

REFINITIV BENCHMARK OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday 10 December 2020

Location: Virtual Only

Attending Members:

Phil Lloyd, acting Chair
Jayme Fagas
Mark Evans

Apologies :

Jonathan Williams, Chair
John Mason

Non-OC Members (Refinitiv Representatives):

Shirley Barrow	Robert Walton
Keith Elliott	Tristan Long
Brandon Meneguzzi	Edward Kendrick]
Wendy Trump	Gary Wilson
James Ireland	Thomas McWilliams
Irina Ons Vilaboa	Sofia Theodorou

Technology Refinitiv attendees

Andy Griffin	Don Teetz
David Koster	Tanya Fenton
Vanessa Bailey	Alexandre Rodrigues

Norton Rose attendee

Rachel Smith

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order and declared quorum at 14:30 (London Time).

2. Declaration of conflict of interest

Members were asked if there were any conflicts of interest and none were reported.

3. Approved minutes of previous meeting 23rd September (for noting)

For noting - Previous meeting minutes had been approved prior to the meeting and the public version is available on the Refinitiv website.

4. Convertible Compliance Monitoring Programme Review

Norton Rose provided an overview for the Convertible CMP Review which was conducted earlier this year as well as a summary with regards to the findings and recommendations.

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5. Service Provider Change / Platform Enhancement Plan

Technology provided an update on the upcoming service provider change plan and the related strategic platform enhancement plan.

6. Action items

2 open action points have been reviewed. 1 remained open and 1 closed.

SAIBOR

7. SAIBOR Content Operations Update

Content Operations provided an update for the past 3 months.

- No late publications and republications in the last quarter (Sep to Nov)
- The new panel bank has been contributing without issues.
- Technical issues with contributors were quickly resolved.

8. SAIBOR Monitoring & Surveillance Update

Monitoring & Surveillance provided an update for the past 3 months.

- No material matters were identified, and all alerts were closed by Monitoring & Surveillance with no further action taken.

9. SAIBOR Methodology Update

Update has been provided along with action item.

Convertibles

10. Operations Update for Convertibles

10.1 Index Management and Technology

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- Operational issues have dropped down.
- Index Managers track all the events with some requiring IRs in the incident report.
- Methodology Consultation process has completed however due to the executive order from US government, a number of convertible bonds have been affected and pending investigations, therefore the implementation of the methodology change will be delayed.

10.2 Convertibles Content Operations.

- The team has been working to agree the timeframe of the CMP actions and has made progress in a number of areas.
- The team has been leveraging the existing benchmark team and index expertise to relieve the work pressure.
- A number of enhancement work around service model is in progress.

11. Methodology Update

As noted in section 10.1, sufficient information has been obtained through the consultation process to then move to the next stage. The effectuation has been delayed due to the concerns of executive order.

12. Convertibles Criticality Assessment

The Convertible Criticality Assessment has been completed. The result of the assessment was that the Convertible Bond Indices remain a 'significant benchmark'.

13. Business Update

RBSL CEO provided an update on the upcoming change along with Brexit.

With approaching the deadline of Brexit, RBSL will be removed from the EU BMR register and transition into UK Benchmark Regulation which is still being regulated by FCA. Therefore, RBSL will be classified as a third country provider but the transition would not impact any clients and use of the benchmarks.

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There are extensions and a transition period for third country providers that is likely to be end of 2023. Refinitiv will publish a statement for client awareness.

14. Regulatory Update

- RBSL Board has approved ESG disclosures and the actions need to be taken to make compliant with the low carbon BMR which is applied from 23rd December 2020. All regulated benchmarks (except IR and FX) are required to include the disclosure in the methodology and Benchmark Statement whether they pursue or not.
- Annual BMR training has been conducted.
- RTS guideline will not likely to be part of UKBMR from 1 January 2021, but part of EUBMR in Q1/Q2.
- SMR has been implemented and gone live.
- The internal audit has been completed awaiting final report.

The Oversight Committee is satisfied with the work Refinitiv has done in response to any issues (Quality Control, Monitoring and Surveillance or other issues) identified.

15. Any Other Business

Compliance provided an update with regards to Oversight Committee future/next step.

The meeting was brought to a closed at 16:00 (London Time).