

**Draft MINUTES OF THE UKCPI COUNCIL**

**10.00am, Wednesday 24 Nov 2021**

**By Zoom conference call**

Mr T Appleton (joined 10.15) Procter & Gamble UK & Ireland

Ms C Berto (joined 10.30) Henkel UK

Mr C Beevor Unilever UK

Mr N Bolton Procter & Gamble UK & Ireland

Mr M Cunningham PZ Cussons

Mr I Croft Robert McBride

Ms R Eckley Unilever UK

Mr G Edwards ACDOPRO

Mr R Furse (Chair) RB

Mr G Horne Astonish

Mr R Keeling AirPure

Mr K Kotsanopoulos Diversey

Ms A McClafferty Unilever UK

Mr P Malpass (Sec) UKCPI

Mr E Whittle SC Johnson

Mr P Woodhead Selden Research

**Guests**

Mr S Stewart UKCPI

Ms C Salter UKCPI

Dr Matthew Penrose (joined 11.45) HSE

Mr Alex Park (joined 11.45) HSE

**Apologies:**

Mr R Fenton DriPak

**1. Welcome and anti-trust statement**

Mr Furse opened the meeting and made the following statement:-

*“At all UKCPI Council meetings including this one, UKCPI and UKCPI members shall adhere to UKCPI’s competition law policy and shall not share, directly or indirectly, commercially sensitive information including but not limited to pricing, terms and conditions of supply, business planning or marketing plans. Should the meeting discuss matters that fall outside of UKCPI's legal remit or contravene that policy; the Chairman will close the meeting.”*

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on 8 September 2021 were agreed.

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**3. Matters and actions arising**

**Action outstanding** PM requested that members revisit the action from the last meeting on future regulatory landscape – *see extract below.*

All other actions are either complete or covered by today’s agenda.

***Extract from minutes of 8 September***

***4. Regulatory landscape – future desired state***

*PM introduced this topic as a thought starter for future Council discussion.*

*He described that in the short term 1 – 5 years UKCPI was able to advocate members views as required when regulatory change was an option. E.g. we react to changes at an EU level and advocate our position on these changes to UK officials.*

*We are likely to have a stronger voice with UK policy makers than when we were part of the EU and one step away from EU policy makers.*

*The question was posed ‘should we take advantage of these UK advocacy events to seed ideas with UK policy makers on a future (10 – 15 years out) regulatory regime’.*

*If so what would our ideal future regulatory regime look like.*

*TA,NB,RE,RK shared a view that as manufacturers for a European market we should strive to reduce complexity and avoid divergence from EU regulations.*

*However, we have a reputation and voice internationally and could we use this to then influence EU policy making.*

*RF stated that the nature of our conversation with UK officials has changed given their lack of role in EU policy making, and that opportunities may exist for the UK to develop policy ahead of the EU curve.*

*CB suggested that there may be 2 or 3 areas where there maybe a benefit to be driving a UK policy that is likely to be a ‘pull through’ attractive to the EU.*

*PW said that by presenting a future vision of a potential UK regulatory landscape it might help us in our dealings with UK officials on the ‘here and now’ issues if we are seen as a trusted source.*

*PW cited the circular economy and the need for innovation and novel solutions but the view that this is hindered by ‘red tape’. There may also be useful insights from Govt officials presenting at* ***Chem UK*** *15/16 Sept.*

*RE stated that a recent consultation sought opinions on a lighter touch regulation which could be aligned with a future regulatory vision approach.*

*RF mentioned that the development of a UK replacement for the EU Ecolabel might also be an area in which to explore this approach.*

***Action:*** *Council members to identify 1 or 2 areas which could be the focus of further exploration with respect to a future operating environment.*

**For action**

**4. 10 minute rule bill / call for evidence on banning plastic in wet wipes**

PM introduced the background and conversations he had with Fleur Anderson MP (who has proposed the 10 minute rule bill) on a ban of plastic in wipes, as well as regular communication with the UK AHMPA (absorbent hygiene product manufacturers association). He will meet with CTPA next week.

However, he suggested that given Defra have now announced a ‘call for evidence’ on the same topic plus other aspects of wipes, that our efforts should be focussed on this Defra consultation rather than the MPs 10 minute rule bill.

PM highlighted some of the tone, focus and proposals in the Defra consultation document.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/call-for-evidence-on-commonly-littered-and-problem/supporting_documents/Call%20for%20evidence%20document.pdf>

KK and PW asked if the scope of the Defra call for evidence consultation was just focussed on consumer wipes given professional users would be expected to dispose of wipes correctly. The consensus view was that given Defra was requesting information on exemptions such as for medical use then the scope currently covered consumer and professional wipes.

NB agreed that the more responses that are provided by industry the more likely our views would be considered.

PM suggested that we should still aim to communicate directly with the Ministers responsible as we would be greatly ‘out numbered’ by the public response to the consultation and there seems no weighting in place.

CS reported that already Defra had announced the consultation on their social media platforms (twitter, Instagram and facebook) with significant public comment already.

SS observed that all comments so far were supportive of a ban.

RF raised a concern over mandatory flushability criteria meaning all wipes would be subject to this standard irrespective of whether or not the wipe was to flushed after use.

PM reminded that the consultation is also suggesting that the flushability criteria would be revised by the water authorities given emerging evidence of ‘non plastic’ wipe persistence.

He also said it was frustrating to see that both consumer behaviour on wipe disposal as well as water authority storm overflow discharges, which is the only route that releases wipes into the environment – seem to be ignored in this call for evidence consultation.

PM raised the question of how high a profile members wanted UKCPI to take on this issue given, home care wipes are less likely to be problematically disposed of; cosmetic wipes / baby wipes feature more so; we cannot reach many suppliers of wipes to the UK discount stores where a range of importers / suppliers are present – most of which do not even comply with the current EDANA labelling scheme.

**Action:** PM to i) to elicit positions from UKCPI members on a short list of questions

ii) on the basis of a consensus of replies and further company input, draft a response to the consultation / call for evidence iii) consider letter and briefing to Ministers and officials.

Maintain coordination with CTPA and AHPMA / EDANA.

**5. EU exit**

PM provided an update on the chemical supply chain request to Ministers for a more proportionate, effective and efficient UK REACH model – extract below from CIA.



*The above letter signed by 25 trade associations back in February led to Defra agreeing to talk about the joint industry proposal put forward in some working groups. They ran from February to May. In July there was a meeting with the SoS for Environment. The meeting was led to believe that something in writing was imminent saying there would be no changes to UK REACH.*

*To pre-empt that the workshop attendees sent further letters. Possibly as a result we never heard formally from the SoS. Instead, we heard informally that whilst they did not agree with the industry proposal, Defra were genuinely looking at things again.*

*Todate, we have still not had any formal response from the SoS, either to our meeting from July or any of the follow-up letters. However, we have heard that Defra are formulating a response – which we assume means some changes might be in the offing (although we have no idea of scale or appropriateness). We have been told to expect the response by end of this month or beginning of December.*

PM also reported that through the ARC committee we are gathering views from members on their workarounds for Northern Ireland and some CLP issues – these will be discussed further at the ARC in the New Year.

**6.**  **Annual Report and accounts 2020/2021**

PM tabled the annual report and accounts for the 12 months ending 30 Sept 2021.

He highlighted that fee income increased as members turnover had increased (perhaps a COVID ‘bounce’) and that meeting costs amounted to zero. Overall it was a predictable report with all costs in line with budget. The surplus for the year was in line with expectations and drops through into reserves.

There were no questions and the report and accounts were passed.

The annual review was also presented – to be sent to all members as well as external stakeholders for UKCPI.

**Action** Council members to make annual review available to internal colleagues.

<https://www.ukcpi.org/annualreview2021>

**7. Budget 2021/2022**

PM tabled a proposed budget for the current 12 months suggesting a slightly reduced fee income (based on current member turnover returns) and keeping all costs comparable to the previous year’s actuals. An additional budget for some meetings is included. As previously discussed the reduced fee to AISE will feed through to an increased surplus for the current year which if unspent will increase the reserves.

There were no questions on the budget and it was passed.

**For information**

**8. Advocacy, Regulatory and Communications committee 20.10.21**

PW suggested that the minutes be taken as read but highlighted the discussions and decisions taken on CLP interpretation as it relates to Northern Ireland.

**NB A record of thanks was made at the end of the AGM to Rowland Furse** for his contribution as chair of UKCPI 2019 through to 2021. A period which threw up numerous challenges for business and associations not least EU exit and COVID whilst at the same time Rowland changed companies, changed job roles and became part of the UK leadership team for Reckitt. He was remotely awarded the sought after, much coveted and uniquely engraved UKCPI laundry posser for his contribution.

**Guest presenter Dr Matthew Penrose** is part of the Senior Leadership Team within the Chemicals Regulation Division in HSE. He currently leads a Unit focused on operational strategy, evidence and intelligence across the different regulatory regimes that CRD deliver, and before this was responsible for the policy programme that brought new chemical regulations onto the statute book. Copy of presentation to follow.

**Time and date of 2022 Council meetings**

10.30am, Wednesday 23 Feb 2022 **format tbc in January 2022**

10.30am, Wednesday 8 June 2022 **format tbc**

10.30am, Wednesday 7 September 2022 **format tbc**

3.00pm, Wednesday 23 November 2022 in Westminster **venues confirmed**