



TTF's Advisory Group Meeting Notes

7 May 2024, held on Zoom from 3:00PM to 4:00PM

Attendees - all are members of TTF's Advisory Group, see [here](#)

- John Howard, Advisory Group Chair
 - Mark Bishop
 - Martin White
 - Roger Mullin
 - JB Beckett
- + Andy Agathangelou, Founder of TTF

Apologies:

- Steve Kenzie
- Greg LeRoy
- Mike O'Dwyer
- Sue Lewis
- David Pitt-Watson
- David Masters
- Sue Flood
- Gavin Starks
- Clare Spottiswoode

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Checked
- No conflicts of interest were declared

NOTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

- Held on 2 April 2024
- Notes approved
- **Action** - Chelsea to put the notes onto the website here:
<https://www.transparencytaskforce.org/advisory-group/>

KEY TALKING POINTS IN TODAY'S MEETING

1) SHOULD NAMES BE MENTIONED IN THESE NOTES?

This matter was discussed. The conclusion was that adding names adds little to the understanding of what was discussed and what decisions were made.

Action for Andy - moving forward the notes should not unnecessarily refer to a specific person unless there is a reason to do so

2) THE IDEA OF TTF BECOMING A CHARITY

There was a full, frank, and constructive discussion on the pros and cons of TTF becoming a charity.

The positives, in favour of TTF becoming a charity:

- Greater chance of strengthening the reputation of TTF; it would be seen with more credibility and it would have greater moral authority
- Greater chance of generating more sustainable, repeatable income e.g. through Foundations that may support TTF
- The risk of TTF running out of money is greater than the risk of TTF becoming captured and/or Andy falling out with the Trustees
- It could be argued that TTF is more likely to achieve its objectives if it has the benefits of becoming a charity
- Charity status may protect TTF in relation to the legal challenges against it

The negatives, against TTF becoming a charity:

- Andy is very uncomfortable with:
 - The idea of losing control of TTF and it becoming captured

- The idea of him becoming unemployed as a result of falling out with the Trustee Board that would control the charity over any matter that Andy feels strongly about- such a situation would be devastating both financially and otherwise
- The idea of having to create a new version of TTF following his departure from the original TTF in the event of a falling out - he does not believe he would have the capacity to rebuild another TTF from scratch - there have been many sacrifices (financial and otherwise) that have been made to get TTF to where it now is, with the help of everybody on the way; there wouldn't be enough 'left in the tank'
- Some members may be less inclined to help/support TTF if they do not have a means of influencing it
- There is potential for capture; for example through industry infiltration/influence over time
- If TTF becomes a charity to increase the likelihood of attracting money from Foundations there is a risk that over time TTF's agenda may become watered down as it becomes progressively more mainstream under the conscious or otherwise attraction of doing campaigns/projects that are most likely to attract funding as opposed to doing campaigns/projects that need to be done
- There is no certainty that future generations of trustees are 'true to mission?'

Other considerations:

- Assessing risk properly should be cognisant of the likelihood of something bad happening and the severity of the consequences of it happening
- Andy should seek to have a wider, more expansive view of the issues at hand; the bigger picture
- If TTF does not become a charity then Andy needs to make the current model work satisfactorily (e.g in relation to funding) or evolve it such that it works well enough
- TTF could explore the scope to collaborate with existing charities where a charity dimension is needed; eg the charity has the 'position' needed and TTF has the impact needed
- TTF could explore the idea of creating a separate entity that has charity status
- That separate charity entity could become the vehicle through which to implement a succession plan; with the charity being set up say two or three years before Andy's planned retirement at age 67, in 2030; and it gradually cannibalising/subsuming TTF over that two or three year overlap period
- The need for succession planning is important - we can envision a 'recirculating déjà vu' as the successful battles for consumer interests are diluted over time and have to be re-fought in years to come; i.e. TTF's work and purpose will be needed indefinitely

3) FORMER MP ROGER MULLIN'S EXCELLENT WORK ON SLAPPS

Roger's extensive campaigning on [SLAPPS](#) (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) has resulted in a law change being expected in Scotland - a remarkable achievement that will help consumer interests and the wider public interest. Many congratulations to Roger!

TTF has X'd about it, [see here](#), please share.

How could this be replicated throughout the rest of the UK?

NEXT TTF ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

- Always the first Tuesday of the month 3:00PM to 4:00PM UK time, on Zoom
- So that's Tuesday 4 June 3:00PM to 4:00PM UK time, on Zoom