

## Natural England

### Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

#### Non-qualifying regulatory provision assurance statement: **confirmed**

The Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) is content that, on the basis of the summary information provided, none of the measures or activities covered in the summary document should be considered as a qualifying regulatory provision for the purposes of the business impact target. This statement does not provide a detailed view of any specific activity in the regulator's summary document. Nor does it comment on any activities not included in the summary. Some activities might, however, have been the subject of separate assessments of qualifying regulatory provisions.

#### **Comments on the non-qualifying regulatory provision summary**

During the reporting year, the regulator has updated and refined its guidance on gov.uk in response to customer requests. The quality of the summary could have been improved by stating clearly whether the changes would require significant familiarisation or changes to practice in order to maintain compliance with the guidance.

The regulator has helpfully confirmed by correspondence that the changes to guidance would not require any significant changes. On this basis the RPC can confirm that none of the measures or activities covered in the summary document should be considered as a qualifying regulatory provision for the purposes of the business impact target.

Regulatory Policy Committee

**Regulator:** Natural England

**Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered:** 9 June 2017 to 20 June 2018

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available
Measures certified as being below de minimis (measures with an EANDCB below +/- £5 million)	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion
EU Regulations, Decisions and Directives and other international obligations, including the implementation of the EU Withdrawal Bill and EU Withdrawal Agreement	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion
Measures certified as concerning EU Withdrawal Bill operability measures	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion
Pro-competition	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion
Systemic Financial Risk	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion
Civil Emergencies	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion
Fines and Penalties	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion
Misuse of Drugs	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion
Measures certified as relating to the safety of tenants, residents and occupants in response to the Grenfell tragedy	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available										
Casework	<p>Between 9 June 2017 and 20 June 2018 Natural England responded to 46,823 items of casework. These were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="603 371 1433 757"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="603 371 1129 443">Area of work</th> <th data-bbox="1137 371 1433 443">Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 443 1129 510">Terrestrial planning consultations</td> <td data-bbox="1137 443 1433 510">24,553</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 510 1129 577">Marine planning consultations</td> <td data-bbox="1137 510 1433 577">1095</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 577 1129 689">SSSI and Land Management Consents/Assents</td> <td data-bbox="1137 577 1433 689">4457</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 689 1129 757">Wildlife Licensing applications</td> <td data-bbox="1137 689 1433 757">16,718</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area of work	Number	Terrestrial planning consultations	24,553	Marine planning consultations	1095	SSSI and Land Management Consents/Assents	4457	Wildlife Licensing applications	16,718
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Education, communications and promotion	<p>Natural England continued to update and refine relevant guidance on GOV.UK in response to customer requests. It made 51 publications available to its customers via GOV.UK of which 31 provided specific information on agri-environment schemes, wildlife licensing and marine conservation. Natural England published 16 corporate reports on issues as diverse as national nature reserves, its gender pay gap, hen harrier tracking as well as its Annual Report and Accounts. It published two items of correspondence on Bovine TB authorisations and two promotional documents covering Countryside Stewardship clinics for 2018 and the facilitation fund case study.</p>										
Activity related to policy development	<p>In October 2017 Natural England launched a consultation on plans to change the wildfowling consents process on designated sites in England. Between December 2017 and February 2018 it undertook a major consultation on charging for wildlife licences. The organisation also undertook an additional 59 site specific consultations relating to the England Coastal Path (13), Marine Special Protection Areas (10) and open access restrictions (36). It also opened four opportunities for members of the public to provide information regarding issues that may be relevant to the determination of badger control licence applications in Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire.</p>										
Changes to management of regulator	<p>There have been some changes in the organisation's Senior Leadership Team and the appointment of five new members to the Natural England Board. The number of Area Teams has been reduced to 13 following the merger of the North Mercia and South Mercia teams into a new West Midlands Area Team.</p>										

\* For full, legal definitions of these exclusion categories, please see

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-06-20/HCWS776/>