



Regulatory Policy
Committee

**A Decade of Scrutiny
2009-2019**

January 2020

Contents

Foreword by Stephen Gibson	5
October 2009 to April 2010: Labour Government.....	6
May 2010 to April 2015: Coalition Government.....	7
Case Study: Standardised packaging of tobacco products	10
Case Study: Ballot thresholds in important public services.....	10
Case Study: Machine-readable information on consumer energy bills.....	10
May 2015 to May 2017: Conservative Government.....	11
June 2017 to December 2019: Conservative Government.....	12
What next for the RPC?	13
A centre of excellence.....	13
How could the RPC be even more effective?	15
Contact us	18

Foreword by Stephen Gibson



I am very proud to be chairing the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) at this time. Not only have we reached the significant milestone of 10 years, but it coincides with one of the most interesting political periods in British history and we are pleased to have provided scrutiny of a wide range of regulatory measures including, recently, the Government's impact assessment for the European Union Withdrawal Agreement Bill.

Over the last decade, our role in government has grown from that of an *ad hoc* advisory body producing opinions on regulatory impact assessments that were already in the public domain, to one that has the opportunity to have a much more direct and positive influence on the quality of evidence-based policymaking.

Over this period, we have issued around 4,000 formal and informal opinions on regulatory impact assessments, post-implementation reviews and cost-to-business calculations produced by government on a huge range of policy areas. Our formal opinions take an independent position on whether or not the department's evidence and analysis is fit for purpose. While there was an observable improvement in the standard of government analysis during our first few years, the proportion of cases rated fit for purpose at first submission has remained at around the same level since 2012 – so there is still much for us to do going forward.

The nature of our work means that it is not always welcomed with open arms. We tell government departments and ministers what they need to hear, not what they necessarily want to hear; but we believe that, by scrutinising the quality of the evidence and analysis underpinning proposed regulations, we ultimately help government to make better policy decisions.

Since our inception, we have engaged closely with external stakeholders such as business groups and representatives of civil society organisations to understand the impact of regulations from their perspective. As ever, we welcome their input, views and any evidence of the impacts upon them and others to assist us in our scrutiny. Our stakeholders have been, and will continue to be, crucial contributors to our independent scrutiny process and assist us in ensuring robust evidence is provided to support the regulatory policy making process.

The RPC aspires to be seen as a centre of excellence for analysis of regulatory impacts, and this will be our focus in the years ahead. This publication ends with a section on our own suggestions to government to make our role even more effective by extending our remit in certain areas and we look forward to working with the new Government to help it deliver its policies as effectively as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the current and former members of the committee and secretariat for their hard work over the last decade in making the RPC as successful as it has been. Special thanks go to the RPC's first chair Michael Gibbons for his service over the committee's first eight years and to my predecessor Anthony Browne who steered us over the last two years.

Stephen Gibson

Interim Chair

Regulatory Policy Committee

October 2009 to April 2010: Labour Government

The Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) was formed in 2009 as an independent *ad hoc* advisory body to provide the Government with advice on the quality of the analysis and evidence supporting new regulations. Chaired by Michael Gibbons and supported by a secretariat of civil servants, its purpose was to provide scrutiny of the analysis underpinning new regulatory proposals while not expressing an opinion on the objectives of the policy, which have always been a matter for ministers.



In creating the RPC, the Government's intention was to build upon the work of predecessor bodies, including the Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF) and the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council (RRAC), helping to ensure that regulations are made for the right reasons and are proportionate to the risk and scale of the problem they are addressing.



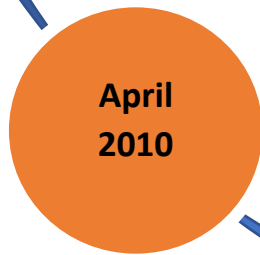
The RPC's role took the next step of holding the Government itself to account for the quality of individual impact assessments, produced by government departments for new regulations, which included scrutinising the detailed cost-benefit analyses of their policy options. By providing public scrutiny of regulatory impact assessments, the RPC aimed to create a cultural change across government in which departments would now have both the incentive and advice needed to increase the quality of their evidence-based policymaking overall.

In its formative months, the RPC reviewed the analysis and evidence supporting a selection of regulatory proposals that were subject to public consultation. Of these, we only issued opinions on ones where there were major concerns about the quality of the analysis.

The founding members of the RPC:
(clockwise from top-left)

- Michael Gibbons, Chair – author of the Gibbons Review of Employment Dispute Resolution and former member of the BRTF
- Sarah Veale – Head of Equality and Employment Rights at the TUC and former member of the RRAC
- Mark Boleat – Public policy consultant and former Director General of the Association of British Insurers
- Ian Peters – Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors and former member of the BRTF
- David Parker – Emeritus Economics Professor of Cranfield School of Management
- Philip Cullum – Deputy Chief Executive of Consumer Focus and former member of the RRAC

Michael's membership of the High-Level Group of Independent Stakeholders on Administrative Burdens (HLG) also helped us establish close partnerships with similar independent bodies internationally – leading to the formation of RegWatchEurope (RWE), a network of seven independent regulatory scrutiny bodies across the continent.



May 2010 to April 2015: Coalition Government

**May
2010**



The Conservative-Liberal Democrat Coalition entered government with a vision for a 'Big Society' and the specific and ambitious aim of being "the first government in modern history to leave office having reduced the overall burden of regulation, rather than increasing it." This would be achieved using the "One-In, One-Out" (OIOO) rule whereby no new regulation would be introduced without changes to existing regulation that reduced the burden on business by at least the same amount.

The RPC's role was strengthened when the Government's own Cabinet sub-committee on Reducing Regulation (chaired by the Business Secretary) now required that impact assessments for all new regulations affecting business or civil society have a 'fit-for-purpose' rating from the RPC.



The RPC, therefore, had to become more explicit in its reviews of government analysis, which now also included validating the contribution of any new measures under the OIOO accounting system before they could be counted towards the Government's aim. Impact assessments were rated either 'fit for purpose' (green or amber-rated) or 'not fit for purpose' (red-rated) and we created a traffic-light rating system to reflect this approach and to advise ministers, in clear terms, whether their decisions to regulate were based on sound evidence and analysis.

All of this meant that the RPC would become engaged earlier in the policymaking process and, therefore, be in a position to influence the quality of the supporting analysis – including prior to consultation – where a much bigger impact could be had.



In April 2011, the Government launched the "Red Tape Challenge", asking members of the public to nominate existing regulations that they felt could be scrapped or improved.

Meanwhile, an increase in the proportion of fit-for-purpose ratings issued by the RPC to 69 per cent (from 56 per cent in 2010) showed how the quality of the regulatory impact assessments received was improving.

**April
2011**

**April
2012**

In April 2012, the RPC was formalised as a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. At this point we bade farewell to Mark Boleat and Philip Cullum and welcomed new members Alexander Ehmann, Jeremy Mayhew, Martin Traynor and Ken Warwick (L to R).



- Alexander Ehmann – former Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs at the Institute of Directors
- Jeremy Mayhew – independent Common Councilman on the City of London Corporation and senior adviser at PwC Consulting
- Martin Traynor – former Group Chief Executive of the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce
- Ken Warwick – independent economics consultant and former Director of Analysis in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

2013

**August
2012**

By August 2012, the overall quality of departments' impact assessments had improved further, with 81 per cent rated fit for purpose.

However, at the same time, the Government streamlined the better regulation framework process, limiting us to red-rating final stage impact assessments only where the direct impacts on business were analysed inadequately.

By 2013, OIOO had been replaced by One-In, Two-Out (OITO) and the Small and Micro Business Assessment (SaMBA), introduced following the micro-business moratorium, became more prominent in our scrutiny. With small and micro businesses being such an important part of the UK economy, our role in scrutinising the impacts of new regulations on them – ensuring departments have appropriately considered exemption, disproportionate impacts and mitigation – was vitally important, and we started to issue red-rated opinions where SaMBAs were insufficient.

At this point we also took on scrutiny of post-implementation reviews (PIRs), to help ensure that the analysis supporting the follow-up evaluation and improvement of regulatory policies by government was also fit for purpose.



2014

What was the Red Tape Challenge?

The Red Tape Challenge looked at some of the stock of over 21,000 statutory rules and regulations in the UK and gathered the public's thoughts on which of them could be scrapped, merged or otherwise made more efficient. It ran from April 2011 to April 2013 and, by 2014, the Government estimated that, combined with OIOO and OITO, the Red Tape Challenge had saved businesses £10 billion in areas ranging from agriculture to aviation. The RPC, of course, played its part in validating that the Government's estimates were supported by sufficiently robust evidence.



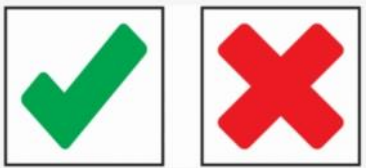
March 2015

In March 2015, Jonathan Cave and Nicole Kar joined the committee as we said goodbye to David Parker and Ian Peters.

Later that year, we introduced our Initial Review Notice (IRN) system – a less formal way of providing early feedback to departments on red-rateable issues and areas for improvement, to encourage them to come back to us with an improved analysis addressing those points and making it more likely that the IA would be passed as fit for purpose. Impact assessments that were not fit for purpose at first assessment could therefore be updated based on our advice.

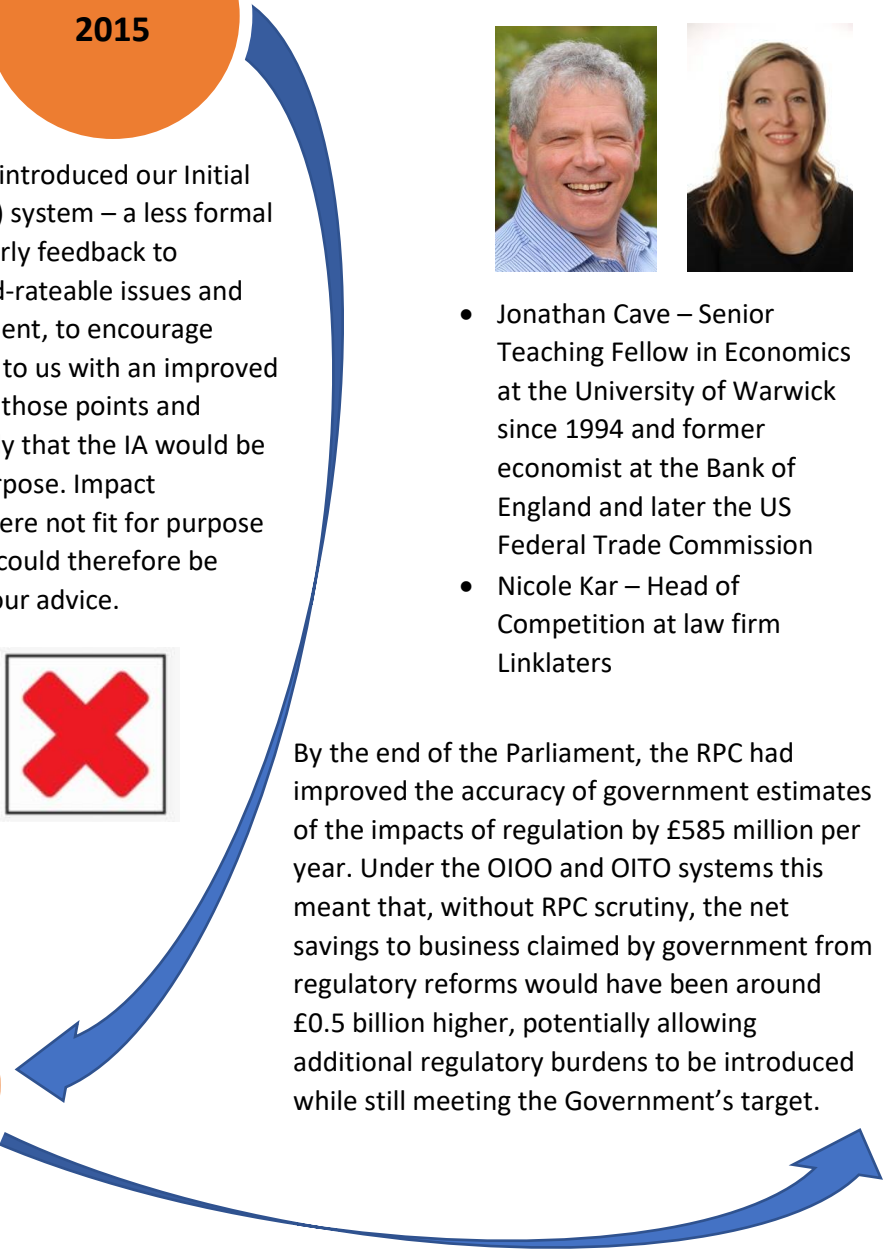


- Jonathan Cave – Senior Teaching Fellow in Economics at the University of Warwick since 1994 and former economist at the Bank of England and later the US Federal Trade Commission
- Nicole Kar – Head of Competition at law firm Linklaters



By the end of the Parliament, the RPC had improved the accuracy of government estimates of the impacts of regulation by £585 million per year. Under the OIOO and OITO systems this meant that, without RPC scrutiny, the net savings to business claimed by government from regulatory reforms would have been around £0.5 billion higher, potentially allowing additional regulatory burdens to be introduced while still meeting the Government's target.

May 2015



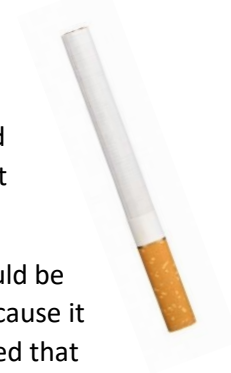
Case Study: Standardised packaging of tobacco products

The RPC has never commented on the Government's policy objectives but takes a rigorous view of the analysis and evidence supporting decisions to regulate. Therefore, while few would argue that improving public health is anything other than an appropriate aim, we nonetheless push for accurate analysis and robust assumptions to underpin policy proposals and assist in the consideration of alternative policy options.

During the 2010-2015 Parliament, the Department of Health introduced legislation to standardise the packaging of tobacco products. The impact assessment for the policy was submitted for independent scrutiny by the RPC and received a red rating due to an incorrect assumption about the direct and indirect costs on business.

The Department had reasoned that the loss of profits for tobacco companies would be indirect – and, therefore, did not qualify under the rules of One-In, Two Out – because it depended on whether smokers changed their behaviour. However, the RPC argued that the loss of profits should be counted as a direct cost, because the measure explicitly restricted promotional activity in order to reduce cigarette consumption and therefore sales of the products.

Our opinion resulted in the measure being reclassified from an 'Out' to an 'In' under One-In, Two-Out and being recognised as a net cost to business in the Government's accounting statement.



Case Study: Ballot thresholds in important public services

As part of the Trade Union Act 2016, the Government consulted on specific measures including setting a new threshold requiring at least 40 per cent of eligible union members to vote in favour



before industrial action could be taken. The RPC issued a red-rated opinion on the Government's consultation stage impact assessment because it did not provide sufficient evidence of the scale of the problem at hand.

Following the RPC's feedback, the final stage impact assessment was improved with data showing the impacts of public sector strike action on the wider economy due to, for example, lost working days in other sectors.

Case Study: Machine-readable information on consumer energy bills

This measure required energy providers to place a 2cm x 2cm machine-readable image, such as a barcode or a quick response code, on all domestic retail consumers' paper energy bills. When scanned by a generic reader, this image would provide access to 12 key pieces of consumption data in an easy-to-read format.



The Government's initial impact assessment provided insufficient evidence that exempting small and micro businesses would not allow the objectives of the proposal to be achieved. Following our scrutiny, the impact assessment was updated with a quantitative analysis showing that small and micro businesses were expected to bear 3.2 per cent of the costs associated with the measure – around £120,000 in total – even though they only made up 0.2 per cent of the market.

Given the very small market share of small and micro businesses, a full exemption was applied because the vast majority of the policy benefits could still be achieved.



May 2015 to May 2017: Conservative Government

**July
2015**

The importance of the RPC's work was recognised in July 2015 when we were given the statutory role of Independent Verification Body (IVB) for the Government's new Business Impact Target (BIT) introduced by the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment (SBEE) Act.

What is the Business Impact Target?

The BIT is a target the Government sets itself in relation to the burdens and savings on business that result from changes in regulation. For this Parliament, as with OIOO and OITO, the Government decided to measure the BIT using the Equivalent Annual Net Direct Cost to Business (EANDCB) for all new and amended qualifying regulatory and deregulatory activities. These calculations are validated by the RPC as the IVB and the Government is required by the SBEE Act to report on its progress towards the BIT every year and at the end of the Parliament.



In 2015, the BIT was set at £10 billion of net savings to business over the five-year Parliament, with an interim target of £5 billion for the first three years. The Government reported that the interim target had been hit a year early but noted this was mainly due to the ending in March 2017 of burdens associated with the second Energy Company Obligation (which required larger energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency measures to domestic premises). The larger part of the successor ECO scheme would fall during the next Parliament.

**June
2016**

On 23 June 2016, the UK voted to leave the European Union (EU). While EU regulations have never counted towards the BIT (other than in cases of 'gold-plating' where UK regulations go beyond EU requirements), the RPC has scrutinised government assessments of larger EU measures because they are a significant source of regulatory costs and benefits to business and wider society.

We have also provided opinions on EU free trade agreements and post-implementation reviews on trade restrictions and other regulations related to international trade.



**May
2017**

By the end of the Parliament, the independent non-economic regulators had been brought into scope of the BIT, and the role of the RPC was extended further to verify the business impacts of qualifying measures from these regulators. We also provide assurance where regulators assess measures as falling within one of the defined BIT exclusions.

June 2017 to December 2019: Conservative Government



The Government's priority over this period was to work towards the UK's exit from the EU. The RPC played a role in this with our scrutiny of the EU Withdrawal Act in July 2017, the Withdrawal Agreement Bill in October 2019 and many related measures – including several pieces of contingency legislation to be implemented in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal in place.



After eight years of service, we said farewell to Michael Gibbons, and Anthony Browne was appointed Chair in December 2017, bringing with him a wealth of business experience. From May 2018, Laura Cox, Stephen Gibson (who has recently taken over from Anthony as Interim Chair), Brian Morgan, Andrew Williams-Fry and Sheila Drew Smith joined Anthony on the committee (replacing Nicole, Martin, Alexander, Ken and our longest serving member, Sarah).

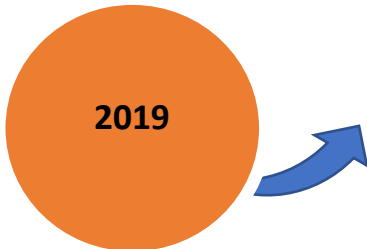
A new Better Regulation Framework was published in 2018, which included the new *de minimis* threshold of \pm £5 million net impacts on business per year, below which RPC scrutiny is no longer required. In addition, consultation stage impact assessments no longer have to be submitted for RPC scrutiny.

Government departments are now expected to self-assess whether their regulatory measures qualify as *de minimis*, but the RPC can ask the Better Regulation Executive (BRE) to 'call in' any measures we are concerned may either be above the *de minimis* threshold or may need scrutiny due to other significant impacts or controversial aspects.

In our role helping departments improve the quality of their analysis, we have continued to offer support in the form of informal advice for consultation stage impact assessments in a quicker turnaround time.

Clockwise from top-left:

- Anthony Browne, Chair – former Chief Executive of the British Bankers' Association and Director of the Policy Exchange
- Laura Cox – former partner in PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP
- Stephen Gibson – Director of SLG Economics and former Chief Economist at Ofwat and Postcomm
- Brian Morgan – Director of the Creative Leadership and Enterprise Centre at the Cardiff School of Management and member of the Cardiff Capital Region Board
- Andrew Williams-Fry – economist and government affairs expert; former director of regulation at Gatwick Airport, Thames Water and the Mastercard group
- Sheila Drew Smith – Chair of Safeagent and former member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life



What next for the RPC?

**2020
onwards**

Ten years on, what has the RPC achieved? Since 2009, when we first started providing independent scrutiny, there has been an observable increase in the quality of the regulatory impact assessments produced by departments. Our work has provided stakeholders and the public with confidence that the potential impacts on business of new regulations have been assessed to a satisfactory extent and that government is not regulating (or deregulating) without due consideration of the possible effects.

Continual changes in the regulatory landscape and its sheer breadth mean that there is always more to be done. Our role has had to move with the times, with changes in government and amendments to the Better Regulation Framework frequently having an impact on how we operate. We want to continue this journey, to build on our success to date and reinforce our value, both to government and to business and wider society.

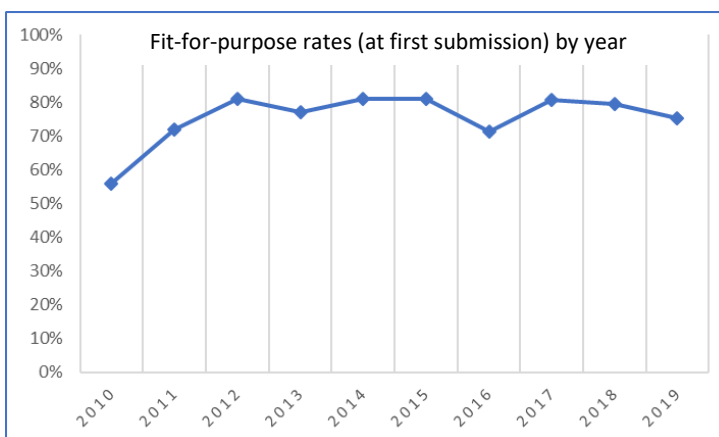
“The Regulatory Policy Committee continues to play a crucial role in holding government to account on its deregulatory commitments – a key issue for the CBI and many of our members. Thanks to its scrutiny, businesses can be confident that regulation is grounded in a strong evidence base.”

– Rain Newton-Smith, Chief Economist at the Confederation of British Industry

A centre of excellence

The focus for the next phase of the RPC is our aspiration to be seen as a centre of excellence for analysis of regulatory impacts – a single, independent entity that departments, ministers, business groups and individuals can all trust to scrutinise government analysis effectively and provide advice on best practice at all stages of policymaking.

Although the standard of government analysis improved during our first few years, the proportion of all cases rated fit for purpose at first submission has remained at around the same level since 2012 – so there is still much for us to do.



As a centre of excellence, we expect our work to develop in the following areas over the next few years.

Improving the skills of policymakers across government

We have already established a set of face-to-face training sessions that we deliver multiple times a year to government officials at all levels, often tailored to the specific analytical requirements of their policy areas. We will continue to develop this training offer, centred on impact assessments, to ensure in particular that new non-analyst civil servants gain an understanding of our role and expectations at the start of their careers. We will also continue to update our training based on both

formal and informal feedback from participants to ensure that it remains relevant, and to ensure that it reflects the current requirements of the Better Regulation Framework.

To ensure even wider accessibility to our training, we are also developing online training modules – initially on effective consultations, cost-benefit analysis, and post-implementation reviews – which will be available 24 hours a day, all year round.

Our website also includes thorough guidance notes and case histories for departments which give examples of the standards expected by the regulatory framework and the reasons why different ratings are given.

Policy evaluation and post-implementation reviews

In our recent opinions, we have commented more frequently on departments’ commitment to monitoring and evaluation. We particularly like to see forward planning for post-implementation reviews, including how the success of the policies will be identified and commitments to collecting data that will track outcomes.

The SBEE Act 2015 introduced a statutory duty on government ministers to make provisions for review in all secondary legislation that regulates business, or publish a statement explaining why it would not be appropriate to do so. This means that, while we have seen some post-implementation reviews up to now, we expect many more from 2020 onwards. Our comprehensive database of regulatory measures over the last ten years will allow us to keep track of which reviews we expect to see and hold government to account if we do not see them.

In the meantime, we have been working closely with the cross-government evaluation group (CGEG) on new guidance for officials on producing post-implementation reviews. We will monitor how well this guidance is followed in future.

Leaving the EU

When the UK exits the European Union, following the expiry of any transition period, EU law will no longer be directly applicable or transposed into UK law.

The RPC’s ongoing scrutiny role will help to ensure that any significant decisions to remove, amend or continue with former EU legislation are supported by sound analysis and evidence.

Whatever the UK’s future relationship with the EU, we hope to maintain our partnership with RegWatchEurope (RWE), the OECD and other international partners to share knowledge and best practice in the approach to regulatory scrutiny.

“With the UK’s pending departure from the EU, there may well be a shake-up in business regulation over the coming years, making the RPC’s role even more important.”

– Simon Walker, former Director General at the Institute of Directors

Trade impacts

With the UK exiting the EU, the Government will be developing a new independent trade policy, and trade policy decisions currently exercised by EU bodies will become part of the UK’s policymaking

process. To support effective ministerial decision making in this area, it will fall on every government department to ensure that regulations are in place to comply with newly negotiated trade

“We hope that Government continues to value the role of the RPC by ensuring that it is sufficiently resourced and at the heart of improving the regulation agenda.”

– Martin McTague, Policy Director at the Federation of Small Businesses

agreements and that any new domestic regulations comply with existing agreements. Government departments are currently trialling a trade question within all regulatory impact assessments which asks them to consider how measures affect trade and investment. The work of DIT and other departments on trade has added to the Government’s policy toolkit, which will be valuable to inform future trade policy. We have supported this by offering

informal opinions on analyses of trade impacts in domestic regulatory impact assessments. In our opinions, the RPC now provides all government departments informal advice on their consideration of trade impacts, helping to ensure the UK’s regulatory landscape facilitates trade with the rest of the world.

Innovation

As set out in its 2019 White Paper *Regulation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution*, the Government aims to create an outcome-focused, flexible regulatory system that enables innovation to thrive while protecting citizens and the environment. The intention is to match this with clarity for business through better use of regulatory guidance, codes of practice and industry standards.

In working towards this objective, the Better Regulation Executive (BRE), with RPC support, are piloting an ‘Innovation Test’ to ensure that the impacts of legislation on innovation, and vice versa, are considered by government departments throughout the policymaking cycle, from developing and assessing policy options, through consulting on proposals, to monitoring, evaluation and post-implementation review of legislation.



BRE and the RPC will encourage policymakers to consider the impacts on innovation in a holistic way, noting the role that alternatives to regulation can play in providing government, citizens and businesses with optimal freedom to innovate. We will also help policymakers to reflect on when is the right time to introduce regulation in order to encourage innovation.

The RPC, with BRE, will develop tools to support policymakers’ consideration of these issues and improved analytical methods to capture the impact of regulation on innovation (and vice versa). During the pilot, the RPC will scrutinise the application of the Innovation Test, to help ensure that innovators have confidence in the approach government is taking in developing significant new regulatory legislation and that these steps have the intended effect.

How could the RPC be even more effective?

From the perspective of our experience over the last ten years, the RPC believes the following proposals would help us to be even more effective:

Widen the scope of consideration for RPC ratings

While the scrutiny of burdens on business is the primary reason for our statutory role under the SBEE Act 2015, we believe that an ability to once again rate the overall analysis, not just the direct business impacts, would improve the analysis all round and support better use of evidence within policymaking in many areas of government.

While our role is the scrutinising of the evidence and analysis supporting policy decisions, we believe that proper consideration of the rationale for intervention and offering a range of options at consultation stage, including alternatives to regulation, are the most crucial steps in making regulatory policy decisions.

A wider remit for the RPC might include (but not be limited to) rating on:

- the evidence underpinning the rationale for policy intervention;
- the range of policy options considered;
- the quality of plans for post-implementation monitoring and evaluation; and
- whether wider societal impacts have been sufficiently considered.



First, it needs to be made clear that there is indeed a problem that needs solving, and this conclusion itself needs to be well-evidenced. Then it needs to be shown that government intervention is the best (or only) way to address the problem from a range of well-considered options.

Likewise, monitoring and evaluation plans should set out clearly at the start the benchmark for the success of a policy. Enabling the RPC to rate the quality of monitoring and evaluation plans will improve policy design as well as improve the quality of post-implementation reviews further down the line.

Wider societal impacts can include costs to individuals or burdens on institutions, such as schools, as well as other consequences of policies such as effects on competition, innovation or the environment. For some regulations, these wider and often indirect impacts can far exceed those on business and should be assessed to similar standards.

Mandate formal impact assessment submissions to the RPC at consultation stage

Since 2018, consultation stage impact assessments are no longer required to be submitted for formal RPC scrutiny, although we still offer informal advice when requested to do so. However, when impact assessments are only submitted informally for RPC scrutiny at the pre-consultation stage, they tend to be of lower quality and our suggestions for improvement are often not incorporated.

Reintroducing a requirement to submit impact assessments to the RPC for formal scrutiny at pre-consultation stage would encourage improved analysis before proposals are finalised. This should also improve the overall quality of final stage impact assessments because the information collected during the consultation period will be of greater value.

Enhance RPC call-in for scrutiny of *de minimis* cases

The introduction of the *de minimis* threshold (\pm £5 million) has meant that measures with a smaller net impact on business are no longer required to be submitted for independent scrutiny by the RPC. While this change in our remit allows us to focus our efforts on policies with the biggest net impacts, small net impacts can hide within them large gross costs and benefits for specific groups which cancel each other out in the calculation of the EANDCB and are, therefore, excluded from RPC

scrutiny. Furthermore, in some cases, where the direct impact on business is *de minimis*, there are nevertheless wider societal impacts that justify RPC scrutiny of the impact assessment.

A call-in process has been established through BRE to identify such cases and request impact assessments for RPC scrutiny, but we are concerned that this is not yet fully effective. We believe the RPC could be more effective if the *de minimis* cases which might require call in were easier to identify earlier in their development. Similarly, we believe we could be more effective if we had the direct power to call in impact assessments rather than having to work through BRE. Finally, we think there is scope to clarify the criteria on which such cases can be called in, recognising and being clear with departments, that this would only be to scrutinise the evidence base supporting decisions and not the policy decisions themselves.

Commission the RPC to produce original research in its areas of expertise

The broad membership of the RPC means it is in a strong position to produce original, independent research on regulatory analysis. As well as our members' own expertise, we are able to draw upon a long history of experience and unique datasets on the quality of departmental analysis. As a centre of excellence, we will consider what research we might undertake (drawing on suggestions from business and civil society organisations to inform our thinking) and would also welcome commissioning from ministers in areas the Government wishes to prioritise.

Possible areas of research for the RPC could include:

- international regulatory coordination, cooperation and best practice;
- categorising and appraising economic impacts of regulation, including assessing benefits of regulation; and
- developing frameworks for appraising international trade analysis.

This type of cross-cutting research would allow the RPC to produce outputs which could benefit departments and regulators across government without being tied to the specific research aims and objectives of individual policy areas.

Consider reforming the government approach to post-implementation review

We have recently conducted an internal analysis of the post-implementation reviews we have seen to date and how the system of monitoring and evaluation is working. This suggests that a more transparent, publicly accessible tracking system should be established to set out what regulation was introduced and when. This would not only encourage departments to produce higher quality monitoring and evaluation plans but also provide a platform on which stakeholders can give their input to post-implementation reviews, including identifying particular areas of a policy that might need attention.

A holistic approach to reviewing related policies would allow departments to better understand the interconnected impacts of different regulations. Government should also consider introducing a set of criteria that identify when broad reviews of policy areas should be undertaken.

Following the challenges of the last ten years, we look forward to continuing to work with all our stakeholders over the next decade to help improve the quality of evidence and analysis underpinning government decisions.

Contact us

Regulatory Policy Committee
Ground Floor
10 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0NN

E-mail: regulatoryenquiries@rpc.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/rpc

Twitter: [@RPC_GOV_UK](https://twitter.com/RPC_GOV_UK)

