

WM/REFINITIV BENCHMARK OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Location:

Virtual Only.

Date: Monday 20th September 2021

Time: 2.30pm

Participants

Members

Peter Gloyne (Chair, Industry SME)
Alan Clarke (Industry SME)
Ian Dalziel (INED)
Kyle Jannece (EBS-CME)
Paul Clarke (Refinitiv Matching)

Guests

Brandon Meneguzzi (Refinitiv)
Andrei Branko (LSEG)
David Clark (RBSL)
Keith Elliott (Refinitiv)
Louise Duff (Refinitiv, Co Sec)
Shirley Barrow (Refinitiv)
Wendy Trump (Refinitiv)
Ed Kendrick (Refinitiv)

Apologies

1. Call to Order and Conflicts of Interest

The Chair called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

No new Conflicts of Interest were declared.

The Chair advised that David Newns had tendered his resignation from the WMR Benchmark Oversight Committee due to leaving his role at Currenex. The Chair spoke on behalf of the committee members, noting David's valuable contributions throughout his tenure and wished him well in his next venture.

a. Review and recommendation to adopt minutes as a true and accurate record

The Chair proposed the adoption of the 'long' version of the minutes from 8th August, and these minutes were duly **APPROVED** by the Committee.

The 'short' form minutes were also reviewed, with points brought forward.

Subject to these changes, the minutes were duly **APPROVED** by the Committee.

2. RBSL Board Update

The WMR Business Manager confirmed that the RBSL Board were being kept abreast on a monthly basis of the progress of the White Paper.

3. Update on COVID 19 and Response

The WMR Business Manager confirmed that the Edinburgh office has now re-opened, with capacity capped at 50%. Overall, a hybrid working pattern will be sought, and whilst this will be flexible depending on business requirements, rough guidance would be 3 days in the office, 2 days at home. A period of re-engagement with colleagues has commenced, with this being the case in Exeter and London also.

Monitoring of the pandemic, and its impact on the business, continues both internally and externally.

A request for an in-person meeting in Edinburgh was proposed, with confirmation that timeframes for this would be considered.

4. WMR Spot Rates - Methodology Review

The WMR Business Manager referred to the information shared within the Outstanding Actions agenda item, confirming that a separate session with the oversight committee members would be set up in due course.

5. WMR Business Updates

a. Operations Update

5.a.1. The WMR Operations Manager provided the Operations updates for July and August with no further questions on the metrics.

b. Business Update

5.b.1. The WMR Business Manager provided the business updates as of September.

5.b.1.1. The committee members were advised that a demo of the Q3 deliverables was scheduled for later in the month, and that the project continued to track at amber, with more exact timeframes for 2022 requested.

5.b.1.2. The successful launch on 13th September of 6 decimal place precision for Forward and NDF benchmark rates was noted, with all distribution channels consuming this enhanced precision.

5.b.1.2.1. The other Forward and NDF enhancements continued to progress, with a client consultation ongoing for the introduction of a calculation window, and standard spreads.

5.b.1.3. The WMR Business Manager confirmed the continuing market engagement, and the digitalisation of the client consultation is hoped to increase the response rate.

5.b.1.3.1. The Chair sought confirmation on the role of the User Group in the client consultation, with the WMR Business Manager agreeing they would be encouraged to participate and anticipated this engagement being forthcoming.

5.b.1.3.2. The Chair requested that the client consultation presently underway for the proposed Forward/NDF methodology change be shared among the committee members, and this was taken as an action item.

c. Regulatory Update

5.c.1. The Refinitiv Compliance Director provided the Regulatory and Compliance updates.

5.c.1.1. Confirmation was given that the FCA were now reverting to 'proactive' engagement, after a hiatus due to the pandemic, with two questionnaires presently ongoing, and a further data request received.

5.c.1.2. Further detail was provided on the Deloitte audit and timeframes, ahead of the January test, and March report.

d. Governance Update

5.d.1. The WMR Operations Manager provided the governance reports for July and August.

5.d.1.1. Confirmation was sought on the Spot fix override metrics, with confirmation that the number of exceptions where the trade mid fell outwith the trading range was the primary underlying reason.

6. Monitoring & Surveillance Reporting

a. The Refinitiv Monitoring & Surveillance Manager presented the Monitoring & Surveillance reports for July and August.

6.a.1. The Chair sought confirmation of the frequency of the review of tolerances within the Monitoring & Surveillance system, with the confirmation that these were dynamic, over a period of time and based on market data levels.

7. Any other Business.

None brought forward.

Meeting closed 3.50pm