

Companies House Fees Regulations

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

RPC rating: fit for purpose

Description of proposal

The proposal will amend Companies House fees in line with cost recovery principles. Overall the proposal will pass on savings to business as a result of efficiencies made by Companies House. One minor element of the proposal relates to a reduction in the scope of regulation, with newspaper proprietors no longer being required to file returns with Companies House.

Impacts of proposal

The proposal will amend fees associated with Companies House registration and search services. The changes to the fee levels are expected to result in an annual net benefit to business of £0.27 million. There is also expected to be a smaller benefit to members of the public who use Companies House services.

The proposal relating to newspaper proprietors will remove a regulatory requirement. As newspaper proprietors will no longer be required to file returns, the associated reduction in fees is a direct result of the reduced scope of regulation. The fee to register a newspaper return is £10, with 27 proprietors currently registered. The removal of the requirement will result in an annual benefit to business of £270. This aspect of the proposal is considered as a qualifying regulatory provision under the business impact target.

The RPC is able to validate, rounded to the nearest £100,000, the estimated equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB) of zero for the qualifying regulatory provision elements of the proposal. The RPC can also validate the EANCB of -£0.3 million for the fees charges.

Quality of submission

The IA provides a sufficient level of detail to support the estimated impacts. This includes providing information on the number of businesses affected by each change in fees and the proposed change in fee levels, for each of the proposed changes.

Small and micro business assessment

The IA states that, in order to meet cost recovery principles and meet EU company registry requirements, it would not be possible to exempt small or micro businesses. This assessment is reasonable.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Both qualifying regulatory provision (OUT) and fees and charges (not a regulatory provision)
Equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB)	£0.0 million (qualifying regulatory provision) -£0.27 million (not a regulatory provision)
Business net present value	£2.4 million (£0.0 million in relation to the qualifying regulatory provision element)
Societal net present value	£3.4 million

RPC assessment

Classification	Both qualifying regulatory provision (OUT) and fees and charges (not a regulatory provision)
EANCB – RPC validated ¹	£0.0 million (qualifying regulatory provision) -£0.3 million (not a regulatory provision)
Small and micro business assessment	Sufficient



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

¹ For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANCB figures to the nearest £100,000.