed the update on the risks around 5G interference with the microwave bands used for satellite observations and agreed to monitor the situation.
- Penny Endersby (Chief Executive) presented her report and the Board noted a number of points, including the successful outcome of the submission of the supercomputer business case to the Treasury approval process; the encouraging improvement in the Employee Attitude Survey scores; the success of the interim ISO9001 and 14001 audit prior to the final audit in June; the constructive Met Office Scientific Advisory Committee (MOSAC) meeting; and the ECMWF Council and the focus on its 10-year strategy.
- The Board discussed the progress of the Strategic Actions, noting the work being done to address resourcing challenges.
- Penny Endersby updated the Board on various staffing issues including the process to appoint an interim COO to replace Phil Evans and the early retirement of Kay Eldergill (HR Director),
- Penny Endersby outlined her proposals for organisational redesign, formulated following consideration of the operating model and advice from reference groups. The level of change, potential timescales and consultation process were discussed. The benefits of the new directorate structure were discussed and the positioning of certain key cross-departmental functions.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the Finance Report, including the latest financial position and headcount movements. A further letter from the EU Commission had been received; their intended reclaim for the FP7 Projects was lower than the previous amount for which a provision had been made.
- James Partington (NED, BEIS representative) briefed the Board on activities at BEIS, noting the government strategy to promote scientific R & D in the regions and the 'net zero' strategic work.
- The Board welcomed guests from the MOD, including key contacts at the NCGI and RAF Northolt. The guests outlined the benefits of the strong relationship between the MOD and the Met Office and noted what future requirements might look like. At an operational level the role of an RAF Base Commander was explained as well as the role of JOMOC, jointly staffed by the Royal Navy and the Met Office.
- The Board welcomed Duncan Potts, the new Chair of the Public Weather Service Customer Group (PWSCG). He provided his first impressions of the PWSCG and gave an indication of the areas he would be considering.
- Nick Jobling presented the draft corporate plan for the 5 years commencing from 2020/21, noting the treatment of the supercomputer funding and the spending review. Other key contributions to the financial profile were the satellite programme, headcount trends and pension funding assumptions.
- Ian Cameron (Business Group Director) presented a paper on the aviation market, noting the regulated aviation business is funded by the CAA through the Eurocontrol routing system.
- Ian Cameron presented a paper on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the Met Office's plans to enhance IPR management.

- Nick Jobling presented the final paper in the series on Trading Approaches. The different dimensions of data availability and data services were discussed, in the context of base level public data sets and added value, traded services.
- Rob Woodward (Chair) updated the meeting on the Security Issues Committee on 27 January.
- Next meeting to be held on 25 March 2020.