

ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Minutes of a meeting held on 4th to 5th September 2008 at Apex City Hotel, Edinburgh.

Chair

Sir John Lawton

Members

Professor Nick Cumpsty
Professor Michael Depledge
Dr Ian Graham-Bryce
Professor Jeffrey Jowell

Professor Peter Liss
Professor Judith Petts
Professor Steve Rayner
Professor Lynda Warren

Secretariat

Tom Eddy
Jo Bray
Jon Freeman
Noel Nelson
Mary Oduro

A list of all ACTIONS agreed at this meeting is at **Annex 1**.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 1: Preliminary business: apologies for absence

1. An apology was received from *Professor Susan Owens* for the whole meeting. The *Chairman* also drew Members attention to the fact that this was *Dr Jo Bray's* last meeting and thanked her for her work, particularly on the Novel Materials study.

**Item 2: Draft Minutes of the 7th Meeting
RCP(08)7th meeting**

1. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed with one minor amendment.

Item 3: RCP(08)108

2. Members agreed that it would not be appropriate for the Royal Commission to sign up to the EEAC Statement which was primarily about sustainable development. The *Secretary* was instructed to write to EEAC to confirm this. Action point:
 - Secretary to write to EEAC.

NOVEL MATERIALS STUDY

Item 4: RCP(08)466 Draft Summary Report

3. Members agreed that the draft was a good basis for further work and following discussion, the Secretariat (Dr Bray) was instructed to produce a further draft which would be circulated for comment. Members also agreed to proceed with the launch as planned on 11 and 12 November. The Secretariat undertook to provide a paper on the launch arrangements for the next meeting. Members also agreed that the *Chairman* should be the sole Member giving the presentation at the start of the launch. Action points:
 - Secretariat to circulate further draft of the Summary report
 - Secretariat to provide paper on launch arrangements for the October meeting

SHORT STUDY ON LIGHT

Item 5: RCP(08)511 Artificial light in the Environment: Revised report draft

4. Members reviewed the current draft report and concluded that it would be better to re-focus the report by considering the key messages to emerge from the evidence, the recommendations which relate to them and to re-order the narrative so as to provide clearer basis on which the report would stand. Members also requested the Secretariat to identify experts in the public provision of street lighting to give oral evidence. Action points:
 - Secretariat to provide a re-draft of an outline report
 - Secretariat to contact public sector lighting practitioners with a view to giving oral evidence

Item 6: RCP(08)512 Various papers connected with the Light Study

5. Members considered the evidence papers attached to the document. They noted the position proposed in relation to restrictions on the power of light bulbs or private security lighting. They also noted the concern from Environmental Protection UK about a clause in the Planning Bill exempting infrastructure developments from nuisance claims during the construction process. Members felt that although this was significant, it did cover a rather narrow window and was not something that they wish to pick up in the context of the light study or more generally.

6. In relation to Annex C, announcing that rather than simply delay the publication of further guidance on lighting, DCLG had now decided not to issue this, Members agreed that this was something that they might well re-visit in the study.

ADAPTATION STUDY

Item 7: RCP(08)225 Project Status Report

7. Members noted the update on the project progress, and recognised that the seminars and written evidence are the next major milestones for the study.

Item 8: RCP(08)226 Defra Adaptation Framework for Action

8. The Members discussed this paper noting that there was considerably more work to be done on Adaptation by Defra and other organisations.

Item 9: RCP(08)228 Visit Proposals

9. The suggested visits were all broadly welcomed by the Members and the Secretariat agreed to gather details of Members' availability and organise visits to suit, which should ideally include a coastal town. It was also suggested in the discussion that it would be useful to have a piece of work conducted that would scope the legal and regulatory framework relevant to the terms of the adaptation study. Action points:
 - Secretariat to email all Members for availability for visits and make necessary arrangements.
 - Secretariat to draft a proposal for a study scoping the legal and regulatory framework relevant to the adaptation study.

Item 10: RCP(08)301 Evidence – Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

10. This item prompted discussion about the role of the National Parks in adapting to climate change, and whether they could be used as a potential case study to explore how the institutional arrangements for adapting to climate change operate at a landscape scale.

Item 11: RCP(08)304 Evidence – Institution of Civil Engineers, Wales

11. The submission from ICE Wales was noted.

Item 12: RCP(08)303 Evidence – EC DG Research

12. The submission was noted, and discussion focussed on how changes in southern Europe may affect the UK's ability to adapt to climate change, and whether there are areas in Europe from which the UK can learn about adaptation. Action point:
 - Secretariat to identify options for visits in Europe that may be relevant to the adaptation study.

Item 13: RCP(08)302 Evidence – Professor Rob Wilby

13. The Members agreed that this was an interesting example of how organisations can address adaptation. It was noted that there was some analysis on different adaptation frameworks which could be drawn on for the study, and also that there are many references that could be useful.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 14: Preparation for dinner guest

14. The dinner guest was Ruth Wolstenholme, Managing Director of SNIFFER.

ADAPTATION STUDY

Item 15: Preparations for Seminar

15. Members discussed the arrangements for the Seminar and a number of changes were made. These were followed through during the course of the Seminar which took place on Friday, 5 September.

Item 16: Scotland and Northern Ireland Seminar

16. The seminar which took place at the Edinburgh offices of the British Medical Association was a meeting with invited guests and various organisations in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Notes from the Seminar have been recorded separately.

List of Actions agreed at the Commission's meeting on 4th to 5th September 2008

Action Number	Action	By Whom
1	Secretariat to write to EEAC	Secretariat
2	Secretariat to circulate further draft of the Summary report	Secretariat
3	Secretariat to provide paper on launch arrangement for the October meeting	Secretariat
4	Secretariat to provide a re-draft of an outline report	Secretariat
5	Secretariat to contact public sector lighting practitioners with view to giving oral evidence	Secretariat
6	Secretariat to email all Members for availability for visits and make necessary arrangements.	Secretariat
7	Secretariat to draft a proposal for a study scoping the legal and regulatory framework relevant to the adaptation study.	Secretariat
8	Secretariat to identify options for visits in Europe that may be relevant to the adaptation study.	Secretariat