



**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors
Held at 11.00am on Wednesday 27th July 2016
Boardroom, Memphis Building, Lingfield Point, Darlington, DL1 1RW**

Present:	Chris Brodie	Chairman	CB
	Steve Lamey	Chief Executive	SL
	Prof Dame Glynis Breakwell	Non-Executive Director	GB
	Antonia Cox	Non-Executive Director	AC
	Simon Devonshire	Non-Executive Director	SD
	Natalie Elphicke (by phone)	Non-Executive Director	NE
	David Gravells	Non-Executive Director	DG
	Sally Jones-Evans	Non-Executive Director	SJE
	Gary Womersley	Company Secretary	GW
	In Attendance:	Ruth Elliot	BIS
Joanna Rodin		BIS	JR
Chris Jones (by phone)		Welsh Government	CJ
Sian Kerr (by phone)		DELNI	SK
Stephen White (by Phone)		Scottish Government	SW
By Invitation:	David Wallace	Executive Director of Finance, Strategy & Corporate Services	DW
	Derek Ross	Executive Director of Customer Services & Operations.	DR
	Jacqueline Steed	Chief Digital Officer	JS
	Christine McAllister	Head of Corporate Communications (Observer)	CM
Apologies:	Paul Mason	Executive Director of Repayments & Fraud	PM
Distribution:	As Above		

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1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Directors' Matters

CB welcomed everyone to the meeting – there were no declarations of interest.

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 29TH June 2016

Board approved the minutes of the meeting of 29th June 2016.

2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

GW intimated that of the nine actions logged, six were marked for closure.

CB intimated that following recent communications MB177 should be closed also – the matters covered by any intended presentation re SLC's draft Corporate & Business Plan having been superseded by Board discussion re SLC's APRA/Letter of Comfort.

3.1 CEO Report

SL presented his CEO Report.

SL described the current Report format as a work in progress and that he wanted to continue to make the Report narrative more rounded. **ACTION MB202.**

SL updated on progress re PGL. Board discussed the number of applications received relative to initial projections and feedback re PGL within the sector.

SL confirmed that all traffic between data centres and operation centres had now been transferred over to new higher capacity circuits, as part of ongoing works re DR/DC.

SL advised that work on production of an enterprise architecture to support SLC business was underway as part of SLC strategic activity.

SL informed that work was underway to support putting Oracle into an "in warranty" state, but that whilst the business case was approved, funding had not yet been agreed due to APRA constraints.

SL updated Board re complaints received by SLC. SL confirmed that complaints was an area that he would be looking to modify what was reported, to make more meaningful to the Board. Board discussed how not all complaints made to SLC were due to SLC but rather other factors, such as HMRC or policy. SL confirmed that he was keen to get further information re all complaints, including MP/CEO/Chair complaints and Accepted/Non-Accepted complaints.

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SL reported that the AY2016/17 Application Cycle was progressing well, with levels received for both new and returning student applications remaining at slightly above expected levels overall. SL discussed Repayment workstreams and the efforts being undertaken to influence the three strategic objectives of reducing borrower numbers with an unverified employment status, resolving exceptions within the HMRC collections process and increasing the number of aged debt accounts with a repayment arrangement.

Board noted and expressed congratulations in respect of the Staff Recognition Awards.

Board noted the CEO Report.

3.2 Monthly Finance Update including Management Accounts Outturn

DW introduced the Monthly Finance Update.

DW informed the Board re ongoing discussions re SLC'S APRA and Letter of Comfort, * **ACTION MB203**.

DW also informed Board re minor/practical changes that would be required to the Annual Report & Accounts due to the passage of time in these receiving Ministerial approval.

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Board noted the Monthly Finance Update.

3.3 Pensions Update

GW introduced the Pensions Update to Board.

GW narrated the background to SLC's current Pension position. GW updated that following the prior approval of Board, engagement had take place with the Trustees who had intimated agreement in principle to Option 3.

Board enquired re and discussed aspects of the background to the Pension position and the proposal encompassed in the Pension Update.

Board noted the latest position in respect of SLC's Pension provision and approved the basis of transfer to CSPS "alpha" as per section five in the Update - to allow SLC to formally engage with the Trustees on that basis, allow BIS to finalise its formal application to CO and allow formal consultation with SLC staff to proceed, as appropriate.

3.4 Wales – Diamond Review Update

CB updated Board re his recent telephone conversation with Professor Colin Riordan, the Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University re the Diamond Review.

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Board noted the Wales – Diamond Review update.

3.5 BIS transfer to Department for Education

RE updated Board re the recent BIS transfer to the Department for Education (DfE).

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Board noted the BIS transfer to DfE Update.

3.6 Main Board Risk Review

DW introduced the Main Board Risk Review.

DW confirmed that in light of Board discussion, Changes to the Machinery of Government and SLC Funding, would be added to the Risk Report. DW informed of work streams that had progressed re Machinery of Government and EU Referendum result in the interim.

SL reiterated that going forward he would like to see increasing Board emphasis and discussion on SLC Risks.

Board noted the Main Board Risk Review.

4. AOB

CB updated Board re recent discussions with Madeleine Atkins of HEFCE where the role of SLC re providers had been discussed. *

CB updated Board re him withdrawing from his current roles in the BIS Partnership Group and Regulatory Partnership Group, following the transfer from BIS to DfE.

CB also informed Board re the recent initial Board Skills Assessment Audit undertaken by him/GW and fed into DfE to assist with future intended NxD recruitment.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting would take place in Glasgow on Wednesday 7th September 2016 at 9.30AM.

The Board meeting closed at 12.40PM.

NB: Where asterisks appear within a numbered item, these sections have been excluded from the minutes before placing on the website as the subject under discussion falls within one or more of the exemptions contained in Part II of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and can be reasonably withheld.