



Valuation Tribunal Users' Group

Minutes of the Meeting held at Black Lion House on 28 July 2014

Present:	Professor Graham Zellick QC (Chairman)	VTE
	Tony Masella	VTS
	Lee Anderson	VTS
	Blake Penfold	RICS
	Andrew Hetherton	RSA
	Richard Guy	IRRV
	Jerry Schurder	IRRV
	Peter Scrafton	IRRV
	Michael Pearce	VOA
	Mary Hardman	VOA
	Christopher Lewsley	PEBA
	Louise Freeth	IRRV

In attendance: Amy Dusanjh Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

1.1 Anne Galbraith (VTS), Jon Bestow (VTE), Mark Higgin (RICS), Ian Charman (RSA), Martin McTague (FSB), Peter O'Connell (FSB) and Carla Maria-Heath (LGA) tendered their apologies.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2014

3.1 The minutes were confirmed subject to minor amendments.

3.2 There were no matters arising.

3 Transfer to the FTI

3.1 No announcement had been made.

4 NDR reform proposals; Practice Statement A7-2

4.1 The Government's decision was awaited. An early meeting after the summer break might be needed.

5 Council tax discretionary relief appeals: *S.C. and C.W. v. East Riding of Yorkshire Council* (27 May 2014)

5.1 There had not so far been any significant appeals in the light of this decision. DCLG had informed billing authorities that it was being considered.

6 Recruitment of new Tribunal members

6.1 The President informed the Group that the Registrar's study of member numbers and workload came to the conclusion that the VTE needed to recruit new members. No recruitment had taken place since the creation of the VTE in 2009 at which point there had been in excess of 600 members. There were now 230 members and chairmen.

6.2 Discussion would shortly take place with the JAC.

6.5 Mr Scrafton offered IRRV's services for training new members.

7 Postponement policy and Draft PS A2

7.1 Mr Anderson provided the background to the changes to this draft Practice Statement on listing NDR appeals for hearing.

7.2 The revised Practice Statement would take effect from 1 October 2014 and the President would issue it with a short covering note.

8 Limit on size of documents sent electronically to the VTS

8.1 Mr Guy sought clarification on sizes of electronic documents sent to the VTS. Mr Anderson confirmed that anything up to 10mb could be accepted; anything bigger than this would be rejected. He also explained that Statements of Case should be received by the VTS before 5pm on the deadline date.

9 Citation of case law

9.1 Deferred to next meeting.

10 Advocate/expert witness/witness of fact

10.1 Deferred to next meeting.

11 Any other business

11.1 Ms Freeth asked about the number of CTR appeals received. Mr Anderson would provide these figures to the Group once the latest quarter statistics were available. The number of appeals heard by FTT judges was still fairly small.

11.2 Mr Masella reported that NDR appeals were being cleared and he was confident that the target number would be cleared by the Government deadline.

12 Date of next meeting

12.1 Members would be consulted about the date of the next meeting.

13 October 2014

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President