

Annual Westminster Conference: Coherence and stability in regulatory policy

25 April 2014, One Great George Street, Westminster, 9.00am – 5.30pm

This year's conference will provide an opportunity for a sustained examination of the related challenges of securing coherence and stability in the conduct of regulatory policy, from economic, legal and political perspectives. We have a strong list of speakers and chairs lined up as follows:

- Vince Cable, Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
- Peter Freeman, Chair, Competition Appeals Tribunal
- David Gray, Chair, Gas and Electricity Markets Authority
- Cathryn Ross, CEO, Water Services Regulation Authority
- Roger Witcomb, Chair, Competition Commission
- Richard Price, CEO, Office of Rail Regulation
- Iain Osborne, Group Director Regulatory Policy, Civil Aviation Authority
- Sue Begg, Member, New Zealand Commerce Commission
- Stephen Smith, Director, Competition and Regulatory Strategy, Lloyds Banking Group
- Suyong Kim, Partner, Hogan Lovells International LLP
- Scott Hempling, Attorney at Law LLC, formerly Director of the US National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI)
- Gordon Downie, Partner, Regulation and Markets, Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP
- Professor George Yarrow, Regulatory Policy Institute

To these will be added one further speaker on regulatory issues in small jurisdictions, (probably either Catalonia or Estonia).

As always at RPI events, there will be ample time for discussion. We aim for thoughtful, individual contributions to regulatory discourse, not a programme crowded with statements of organisational positions.

The general theme and the sessions

The choice of conference theme is motivated by the understanding that much public policy making occurs via changes to economic institutions, since it is only relatively rarely that the executive and legislative arms of government have a direct capacity to determine economic outcomes themselves. This raises a general problem, since institutional stability is generally viewed as an important contributor to economic performance.

The conference will be divided into four sessions devoted to exploring particular aspects of the general stability/coherence problem in policy making, examining the problems with which it is associated in different sectoral and regulatory settings, and actual and potential policy responses to those problems.

Detailed timetable to follow.

Times, fees and booking arrangements.

The conference will run from 9.30am to 5.30pm, with registration opening at 9pm.

The basic conference fee is £360 + VAT, which includes lunch and morning and afternoon refreshments.

Other rates are: Academic £150; Senior Citizens £120; and Students £50.

The discount for RPI members on bookings over and above the relevant number of charge fee places is 30%. Membership details are attached, and the attention of government departments, regulatory agencies and non-profit organisations is drawn to the newly established 'public body' category, which they might find particularly cost-effective.

There is an 'early bird' discount of 15% on all the above rates for **bookings made not later than 31 January and paid not later than 28 February 2014.**

*Please note that, because of the Institute's contractual commitments to One Great George Street, bookings will be charged for unless we receive cancellation by **11 April 2014.***

An application for CPD certification has been approved.