

minutes

Meeting: Regulatory Board

Location: Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6EZ

Date: 9 February 2016, 13.00 – 16.00

PRESENT:

The Chairman (Antony Townsend), John Cullen, David Lock, Ronnie Patton, David Thomas, Frances Walker, Suzy Walton and Rosalind Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Executive Director – Governance (Peter Large), Director – Regulation (Sundeep Takwani), Head of Adjudication (Adrianna McDonnell, present for item 11 only), Head of Monitoring (Andrew Teague, present for items 1 - 6 only) and Regulation Officer (Catriona Spedding).

APOLOGIES:

No apologies for absence were received.

1. MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Board noted that no potential conflicts of interest had been notified to ACCA following the distribution of the meeting papers.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Board noted that there was no Chairman's report as all recent matters had been included on the agenda.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – GOVERNANCE

The Board noted a presentation from the Executive Director – Governance on recent developments. In particular, the Board noted that:

- ACCA has continued discussions with the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Financial Reporting Council (FRC) on the implementation of the new EC Statutory Audit Directive and Regulation (EC ADR)

- BIS and FRC's public consultation exercises have been completed
and
- ACCA has joined the Civil Aviation Authority ATOL Reporting Accountants' Scheme, which will allow ACCA members to participate in this area of reserved activity.

5. REGULATORY BOARD REPORT TO COUNCIL

The Board considered the draft 2015 Regulatory Board report to Council and agreed that the overall tone and balance was right and suggested changes to be incorporated into the report and the final draft report be circulated to Board members for final approval following the meeting.

6. EVALUATION OF REGULATORY BOARD EFFECTIVENESS

The Board discussed the feedback for the evaluation of Regulatory Board effectiveness and noted the outcomes arising out of the discussion.

7. REGULATORY BOARD WORK PLAN FOR THE 2015-16 COUNCIL YEAR

The Board considered the proposed work plan for the 2015-16 Council year and approved the Board's current year and longer-term work programmes, subject to the incorporation of the amendments identified at the meeting, namely that:

- a strategic session on the global reach of regulation and ACCA's future regulatory landscape should take place at the May 2016 meeting
and
- a formal report on the hearings project should also be included on the agenda for the May 2016 meeting.

The Board received an update from David Lock on the meeting with the Director – Regulatory Development on the regulatory frameworks across the different geographical jurisdictions. The Board noted that with the existence of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and the way it operates, the Board can take some comfort that the standards that members are required to adhere to are consistent globally, although there were inevitably questions about the extent to which such standards were enforced in practice.

The Board agreed that, as part of its strategic discussion on the global reach of regulation and ACCA's future regulatory landscape, it should endeavour to identify gaps, and the means for closing such gaps, in the current regulatory landscape in order to provide assurance that standards are applied and adhered to consistently across the world.

8. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN TO QUALIFICATIONS BOARD

The Board agreed to appoint Suzy Walton as Chairman of the Qualifications Board with effect from 15 September 2016.

9. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE APPOINTMENTS, QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS BOARDS

The Board received reports from the Chairmen of the Appointments, Qualifications and Standards Boards. The following key points were noted:

- training sessions for chairmen, panel members and legal advisers took place during November and December 2015
- the Code of Conduct is being updated and is due to be finalised at the Appointments Board meeting in April 2016
- contracts for chairmen, panel members and legal advisers will be reviewed to reflect the changes made to the updated Code of Conduct and appraisal policies
- the Qualifications Board had received and discussed the application of the public interest to the work of the Board
- the Qualifications Board had received a presentation on ethics within the ACCA examination and Continuous Professional Development (CPD)
- the 2016 ACCA Rulebook has been published online, in hardcopy and in USB formats.

10. HEARINGS PROJECT

The Board received an update on the hearings project and noted that:

- the delays in listing cases for hearings would be reduced to the six-month target by end of 2016/early 2017
- the new and revised Noticeboard provides improved and detailed reporting, ensuring that potential backlogs are identified and controlled

- recruitment of the enhanced team is in hand and all key positions will be filled by April 2016
and
- a full report will be given to the working group by the end of March 2016 and to the Board at its next meeting in May 2016.

11. PERFORMANCE DATA

The Board noted the performance data.

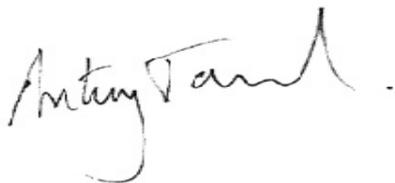
12. LEAD REGULATOR UPDATE

The Board noted an update on ACCA's interactions with its lead regulators, in particular that:

- the FRC carried out its inspections over the course of three separate weeks in 2015
and
- ACCA is waiting for the report of FRC's findings

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted the remaining dates of Regulatory Board meetings in the 2015-16 Council Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antony Tamm', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chairman