Payment System Governance at the National Level

Kirstin Wells, FRB Chicago

Slides for Rules of the Road Panel

Thursday Sept. 25 at 1:45
General purpose payment system

- Bank
- EPN
- VISA
- Discover
- Mastercard
- FedACH
- Reserve Bank check services
- Pulse
- STAR

End user

End user

End user
What is national payments governance?

The manner in which a country’s payment system goals and strategies are established, and the means through which successful attainment of those goals and strategies is measured.
## Attributes of effective governance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the general purpose payment system have:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explicit objectives that reflect public policy considerations?</td>
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<td>A means for measuring whether each of the major payment schemes meets the needs of end users?</td>
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<td>Broad stakeholder participation in key decisions including strategy, design, and rules</td>
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<td>Arrangements that provide clear responsibility and accountability for outcomes?</td>
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<td>Incentives that promote the policy objectives, including enforcement?</td>
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<td>Openness and transparency?</td>
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## Governance arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Arrangement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Payments System Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Task Force for the Payments System Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>European Payments Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Payments Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
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Explicit objectives that reflect public policy considerations

Canada (2010)

“The [Task Force for the Payments System Review] fulfills a commitment made in Budget 2010 to review the safety, soundness, and efficiency of the payments system; whether there is sufficient innovation in the payments system...whether businesses and consumers are being well served by payments system providers...”

-The Honorable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance
A means for measuring whether each of the major payment schemes meets the needs of end users

July 2012 Public consultation on regulation and governance of UK payments networks

June 2011 Public consultation on Strategic Review of Innovation in the Payments System

October 2013 Public consultation on establishment of an Australian Payments Council and User Consultation Group
Broad stakeholder participation in key decisions including strategy, design, and rules

Canada

Task Force for the Payments System Review

18 month engagement with a wide range of stakeholders

• Roundtables, surveys, and one-on-one meetings with businesses of all kinds

• Electronic Invoices and Payments Working Group

• Consumer Advisory Group

• Online public consultation
Arrangements that provide clear responsibility and accountability for outcomes

UK Payments Council

“The Payments Council is the body with responsibility for ensuring that payment services work for all those that use them in the UK”

Schemes working with the Council under contract:
BACS, CHAPS, Cheque & Credit Clearing, Faster Payments, LINK, Belfast Bankers’ Clearing
Incentives that promote the policy objectives, including enforcement

Payment Systems (Regulation) Act 1998

“The Reserve Bank is given the power to designate payment systems...” with the power to:

• Impose an access regime on the participants in the system
• Make standards to be complied with by participants
• Arbitrate disputes and give directions to participants
Openness and transparency

• Australia, Canada, EU, and UK have an abundance of public information on the web
• Japan and US very limited
## Results

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Australia</th>
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<th>UK</th>
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<th>Canada</th>
<th>US</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objectives?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measuring needs?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholder participation?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accountability?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enforcement?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transparency?</td>
<td>✓</td>
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Key points

• In the UK, even with a Payments Council that provided many elements of effective governance, it was not enough

• In Canada, the government did all the work of measuring needs and outlining goals, but has not put a structure in place

• In Japan, cultural factors may be in play
Conclusion

In the three countries that most closely align with measures of effective governance, a governmental authority – central bank, Treasury, or competition authority – plays a central role in coordinating GPPS governance.