



## JNCC Support Co 35th Meeting Minutes Confirmed

<b>Date:</b> 11 June 2020	<b>Time:</b> 13.00
<b>Venue:</b> Virtual meeting via GoToMeeting	

### Present

**Professor Melanie Austen**  
Independent Member

**Mr Charles Banner**  
Independent Member

**Professor Ian Bateman**  
Independent member

**Lord David Blencathra**  
Natural England

**Ms Cath Denholm**  
Scottish Natural Heritage

**Professor Colin Galbraith**  
Independent Member

**Professor Chris Gilligan**  
Independent Chair

**Dr Hilary Kirkpatrick**  
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside

**Professor Steve Ormerod**  
Natural Resources Wales

**Professor Marian Scott**  
Independent Member

**Professor Michael Winter**  
Natural England

**Mr Marcus Yeo**  
JNCC

### In attendance

**Mr Chris Brooks**  
JNCC Company Secretary

**Ms Emer O'Connor (via telephone)**  
JNCC

**Mrs Tracey Quince**  
JNCC

## Apologies

Dr Mike Cantlay  
Scottish Natural Heritage

Sir David Henshaw  
Natural Resources Wales

### 1. Chairman's opening remarks

- 1.1. Professor Gilligan welcomed everyone to the thirty-fifth meeting of the JNCC Support Company Board of Directors. Professor Gilligan advised members that his term as Chair of JNCC, which had been scheduled to conclude at the end of May, had been formally extended until 4 December 2020. The extension would allow for continuity during the changed period of working brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 Professor Gilligan noted the sad passing of Professor Platt in August last year. A silence was held whilst members reflected on his contribution to the Joint Committee and Company Board.

### 2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 No relevant interests were declared.

### 3. Amendments to the minutes of the June 2019 Board meeting (BD 20 01)

- 3.1 The minutes of the June 2019 Board meeting were agreed.

### 4. JNCC Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (BD 20 02)

- 4.1 Mr Brooks introduced the paper which presented the JNCC Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) for the year ending 31 March 2020. Certification was expected on 26 June with the ARA being laid in Parliament on 9 July.
- 4.2 The Board was advised that the ARA had been reviewed by Mr Nigel Reader on behalf of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC). ARAC had discussed the ARA the previous day and ARAC was content to recommend to the Board that it approves and adopts the ARA for 2019/20.
- 4.3 In discussion the Board noted that:
  - i. reporting on equality and diversity and sustainability should be more comprehensive in next year's ARA;
  - ii. note 2 to the financial statements showed that staff costs had increased by 14% since 2018/19. This level of increase would be unsustainable in the

longer term. Mr Yeo noted that an increase in pension contributions accounted for a large part of the overall increase;

- iii. full attendance at meetings of the Company Board was an expectation not an aspiration. Ms Denholm and Professor Ormerod agreed to speak with their respective chairs to discuss attendance as specified by the constitution.

#### 4.4 The Board:

- i. **approved and adopted** the JNCC Annual Reports and Accounts (ARA) for the year ending 31 March 2020. The Board delegated sign off of the ARA to Mr Yeo;
- ii. **authorised** the Company Secretary to lodge the accounts with Companies House;
- iii. **authorised** the Chief Executive to arrange for the accounts to be laid before the Houses of Parliament and the Scottish Parliament; and
- iv. **authorised** the Chief Executive to sign the letter of representation for the year ended 31 March 2020.

- 4.5 The Board passed on their thanks to the staff involved in the production of the ARA, noting the tremendous effort expended to bring the ARA together under the challenging circumstances of Covid-19. Members expressed their thanks to staff in maintaining the original timetable for production of the ARA and extended their thanks to the IT team for ensuring staff could use the technology to deliver their work.