

Registration of Social Work Providers

Department for Education

RPC rating: Validated

Description of proposal

The proposal is to drop the requirement for social work providers to register with Ofsted. The removal of this requirement does not reduce the quality controls. Ofsted will continue to consider the quality of children's services as part of its single inspection framework of local authority inspection.

Impact of proposal

The Department explains that removing the requirement to register with Ofsted will be beneficial to social work providers through a reduction in registration fees payable to Ofsted. There will also be benefits to providers from the reduction in the administrative burden associated with the registration process.

Quality of submission

The IA explains clearly how the proposals will have an impact on social work providers.

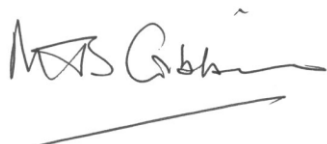
There are currently five registered providers in England with the current one-off registration fee being £2,046 per provider and £1,024 per provider manager. The Department expects another five providers to be established within the next ten years. Each would make savings of £3,070 on registration fees (typically providers have one manager), providing an overall total cost saving of £15,350.

In addition, when making a change to their services, providers currently incur an additional fee of £3,070 for a major variation and £99 for a minor variation. The proposal would remove the need to make these variations. The Department estimates that each of the 10 existing/new providers will make one major variation and one minor variation every 10 years.

The Department acknowledges a "*lack of direct evidence on the extent to which providers will make any change*" (page 5). Given the small number of providers, the IA would have benefitted from seeking direct evidence from the providers rather than using a proxy. Instead, the Department uses one year's data from Ofsted on registered children's social care providers to indicate that on average social care providers would make 0-1 minor variations and 1-2 major variations per decade. The Department explains that the removal of the requirement to register would lead to a reduction in administration costs. However, as the Department did not consult on such savings they have been stated as non-monetised within the IA (page 5).

Opinion: Validation/ origin: Domestic
RPC reference: RPC14-FT-DfE-2273(2)
Date of issue: 29 May 2015
Date of implementation: April 2015

EANCB – initial departmental estimate	-£0.004 million
RPC assessment	Validated
Classification	OUT
Small and micro business assessment	Not required



Michael Gibbons OBE, Chairman