

**Minutes of the 19th Board Meeting of the
Independent Commission for Aid Impact
26 February 2013**

Attendees

- Commissioners: Graham Ward (GW)
 Mark Foster (MF)
 Diana Good (DG)
- Secretariat: Tom McDonald (TM)
 Alexandra Cran-McGreehin (AC-M)
 Sam Harrison (SH)
 Elspeth Robinson (ER)
 Santosh Chana (SC)
- External: Mark Bowman, DFID (MB)
 Jon Gorrie, Matthew Smith, Mark Hellyer, Nigel Thornton,
 KPMG
- Apologies: John Githongo (JG)

Details of the meeting: Tuesday 26 February, 9.15 am – 3.00 pm

Welcome

1. The Chief Commissioner welcomed everyone to ICAI's 19th Board Meeting.

Minutes of the 18th Board Meeting

2. The minutes of the last ICAI Board meeting held on 3 December were formally approved.

Action Log

3. TM led a discussion of progress against both outstanding and completed actions from previous Board Meetings.

Correspondence and Meetings

4. TM ran through the correspondence received and recent meetings. TM briefed Commissioners on the latest discussions with the International Development Committee, including plans for formal and informal meetings for the coming months.
5. It was noted that some time had passed since GW and the Secretary of State had first met and that a request for a further meeting, in line with the arrangements envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding between ICAI and DFID, had been made.

Risk Management

6. TM led a discussion of possible risks currently facing ICAI.

Programme Update

7. AC-M took Commissioners through a paper on the progress on upcoming reports and the current budget situation, including a discussion of the budget for the next financial year. She stated that the use of contractors and PPAs

reviews were on track for publication in May, while the FCO review would now be published in June due to delays in the visit timings.

8. MF informed the meeting about the work of the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF) in the context of the Southern Africa report. It was agreed that the project team would be made aware of the work.

Action Secretariat: To inform project team of ICF work.

9. DG and MF requested that skeletons of the PPAs and use of contractors reports be sent to them for consideration.

Action Secretariat: To send Commissioners copies of the above skeleton reports.

Discussion of DFID's Anti-Corruption Activity

10. Mark Bowman, DFID's Director-General: Humanitarian, Security and Conflict, was invited by the Commissioners to update the Board on DFID's anti-corruption activity. He believed that DFID was on track with implementing the recommendations of the ICAI report on Anti-Corruption. He stated that the Department's anti-corruption strategies had been published and country offices were now implementing measures.
11. MB stated that the ministerial team and Management Board were fully behind the measures and that his team had also engaged with other donors. He briefed commissioners on the new partnership with the Metropolitan Police, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the Serious Fraud Office to share intelligence. MB would also welcome any feedback from ICAI from country visits.
12. The Commissioners thanked MB for his update. They expressed an interest in meeting Transparency International who had also done some work in the Anti-Corruption area.

Action Secretariat: To invite Transparency International to meet Commissioners.

Update on Cabinet Office Review

13. TM updated the Commissioners on the review, noting that membership of the review team and challenge group was still being finalised and that the review itself would need to be completed by December 2013.

ICAI response to departmental Management Actions

14. ER outlined possible options for how the Commission could respond to proposed departmental management actions. Commissioners agreed with the principle of responding to a senior level.
15. Commissioners also agreed to undertake immediate evaluation of year 2 management actions in a similar format to that agreed above.

Discussion with contractor

16. There was a discussion with the contractor on the future programme and how to enhance the skills available to ICAI within the consortium. Commissioners were keen that ICAI reports did not replicate the work of other bodies, such as the NAO, to maximise the value of the reports. In discussing future work,

Commissioners thanked the contractor for their thoughts and agreed some broad themes which would inform the scope of forthcoming reports.

17. The Commissioners asked the contractor to provide some material that could be used in the annual report, namely, maps of where ICAI had reported on and what has been achieved. They also asked for consideration of how ICAI might 'follow the money' in future reports.

Action Contractor: To supply requested material for the annual report.

18. DG asked whether the allocation of resources could be changed to frontload research in the report timetables and thereby reduce the lead times for publishing reports.

Action Secretariat/Contractor: To investigate options to reduce the time taken from fieldwork to publication.

19. The contractor suggested some additional organisations that, as part of the contractor team, could enhance their capacity. The Commissioners were satisfied with the suggestions and agreed that these organisations should be used, pending conflict of interest checks.

Action Contractor: To perform conflict of interest checks on new contractor organisations.

AOB

20. SH reported on coverage of the release of the Odisha, Nepal and Sudan reports and the KBS TV interview with GW. Commissioners requested that, in future, all press releases be emailed to them at the point of publication.

Action SH: To send press releases to Commissioners at time of publication.

Action Log from 15th ICAI Board Meeting

TM/AC-M	To liaise with DFID about publication of ICAI's four-year budget.		Ongoing. DFID finance staff content with principle and numbers reconciled. Now need to arrange publication.
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Action Log from 18th ICAI Board Meeting

Secretariat	To arrange follow up with SCS leads following action taken.		Ongoing
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Action Log from 19th ICAI Board Meeting

Secretariat	To inform project team of ICF work.		
Secretariat	To send Commissioners copies of the above skeleton reports.		
Secretariat	To invite Transparency International to meet Commissioners.		
Contractor	To supply requested material for the Annual Report.		
Secretariat/ Contractor	To investigate options to reduce the time taken from fieldwork to publication.		
Contractor	To perform conflict of interest checks on new contractor organisations.		
SH	To send press releases to Commissioners at time of publication.		Ongoing