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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 December 2005, the Executive Management Board (EMB) has met three times: on 26 January, 14 February and 8 March. 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 third quarter out-turn was completed in January. Projected figures for the year indicated an underspend of £30,000 and so EMB agreed to bring forward expenditure from 2006/07 to ensure full spend of grant in aid by the year end. Performance against targets was generally satisfactory, although there had been slippage in some areas.
3. EMB approved the purchase of a new finance system for the JNCC following full consideration of the risks involved. A separate paper on this issue is on the agenda for the March meeting of the company board.
4. The key risks affecting the organisation have continued to be monitored by EMB. JNCC staff have worked closely with their counterparts in the country agencies to ensure a co-ordinated response to avian influenza. Organisational changes in the country agencies has also been monitored carefully to ensure that key work areas are not disrupted. In February, EMB reviewed the JNCC's risk management strategy which will be discussed at the March meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee.
5. EMB and the communications team have considered publicity opportunities for the JNCC for the coming year. Two major events are planned: a) the launch of the first six-year Common Standards Monitoring report in early summer, and b) a launch of the JNCC's strategy, probably in early 2007.
6. EMB have also maintained an overview of the various change programmes currently underway in JNCC. These have been prioritised, and it is likely that some projects will be deferred to ensure that effort is focused on key areas and the changes are not unduly disruptive.
7. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill has continued to pass through parliament. Several amendments relating to JNCC were proposed at the Lords Committee stage, but all were withdrawn, not moved or defeated on a vote. The Lords report is scheduled for 15 and 20 March, and the third reading in the Commons is scheduled for 27 March.