

Professional and Business Services Group

The first meeting of the Professional and Business Services Group took place on Monday 1st March following the decision to set up a permanent group to represent the professional services sector.

The new group was established after the success of the Professional Services Global Competitiveness Group – which was set up in September 2008 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling – and will be extended to cover relevant business services.

The new group will operate independently, but work closely with the Government of the day to provide an authoritative voice for the largest industry sector in the UK. Professional services account for the largest single share of UK output at 8% and is the largest UK employer with 11.5% of total employment – 18% when extended to related business services.

The specific sectors the group will represent are accountancy; actuaries; engineering and technical consultants; HR and recruitment consultants; information and research; land, property and construction; legal; management consultants and IT services; marketing services and shipping industry services.

The remit of the group will be to:

- Look at the medium to longer-term trends impacting on the competitiveness of the professional and business services sector in the UK, taking into account London/UK-based factors and sector-specific opportunities and challenges in overseas market liberalisation and regulatory/standards dialogue.
- Provide a trusted forum for interaction with senior ministers and government, where the group can escalate and explain issues swiftly and, in turn, ministers and senior civil servants can gain quick and trusted input and advice.
- Help to promote the interests and knowledge of the professional and business services sector for the benefit of those companies operating within it and the UK economy.

Sir Michael Snyder, Senior Partner of Kingston Smith LLP and former Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee at the City of London Corporation will chair the group, having co-chaired the original Professional Services Global Competitiveness Group with City Minister Lord Myners.

Sir Michael Snyder said:

“The priority of the Professional Services Global Competitiveness Group was to build on the success of the professions by developing a shared vision of professional services for the next 10 to 15 years and how they can be even more successful.

“The support and participation of senior, influential figures within the Professional and Business Services Group means we now have the opportunity to realise this vision through constructive relationships with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) – who will also be providing support to the group – and HM Treasury and other relevant departments.

“The continued success of this sector is vital to the UK economy. I am confident that by working together we can secure a successful future for UK professional and business services.”

Lord Davies of Abersoch, CBE, Minister for Trade, Investment and Small Business (jointly for BIS and the FCO) will be attending the meetings.

Membership:

Sir Andrew Cahn, Chief Executive, UK Trade and Investment
Andi Case, Chief Executive, Clarksons PLC
David Cheyne, Senior Partner, Linklaters LLP
Mark Dawkins, Managing Partner, Simmons and Simmons
Philip Dilley, Chairman, Arup
John Griffith-Jones, Chairman and Senior Partner, KPMG LLP
Steve Ingham, Chief Executive, Michael Page
Laurence Longe, National Managing Partner, Baker Tilly
Michael Mainelli, Chief Executive, Z/Yen
Chris Mullen, Senior Partner, Pinsent Masons
Stuart Popham, Senior Partner, Clifford Chance LLP
Ian Powell, Senior Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers
Vicky Pryce, Chief Economic Adviser and Director-General of Economics, BIS
Baboo Ramamurthy, Towers Watson, Regional Manager, Europe, Middle East & Africa
Christopher Satterthwaite, Chief Executive, Chime Communications
Nick Shepherd, Managing Partner, Drivers Jonas Deloitte
Ken Shuttleworth, Senior Partner, Make Architects
Jonathan Taylor, Managing Director of Financial Services, HM Treasury
Susan Taylor-Martin, Managing Director and Senior Company Officer, UK and Ireland, Thomson Reuters
Simon Whitehouse, Managing Director, Management Consulting–Financial Services, Accenture

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