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JNCC SUPPORT CO.
BOARD MEETING

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Paper by Marcus Yeo

1. Since the last company board meeting in June, the Executive Management Board (EMB) has met three times: on 23 June, 28 July and 18 August. Full minutes of these meetings are available on request. The main items discussed by EMB and other significant issues relating to the running of the company are summarised below.
2. The new processes and systems associated with the establishment of the company limited by guarantee continue to run reasonably smoothly. Work to resolve a small number of outstanding issues continues. For example, policies on pay on appointment/promotion and performance pay have been discussed by EMB during the last quarter, and should be finalised shortly.
3. The first quarter out-turn has been completed and the results are presented as a separate paper at this meeting. The financial position is satisfactory and performance against targets is generally good.
4. Business planning for 2006/07 has begun, and will be discussed by the Committee's Process Working Group on 15 September 2005. A meeting between officials in JNCC, Defra and devolved administrations to discuss business priorities and funding for 2006/07 is likely to be held in October.
5. The Committee report and third reading of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill is currently expected to take place immediately after the summer recess. At Committee stage, the Environment and Rural Affairs Committee in the Commons endorsed a Government amendment to bring the funding provisions for JNCC in line with the current arrangements which arose from the FMPR. The JNCC components of the Bill were also scrutinised by, and received majority support from, the Scottish Parliament's Environment and Rural Development Committee. JNCC provided written evidence to both Committees following liaison with Defra, the Scottish Executive and SNH. Royal assent is anticipated for March. The date for commencement of the JNCC provisions is currently being discussed. An issue that the Joint Committee may need to address shortly is what type of relationship the JNCC should have with any shadow body set up in advance of Natural England being formally established.
6. The JNCC's Annual Report for 2004/05 was laid before Parliament on 19 July 2005.
7. Following his return to work, the Managing Director has initiated a series of meetings with key stakeholders. During August he met the Chief Executives and other senior staff of English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales. The Chairman and Managing Director met the new Defra minister with responsibility for biodiversity, Jim Knight, on 22 June 2005.