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I am writing to inform you of my decision to extend Stephen Gibson's term as interim Chair of the Regulatory Policy Committee for three months, until 22 April 2021. Stephen was initially directly appointed to the post, without competition, for a period of nine months on 22 April 2020.

Regrettably, the launch of a campaign to appoint a new, substantive Chair of the Regulatory Policy Committee was delayed until September 2020 as a result of COVID-19. As such, it is unlikely that the successful candidate will be able to take up the role before Stephen's current term expires. Stephen has proved to be a committed, capable and hardworking interim Chair. I therefore intend to extend his term as interim Chair by three months to ensure the Committee is not without a Chair and to provide stability until a permanent appointee is in post.

The Regulatory Policy Committee is the Government's independent advisory body that scrutinises the evidence and analysis used to support regulatory changes affecting businesses or civil society. It also had a statutory role as the independent verification body for the Business Impact Target (BIT) for duration of the 2015 and 2017 Parliaments, in validating the costs and benefits of the measures contributing to the BIT and confirming that the BIT administrative exclusions have been correctly applied or certified.

My officials will continue to liaise with the Committee Clerk regarding the campaign to appoint a substantive Chair, including arrangements for the proposed appointee to appear before the Committee at a pre-appointment scrutiny hearing.

THE RT HON ALOK SHARMA MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy