

Recent RCVS Projects

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RCVS President

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Indications

- Data management system (DMS) > 10 years old and needing replacement
- Increasing need for space (especially during Disciplinary Committee hearings)

Evolution

- DMS over ≈ four years, including formal tendering exercise
- Building redevelopment of lower ground floor (LGF) over ≈ three years

Changing scope

- DMS
 - Ongoing development work, including:
 - New registration regulations
 - Changes to VN arrangements
- LGF
 - Planning issues
 - Building regulations issues
 - Unforeseen complications (old building)
 - Enhanced AV facilities to future-proof

The figures (all exc VAT*)

- DMS
 - Initial costs £170,000
 - Cost to date £366,438
 - When annual IT development budget for 2010 and 2011 (£60k per year) included = 45% over budget
 - Database continues to evolve, including ongoing consultancy

NB, only 19% of VAT is reclaimable, and the rate of VAT varied across the project

The figures (all exc VAT*)

- LGF
 - As scope evolved, adjustments to costings reported to Planning and Resources Committee (P&RC) and Council and agreed
 - Approved cost £424,000 – in stages
 - Final cost £484,000
 - 14% over budget

NB, only 19% of VAT is reclaimable, and the rate of VAT varied across the project

Reviews

- Instituted by Peter Jinman, 2010
 - Past Presidents Group (PP)
 - To review all aspects of the workings of the RCVS structure
- Announced by Peter Jinman at RCVS Day 2011
 - PP plus two lay members of Council, Richard Davis and Judith Webb (PP+2), to look at governance, organisation and management of the College
 - Overspend Review (McKelvey plus Davis and Webb)

Outcomes

- PP+2
 - Work in progress
 - Audit and Risk Committee priority
 - Role of Registrar/CEO
 - Possible new Committee structure reporting to Board
- Overspend Review Group
 - Had always been intention of Officers to publish the report in full
 - Recommendations now published
 - Part of report withheld on legal advice

Freedom of Information Act



- Freedom of Information (FOI) request received for full Overspend Report
- Usually internal adjudication by Information Officer (Gordon Hockey), with review by Registrar
- In this case, referred to legal Counsel
- Outcome awaited

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Existing governance measures



- Finance and General Purposes Committee now Planning and Resources Committee (P&RC), with revised terms of reference
- External auditors (Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP)
- Independent member of P&RC agreed October 2006 (Gaskell, then Brown)

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Existing governance measures cont'd



- Corporate Governance Group established July 2008
- Permanent Governance Review Group established 2009

*“The College’s governance arrangements are generally well laid out and diligently followed... [and the GRG] expressed their satisfaction with the College’s governance, noting generally consistently high practice, reflecting well on both Council and the executive team”
(GRG Chairman Sir David Barnes, June 2010)*

- Protocol for management of major projects under development, and has been discussed by Committees

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Business as usual in all other areas



- Final stages of new Code of Professional Conduct
- Consultations on specialisation and performance protocol
- Investigations and Disciplinary Committee work
- Work on the Legislative Reform Order to separate statutory committee membership from Council

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Closing

- In closing I would like to emphasise that I, as President of the RCVS, am sorry for what has happened but I hope you will appreciate that steps are being taken, in particular the setting up of the Audit and Risk Committee to strengthen governance within our College.

Thank you for your time.

Any questions?