

**Council of the Competition Commission**

**Minutes of the 93rd meeting held in Hearing Room 5  
Monday 20 June 2011**

Present:

Council Members

Roger Witcomb (Chairman)  
Laura Carstensen  
Peter Davis  
Grey Denham  
Dame Patricia Hodgson  
Lesley Watkins  
David Saunders

In attendance

Roland Green  
John Kirkpatrick  
Rebecca Lawrence  
Rachel Merelie  
Jonathan Sandler

**1. Minutes from the meeting on 23 May 2011 (Item 1)**

- 1.1. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

**2. Chairman's Report (Item 2)**

- 2.1. The Chairman gave an oral update on recent events.
- 2.2. Since the last meeting, the Chairman had met with Alistair Buchanan, Chief Executive of Ofgem and Peter Vicary-Smith, Chief Executive of Which? magazine. The Chairman attended the European Competition Day in Budapest in May where he met a number of representatives from competition authorities across Europe.

**3. Chief Executive's Report (Item 3)**

- 3.1. The Chief Executive presented his written report to the Council.
- 3.2. The NAO had found the CC's accounts to be of a high standard and that the CC had complied with all requirements. The Audit Committee approved the Annual Accounts at their meeting on 15 June. The Chief Executive thanked the CC's finance team for their excellent work.
- 3.3. There was nothing substantive to report on the budget for the first two months. The CC may require greater budget from BIS in 2011/12 in the event that there was a fall in the income generated from renting out space in Victoria House.
- 3.4. Since the last meeting, David Saunders had met with the Consumer Council of Northern Ireland, John Fingleton, Chief Executive of OFT, David Bennett, Chief Executive of Monitor and Regina Finn, Chief Executive of Ofwat.

- 3.5. David Saunders gave evidence to the BIS Select Committee on 14 June as part of its pre-legislative scrutiny of the Bill designed to establish a Groceries Code Adjudicator following up one of the recommendations of the Groceries Market investigation from 2009.

#### **4. Review of Council risk register (Item 4)**

- 4.1. The updated Council Risk Register was presented for discussion. There was no significant change since the last Council meeting. The risks associated with institutional reform were noted as the highest risks.

#### **5. Institutional reform**

- 5.1. On 13 June, the CC submitted its formal response to the BIS consultation document 'A competition regime for growth', and published it on its website. Council members were thanked for their assistance with the paper.
- 5.2. Throughout the consultation period John Kirkpatrick and David Saunders were in regular contact with Jane Swift, Sarah Chambers and others in BIS, and with colleagues in Treasury and the OFT, on various aspects of the consultation.
- 5.3. John Kirkpatrick gave Council a preliminary overview of some of the other responses to the consultation. Responses to the consultation would be analysed as they became available for emerging risks and areas of common ground.
- 5.4. Edward Davey, Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs, was scheduled to come to the CC on 23 June to meet and discuss reforms with staff and potentially some members. A joint OFT Board and CC Council meeting would take place on 21 July to discuss aspects of the consultation.
- 5.5. The CC would continue to provide support and evidence to BIS officials as they put proposals to Ministers for decisions before the summer recess.

#### **6. Annual Report (text and accounts)**

- 6.1. Council was presented with the final draft of Annual Report for 2010/11. The report had been revised since the last Council in May. Council provided some further minor comments on the layout and text. Council subsequently approved the report. Publication of the Annual Report would be at the start of July.

#### **7. Any other business**

- 7.1. There was no other business.