

Stephen Gibson appointed chair of Regulatory Policy Committee

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng has today (4 May) named Stephen Gibson as chair of the Regulatory Policy Committee.

The Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) assesses the quality of evidence and analysis used to inform regulatory proposals and verifies the costs that regulations place on business. It is an independent body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Mr. Gibson's appointment follows an open competition. He has held the role in an interim capacity since December 2019, having been a member of the committee since May 2018.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

The UK is recognised worldwide as a great place to do business and further strengthening this reputation means keeping an eagle-eye on regulation to ensure the burdens on business are minimised.

Stephen brings a wealth of experience, energy and expertise to the role, and I'm delighted to appoint him as chairman as the committee continues its vital work in scrutinising the evidence and analysis underpinning regulatory decisions.

Regulatory Policy Committee Chair Stephen Gibson said:

I am honoured to have been offered this position. The Regulatory Policy Committee plays a key role in ensuring that new regulatory measures do not impose unjustified costs on business. I very much look forward to helping to ensure that UK regulation is supported by robust evidence and analysis as well as promoting transparency and accountability in the regulatory decision-making process.

Minister for Better Regulation Lord Callanan said:

The Regulatory Policy Committee offers important advice and scrutiny to government on regulatory change, ensuring we can effectively deliver policy while keeping the burdens on business to a minimum.

I am pleased to see Stephen appointed as chair. As an existing committee member, and recently as interim chair, he brings the vital experience and continuity the RPC needs to take forward its

work in these exceptional times. I look forward to continuing to work with him on this important agenda.

Mr. Gibson has over 25 years' experience as a professional economist across a range of regulated sectors including:

- post
- water
- ports
- rail
- aviation
- energy
- broadcasting
- advertising
- telecoms

He has worked as a consultant and from both sides of the regulatory fence. In 2011 he set up SLG Economics, a consultancy providing expert regulatory and competition economics advice to regulators, regulated companies and consumer bodies.

Mr. Gibson is a member and current interim chair of the Regulatory Policy Committee and Director of SLG Economics. He is also a Member of the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) Senior Advisory Board advising on the regulatory framework for Heathrow and NATS and is on the expert panel for ICCAN (the Independent Committee on Civil Aviation Noise). He also lectures in economics at Birkbeck University.

Mr. Gibson's previous roles include:

- Chief Economist at Postcomm
- Interim Chief Economist at Ofwat
- Principal Economist at Ofcom
- Deputy Chair of Bowel Cancer UK