

Minutes

Wholesale Distribution Steering Group (WDSG)

22 July 2020

Location: **The Meeting took place via audio link.**

Attendees: **Bank of England:** Sarah John (Chair), Nick Butt, Mark McLintock, Menaha Yogendra, Ronan McClintock, Camilla Pegg, Elisabeth Bertalanffy-Fournier
UK Finance: Russell Saunders, Austin Elwood, Julie Carruthers
Barclays: Tim Allen
Lloyds Banking Group: Richard Hill
HSBC: Sue Yarham
NatWest Group: Richard Talbot
Santander: Robert White
HM Treasury: Derek Dunne
Post Office: Russell Hancock
Virgin Money UK: Dougie Belmore
G4S: Mike Bowen
Vaultex: Phil Vaughan

Apologies: Eric Leenders (UKF), Julie Fitzgibbon (BOI), John Garrett (AIB), Phillip Mind (UKF), Mario Pisani (HMT), Derek Walker (Virgin Money), Kevin McMullan (Danske Bank)

Item

1. Standing agenda items

- **June 2020 minutes:**

The group agreed the June 2020 minutes, and approved their publication.

- **Sharing information on stakeholder engagement:**

No updates were noted.

2. Agree revised WDSG ToR

The Bank presented the revised WDSG ToR. A number of small amendments were proposed to reflect: the current status of the project; an update of the members (with G4S and Vaultex being invited as observers to WDSG given the importance of their operational insight to the current phase of the work) and changes to re-enforce the definition of the scope of work being carried out by WDSG.

UK Finance also provided an update on the revised ISG ToR, which had been provided so that WDSG members could see how the two groups worked together. A number of responsibilities in the ISG ToR have been moved to the skinny phase 3A working group ToRs to align to the current process.

WDSG members raised the need for the cadence of ISG meetings to align with the working group meetings to enable issues to be escalated swiftly, with more strategic issues being brought to WDSG for consideration.

The Bank noted that the September WDSG meeting is likely to be rescheduled to align to the outputs of skinny Phase 3A, perhaps with an additional meeting scheduled for earlier in September.

The revised WDSG ToRs were approved.

3. Feedback from Webinar event and next steps

The Bank noted that the Webinar event had been well received with good engagement. Key questions raised were around who would be eligible to join a utility and how the wholesale work aligned with potential legislative work announced by HMT.

4. Update on Skinny Phase 3A development

UK Finance provided a brief update on the 3 key workstreams under skinny phase 3A, all of which are currently tracking green (though it was noted one of the elements under the financial requirements workstream is tracking amber).

UK Finance agreed to bring more detail on key issues arising at ISG meetings to WDSG. Strategic decisions requiring a steer from WDSG would be clearly flagged. The group also discussed the importance of having clear change control. WDSG highlighted that changes to the set of deliverables agreed up-front for skinny Phase 3A should be brought to WDSG for discussion, alongside alternative options available to ensure that the overall work programme could proceed to plan, with key decisions able to be taken as scheduled.

The Bank noted that WDSG was next scheduled to meet in September. During August, if strategic direction was required from WDSG to allow work to continue to schedule this should be flagged to the Bank as soon as possible. If considered necessary, the Bank could convene WDSG members (or alternates) to provide the required steer.

UK Finance noted the need to provide clarity on the decision points following skinny Phase 3A.

The Bank updated WDSG on its initial meeting with HMT, UK Finance and Eversheds to discuss the Legal working group under Phase 3A (which HMT and the Bank are not observers to). Eversheds provided an outline of the two workstreams. The group had agreed to meet again in August to review progress.

5. Review Action Log

Actions were reviewed and closed where applicable.

6. AOB

n/a