

Meeting of the Civil Service Commission Board
Monday 14 April 2025 12.45 - 4.30pm

Attendees:

Baroness Gisela Stuart	First Civil Service Commissioner	Chair
Kate Owen	Chief Executive Officer	Board Member
Stephen Cohen	Commissioner	Board Member
Atul Devani	Commissioner	Board Member
Elizabeth Hambley	Commissioner	Board Member
Paul Kernaghan (via Google Meet)	Commissioner	Board Member
Lea Paterson	Commissioner	Board Member
Sarah Pittam	Commissioner	Board Member
Tony Poulter	Commissioner	Board Member
Martin Spencer	Commissioner	Board Member
Elizabeth Walmsley	Commissioner	Board Member

Apologies: Chris Pilgrim, Commissioner and Board Member and Neil Wooding, Commissioner and Board Member.

1. Welcome, minutes, actions and forward look

1.1) The Chair outlined changes to the Register of Interests and informed the Board that Paul Gray, Commissioner and Board member will step down from his role within the Commission. The Board approved the minutes of the January Board meeting.

1.2) The secretariat updated the Board that all actions from the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) review into internal exceptions have been completed and that the revised Commission governance structure has been finalised.

2. Joint Operations Committee (JOC) and ARC update

2.1) The Chair updated the Board on the recent JOC and ARC meetings.

2.2) The budget for the 2025/26 financial year is currently being finalised .

3. First Civil Service Commissioner update

3.1) The Chair's updates included:

- The 2024/25 audit programme has been completed and findings will be shared with key stakeholders and across the system.
- The Commission hosted a public event which had over 400 attendees.
- The revised governance documentation has been finalised.

4. CSC in the public update

4.1) The Press Officer updated the Board on the current context and future public-facing engagements.

5. Chief Executive update

5.1) The Chief Executive informed the Board that the Commission is engaging with the Government's review of public bodies and the Cabinet Office's Future programme. The team is exploring the role of technology in process efficiencies.

6. Operational update

6.1) The secretariat updated on the operational dashboard covering exceptions, complaints, the audit programme and departmental outreach.

7. Remit and 2024/25 recap

7.1) The Chief Executive outlined the scope of the Commission's remit and informed the Board that the next Annual Reports and Accounts report will be published in Autumn 2025.

7.2) The secretariat updated the Board on the secretariat's activities within 2024/25.

8. Cabinet Secretary response

8.1) The Board discussed next steps in relation to the response to the Cabinet Secretary.

8.2) The Board discussed the Commission's regulatory scope and reflected upon the Commission's statutory duty.

9. 2025/26 planning

9.1) The secretariat updated the Board on the Commission's current work plan.

9.2) The Board discussed priorities and the efficiencies of different workstreams.