

Purpose

The Business Reference Panel (BRP) helps the Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) to better understand the views of the business community with regard to the delivery of regulation. It also informs and supports the input by business representatives to the Representative Steering Group (RSG). The RSG is a non-executive group created to advise the Minister for Business and Enterprise and the Chief Executive of BRDO on matters relating to regulatory enforcement. Further information about the RSG can be found on the BRDO website.

Aim

To assist BRDO in exploring regulatory issues and identifying potential solutions.

To act as a sounding board to test BRDO's ideas and proposed work programmes to ensure that it is focused on issues of real importance to a broad base of the business community.

Proposed working arrangements

The BRP will meet three / four times per year and will be chaired by BRDO, which will also provide technical and secretarial support. Members will be encouraged to share emerging concerns and provide informal feedback on matters referred to the BRP. All members will have an equal right to express views and there will be no 'voting' as the aim is to understand and reflect respective positions rather than achieving consensus.

BRP task and finish groups will be established to explore and report to BRDO in an evidence-based manner on particular regulatory problems raised by the BRP as being of concern to a number of member organisations. These groups will be made up of representatives from BRP organisations, supplemented where necessary by legal and technical experts and an independent chair. If appropriate, representatives from Government, national regulators and local authorities may be invited to take part.

BRDO will update the BRP on its work, including outputs from the RSG and any task and finish groups, and feedback from meetings to which the BRP has been invited or at which it has been represented.

Links between BRDO's reference panels will be transparent and dialogue between them will be enabled through joint meetings or discussion of common agenda items, as appropriate.

The panels are:

- Regulatory Excellence Forum
- Welsh Regulators' Forum
- Business Reference Panel
- Local Authority Reference Panel
- Primary Authority User Group

Between meetings, they may communicate by email.

Membership

Membership of the panel is open to trade associations, business representative bodies and their member organisations knowledgeable about the impact of regulation on business.

Members attend in both individual and representative capacities and should ensure that views are sought and information from BRP meetings is disseminated as appropriate within their organisations.

Links to external groups

Through the BRDO secretariat, the BRP will monitor its relationship with any similar groups or networks and establish liaison arrangements as appropriate.

Review

The membership of the BRP will be reviewed annually alongside the terms of reference.