



PUBLIC BODIES REFORM TWO YEARS ON

PCF ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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WEDNESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER 2012

11AM-5PM, FOLLOWED BY A DRINKS RECEPTION



PUBLIC CHAIRS'
FORUM

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

11:00am

Welcome from Chris Banks CBE, Chair of the Public Chairs' Forum

Chris Banks will introduce the conference agenda and set the scene for the discussions that follow.

11:10am

What next for public bodies? Keynote speech from Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society, followed by Q&A

The Minister will present his vision for the future of public bodies, with a particular focus on what Chairs of public bodies can do to help. The need for efficiency savings means that arm's-length bodies (ALBs) must think creatively to deliver 'more for less' - the Minister will introduce the topic of alternative models in his speech, discussing the potential benefits that can be gained from 'going mutual' for ALBs.

11:35am

Alternative Models – let's get mutual

So far, the mutualisation agenda has had a pretty slow start. This session will consider the progress that has been made to date, including the example of British Waterways, the barriers that are stopping more organisations 'going mutual' and how these challenges can be overcome.

Panel

- Martin Hurst, Director, Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Barry Stimpson, Partner, DAC Beachcroft
- Ed Welsh, Director, Commercial Models, Efficiency and Reform Group, Cabinet Office

Session chaired by Chris Banks CBE, Chair of the Public Chairs' Forum.

12:15pm

Effective Chairs, effective relations...

What are the key components of an effective relationship? And what makes a great Chair in the public sector? Our panel will respond to these questions, drawing on their own experience as well as the PCF and Institute for Government's (IFG) most recent work on effective relationships between ALBs and Government Departments.

Panel

- Jonathan Stephens, Permanent Secretary, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)
- Ed Smith, Chair, Student Loans Company
- Claire Bassett, Chief Executive, Parole Board

Session chaired by Jill Rutter, Programme Director at the Institute for Government.

1:00pm

Lunch

1:45pm

After the reforms - Accountability and Governance in public bodies

Where do and should lines of accountabilities lie in public bodies? What impact will the Government's spending controls have for ALBs? An opportunity to discuss challenges relating to accountability and governance in public bodies in the context of the reforms.

Panel

- Michael Whitehouse, Chief Operating Officer, National Audit Office
- Gavin Lambert, Director of Strategy, Efficiency and Reform Group, Cabinet Office
- Iain Ferguson CBE, Chair, Wilton Park and Lead Non-Executive, Defra
- Dr Muiris Maccarthaigh, Institute of Public Administration, Ireland

Session chaired by Chris Skelcher, Professor of Public Governance, University of Birmingham.

2:30pm

Making sense of triennial reviews

Triennial reviews were first introduced in June 2011 as part of the Public Bodies Bill. Now, nearly 18 months later, what impact are they having? And what are Departments and ALBs experiences of them so far? What can ALBs expect and how should they prepare? This session will use a recent completed triennial review as a case study.

Panel

- Paula McDonald CBE, Deputy Director, Public Bodies team, Cabinet Office
- Chris Kenny, Chief Executive, Legal Services Board
- Margaret Haig, Project Manager, Ministry of Justice

Session chaired by Jill Rutter, Programme Director at Institute for Government.

3:10pm

Coffee Break

3:25pm

Public Bodies reform – managing change effectively

How are public bodies managing the transitions in their organisations? What are the challenges and lessons learned? An opportunity to build on the PCF and IFG's earlier work *Piecing together the quango reforms* - bringing this up to date, considering live case studies and issues together with practical advice on tackling them.

Panel

- Nick Gargan, Chief Executive, National Policing Improvement Agency
(due to close its doors in December and currently undertaking some 'lessons learned' work).
- Anne Watts CBE, former Chair, Appointments Commission
(which closed its doors at the end of October 2012)
- Pat Lloyd, Head of the ALB's Governance Division, Ministry of Justice

Session chaired by Chris Banks CBE, Chair of the Public Chairs' Forum.

Key note speech: Sir Bob Kerslake, Head of the Home Civil Service, followed by a Q&A session chaired by Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE, Executive Director at the Institute for Government – the role of public bodies in a changing landscape.

4:10pm

Sir Bob Kerslake will deliver a keynote speech on the role of public bodies in a changing landscape. Peter Riddell will then talk to the Head of the Home Civil Service about his vision on the future role of ALBs in the context of wider public service reform, the civil service reform plan and continued fiscal consolidation.

This will also be an opportunity to hear the Institute for Government's perspective on the challenges facing Government and public bodies over the next 12 months and will lead into a question and answer session with conference attendees.

5:00pm

Closing comments from Chris Banks followed by an opportunity to network over drinks

7:00pm

Close



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