



Met Office Board

Summary

26 July 2011

- The minutes presented for 27th June 2011 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. Highlighted actions were agreed to be closed.
- John Neilson, DFM at MoD, sent his apologies. It was reported that he would remain a member of the Board, until the 2011/12 Supplementary Estimate had been approved, when the Accounting Officer responsibility for sponsorship of the Met Office at departmental level would transfer from MoD to BIS. It was confirmed that JH remained the Accounting Officer for the Met Office.
- John Hirst, Chief Executive, delivered his report to the Board.
- JH updated the Board on the move to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), noting that overall it had been positive.
- The Board heard that the Permanent Secretary of BIS had called on the day of the transfer and Vince Cable MP had visited in the same week. JH reported that he had met David Willits MP and also had positive meetings with both Adrian Smith, DG Knowledge and Innovation and Stephen Lovegrove, CE of ShEx.
- JH informed the Board that he had briefed the Government's Transparency Board on the Met Office's work and progress.
- JH informed the Board that the Data Policy for PDC consultation document was waiting to be released at the same time as a wider consultation into Open Data Strategy.
- The Board discussed the Terms of Reference and process for the Science and Technology Select Committee Enquiry, which was considered an opportunity to demonstrate the Met Office's world leading science and contribution to safety of life and infrastructure.
- JH and Robert Napier updated the Board on their recent meeting with Chair and CE of CAA.
- The Civil Contingency Aircraft and progress was discussed and the Board noted that it was now undergoing test flights.



- JH updated the Board on the recent visit to Washington, meeting with members of the World Bank, visiting US Geological Society and the success of the Open Platform workshops.
- Chief Financial Officer, Nick Jobling, delivered the Finance Report to the Board.
- The Board noted the Health and Safety quarterly update.
- The Board discussed the Investment approval for MASS storage upgrade in detail. NJ confirmed it was entirely consistent with the corporate plan and essential supporting infrastructure linked with the Phase II supercomputer upgrade. It was noted that David Young, on secondment from IBM, plays no part in these negotiations.
- The Board approved the investment paper as presented.
- Diana Chaloner, Director of Human Resources, presented the Human Resources update paper.
- The Board discussed the pay remit, pay freeze and related impacts; structural changes; leadership and management training and the developing of relationships with other organisations, leading to secondment opportunities.
- Philippa Childs, Prospect Representative, raised the issue of pension reform and the Cabinet Office consultation regarding increasing pension contributions. The Board noted this issue could impact the Met Office.
- Head of Consulting gave an informative presentation to the Board on Competitor Analysis.
- RN noted it was the last meeting for Jim Currie. RN thanked JC on behalf of the Board for all his good work, particularly valuing the international experience and dimension he had been able to bring over the years.
- **Close of Meeting**