

Board Appraisals 2014

Chair's Feedback Report

All of the appraisals were completed by the close of 2014.

Overall Board Performance

The last year has seen newer Board members growing into their roles and the Board as a whole working to operate more efficiently and collectively. This has enabled the Board to deliver its core functions effectively, and tackle the additional challenges that the Department for Communities and Local Government's Periodic Review has brought in a mature and robust way.

Chair's Performance

As is customary, I have also undergone an independent annual appraisal of my performance during 2014; the commentary from Board members has been very positive, acknowledging the complexity and challenges that 2014 brought. Board members have been extremely supportive over the past year and have helped me to develop and improve my approach to carrying out my role as Chair.

General

Many Board members commented on the continued high quality work carried out by the Staff and their commitment to the organisation, particularly during a period of potential change and uncertainty. Board members reported that they felt very well supported and informed throughout the year by the staff team.

Board members also felt that many of the issues which had arisen in previous appraisal cycles had been addressed and had improved the way in which the Board worked.

Suggestions for improvements and action points

Conflicts of Interest

Several Board members felt that greater clarity regarding conflicts of interest would assist them. Further advice and guidance in relation to this area, as well as the roles and responsibilities of Board members, will be provided in 2015.

Additional Briefing Sessions

A number of Board members have suggested that the Board would benefit collectively from additional briefing sessions on areas of ARB's work with which they are less familiar, as well as regular updates on the profession and the challenges it faces. We will be looking to maximise the use of the time around Board meetings as well as our development day, and will be including relevant and timely updates/briefings throughout the year.

Additional Opportunities for Discussion

During the last year, we have introduced opportunities to discuss key issues, e.g., the topics raised by the Periodic review, either side of the Board meetings and in small groups, before drawing conclusions and using the information to formulate the basis for decisions taken at future meetings. This has worked well and a number of Board members have confirmed that this way of working should continue. Noting this, we will take this forward and where the subject area is appropriate we will find opportunities to work in this way.

Conclusions

It has been a year where the Board has become more cohesive and has improved its approach to dealing with difficult and complex issues. I have found the support of both individual Board members and the Staff team to be of great personal help throughout the year. I feel that the Board is in a strong position to deal with the next phases of the Periodic Review and the challenges ahead.

Beatrice Fraenkel

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