




UK WEIGHING FEDERATION
PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Meeting, held on Thursday, 3rd October 2024 at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon

Present:

Tom Marren	UKWF President
Kevin Cartwright	Avery Berkel
Jim Cameron	Avery Weigh-Tronix
Andy Fox	Avery Weigh-Tronix
Graham Spink	AWM
Bally Dhaliwal	Bizerba
Yasmin Golder	Bizerba
John Holness	Bizerba
Mahesh Jesani	Bizerba
Owen Whittle	Bizerba
Richard Pouncy	Dini Argeo / Rice Lake
Gareth Roberts	Flintec
Richard Herbert	Herbert Retail Ltd
Julian Hope	Herbert Retail Ltd
Ian Hodgson	Ishida Europe Limited
Sujeet Kumar	Ishida Europe Limited
Ashley Fung	Ishida Europe Limited
Steve Milling	Marco Ltd
Andrew Goddard	Marel
Paul Fletcher-Dyer	Marsden Group
Sam Jones	OHAUS EUROPE GmbH
Tim Watson	OHAUS EUROPE GmbH
Marina Kerr Campbell	Precia Molen UK Ltd
Derek Johnstone	Precia Molen UK Ltd
Anthony Bennett-Poole	PWS Ltd
Lucy Bennett-Poole	PWS Ltd
George Cox	Rice Lake / Dini Argeo UK Ltd
Tony Goodman	Total weighing solutions
Samantha Sullivan	TWS
Gary Harris	UK Inspections Systems
Liam Buxton	Weighbridge Services Ltd
Tom Causer	Weighbridge Services Ltd
Nick Burley	Weightron Bilanciai Ltd



Darren Jones
Nick Catt
Daniel Egan-Sheath

Weightron Bilanciai Ltd
Weightron Bilanciai Ltd
WOMAG

Speakers & Guests

Iain Hoey
Chris Corkan
Chris Goodacre
Katie Begg
Ian Turner

CTSI
Make UK
UKWF Admin
UKWF Comms
UKWF Technical

1. Presidents Welcome

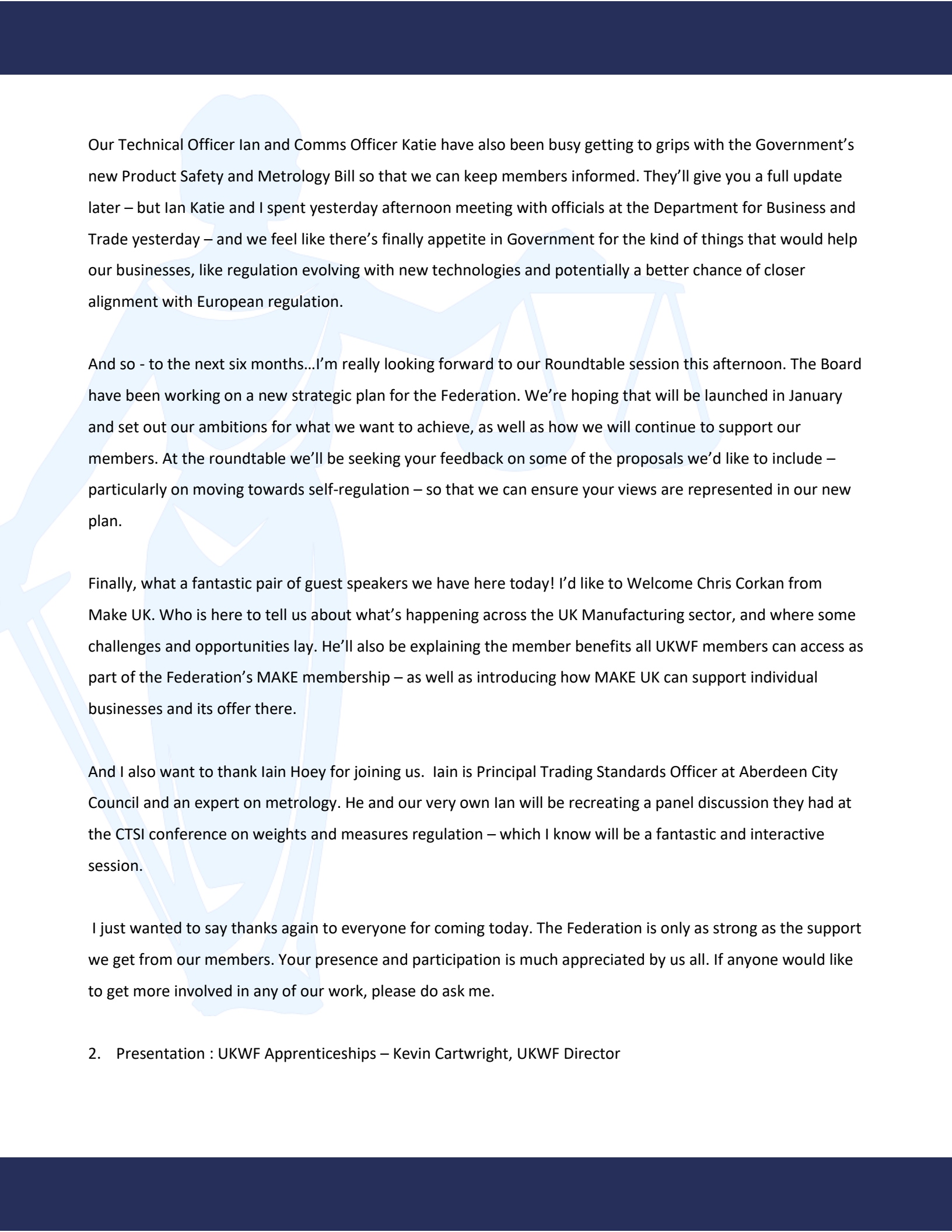
A very warm welcome to all of our members. What a fantastic turnout! We really appreciate everyone for taking times out of their busy day-to-day work to be here, participate and support the work of the Federation.

I just want to take a moment to reflect on what we've been up to over the past six months, since we all met in York. Because it's been both busy and incredibly rewarding to see some of our hard work pay off.

We'll be hearing from Kevin later in the meeting about our training offer – but I'm excited to say that we've had some really strong interest from our partners and CECIP, as well as overseas weighing associations, in our programme. We're working on creating an offer for international partners who want to access UKWF training. It's a great commercial opportunity for us that we hope will generate new income that we can invest in supporting our own member businesses and furthering the aims of the Federation.

Kevin will also share plans about our next Legal Metrology Course, as well as the development of the apprenticeship scheme.

Our CTSI partnership continues to grow. We've been collaborating with them on a new report to highlight the importance of legal metrology in society which we hope to share with you soon. We've also continued to offer CTSI Open Days, facilitated by UKWF member companies, to improve the quality of our regulatory enforcement.



Our Technical Officer Ian and Comms Officer Katie have also been busy getting to grips with the Government's new Product Safety and Metrology Bill so that we can keep members informed. They'll give you a full update later – but Ian, Katie and I spent yesterday afternoon meeting with officials at the Department for Business and Trade yesterday – and we feel like there's finally appetite in Government for the kind of things that would help our businesses, like regulation evolving with new technologies and potentially a better chance of closer alignment with European regulation.

And so - to the next six months...I'm really looking forward to our Roundtable session this afternoon. The Board have been working on a new strategic plan for the Federation. We're hoping that will be launched in January and set out our ambitions for what we want to achieve, as well as how we will continue to support our members. At the roundtable we'll be seeking your feedback on some of the proposals we'd like to include – particularly on moving towards self-regulation – so that we can ensure your views are represented in our new plan.

Finally, what a fantastic pair of guest speakers we have here today! I'd like to welcome Chris Corkan from Make UK. Who is here to tell us about what's happening across the UK Manufacturing sector, and where some challenges and opportunities lay. He'll also be explaining the member benefits all UKWF members can access as part of the Federation's MAKE membership – as well as introducing how MAKE UK can support individual businesses and its offer there.

And I also want to thank Iain Hoey for joining us. Iain is Principal Trading Standards Officer at Aberdeen City Council and an expert on metrology. He and our very own Ian will be recreating a panel discussion they had at the CTSI conference on weights and measures regulation – which I know will be a fantastic and interactive session.

I just wanted to say thanks again to everyone for coming today. The Federation is only as strong as the support we get from our members. Your presence and participation is much appreciated by us all. If anyone would like to get more involved in any of our work, please do ask me.

2. Presentation : UKWF Apprenticeships – Kevin Cartwright, UKWF Director

Kevin gave his presentation on Apprenticeships and this is attached to the minutes.

UKWF Metrology Certificate

- To-date, we have now trained 35 Delegates from the UKWF's members, and they all successfully completed the Metrology Training.
- As a reminder, the Metrology Training Course is open to all UKWF members. It is very effective for new people into our industry, but equally applicable to long standing employees looking for a broader or deeper understanding of weighing.
- Delegates were down to just 6 at the May Training course and the numbers were low for the September Metrology training course too, so the board took the decision to defer the September training until 24 February 2025
- Please book early for the February 2025 training, booking is open now.

International Metrology Certificate

The board have received several requests for "our" Metrology Training course outside of UK Consultation with the members at the April meeting (round table), showed unanimous support for this:

This will generate revenue for the UKWF

This will give the UKWF initiative world-wide recognition

So, we are in discussion with CECIP currently to run a training course

Early days yet, but we have submitted a proposal and CECIP have just surveyed their members

UKWF Apprentice Metrology Diploma

- Back in April, we performed 5 round table discussions with our members:
- We confirmed the course content would be a total of 18 days
- We added a few new subjects:
- (AI/Internet/RAM's/Confined space/Retail Price Computing)
- Unanimous decision to perform all 18 days in-person
- 18 days probably split in 2 blocks of 5 days and 2 blocks of 4 days
- Diploma to be completed within 6 months

Our current thoughts on timing are below:

- 3rd March 2025 for the first 5-day training course – In Person @ Luton
- 12th May 2025 for the second 5-day training course – In Person @ Luton
- 7th July 2025 for the third 4-day training course – In Person @ Luton
- 1st September 2025 final 4-day training course – In Person @ Luton

We will include Pass, Merit and Distinction grades

Pricing – dependant on size of the cohort

For a cohort of FIVE, the Diploma price per delegate will be £5,500 - equivalent of £306 per day

For a cohort of TEN, the Diploma price per delegate would drop to £3,500 - equivalent to £195 per day

The Journey:

- We started this journey 7 years ago
- We have been down many blind alleys
- Had "false hope" from the Government branded "UK" schemes
- We have even been through Covid related delays

The Outcome:

- Despite all of the above – we NOW have a unique and EXCLUSIVE solution
- We have created a successful Metrology training course along the way – Bonus!
- We are currently writing all the training material for the 18-day Diploma
- Next March, training will commence
- The talking is over, let the Apprentice Metrology Diploma begin!

Next Steps

- We will contact all our members to identify delegates
- Once the cohort size is defined
- We will then confirm final pricing
- You will be able to book places

Kevin encouraged members to book in for the Certificate course in February 2025 – details on how to book are available on the website.

The Diploma course is for apprentices who are going through a relevant apprenticeship course to add onto their apprenticeship although it is only recognised in the Weighing Industry.

Question: If a company has a trainee that isn't on an apprenticeship course already, but who will be put onto an apprenticeship – are they eligible?

If they are doing the relevant background in Electronics etc, then as this for UKWF members to decide individually.

Funding for Apprenticeships can be available. We would recommend that you contact your Growth Hub and they will endeavour to find you some funding

Question: Lucy Bennett-Poole, Positive Weighing asked if the course dates had been set up to consider the apprentices course holidays as they will be attending college a number of days week and this might cause a conflict.

Kevin advised that these had presently been pencilled in as when Ian is available, but going forward we need to be aware of these things.

Question: Is the confined spaces training a formal qualification

No, this is an overview and cannot be used as recognised confined space training.

Question: Is this course for apprentices that are already doing an apprenticeship or do you have to wait until they are starting an apprenticeship.

Kevin advised that as long as the apprentice was doing a relevant course, they could do the Diploma at any stage of their apprenticeship.

3. Presentation : UKWF Comms – Katie Begg, UKWF Comms Officer

Katie gave her presentation which is attached to these minutes.

Usual Comms

- Monthly Updates
- Ian's Vlog
- Newsletter due in October
- September Webinar on POS
- Social media growth: 924 LinkedIn followers – up over 200 in a year

Comms Priority

- Media and Political Engagement
- Engaged with Department for Business and Trade and OPSS
- CTSI
- Continued to support our CTSI Training Offer
- Ian Turner attended CTSI Conference and spoke at seminar panel session
- Continued to input into CTSI policy report that will be published soon.
- Attended a CTSI training day to understand more about how these work and talk to trainees about their work
- Training
- Promoted the UKWF Legal Metrology Certificate training course

External Affairs

Government Engagement

- Fed back on Product Regulation and Metrology Bill to Department for Business and Trade and OPSS
- Met with officials at DBT to discuss a range of regulatory issues
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Met and liaised with international weighing federations to discuss working together
- Continued working with GAMBICA and MAKE UK to offer new benefits to members
- Parliamentary Relations
- November update will include downloadable introductory letter for member companies to send their local MPs

What is Next

UKWF membership

- Create new working group to explore how to promote and grow membership
- Exploring plans to create engaging promotional materials
- Promote new UKWF strategic plan

Trading Standards

- Work in partnership to promote and deliver the UKWF trading standards training offer
- Continue work on the new co-badged policy report and potentially conduct regional analysis of inspection frequency

Others

- Support UKWF projects
- Promote the UKWF apprenticeship scheme

- Support development of proposals for earned autonomy or periodic reverification
- Support liaison with international counterparts
- Relationship with Government
- Work on the Product Regulation and Legal Metrology Bill
- Continue to grow our relationship with the OPS&S and DBT
- Post-election MP engagement
- UKWF Media Relations
- Remain vigilant to media opportunities
- Explore media opportunities with trade press in associated industries

All our social media growth is organic as we don't do paid ads.

Please feedback on comms to Katie as this will help improve our content.

If anyone has any input for the newsletter this month, please forward it to comms@ukwf.org.uk

Question: Julian Hope from Herbert Retail asked how many of the of the LinkedIn followers are outside of the UKWF membership.

Katie advised that some are CTSi, some are international companies and some are end users.

She will analyse this and report at the AGM in April

4. Presentation : Make UK and

Chris gave his presentation and that is available here.

Question: Tom Marren asked Chris if there was any other sources of funding for training and apprenticeships. Chris advised that after transition from European funding to national funding many areas are waiting for multi funding sign off. Some areas seem to have better access to funding than others. In the North and West Midlands - Made Smarter could assist with funding. Trying to get a national roll out, so watch out for this in March 2025.

Otherwise approach your Growth Hub.

Question: What is Make UK opinion on ESG (environmental, Social and Governance) requirements and Policies Chris advised that MAKE are looking to streamlining some of the reporting requirements. Trying to find a way to standardise this to send to customers. Those supplying public sector will need to be aware this is an increasing requirement of contracts.

5. Presentation : Panel Discussion on Legal Metrology by Iain Hoey, CTSi Lead Officer for Metrology and Ian Turner, UKWF Technical Officer

Ian and Iain gave their presentations which are attached to these minutes.

The following questions were asked:

Lucy Bennett-Poole, Positive Weighing

The figures presented from the local authority returns to government, is it possible to have a breakdown by area on the section 70 report

IT advised that he would arrange this

Iain advised that there is no legal obligation on TS to do section 70 reports, only to report what they have done. There is no consequence for not doing any inspections. He advised that most TS departments have a resource issue. Some authorities may have no W&M officers and others are subject to funding constraints and prioritising of political issues. Most are checking Vapes etc and consumer items, not weighing equipment

Derek Thompson, Precia Molen

What is the criteria for the inspections and are these detailed – for example how do we know what tests were carried out on the instruments tested?

Iain advised that there are no specifics on the report relating to what tests are done, only that an inspection has been carried out.

IT advised that these statistics back up some of the plans that UKWF have to work with CTSi on inspections going forward.

Any non-compliance issues found during inspection would, if required, be criminal prosecutions – and these are notoriously difficult to prove. There could be a point to move to civil prosecution such as a fine for each non-compliance.

Graham Spink asked who TSO are responsible to – this would be the local CEO of the authority?

Jim Cameron, Avery Weightronix - One of the references in Iain's slides was to WELMEC advice. UK are no longer members of WELMEC so how relevant is this to UK?

IH hopes we can re-join but also advised that Welmec guides were written to interpret the directives and they are still pertinent and used by TSO's.

6. Presentation : UKWF Technical Officer presentation, - Ian Turner

Ian gave his technical presentation which is attached to these minutes.

The following questions were asked:

If a POS is attached to equipment by the customer and it is not certified then the best advice would be to unattach it.

7. Round Table Discussions - discussions to include

A. Representing and upholding the highest regulatory standards

All ideas welcome in how to better promote UKWF membership as a 'kite-mark' for high quality standards and regulatory compliance in the UK market.

We would also like specific feedback on the value of the UKWF producing proposals for Government that facilitate a degree of industry self-regulation, such as periodic reverification or earned autonomy.

Before the roundtable, we will explain these approaches in more detail.

- B. Addressing skills growth and sustainability in our industry
We would appreciate members feeding back on any challenges they might have in staff recruitment, retention, and training.
We would also appreciate further feedback on the UKWF's own training scheme and proposed apprenticeship scheme.
- C. Working with and influencing Governments in the UK and overseas to promote a strong regulatory frame
We would like to build evidence of the impact of lack of resource for regulatory enforcement. We would particularly welcome feedback on how many trading standards inspections members have had over the past few years.
- D. Supporting our members and securing the future of the Federation
We would welcome any feedback on what more we can be doing for members or how we can do more to promote the Federation.
What do you feel could be the benefits or risks of offering some kind of affiliate membership to overseas weighing federations?
- E. Developing our partnership approach
Are there other organisations the UKWF should partner with?
Which industries are a priority for UKWF to promote the benefits of high quality, compliant weighing companies to?

Most tables were only able to discuss point A

Graham/ Jim's Table

Regulatory standards

Raise UKWF profile to show we are doing that. Exhibitions and Trade magazines?

Members to assist with promoting our expertise and holding members to the higher standards

H&S to ask for calibrations from only UKWF members

Internal rules for enforcing CoP within UKWF

Kevin's Table

Kite Mark – not a great idea

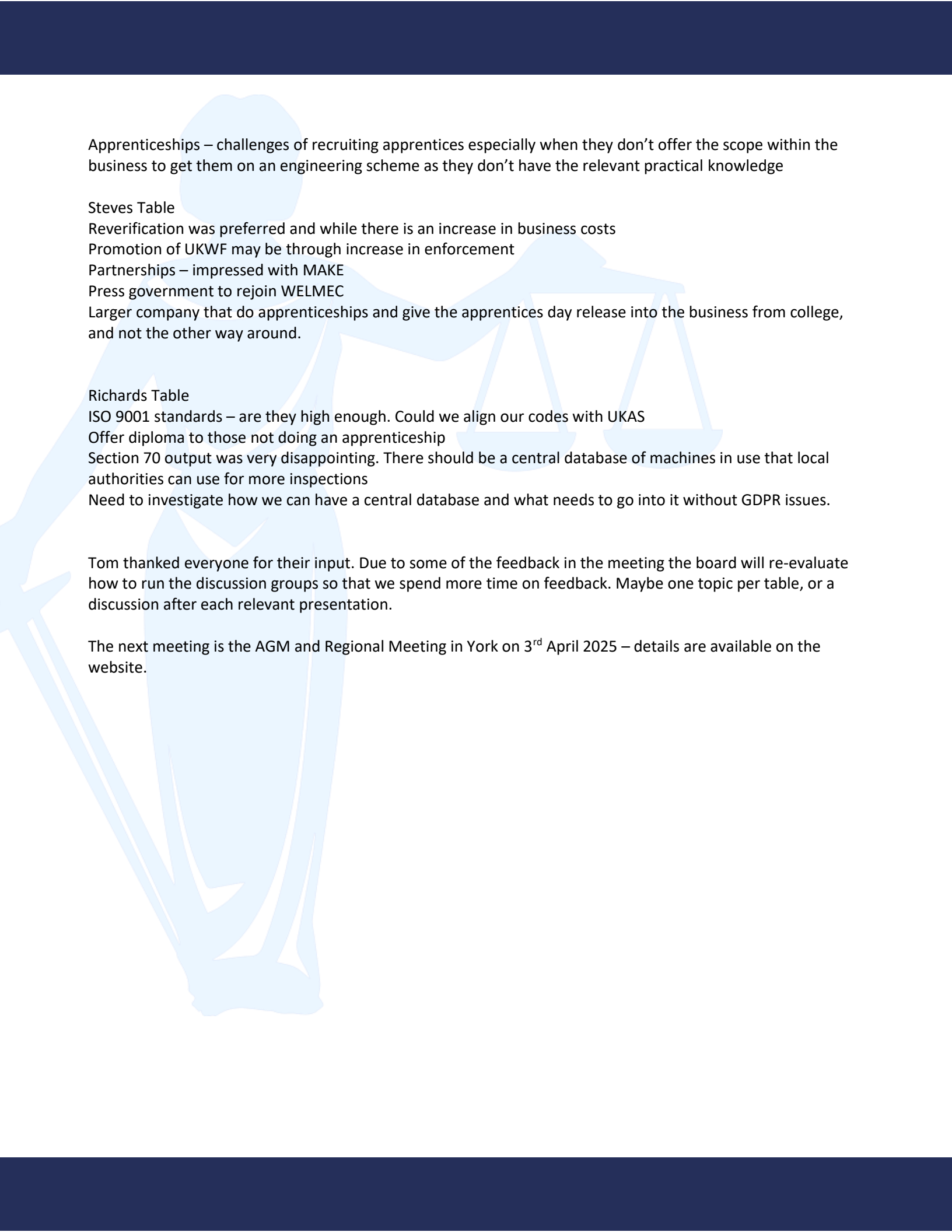
Working with other trade bodies to promote UKWF standards and encourage them to promote us to their members

Earned Autonomy – enforcement aspects such as unapproved POS. Should advise customer that this is not compliant and put this onto the TS database if you can report failure without naming the customer.

Andy & Sam's table

How do we pitch EA as a UK wide project

Additional costs of periodic reverification so EA would be more palatable



Apprenticeships – challenges of recruiting apprentices especially when they don't offer the scope within the business to get them on an engineering scheme as they don't have the relevant practical knowledge

Steves Table

Reverification was preferred and while there is an increase in business costs

Promotion of UKWF may be through increase in enforcement

Partnerships – impressed with MAKE

Press government to rejoin WELMEC

Larger company that do apprenticeships and give the apprentices day release into the business from college, and not the other way around.

Richards Table

ISO 9001 standards – are they high enough. Could we align our codes with UKAS

Offer diploma to those not doing an apprenticeship

Section 70 output was very disappointing. There should be a central database of machines in use that local authorities can use for more inspections

Need to investigate how we can have a central database and what needs to go into it without GDPR issues.

Tom thanked everyone for their input. Due to some of the feedback in the meeting the board will re-evaluate how to run the discussion groups so that we spend more time on feedback. Maybe one topic per table, or a discussion after each relevant presentation.

The next meeting is the AGM and Regional Meeting in York on 3rd April 2025 – details are available on the website.