

# **Rural Proofing Impact Assessment Review**

**By Rural Community Policy Unit**

July 2014

## Background

The Lord Cameron Review into Rural Proofing Implementation within government departments will provide an independent assessment of the extent to which government departments have applied rural proofing within their policies and programmes. It is led by Lord Cameron, a cross bencher, and former Rural Advocate. He will be supported by a small group of House of Lords colleagues, and by Defra's RCPU. The review includes a number of Ministerial level visits by Lord Cameron to a range of departments to explore what actions they have taken to rural proof their policies and programmes.

The purpose of this Impact Assessment review is to provide evidence that will support the recommendations and findings from the Lord Cameron review that relate to the terms of reference in the box below:

### **Terms of Reference**

1. To review the extent to which Government Departments have adopted and implemented the principles and guidance set out in the refreshed package of Rural Proofing materials published by Defra.
2. To consider the extent to which selected departments (to be agreed) are designing their policies in order to deliver effective outcomes in rural areas, including how well they are:
  - Identifying the rural impacts of their policy responsibilities;
  - Gathering and utilising evidence on rural opportunities and need in their policy-making;
  - Engaging with Rural Stakeholders in their policy-making; and
  - Ensuring that rural needs and interests are fully reflected in their policies and programmes
3. To identify good practice in Rural Proofing within Departments in order to inform and inspire others.
4. To identify elements of the Rural Proofing package that have been particularly successful in assisting Departments as well as those that have had less positive impact on departmental processes and officials' behaviour and effectiveness.
5. To comment upon the effectiveness of the advice and support provided to Departments by Defra's Rural Communities Policy Unit, and the contribution this makes towards ensuring that Departments are designing and delivering policies that are fair and effective in rural areas.

The review will publicly report to Ministers on the success or otherwise of the Rural Proofing package in supporting effective Rural Proofing within Departments, including an evaluation of how well Departments overall are equipped as a result of the Rural Proofing package to address their rural responsibilities in the future. It may include recommendations to Defra Ministers based on analysis of the issues covered in paras 1- 5 on ways in which the Rural Proofing package might be improved in the future.

## Executive summary

The review team selected a sample of Impact Assessments (IAs) across government departments to undertake a rapid assessment of the quality of rural proofing analysis. The scope of the review was limited to only include IAs that had been published by departments that appeared to be relevant for rural groups or locations and had been published between 2010 and 2014.

In selecting the IA for inclusion the following type of considerations were taken into account:

- Whether the policy would influence the provision of services for rural and urban communities alike.
- If the policy was infrastructure related whether the predominance of the infrastructure was in rural areas.
- For growth and spending policies whether it would affect micro/small rural businesses in rural areas or whether it might impact on more vulnerable groups located in rural areas (elderly, disadvantaged etc.).
- If the policy related to transport whether remote location could be difficult and if it was such a major change in policy that it would affect rural and urban communities alike.

The main source used for the review was the [www.Legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) website which contains links to all Impact Assessments that have been published in pdf format. For further details see link <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia?page=2>

The following set of criteria was used by each of the reviewers for assessing each IA in relation to rural proofing so that it could be done in an objective and consistent way:

**A = No consideration of rural proofing or rural issues within IA and no analysis**

**B = Describes rural issues but does not undertake any analysis of policy impact**

**C = Contains rural proofing and shows how impacts are taken into consideration in policy design**

The documents were reviewed using key search terms such as rural or proofing or sparse or geography to identify relevant sections. The rural proofing check box was also compared to the evidence sections of the IA documents to assess the analysis and to check whether rural issues had been considered in any detail and whether this influenced the policy design and options.

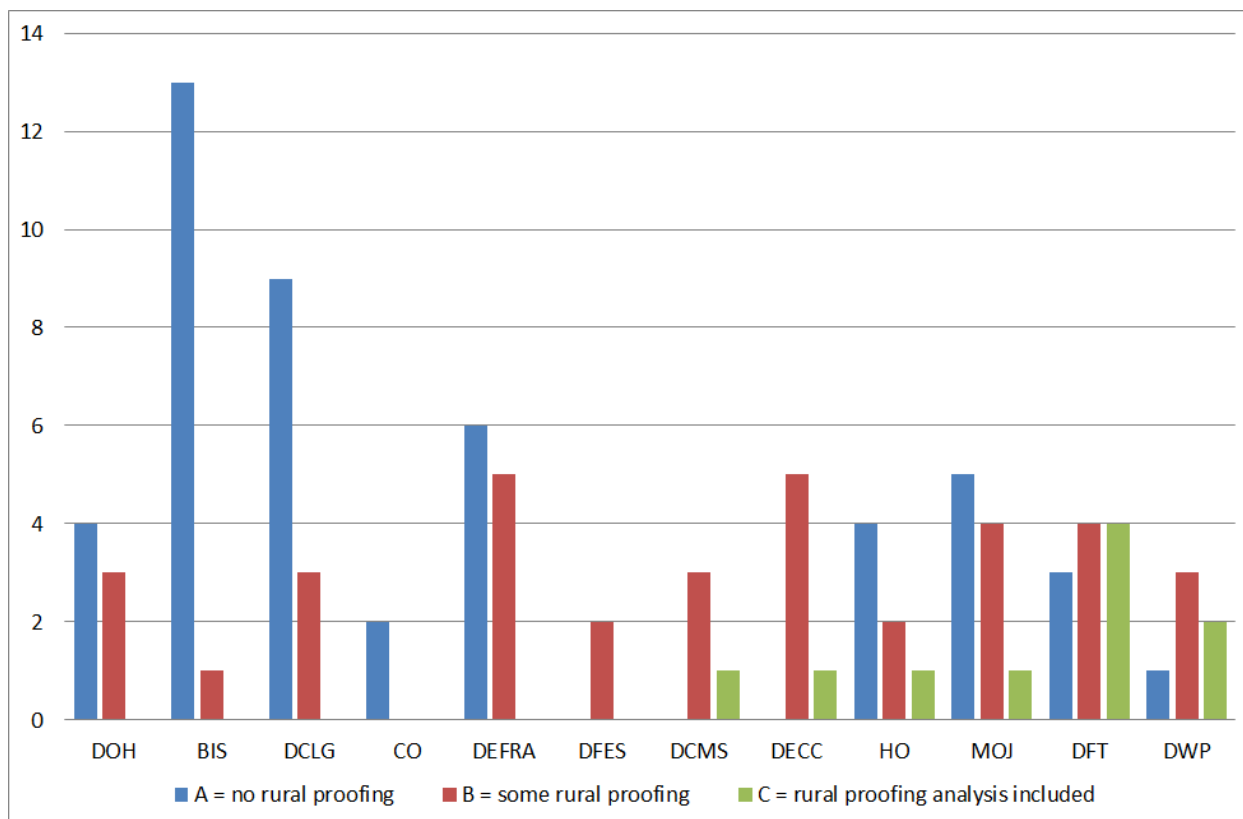
A standard template was used for each IA to record a brief description of the policy rationale with a rating on overall quantitative analysis and also qualitative descriptions contained in the IA that were relevant and related to rural businesses or communities. The rationale for selecting the IA was described to provide an explanation as to why it had been included in the review, based on the considerations described above.

It should be noted that the number of IAs reviewed varied across departments depending upon which had more or less relevance to rural interests. Some were clearly more appropriate to review than others given the description contained in the policy rationale section of the IA. There was often a lot of repetition in the IAs that were contained on the legislation.gov website due to minor amendments to legislation or updates of IAs as they moved from draft to final stage. The reviewers therefore had to be pragmatic in selecting IAs to ensure they did not cover the same ground and provided a breadth of policy assessments without any undue bias.

### Main findings

The chart below shows that based on the IAs reviewed there was a mix in the general quality of rural proofing for Impact Assessments across different government departments.

**Chart 1: Impact Assessment rating in relation to rural proofing**

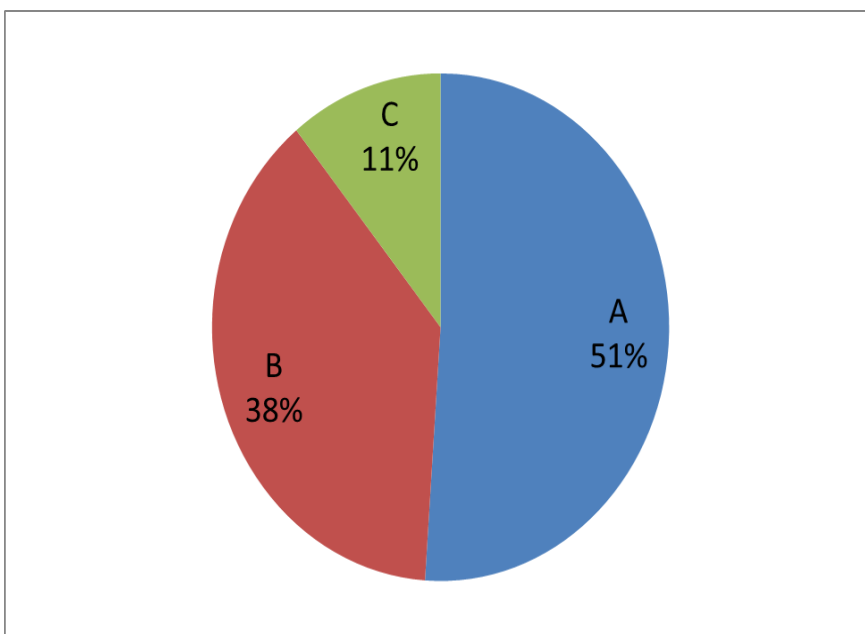


The review identified some really good examples of rural proofing in action. For example the Ministry of Justice assessment of level crossings showed a very good appreciation of rural issues with implementing the policy set out in the document. In addition, there was evidence that systematic rural proofing did take place as part of the Impact Assessment, particularly in the Department for Transport and Department for Work and Pensions. However, for some departments the level of rural proofing analysis was much weaker and did not provide sufficient detail on the potential rural impacts of the policy. There were many that scored a B as they include a brief comment in the rural proofing test box, although this was not supported by any robust evidence or analysis.

From a total of 92 Impact Assessments reviewed across 12 government departments the following results were produced:

- Around a half (51%) of the IAs that were reviewed were rated as showing no consideration of rural proofing or rural issues.
- Just over a third (38%) of the IAs were rated as B which meant that they described rural issues but did not undertake any analysis of the policy impact
- 11% of the IAs reviewed did provide more robust evidence on rural proofing and indicated how the evidence had been used to inform the policy design.

**Chart 2: % breakdown in rating scores**

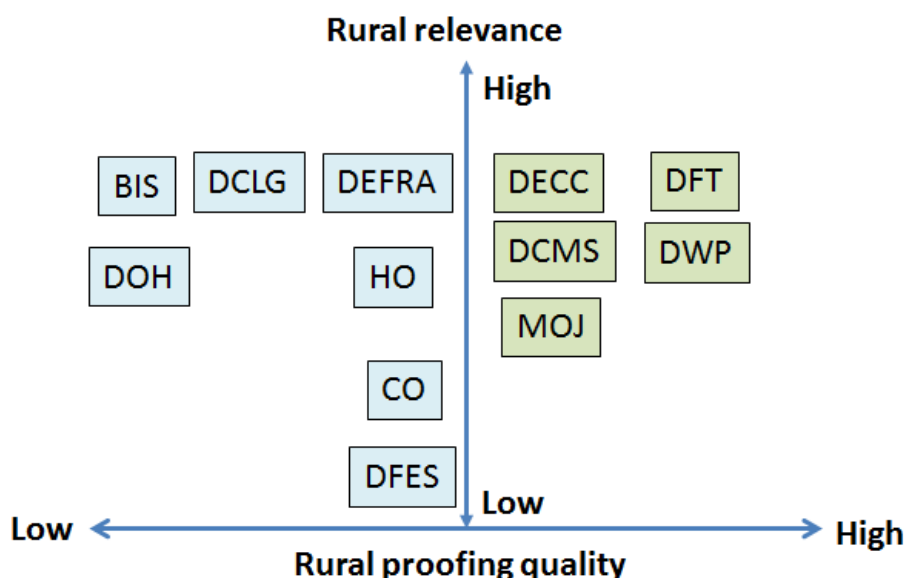


The review highlighted that for certain departments the Impact Assessments were less relevant for rural as the policies would have similar impacts on both urban and rural groups. For example, although the Department for Education had 71 IAs listed on the legislation.gov website the vast majority related to national policy for schools that would not have a disproportionate effect on rural. Nearly all of the IAs did not have a clear

rural/urban dimension to them and thus require any form of rural proofing, they were mainly deregulatory or involved changes to curriculum, and Ofsted inspections. The Cabinet Office and Ministry of Defence were similar with only 2 relevant Impact Assessments being identified for the CO and none for the MOD.

The diagram below provides a comparison of the rural proofing ratings (as an indicator of quality) compared to the rural relevance of policy under consideration. This is intended to provide a guide to those departments which have policies of high rural relevance (and hence high potential impact) that could look to improve the quality of the rural proofing and analysis undertaken as part of the IA assessment and post implementation review. It suggests that a general improvement across departments is necessary to improve the robustness of rural proofing analysis and evidence to support policy design, with those identified in the top left quadrant needing to improve capacity and more formally integrate rural proofing into IA work.

**Figure 1: Rural relevance vs rural proofing quality for IAs reviewed**



- Note that the position is an approximate location based on IAs reviewed

A common justification for a lack of rural proofing related to a lack of data to undertake an impact assessment. In many cases it was also stated that rural proofing was not relevant as it was not considered to be significant to warrant detailed investigation.

Whilst this may have been true for a number of the cases there were a few examples where evidence was generated either via a specific rural consultation (e.g. DWP Welfare reform Bill) or other information sources were used to inform the policy design. There may need to be wider support and capacity building to support this in future with greater use of sources suggest as the rural digest of statistics.

## Conclusions

The findings of this rapid Impact Assessment Review illustrate that the quality of rural proofing across departments is generally poor with limited evidence to show that rural issues have been taken into consideration when analysing policy options.

A recent report by BBC Trust<sup>1</sup> highlighted a lack of coverage by the BBC on rural policy issues which may in part relate to a lack of supply of good quality evidence and information that shows the potential rural impact from different government department policies. Relevant ones we reviewed include policies that impact on micro businesses (for which there are a high proportion in rural areas), health care reform, energy and planning policies that are all likely to have a significant impact on rural groups.

Instead of rural proofing being viewed as a check box ticking exercise it needs to become a more integrated process within the IA option development work to inform the design of the policy and make adjustments to take account of rural issues where these are relevant and proportionate.

In many cases where rural issues have been described i.e. those rated B category, the rationale and evidence as to how they arrived at this assessment needs to be included. Providing more evidence would have often helped to move them from category B to C. For example, the Public Bodies Bill undertaken by the Cabinet Office could have been pushed to C if they had included their workings and provided references.

This raises the question as to whether sufficient evidence exists for departments to do more ambitious rural proofing. In some cases there just clearly isn't any evidence and therefore it's unsurprising that a lot of analysis fell into the A & B categories and not C. The cost of generating new rural evidence may be disproportionate for example or there could be a role for rural community policy unit in Defra to engage more where we think we could help with rural evidence commissioning.

Another aspect that has not been considered as part of this review is the extent to which Post Implementation Reviews by departments will examine rural impacts. This was occasionally mentioned in the IAs and it would be useful to know what plans are in place to do this and whether this will help to fill the evidence gaps identified at the Impact Assessment stage.

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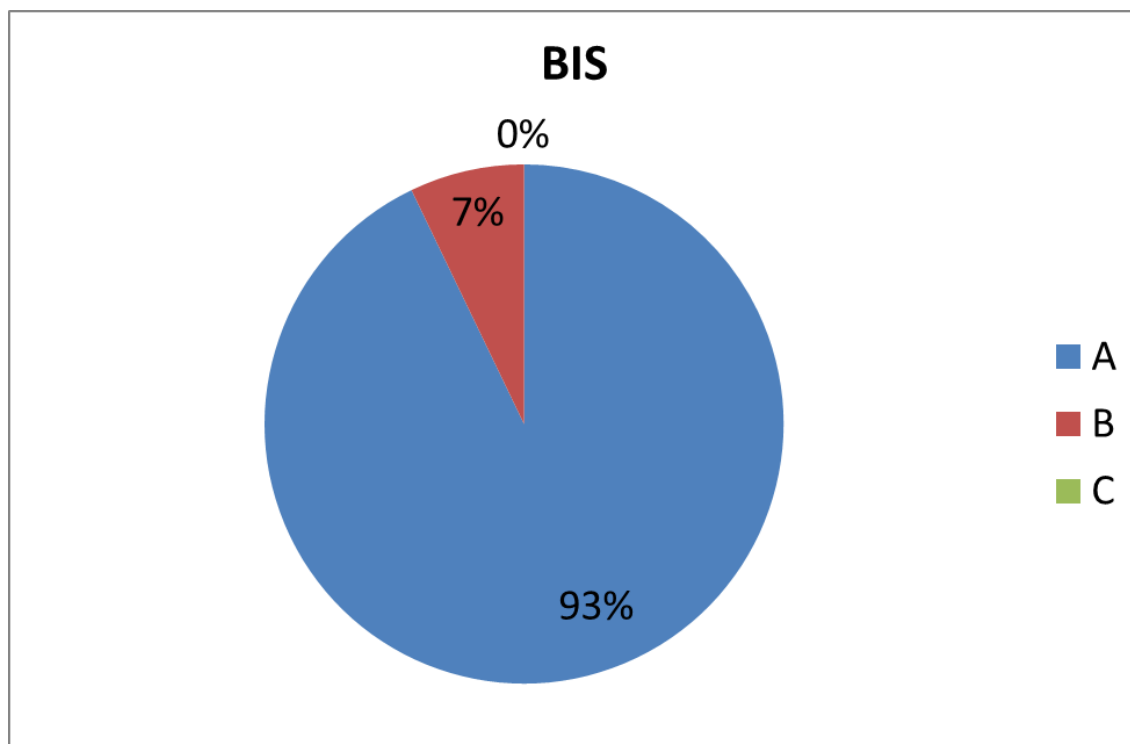
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## Summary results from IA rural proofing review

### Department for Business Innovation and Skills

#### Summary

381 Impact Assessments for BIS are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 14 that appeared relevant for rural. All with the exception for one provided no rural proofing assessment. The IA examining options to intervene in spectrum management highlighted a potential impact on rural areas but no analysis was provided. It also mentioned potential competition effects for rural locations. Other IAs that included policies on higher education, business enterprise and employment did not assess if there would be any impact on rural.



Title of IA	Rationale for selection	Assessment Score
Impact Assessment of Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on combating Late Payment	Late payments will impact on rural business finance and cash flow	A
Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (ERR) Act	Covers a range of legislation and regulatory simplification that is relevant to rural business e.g. farm wage board	A
Estate Agents market regulatory reform	Relevant to estate agents operating in rural areas	A
Amendment to the National Minimum Wage regulations 2013- increase in NMW rates	Minimum wage rates will affect people living in rural areas	A
Impact assessment of extending the Primary Authority scheme	Relates to Local Authorities boundaries that may impact on rural businesses operating across boundaries	A
Resolving Workplace Disputes	Relevant to business operating in rural areas	A
Simpler financial reporting for micro-entities:	Relevant for rural given high % of SMEs	A

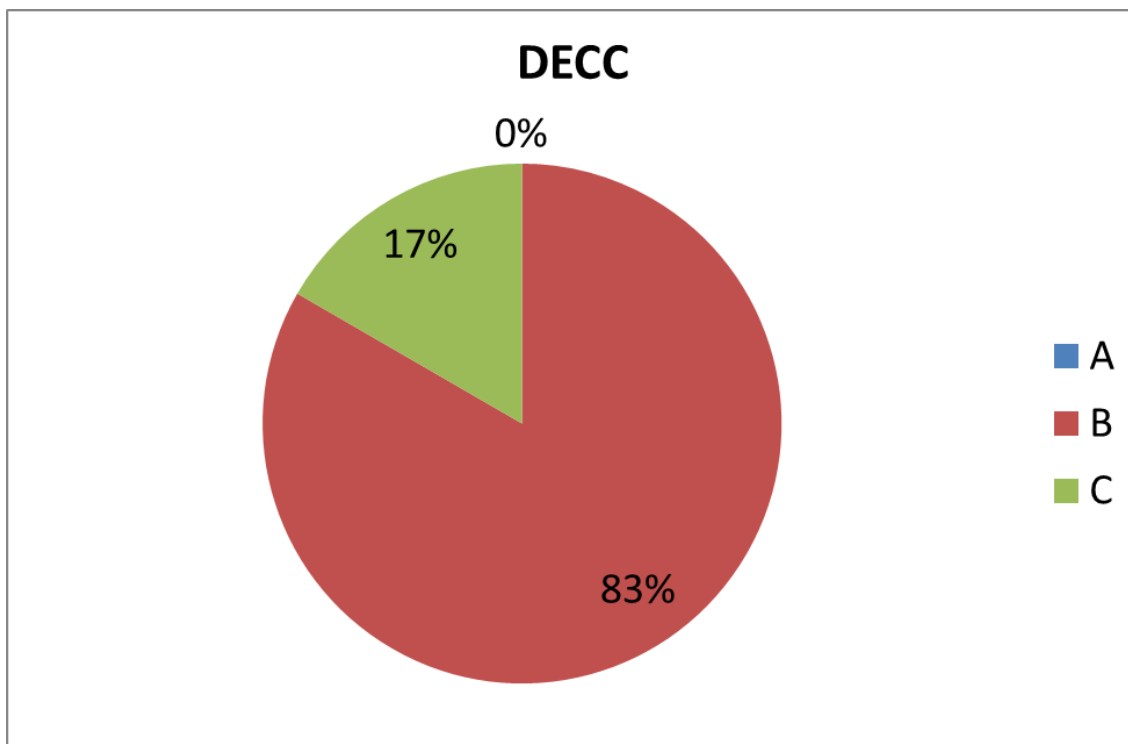


Impact Assessment of the Recast Directive 2012/19/EU on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)	Relevant to business with electrical waste in rural areas	A
Parental Leave Directive	Relevant to parent workers in rural areas	A
Phasing out the Default Retirement Age (DRA)	Relevant to rural communities and ageing population	A
Apprenticeship Agreements	Relevant for rural apprenticeship schemes	A
Higher Education White Paper impact assessment	Relevant for higher education provisions in rural areas	A
Right to Request Time to Train Consultation	Relevant for training and skills in rural areas	A
Impact Assessment for a Direction to the Office for Communications (Ofcom) to intervene in spectrum management	Aim is to promote more rapid expansion in mobile telecom coverage relevant to rural	B

### Department for Energy and Climate Change

#### Summary

177 Impact Assessments for DECC are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 6 that appeared relevant for rural. Of these the Green deal IA received a top rating of C as this included a chapter on impacts to rural people and places in developing and implementing the policy. It also included a rural safeguard target. A number of the other IAs included a rural proofing comment but did not include any analysis or show how this had been used to develop the policy options.



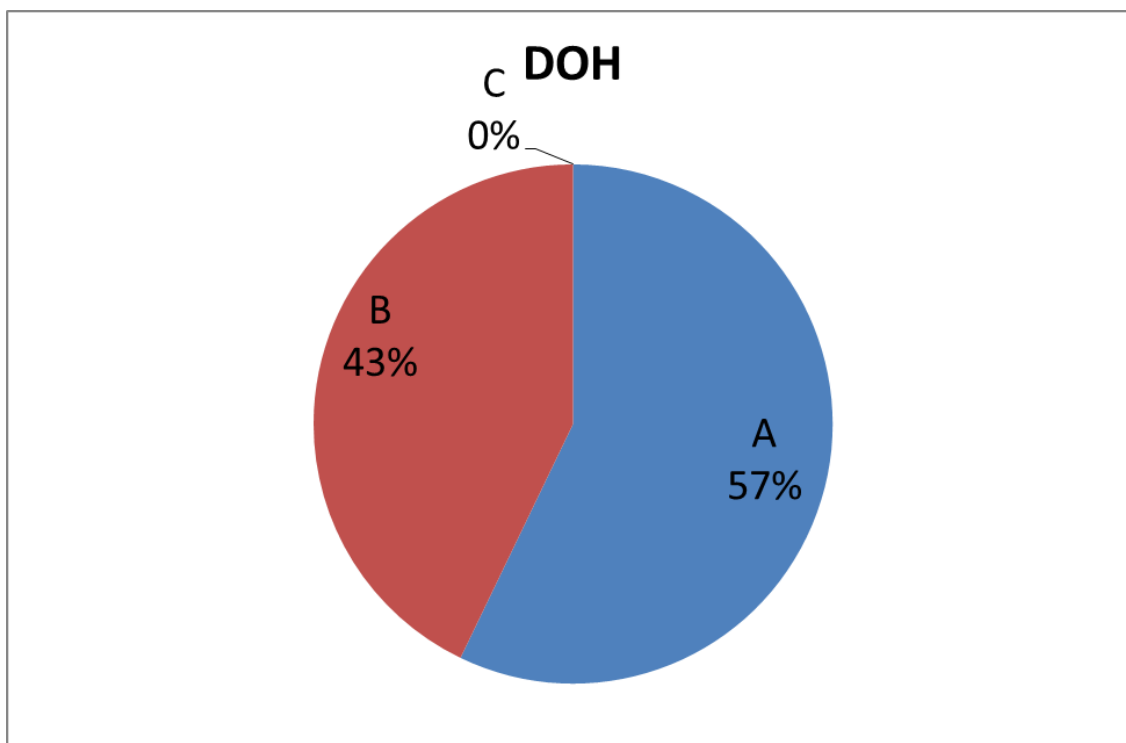
Title of IA	Rationale for selection	Assessment Score
Impact Assessment of Feed-in Tariffs for Small-Scale, Low Carbon, Electricity Generation	Relevant to small scale low carbon electricity generation in rural areas.	B
Impact Assessment for the Green Deal and	To address market failures and barriers to drive demand for cost	C

Energy Company Obligation	effective energy efficiency measures in rural areas.	
Renewable Heat Incentive - Domestic	Relevant to incentivise the roll out of renewable heating systems to rural households.	B
Renewables Obligation Transition	Relevant to renewable energy produced in rural areas	B
Smart meter rollout for the domestic sector	Relevant to those in rural areas who find key-charging or token purchase difficult.	B
The Warm Home Discount Scheme	Relevant to fuel poor households in rural areas.	B

## Department for Health

### Summary

187 Impact Assessments for DOH are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 7 that appeared relevant for rural. The majority of these did not include any rural proofing assessment and where this was made it did not provide any evidence to show whether rural areas would be disproportionately affected or reference to challenges of service provision to remote rural locations.



Title of IA	Rationale for selection	Assessment Score
National Health Service (Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition) (No. 2) Regulations 2013	IA considers implications of abolishing PCTs and what this means for patient choice. This IA was chosen given choice may be restricted in some rural areas due to distance needed to travel to access services.	A
Mandatory public health functions for LAs to provide in improving the health of their populations	IA proposes ring fencing some of the health budget to make mandatory for LAs to deliver to avoid a risk of under-provision of	A

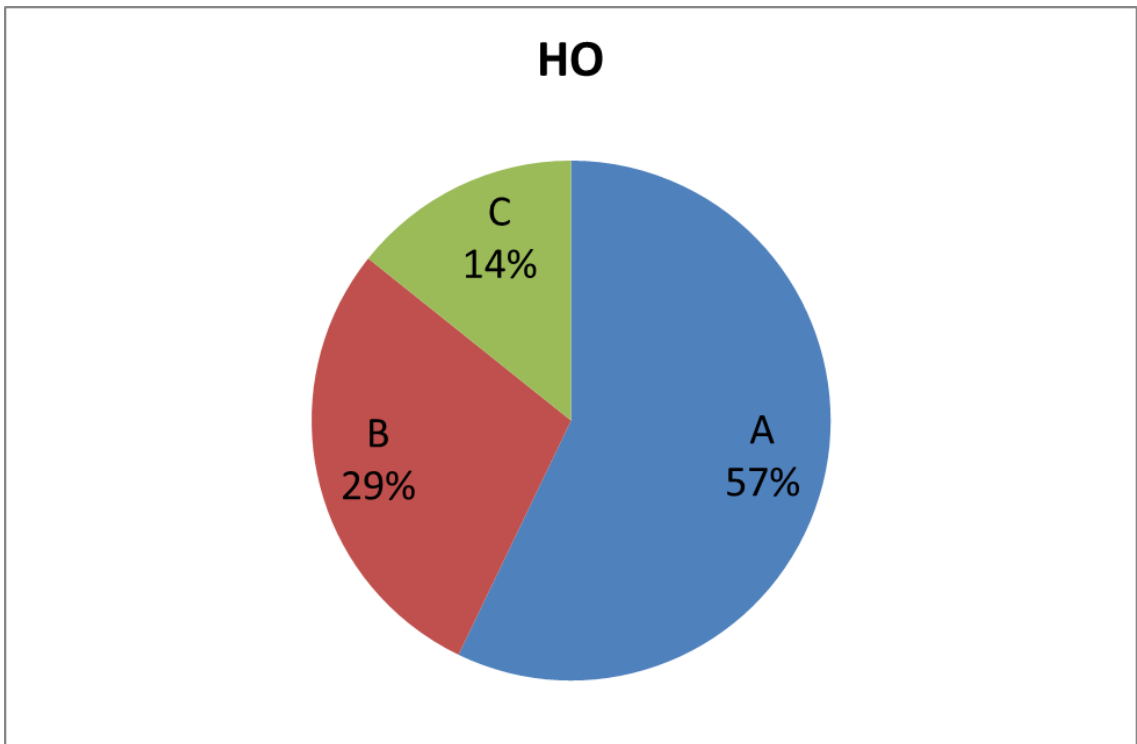
	services in some areas which could result in sub optimal public health benefits for the population. This IA has been chosen to assess if rural/urban authorities have been considered when collating the evidence in case of different challenges in delivery that need to be accounted for.	
The Approval of Establishments Producing and Processing Certain Fats and Oils, and the Testing of Fats and Oils of Vegetable and Marine Origin for Dioxins and Dioxin-Like PCBs	The IA states: <i>Producers and processors of certain fats and oils for animal feed use now need to be approved rather than registered under Regulation 183/2005.</i> The IA was chosen as this may have cost impacts on rural businesses.	B
Public Health Outcomes Framework	This IA is about developing a Public Health Outcomes Framework using indicators selected via a rigorous assessment process. The IA was chosen to see if rural and urban geographies will be considered as a part of these indicators.	A
Independence, choice and control Accompanying IA for the White Paper "Caring for our future: reforming care and support"	This IA underpins the White Paper which focusses on reforming care and support. Its starting point is that care intervention is too often designed around servicing at point of crisis rather than giving people advice and information to make informed choices themselves about how care and support is delivered. Given the rural population has a greater proportion of population over state retirement age than urban areas it seemed relevant to consider this IA for rural proofing.	A
Next steps for nursery milk	This IA is all about getting a cheaper cost for the procurement of milk for children under 5 at nursery. This IA has been considered because of lack of competition of milk providers in some rural areas may make this policy more difficult to implement in terms of seeking lower costs for rural nurseries.	B
PROPOSALS TO INTRODUCE INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBING BY PHYSIOTHERAPISTS	This IA is about giving physiotherapists the ability to prescribe; this has been chosen for rural assessment as this approach may have the impact of shortening the care pathway for patients and for rural patients not having to travel back to hospital or GPs to have another specialist provide a prescription. It would possibly be helpful in terms of	B

	reducing time travelling to and from other appointments.	
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**Home Office Department**

**Summary**

200 Impact Assessments for the Home Office are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 7 that appeared relevant for rural. There was quite a mix in the quality of rural proofing ranging from A – C ratings. The IA relating to protection of animals used for scientific purposes provided a good assessment. This systematically worked through detailed rural proofing questions and used these to show that overall it had a limited rural impact. The Police and Crime Commissioners IA provided no assessment despite coverage of rural areas. It would have been useful if it could have explained why rural was not considered relevant.



Title of IA	Rationale for selection	Assessment Score
Police and Crime Commissioners	This policy saw the introduction of new locally accountable Police and Crime Commissioners. Changes took place across England and Wales, affecting rural and urban communities alike.	A
Migration Permanent Limit (Points Based System Tier 1 and Tier 2)	Rural businesses (mainly agri. and tourism) employ seasonal/part time overseas staff. Policy change may have an impact on this.	B
Civil Partnerships on Religious Premises	Rural communities are less densely populated and tend therefore to have fewer religious buildings, meaning that rural same-sex couples may have less opportunity to register their civil partnership in a religious setting.	B
UK Implementation of European Directive	Some laboratories will be located	C

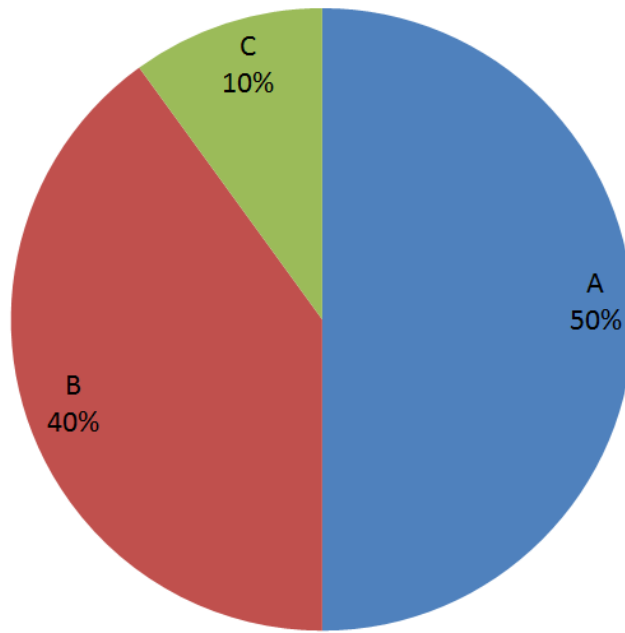
2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes	in rural areas and will therefore impact on these organisations.	
New offence of driving with a specified controlled drug in the blood in excess of the specified limit for that drug (and related consequential amendments)	The majority of the road network is in rural areas of the country. Most fatal accidents happen on rural roads. Rural residents/motorists are more likely to have drink/drug driving related convictions on their licences.	A
Impact of Legislative Changes to Firearms Controls: i. Increasing the maximum sentence for importation of illegal firearms (Customs and Excise Management Act 1979); and ii. Increasing the maximum sentence for manufacture, purchase or acquisition, sale or transfer of prohibited firearms or ammunition and introducing a new offence of possession of illegal firearms for sale or transfer (Section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968).	Policy targeted at illegal firearms suppliers. Looked at initially as most firearm recreational activity takes place in rural areas e.g. organised shoots	A
Strengthening and simplifying civil penalties to prevent illegal migrant working.	Policy targeted at employers to prevent illegal migrant working. Rural businesses (mainly agri. and tourism) employ seasonal/part time overseas staff. Policy change may have an impact on this.	A

### Ministry of Justice

#### Summary

225 Impact Assessments for MOJ are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 10 that appeared relevant for rural. There was quite a mix in the quality of rural proofing ranging from A – C ratings. The IA for level crossings illustrated a good appreciation of rural issues with implementing the policy that was well documented. However, there were a number which highlighted the relevance for rural e.g. closure of magistrates courts, but did not provide any assessment of the potential impact.

**MOJ**



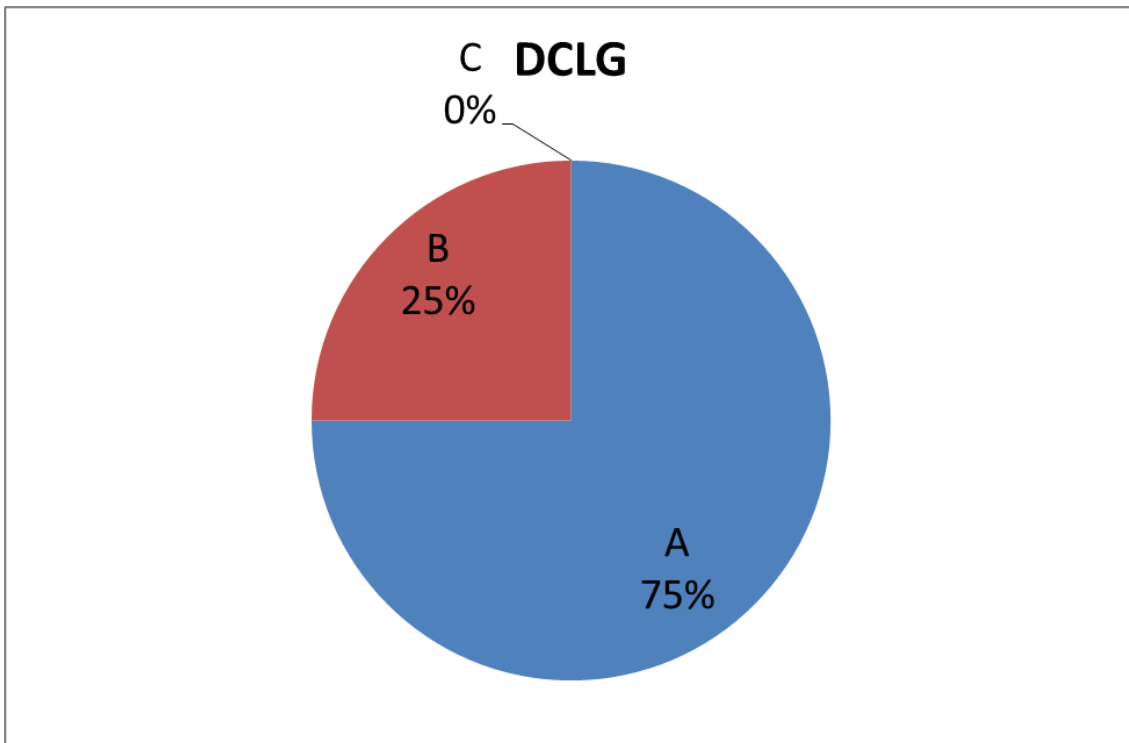
<b>Title of IA</b>	<b>Rationale for selection</b>	<b>Assessment Score</b>
Options for dealing with squatting	Squatting is an issue that cuts across rural and urban communities alike. So worth looking to see if any separate consideration is required for rural communities.	A
A Single County Court for England and Wales and the deployment of High Court Judiciary to the County Court	Worth checking for fair and equitable rural impact due to access issues as the intended effects are to reduce waiting times, to enable court users to make more informed choices over court location, to deploy judicial resources more flexibly in the future and to improve overall resource efficiency.	B
Court Broadcasting	Given public confidence in CJS is low and this policy is too help overcome this by giving better public access to court proceedings and sentencing decisions. This IA was chosen given these issues may be more pronounced for rural communities due to distance issues, has the policy therefore been designed to take account of physical and digital access issues?	A
Impact Assessment of the closure of	This IA was chosen to ensure the	B

Magistrates/County Courts	policy took account of rural communities (travel to service issues) in rationalising the service	
Updating the Electricity Act “necessary” wayleaves process for overhead lines in England and Wales	This IA was chosen given the majority of Electricity infrastructure is likely to be in rural areas that requires tree felling/lopping to keep lines maintained through wayleave agreements with land owners. The policy is to make it easier to sort out access disputes.	A
Implementing the new family court	This policy is about simplifying family court rules and streamlining services that were previously across three tiers of court. The IA was chosen to see if the intended impact was assessed as fair and equitable for rural and urban communities alike.	A
Impact Assessment for Level Crossings	Whilst the framework outlined in our proposals does not differentiate between rural and urban areas, the likelihood is that more closures of level crossings will occur in rural areas and so there will be a greater impact.	C
Transforming the Services of the Office of the Public Guardian	Lasting Powers of Attorney will need to be applied for by rural and urban citizens alike. This IA was chosen as some services may be made available digitally so thought it worth checking to see if any assessment has been made about digital access issues.	B
Prosecution and the Courts – responding to community concerns about crime	Policy about improving the CJS specifically relating to communities concerns about crime. IA was chosen to see if any analysis has been undertaken to assess rural and urban difference in concerns about crime. Generally fear of crime is higher than rates of recorded crime in rural areas when compared to urban.	B
Transforming Legal Aid: Scope, Eligibility, Merits (Criminal Legal Aid)	Policy is about ensuring public confidence in the legal aid scheme by targeting limited public resources at those cases which justify it and those people who need it. IA chosen to assess whether rural impact was taken into account.	A

**Department for Communities and Local Government**

**Summary**

354 Impact Assessments for DCLG are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 12 that appeared relevant for rural. The majority of the IAs reviewed provided no rural proofing assessment. Those relating to energy infrastructure did provide a reference to potential impacts on rural groups and so received a B rating. However, there was no analysis of the likely impacts or consideration as to whether the policy should be designed to take account of differences in rural locations.



Title of IA	Rationale for selection	Assessment Score
Localism Act – Neighbourhood Plans and Community Right to Build	Relates to neighbourhood planning which is relevant for rural communities	A
Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 (England and Wales)	Reforms to pension scheme may have impact on public sector workers living in rural areas	A
Extending Permitted Development Rights for Mobile Telecommunications Operators	Highly relevant for not spot areas in rural areas	A
Improving mobility in social housing	Relevant for rural with mobility problems	A
Recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations	May be relevant for buildings in rural areas covered by scheme	B
Simplifying the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licence Renewal Application Form	Relevant for rural landlords	A
Localism Act – Neighbourhood Plans and Community Right to Build	Relevant for rural communities wanting to develop land	A
The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2012	Infrastructure and EIAs are relevant for rural areas	A
Permitted development rights for installations of wind turbines and air	Relevant for rural communities	B

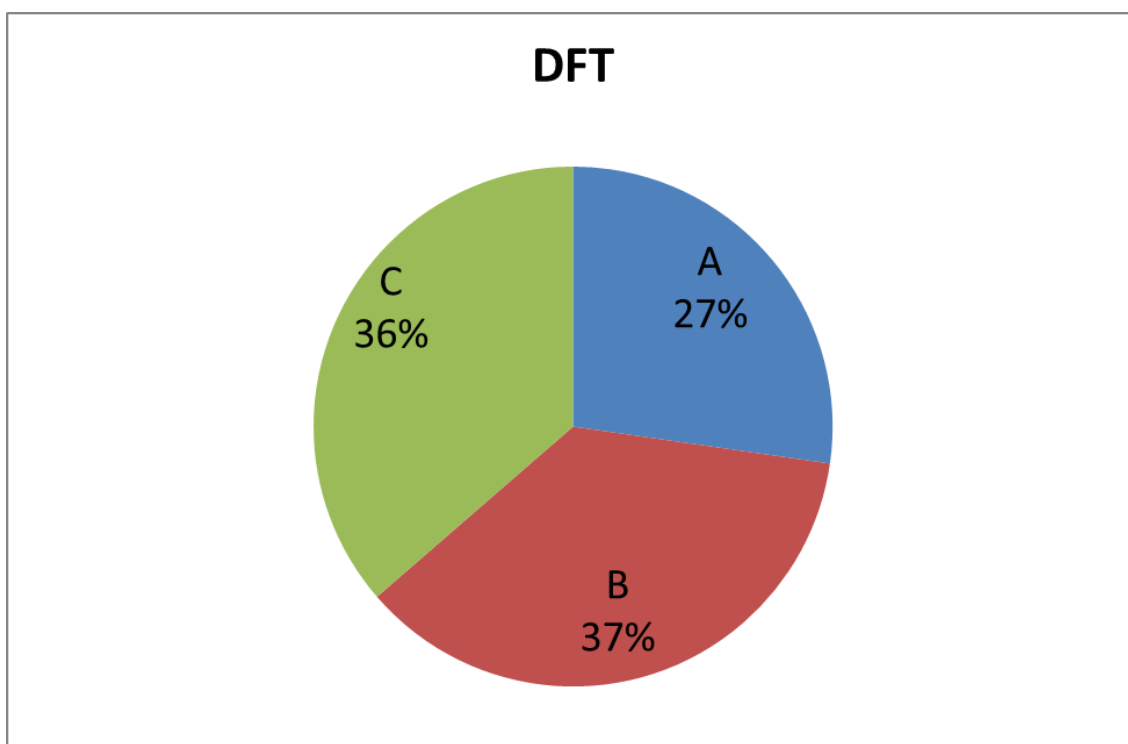


source heat pumps on domestic premises		
Proposal to consolidate and amend the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (as amended).	Relevant for planning in rural areas	A
Changing or revoking a Development Consent Order for nationally significant infrastructure (Planning Act 2008)	Consent orders are relevant to rural business	A
Community Infrastructure Levy	Relevant for developments in rural areas	B

### Department for Transport

#### Summary

409 Impact Assessments for DFT are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 12 that appeared relevant for rural. It was positive to see that DFT carry out more systematic rural proofing, with it featuring as a standalone assessment, even in IAs which do not have an obvious rural/urban dimension. This appears to be more embedded within the IA process and much of the rural proofing carried out is of high quality, with in-depth analysis and urban/rural data sets (or close proxies to this). There were a number of IAs reviewed where rural proofing was not carried out E.g. night flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted (latter two have rural final approaches), Bus Operating Service Grants and changes to bus service registration to improve competition in the bus market. In each case there is likely to be evidence to draw on to carry out rural analyses E.g. flight path, noise contour and post code data for aircraft noise / health impacts and noise perception evidence & Defra 's Statistical Rural Digest for bus data.



Title of IA	Rationale for selection	Assessment Score
Implementing the certification requirements of the European Directive on the	Deregulatory - changes to national railway freight rolling stock	B

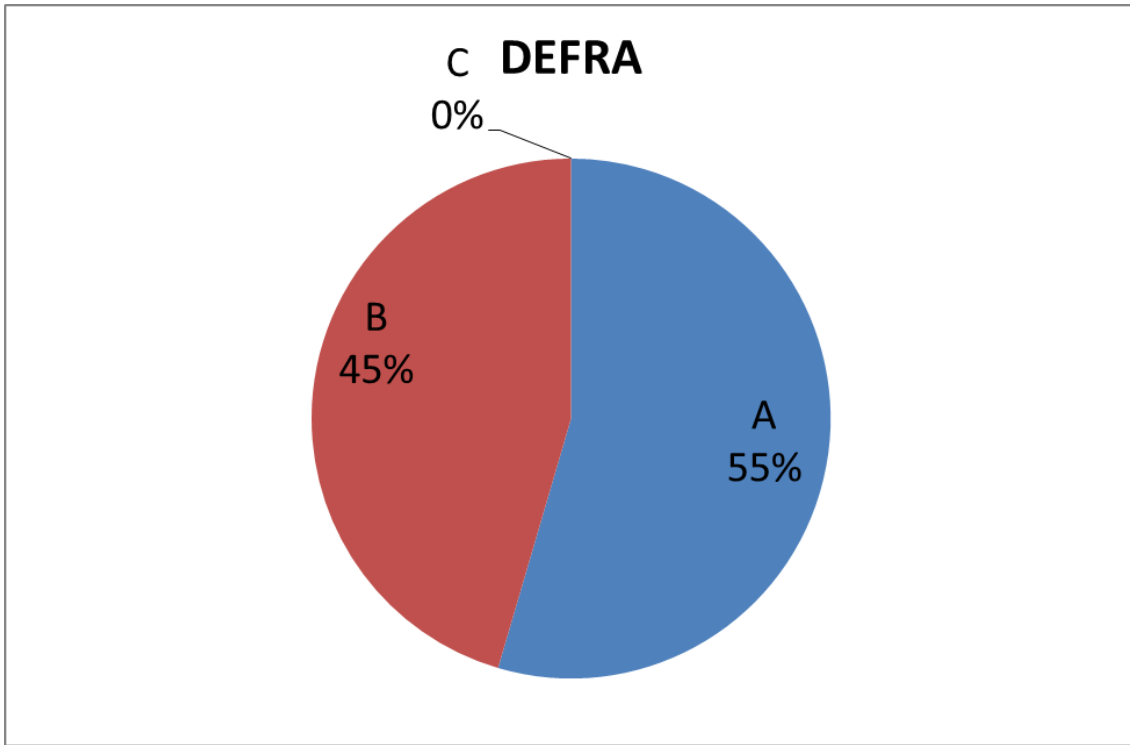
maintenance of railway vehicles	maintenance regimes could impact on businesses in both urban and rural areas.	
Reforming bus subsidy in England	BSOG reviewed to better tackle DfT objective – reducing congestion. BSOG provides incentives for service providers to reduce environmental impact & deliver service improvements. Subsidy is based on fuel consumption which will likely be higher in rural areas which typically will travel greater distances. There is a clear rural / urban dimension here which should be considered.	A
Amendments to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation for compliance with the Fuel Quality Directive – Non Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM)	NRMM fuel prices could potentially pose an additional cost burden on rural businesses, as many these will be in the agricultural sector, which is one of the main users of NRMM.	B
Street Works (Charges for Unreasonably Prolonged Occupation of the Highway) England Regulations 2011	Street works often over run which impose additional social costs on local areas. The costs to rural and urban areas are likely to be different E.g. effected by a.) Alternate routes b.) demand or use of roads c.) Severity of work – rural areas likely to be more extensive works to join up more networks which span greater geographical area.	C
The Motor Fuel (Road Vehicle and Mobile Machinery) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Regulations 2012	An increase in Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) could pose an additional cost burden on rural businesses as many of these will be in the agricultural sector. An increase in fuel costs may also have a disproportionate impact on rural communities and businesses which have higher fuel demand than their urban counterparts. UK agriculture sector may also benefit if they supply sustainable biofuels.	B
Impact Assessment for Blue Badge Regulations	Reforms of the blue badge which allow people to park in disabled parking. Reforms which aim to address increasing demand, inconsistent assessment, abuse and misuse, and inefficient service delivery will impact differently on rural / urban areas due to the different demographics in rural / urban areas.	C
Reimbursement Arrangements for the England-wide concessionary travel scheme	Rural areas have an ageing demographic, therefore benefits or costs of the revisions to the scheme are likely to be different for rural and urban areas.	C

Proposed Amendment to the Fees Charged by Approved Tachograph Centres (Tachographs record speed and are fitted to every vehicle)	Deregulating the tachograph market could cause rural tachographs to increase their prices as they face less competition.	C
Changes to bus service registration requirements relating to frequent services to improve competition in the bus market.	Competition likely to be lower in rural areas as many routes are less commercially viable. More likely to be sole operators in rural areas.	A
Night Flying Restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted Airports	Approaches to both Stansted and Gatwick are likely to be in rural areas, which may have different impacts to rural areas. For example background noise in rural areas is likely to be lower, and therefore perception of aircraft noise may affect people living in rural areas more than urban areas who are used to higher background noise.	A
Compensation Arrangements – Driving Instruction Suspension and Exemption Scheme	Could reduce the number of driving instructors in rural areas which could impact on the number of people learning to drive in rural areas. Likely to be particularly problematic if there are 1-2 driving instructors in local area.	B

#### Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

##### Summary

391 Impact Assessments for Defra are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 11 that appeared relevant for rural. The majority of the IAs reviewed provided no or limited rural proofing assessment. Those relating to waste did not provide a reference to potential impacts on rural groups, although this may be due to the lack of urban/rural bias in the regulatory policy design. There may have also been an implicit assumption in some of the IAs that the analysis was all relevant to rural given the scope of the IA impacting on farmers (e.g. bovine TB and sheep ID); however, it would have been useful to clearly set this out.



Title of IA	Rationale for selection	Assessment Score
A Low Emissions Zone framework for inclusion in the Time Extension Notification for compliance with the EU limit value for NO2	Vehicle emissions regulation that will potentially impact on car fleets used in rural areas	A
Amendment to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 - new schedule for Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs)	May impact on waste recycling facilities in rural areas	A
Changes to the Glass Packaging Recycling Business Target to 2017	Could impact on tourism and hospitality sectors recycling glass in rural areas	A
Impact Assessment of Options for Company GHG Reporting	Relevant for business reporting of GHG in rural areas	A
Introducing Retail Competition in the Water Sector	Potential impact on water users in rural areas e.g. farmers	B
Managing the future financial risk of flooding	Relevant in relation to flooding in rural areas and cost to business from insurance	A
Measures to address bovine TB in badgers	Relevant to farming and other rural businesses affected by TB	B
Offsetting the Impact of Development on Biodiversity	Relevant for business that may be impacted by offsetting in rural	B
Future Water Resources Management: Reform of the Water Abstraction Regulation System	Potential impact on water users in rural areas e.g. farmers	B
Review of Waste Policies	Relevant from waste operators in rural areas	B
Sheep Identification - Electronic slaughter tag	Relevant to farmers operating in rural areas	A

**Department for Work and Pensions**

**Summary**

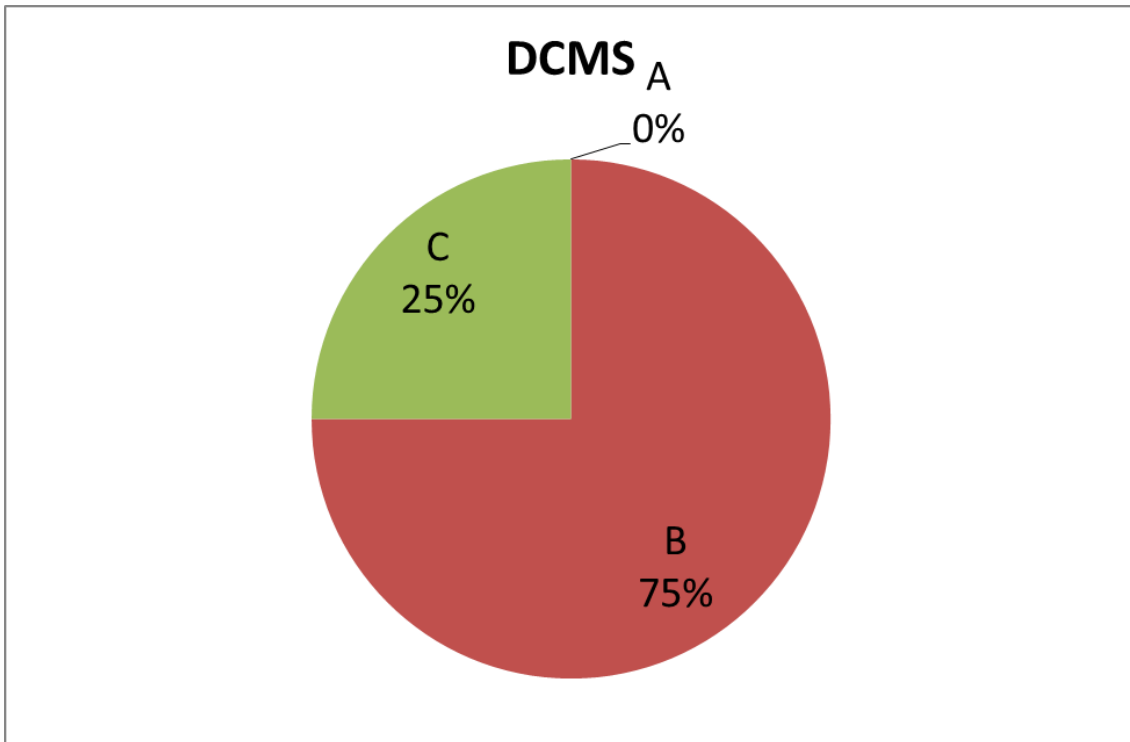
114 Impact Assessments for DWP are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 6 that appeared relevant for rural. It is positive that DWP appear to carry out systematic rural proofing across the board, even for IAs which don't have a rural / urban dimension which all cross the Rural Proofing box. The Welfare Reform Bill assessment also included a specific rural consultation to generate evidence to support the policy design. However, overall the rural proofing is of mixed quality. A clear understanding of rural issues is often presented, but not evidenced or considered in much detail. Although some of the IAs recognise that this is partly due to lack of available data sets that can link individuals to locations.

Title of IA	Rationale for selection	Assessment Score
Housing Benefit: Under occupation of social housing	Rural areas have a more limited range (in terms of size) of social accommodation. This could result in the restriction being applied to the claimant's rent, the tenant moving further distances in order to secure accommodation of the appropriate size.	B
Pension Protection Measures for the Pension Bill	Ageing demographic in rural areas could mean a greater impact in rural areas.	B
Control of Asbestos Regulations	Small businesses may find they need additional source to be able to organise medicals, notifications and record keeping (i.e. higher compliance cost). There are a larger number of small businesses in rural areas and may have a disproportionate impact on rural areas.	B
Housing Benefit: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance Arrangements	Reductions in Local Housing Allowance rates could limit the number of properties in an area that are affordable to households on Housing Benefits. Tenants in some rural areas might find it difficult to access alternative affordable accommodation and may be forced to move considerable distances.	C
A of Welfare Reform Bill 2009	Unmarried parents in rural areas are likely to have to travel greater distances to the register office than those in urban areas.	C
Housing Benefit – uprating local housing allowance rates by 1% for 2 years from April 2014	Could impact rural areas more significantly than urban areas due to the lower availability of social housing. (see housing benefit rationale above)	A

**Department for Culture Media and Sport**

**Summary**

97 Impact Assessments for DCMS are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 4 that appeared relevant for rural. The exemption of licensing for live music IA included a rural proofing test with an analysis of the potential social impacts and wider economic benefits for the rural economy. However, the majority of the IAs reviewed did not provide robust analysis of the impact and appeared to be tick boxing the rural proofing test.



Title of IA	Rationale for selection	Assessment Score
Impact Assessment for the Digital Economy Act 2010	Relevant to the broadcasting and communications infrastructure in rural and remote areas	B
Ending age discrimination in the provision of services	Relevant to service deliverers in rural areas who face challenges caused by distance, population, infrastructure and critical mass.	B
Impact Assessment of Proposal to amend the Licensing Act 2003 to simplify the procedures for Licensing Statements; Interim Authority Notices and Reinstatements on Transfer; and Temporary Event Notices (TEN).	Rural pubs/communities are more than likely to be the hub for events requiring a TEN.	B
Impact Assessment for the proposal to exempt live music from the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.	Relevant to village halls/pubs/small venues wishing to stage live music events.	C

Cabinet Office

Summary

20 Impact Assessments for Cabinet Office are listed on legislation.gov website and the review examined 2 that appeared relevant for rural. The Public Bodies bill acknowledged that the closure of ALBs, many of which are located in rural areas, could have a negative impact on employment. However, it did not attempt to quantify this and stated that overall it would not have a direct impact on rural communities. The civil contingency IA also made no reference to rural and challenges of dealing with more remote and sparsely populated areas.

Title of IA	Rationale for selection	Assessment Score
Public Bodies Bill	Reducing number of public bodies some of which may impact on rural representation	A
Impact Assessment of The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 Contingency Planning) (Amendment) Regulations 2012	Civil contingencies may require greater organisation in rural areas which are more sparsely populated with greater distances between communities	A

### Department for Education and Skills

#### Summary

71 IAs published on legislation.gov. High numbers of the IAs were duplications and small changes to existing regulations that justifiably do not require rural proofing. 2 of the 71 IAs considered rural dimensions.

#### Key Findings:

Virtually all of the IAs online do not have a specific rural / urban dimension to them. Many of them look at deregulatory measures on guidance and applications, changes to curriculum, changes to Ofsted inspection regime and minor changes in terms of eligibility and changes to address school performance.

The 2 IAs which mentioned the word rural were:

1. Revised statutory guidance for local authorities on delivery of free early education provision for 3-4 year olds.

The IA recognised the different challenges in rural and urban areas, although did not explain them in any detail. This was probably not required however, given that more flexibility was being introduced to the guidance to allow for different needs in local authorities at the regional level.

2. IA of Children & Young Person's bill.

Concerned with increasing the quality of care and support given to children in care homes in order to address poor educational performance. The IA stated the bill will have no differential impact in rural areas or an adverse impact on rural circumstances and needs. There is no analysis or evidence to support this, but shows the rural dimension has at least been considered. There is no evidence to suggest there would be differences in the quality of social care for young children provided in rural/urban areas.

## Annex – Detailed IA review and assessment

### Department for Business Innovation and Skills IA review

Title of IA	Impact Assessment for a Direction to the Office for Communications (Ofcom) to intervene in spectrum management
Date IA published	13/07/2010
Rationale for selection	Aim is to promote more rapid expansion in mobile telecom coverage relevant to rural
Description of policy rationale	The UK Government has been considering possible solutions to the complex set of challenges hindering the release and use of additional spectrum that could support the deployment of next generation mobile broadband and ensure that the UK mobile sector remains highly competitive. These challenges have centred on the change in use of 2G spectrum to deliver 3G mobile services. Government intervention through a Direction to the regulatory body, Ofcom, is deemed necessary to avoid further delay. Acting now will help accelerate the process of releasing existing and new spectrum, and thereby progress towards universal coverage in 3G and next generation mobile services and the transition to next generation high speed broadband services. Depending on how the market for 3G and next generation mobile and mobile broadband services develops in the future, should the level of competition become weaker as a result of the way in which spectrum is held by mobile operators, further intervention at a later date may be appropriate.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes rural proofing test but no analysis of potential impact is undertaken. Also mention competition effects that are relevant to rural areas but again no analysis is undertaken to show potential impact.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not quantified
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified

Title of IA	Amendment to the National Minimum Wage regulations 2013-increase in NMW rates
Date IA published	08/04/2013
Rationale for selection	Minimum wage rates will affect people living in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	If there is exploitation in the labour market, employers may abuse unequal bargaining power to pay unacceptably low wages, particularly where workers have a lack of experience, skills, mobility or opportunities. The aim of the government intervention is to prevent this. The National Minimum Wage (NMW) is a statutory pay floor that sets the minimum wage standards in the UK. This provides protection to low-paid workers by preventing potential exploitation; prevents businesses from being able to undercut by paying exploitatively low wages; and provides incentives to work. The NMW came into force in April 1999 and since then the NMW rates have been reviewed by the Low Pay Commission annually.



<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention or reference to rural workers or employers
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£226.4m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£226.4m

Title of IA	Apprenticeship Agreements
Date IA published	04/11/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant for rural apprenticeship schemes
Description of policy rationale	The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act Section 37(2) (b) introduced the requirement for all apprentices are employed under an Apprenticeship Agreement. The Act allowed for regulations to be introduced separately in order to enable us to consult with stakeholders on the prescribed form Apprenticeship Agreements should take. In the absence of regulations, we are relying on exceptional powers to award all Apprenticeship Completion Certificates; this position is not sustainable and intervention is needed to enable the Act to be applied in full.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention or reference to rural workers or employers that may be involved in apprenticeship agreements
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not quantified
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified

Title of IA	Impact Assessment of Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on combating Late Payment
Date IA published	04/12/2012
Rationale for selection	Late payments will impact on rural business finance and cash flow
Description of policy rationale	Since 2009 we've seen a downward trend in late payment duration. Though still problematic as it impacts on cash flow which is seen as an obstacle to business success and trade as the perception is that exporting entails a higher risk of late payment, insolvencies, debt write-offs etc. HMG must bring its law into line with EU law. Intervention is necessary to ensure compliance with the changed Directive. It is also necessary due to: a) asymmetric information, in those creditor businesses may face difficulties understanding how to claim for compensation due to late payment, b) market power, in that debtors may take advantage of creditors due to market power they have and negative externalities that the debtor imposes on the creditor.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	Highlights the importance of combatting late payments for SME business but makes no reference that higher proportion of these is in rural areas. Does not include a rural proofing test. Within social test states that no impact on communities will occur. States that familiarisation costs to business will be

	small and does not quantify impact.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not quantified
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£50.8m

Title of IA	Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (ERR) Act
Date IA published	01/05/13
Rationale for selection	Covers a range of legislation and regulatory simplification that is relevant to rural business e.g. farm wage board
Description of policy rationale	The Act includes a number of measures to encourage long term growth and to simplify regulation. The rationale and impact of each of the main measures are assessed and quantified in the accompanying Impact Assessments. In addition, the Act introduces powers in certain areas that will enable secondary legislation to be made. The effects of this secondary legislation will be identified in future IAs as the legislation is drafted.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural or rural proofing test but refers to accompanying IAs that may cover this. The Abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board seeks to reduce the regulatory burden on farmers.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Provides a net benefit estimate <b>£1,416m</b>
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	

Title of IA	Estate Agents market regulatory reform
Date IA published	16 August 2012
Rationale for selection	Relevant to estate agents operating in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	Regulation in the home buying and selling sector has been identified by an OFT market study in 2010 as one of the factors hindering innovation. The Estate Agents Act (EAA) 1979 has been in place for 30 years but market and technological developments, notably the development of online property portals, have made the definition of "estate agency work" in the legislation inappropriate. It potentially hinders the development and introduction of new business models, limits the choice for consumers and dampens price competition in the market, which the OFT described as "weak". Government intervention is required to amend or repeal existing legislation and to ensure consumer protection remains adequate where risks are identified.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing or analysis to show extent that estate agents operate in rural areas will be affected. Includes SME impact test that highlights large number of small property traders but no mention whether these include rural.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£6.9m

Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£6.9m
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Title of IA	Higher Education White Paper impact assessment
Date IA published	28/06/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant for higher education provision in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	Reform of the Higher Education system in England is necessary to make it financially sustainable for the long term whilst protecting participation and quality. Higher education is recognised to be central to economic growth. Our economic circumstances make it urgent to build an increasingly strong alignment between the teaching and research activities of universities and the needs of the economy. The HE system needs to become more competitive and dynamic with scope for new provision to emerge and greater incentives for HE Institutions to work with employers. We will be introducing a new regulatory framework to deliver the HE reforms and will be encouraging more dynamism and competition in HE.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No rural proofing assessment carried out or analysis of HE in rural areas. States that uncertainty in the White Paper mean unable to conduct a full assessment of policy as not yet determined.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£23,093m over 10 years
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£15,035m over 10 years

Title of IA	Impact assessment of extending the Primary Authority scheme
Date IA published	04 October 2011
Rationale for selection	Relates to Local Authorities boundaries that may impact on rural businesses operating across boundaries
Description of policy rationale	The Primary Authority scheme was introduced in April 2009. It provides greater regulatory consistency and certainty for businesses that operate across a number of local authority areas. The scheme is based on the creation of a statutory partnership between a multi-site business and its "Primary Authority" (PA). The PA acts as a coordinator of other local authority enforcement activity in relation to that business. The scheme has worked very well to date with widespread uptake and support from business, professional bodies and local authorities. Lord Young's Review of Health and Safety legislation recommended an extension of the scheme. The recommendations of Lord Young's review were accepted in full by the government. The overall rationale for intervention is to extend the benefits of the Primary Authority scheme to further address inconsistency in the enforcement of regulation at the local level, by: (i) covering additional regulations currently out of scope; (ii) further reducing the inspection burden on businesses by strengthening inspection plans within the scheme; and (iii) extending eligibility criteria to cover a wider range of businesses.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>

Qualitative description	State that no rural proofing needed as not relevant.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£98.8m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£381.4m

Title of IA	Parental Leave Directive
Date IA published	06/08/2012
Rationale for selection	Relevant to parent workers in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	In order to fulfil our European obligations the Government needs to amend existing UK legislation to comply with EU Directive 2010/18 on Parental Leave by 2013. The Government intends to implement the Parental Leave Directive in a manner that will support its wider policy objectives of encouraging shared parenting and maintaining attachment to the labour market whilst minimising burdens to business.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No rural proofing assessment. Considers agency workers which may be relevant to rural (e.g. seasonal farm labour) but no analysis or reference.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£7.7m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified

Title of IA	Phasing out the default retirement age
Date IA published	8/1/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant to rural communities and ageing population
Description of policy rationale	The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations came into force on 1 October 2006 to prohibit discrimination in employment on the grounds of age and included the introduction of a national Default Retirement Age (DRA) of 65 (subject to a review and possible removal after 5 years) and the prohibiting of compulsory retirement below 65 unless objectively justified. A review of the DRA carried out in 2009-10 has shown a minority of employers using a compulsory retirement age and most requests by employees to stay on in work are accepted. For the majority of employers the right to request procedure is an unnecessary cost and represents a regulatory failure. Intervention is also justified on equity grounds to reduce the number of older employees forced to retire against their will. The Government's Coalition Agreement also states that "the parties agree to phase out the Default Retirement Age (DRA)". This supports the wider Government policy interventions related to demographic change and the economic and other benefits of extending working lives. People are living longer and healthier lives, and increasing numbers want to stay in the workforce beyond age 65. The Government wants to both facilitate this and correct the regulatory failure.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No rural proofing assessment undertaken
Total IA Costs and rural costs	£130m

(if available)	
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£3,029m

Title of IA	Resolving work place disputes
Date IA published	01/10/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant to business operating in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	There are significant volumes of claims to the employment tribunal. These claims are costly to employers, claimants and the exchequer. At the same time, it is apparent that the costs and risks faced by employers from employment tribunal claims can affect their hiring behaviour. There is evidence that demonstrates that if disputes are resolved in the workplace this is far less costly to both parties, delivers more positive results in terms of continued employment, and saves money for the Government by reducing demand on HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS).
Assessment Score	A
Qualitative description	No rural proofing assessment undertaken
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£319m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£784m

Title of IA	Right to Request Time to Train Consultation Document & Summary
Date IA published	22 January 2010
Rationale for selection	Relevant for training and skills in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	Despite the significant progress and investment in recent years, our nation's skills base does not compare favourably with the best in the world. These poor relative skills are a significant contributor to the productivity gaps that exist between the UK and key competitor nations. To succeed in the highly competitive global economy, we must invest in our nation's talent. With around 74% of the workforce of 2020 having left compulsory education this will mean investing in the skills of people already in employment. Although total employer spend on training in England is estimated by employers to have risen to some £38.6 billion a year, we also know from the National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) 2007 that 33% of employers in England do not provide any sort of training for their employees, only 35% have a training budget, and around 8m employees receive no training each year. Surveys in Scotland and Wales reveal similar figures, for example, according to Future Skills Wales 2005 survey, 42% of employers questioned had offered little or no off-the-job training in the 12 months preceding the survey.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	State that "It is not thought that this policy would have a different effect in rural areas." No analysis undertaken to support this
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£2,322m

Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£3,590m
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Title of IA	Simpler financial reporting for micro-entities: The UK's proposal to implement the 'Micros Directive'
Date IA published	19 August 2013
Rationale for selection	Relevant for rural given high % of SMEs
Description of policy rationale	Current EU accounting requirements place a regulatory burden on micro-entities which is disproportionate to their size. Therefore, as part of the EU's "think small first" approach to legislation, a new Directive has been introduced which allows Member States to exempt micro-entities from certain requirements of the Fourth Company Law ("Accounting") Directive. Consequently, the Government must now decide whether and how to best implement this new Directive in the UK.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	State that they do not consider this to have any disproportionate impact and therefore does not require rural proofing. Given de-regulatory this probably reasonable but would have been useful to show that rural businesses with high share of micro could benefit from the policy or familiarisation costs being higher.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£8.92m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£4.96m

Title of IA	Impact Assessment of the Recast Directive 2012/19/EU on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
Date IA published	11/10/2013
Rationale for selection	Relevant to business with electrical waste in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	The Recast of the European Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive was published in the Official Journal on 24th July 2012. The recast aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the original WEEE Directive by further reducing the negative externalities (with respect to the environment as well as human and animal health) caused by the disposal of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) when it becomes waste. The WEEE recast has been negotiated between Member States with the UK contributing towards the analysis and final decisions/details. Government intervention is necessary to ensure that the UK continues to conform to EU law and to avoid infraction proceedings against the UK.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing or assessment of number of businesses affected in rural areas, particularly SMEs. This may be due to data limitations. Other tests are reported.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£8m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£4m

## Department for Energy and Climate Change

Title of IA	Impact Assessment of Feed-in Tariffs for Small-Scale, Low Carbon, Electricity Generation
Date IA published	01 February 2010
Rationale for selection	Relevant to small scale low carbon electricity generation in rural areas.
Description of policy rationale	Our 2020 renewables target requires all parts of society to make a contribution. Experience with existing policy measures (in particular the Renewables Obligation) suggests that businesses, organisations and individuals outside the energy sector require a simple, accessible policy framework to encourage them to take up renewable electricity generation.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes rural proofing test but no analysis of potential impact is undertaken.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£8.6bn (20 years)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	-£8.2bn (20 years)

Title of IA	Impact Assessment for the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation
Date IA published	11/06/2012
Rationale for selection	To address market failures and barriers to drive demand for cost effective energy efficiency measures in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	Improvements to the UK's energy efficiency will reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, improve energy security, mitigate fuel poverty, increase productivity and reduce the cost of meeting the UK's renewable energy target. Government interventions justified to address market failures and barriers slowing take up of socially cost effective energy efficiency measures. These include access to capital and discounted rates, information asymmetry, positive innovation externalities, inertia and incentive incompatibility. Intervention is also justified to help achieve the Government's distribution objectives.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>C</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes a chapter on impacts to rural people and places in developing and implementing fair and effective policies.  The Carbon Saving Communities (CSC) target includes a "Rural Safeguard" aimed at delivering at 15% or their CSC obligation to households in rural areas who are in receipt of specified means tested benefits.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£17.3bn
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£25.6bn

Title of IA	Renewable Heat Incentive - Domestic
Date IA published	July 2013

Rationale for selection	Relevant to incentivise the roll out of renewable heating systems to rural households.
Description of policy rationale	<p>The renewable heat market is largely developing and has been identified as a sector that could cost-effectively provide around a third of the UK Government's target of 15% of energy from renewables by 2020 and also help meet longer term decarbonisation targets. A step change in the uptake of renewable heat generating technologies is required to achieve this potential contribution and prepare the market for mass roll out in the 2020s.</p> <p>Currently these technologies are unable to compete financially and there are a number of market failures that prevent their deployment such as the lack of carbon price in the non-traded sector and information asymmetries, as well as barriers such as perceived risks associated with new technologies, and costs of disruption associated with switching. Without government intervention, the private sector is not expected to achieve the required uptake.</p>
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes a rural proofing statement, but this does not include an assessment or analysis of impacts, benefits or costs.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£2,912m (27 years)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£1,077m (27 years)

Title of IA	Renewables Obligation Transition
Date IA published	21/05/2012
Rationale for selection	Relevant to renewable energy produced in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	<p>The UK needs to radically increase its deployment of renewable electricity to meet the UK share of the EU 2020 renewable energy target. The Renewables Obligation is the principal mechanism to do this and rewards large scale renewable electricity by issuing Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) to eligible generators. Their value is determined by the difference between where the level of the Obligation is set (based on predicted generation) and the number of ROCs presented to Ofgem. Therefore, the ability to set the value of a ROC accurately depends on the accuracy with which generation can be predicted. Owing to the uncertainty in setting the Obligation accurately, investors may heavily discount ROC income from the latter years of the subsidy regime. This makes it more difficult to secure debt financing with a longer term, and therefore deployment of these types of project may be hampered.</p>
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes a rural proofing statement related to the social impacts of new renewable energy developments. This does not include an analysis of impacts, benefits or costs.
Total IA Costs and rural costs	Not quantified



(if available)	
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified

Title of IA	Smart meter rollout for the domestic sector
Date IA published	30/03/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant to those in rural areas who find key-charging or token purchase difficult.
Description of policy rationale	Lack of sufficiently accurate, timely information on energy use may prevent customers from taking informed decisions to reduce consumption and thereby bills and CO2emissions. The lack of accurate, timely information increases suppliers' accounts management and switching costs. Better information on patterns of use across networks will aid in network planning and development, including future smart grids. Smart metering is a key enabling technology for managing energy systems more efficiently in the future, and providing new information and services to consumers which reduce costs and carbon emissions. In Great Britain, the provision of energy meters to consumers is the responsibility of energy retail suppliers, and is subject to competition. Although some suppliers are rolling out smart meters to a selection of their customers it is expected that, in the absence of intervention by Government, suppliers would roll out only limited numbers of smart meters. Government intervention is needed to ensure commercial interoperability and full market coverage. This will facilitate the capture of wider benefits to consumers, the environment, network operators and new businesses. The policy for smart meters therefore addresses the market failures in the energy markets described above (information asymmetries, lack of coordination and negative externalities from energy consumption).
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes rural proofing as part of its impact testing. This does not include an analysis of benefits or costs.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£10,757m (20 years)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£15,827m (20 years)

Title of IA	The Warm Home Discount Scheme
Date IA published	23/02/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant to fuel poor households in rural areas.
Description of policy rationale	Households that need to spend 10% or more of their incomes to adequately heat their homes are defined as being in fuel poverty. The number of fuel poor households in the UK has doubled since 2003, mainly as a result of rising energy prices. The most cost-effective method of reducing fuel poverty is generally through improving the thermal efficiency of homes. However, upgrading the housing stock is a gradual process, and in the interim the provision of support through energy bills can remove a significant number of households from fuel poverty. An existing voluntary agreement between the Government and major energy suppliers to provide support ends in March 2011. Government intervention is required to

	ensure that support through bills continues to be provided to vulnerable households.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes rural proofing as part of its impact testing. This does not include an analysis of benefits or costs.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£1,431m (5 years)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£1,624m (5 years)

### Department for Health

Title of IA	National Health Service (Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition) (No. 2) Regulations 2013
Date IA published	07/03/13
Rationale for selection	IA considers implications of abolishing PCTs and what this means for patient choice. This IA was chosen given choice may be restricted in some rural areas due to distance needed to travel to access services.
Description of policy rationale	The Government is making regulations under Section 75 of Health and Social Care Act 2012 (HSCA) in order to maintain key existing requirements falling on Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) which are to be abolished. This includes establishing good procurement practice, protecting patient choice and addressing anti-competitive conduct where this acts against the interests of patients. This is necessary: 1) To set an appropriate framework of rules for commissioners to ensure value for money and protect patients' rights to choice without undermining their ability to secure services that meet patient need. 2) To ensure all relevant statutory/non-statutory requirements are mapped over to the new rules framework, giving Monitor an appropriate statutory enforcement role. 3) To establish a process for providers to seek redress, providing a credible alternative to seeking redress or damages through the courts.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural proofing or sparsity in the IA
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not available for both
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not available for both

Title of IA	Mandatory public health functions for LAs to provide in improving the health of their populations
Date IA published	03/05/2012
Rationale for selection	IA proposes ring fencing some of the health budget to make mandatory for LAs to deliver to avoid a risk of under-provision of services in some areas which could result in sub optimal public health benefits for the population. This IA has been chosen to assess if rural/urban authorities have been considered when collating the evidence in case of different challenges in delivery that need to be accounted for.
Description of policy rationale	Under the Health and Social Care (HSC) Act, as of April 2013 unitary and upper tier Local Authorities (LAs) will have a duty

	to take appropriate steps to improve the health of their populations. LAs will be free to commission services with the ring-fenced budget as they see fit without intervention. However, local prioritisation of these public health services would risk under-provision of services whose under-provision would result in a sub-optimal public health benefit to the national population. It is therefore proposed to mandate delivery of these services, whilst ensuring the LAs retain autonomy in commissioning decisions with the majority of the budget to target the local populations. This combination will help maximise the total public health benefit to the population.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural proofing or sparsity in the IA
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Unknown for both
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Unknown for both

Title of IA	The Approval of Establishments Producing and Processing Certain Fats and Oils, and the Testing of Fats and Oils of Vegetable and Marine Origin for Dioxins and Dioxin-Like PCBs
Date IA published	5th December 2013
Rationale for selection	The IA states: Producers and processors of certain fats and oils for animal feed use now need to be approved rather than registered under Regulation 183/2005. Approval requires a prior physical inspection of an establishment's premises and equipment to ensure it is capable of undertaking its activities to the required standard and the payment of a fee to the competent authority for this. Producers and processors of fats and oils for feed use will also be required to undertake sampling and analysis of them to ensure that levels of any undesirable substances which may be present do not exceed the maxima laid down in animal feed legislation. The IA was chosen as this may have cost impacts on rural businesses.
Description of policy rationale	There was a feed contamination incident in Germany in December 2010-January 2011, in which fatty acids of vegetable origin for use in pig and poultry feed were mixed with fats derived from industrial use containing high levels of dioxins. The incident, thought to have been attributable to fraud or negligence, led to the temporary quarantine of several hundred farms in Germany and the recall of many pork and egg products, some of which had been sent to other Member States. The Commission subsequently introduced an amendment to Regulation 183/2005 on feed hygiene to require the approval of establishments producing or processing fats and oils and laying down conditions for the control of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in them.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The IA states: <i>There will no impacts on existing health, wellbeing or other social inequalities, on human rights, on levels of crime or crime prevention, or on skills and education. There will be no differential impact on rural or urban areas vis-a-vis the other, nor will there be any specifically local or regional effects.</i> This recognises that some of the costs associated with sampling and testing will fall on businesses, depending on their volume of production this could vary.

Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£2.10M (national not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified for both

Title of IA	Public Health Outcomes Framework
Date IA published	16/01/2012
Rationale for selection	This IA is about developing a Public Health Outcomes Framework using indicators selected via a rigorous assessment process. The IA was chosen to see if rural and urban geographies will be considered as a part of these indicators.
Description of policy rationale	Over the past ten years, health inequalities between different groups have widened, leading to widening discrepancy in public health outcomes. In addition, England currently achieves relatively poor public health outcomes in certain major areas when compared to our peer countries. Responding and acting upon these challenges is the prime function of the proposed Public Health Outcomes Framework. Also, the government is radically shifting power to local communities. The Public Health Outcomes Framework is thus needed to provide a mechanism for transparency and accountability across the new public health system that is emerging as a result of this reform program.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	The IA suggests that outcomes will be monitored for different geographies, demographics, socio-economic groups but doesn't explicitly state rural and urban.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£3.22M (national not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Unknown (both)

Title of IA	Independence, choice and control Accompanying IA for the White Paper "Caring for our future: reforming care and support"
Date IA published	03/07/2012
Rationale for selection	This IA underpins the White Paper which focusses on reforming care and support. Its starting point is that care intervention is too often designed around servicing at point of crisis rather than giving people advice and information to make informed choices themselves about how care and support is delivered. Given the rural population has a greater proportion of population over state retirement age than urban areas it seemed relevant to consider this IA for rural proofing.
Description of policy rationale	Care and support is too focused on intervention at the point of crisis, rather than helping individuals to maintain independence and prevent the onset of care needs. Rather than being shaped around the needs of individuals, services have developed on the basis of systems, structures and funding flows. There are still significant barriers preventing people from having choice and control over how their needs are met. In particular, access to high quality information and advice is variable in terms of quality and access across the country. The extent to which care and support is personalised

	and integrated with other public services has implications for quality of outcomes, user experience and efficient use of public resource.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural proofing in the IA, some consideration of the effect of geography and socio-economic characteristics in terms of current service provision/needs.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£559M (national not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£42M (national not rural)

Title of IA	Next steps for nursery milk
Date published	16/11/2011
Rationale for selection	This IA is all about getting better value out of procurement of milk for children under 5 at nursery. This IA has been considered because of lack of competition of milk providers in some rural areas may make this policy more difficult to implement in terms of seeking lower costs for rural nurseries.
Description of policy rationale	The Nursery Milk Scheme has been running, largely unchanged, since the 1940s. The Scheme currently funds free milk for around 1.5 million children under five years old in 55,000 childcare settings throughout Great Britain. In recent years, the prices claimed for milk purchased under the scheme have risen significantly, with a corresponding increase in the total cost of the scheme. If nothing is done to contain costs, the total annual cost of the scheme is expected to rise to £76m by 2015/2016. Intervention is necessary to modernise the scheme, contain costs and improve value for money, while ensuring that all children under five in childcare settings continue to receive free milk.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	There appears to be a reasonable appreciation of rural issues in the IA, it states the following in relation to rural proofing: <i>We are concerned that childcare providers in geographically isolated areas may not have easy access to milk at the standard market rate. In view of this, if option 2 (capping) or option 3 (e-vouchers) were implemented, we would put in place arrangements to vary the capped rate in special circumstances. We are also seeking views on this issue in the public consultation.</i> No quantification of rural impact has been provided.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Four options presented, none preferred.
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Four options presented, none preferred.

Title of IA	PROPOSALS TO INTRODUCE INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBING BY PHYSIOTHERAPISTS
Date IA published	27/07/2011
Rationale for selection	This IA is about giving physiotherapists the ability to prescribe; this has been chosen for rural assessment as this approach may have the impact of shortening the care pathway for patients and for rural patients not having to travel back to hospital or GPs to have another specialist provide a prescription. It would possibly be helpful in terms of reducing time travelling to and from other appointments.
Description of policy rationale	Current regulations do not permit physiotherapists to independently prescribe medicines. Physiotherapists are currently allowed to be supplementary prescribers this has shown to exhibit inefficiencies in delivery and requires unnecessary activity for doctors. There is scope to substantially increase flexibility and access of care for patients with the introduction of independent prescribing for physiotherapists. Being able to independently prescribe may improve all three domains of quality of care: safety, patient experience and effectiveness, by liberating physiotherapists to maximise the benefit they have to offer patient care.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	No rural proofing impact provided, However the IA does state the following under non monetised benefits: <i>improved access to healthcare for all, especially in rural settings and the elderly</i>
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£2.033M (national not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£84.859M (national not rural)

### Home Office Department

Title of IA	Police and Crime Commissioners
Date IA published	31/03/2011
Rationale for selection	This policy saw the introduction of new locally accountable Police and Crime Commissioners. Changes took place across England and Wales, affecting rural and urban communities alike.
Description of policy rationale	<p>To transform the policing landscape in England and Wales by reducing bureaucracy, increasing democratic accountability and getting the public involved in how their streets are policed. The public will be able to hold the new Police and Crime Commissioners to account for policing in their area, including how their budget is spent. Their introduction will improve public engagement and the setting of priorities to meet local needs.</p> <p>Commissioners, in turn, will hold Chief Constables to account to make sure that policing is responsive to those needs and delivers value for money The police complaints system will be simplified including a role for the Police and Crime Commissioner and will reduce bureaucratic processes from the system.</p> <p>Commissioners will be at the fore of local relationships across the wider community safety and criminal justice arena, delivering more joined up services to improve community</p>

	safety, reduce crime and reoffending.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural proofing at all. Possibly not required for this IA as looks for local accountability for rural and urban areas alike. It would be good to see a rationale for why rural proofing was not required. It states that a post implementation review will take place in 2017 – I think the RCPU would be interested in this from a rural perspective.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£136.5m (no rural costs)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	No monetised benefits included. Commissioners will provide a voice for the public to challenge spending at the highest level, and will be able to provide a stronger challenge to Chief Officers on value for money. They will represent the public ensuring that local policing meets the needs of local communities, driving out efficiencies and maximising resource.

Title of IA	Migration Permanent Limit (Points Based System Tier 1 and Tier 2)
Date IA published	16/03/2011
Rationale for selection	Rural businesses (mainly agri. and tourism) employ seasonal/part time overseas staff. Policy change may have an impact on this.
Description of policy rationale	The policy objectives and intended effects are to reduce net migration and any adverse social impacts of migration; to augment the selectivity of the system so that the operation of the limit does not exclude the brightest and the best; to achieve the right balance in terms of those with the greatest potential benefit to the UK and the immediate need of employers to fill specific vacancies; to ensure that the limit operates in a way that is fair and, so far as possible, offers certainty to businesses and other users of the system; and to incentivise the skills system and encourage employers to give priority to the training and recruitment of resident workers to meet skill needs.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The IA does cover rural proofing but states that there is no impact on the checklist. No analysis to quantify the effects of this policy for rural areas/businesses has been made when it could be through spatially coding (rural and urban classifications) using relevant labour market data. Under Rural Proofing the IA states: <i>There are no significant rural issues that arise out of this change in policy. In rural areas where there are slightly more unskilled occupations then the rural areas will not be generally affected by this policy change. There may be some slight effects on part-time and seasonal workers but again this is expected to be limited. We are not able to quantify these effects due to the lack of data. One occupation that will be affected will be sheep shearers but provision has already been made for this group. Overall the effects are expected to be minimal.</i>
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£172.1m (overall cost – not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£75.8m (overall benefit – not rural)

Title of IA	Civil Partnerships on Religious Premises
Date IA published	12/07/2011
Rationale for selection	Rural communities are less densely populated and tend therefore to have fewer religious buildings, meaning that rural same-sex couples may have less opportunity to register their civil partnership in a religious setting.
Description of policy rationale	Civil partnerships (like civil marriages) may not, by law, be registered on religious premises. This prohibition derives from the Civil Partnership Act 2004, which aligned civil partnerships with civil marriage, replicating the distinction between secular and religious provisions. As a result, unlike opposite sex couples who may have a religious marriage ceremony, lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people in same-sex couples are unable to formalise their union as a couple in front of the congregation at their place of worship. Faith groups who wish to host civil partnership registrations are prevented from being able to do so. Government intervention is needed because the impediment to civil partnerships taking place on religious premises is a legal one. This policy is deregulatory and voluntary and does not include additional burdens.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	No rural proofing impact stated in IA. For rural proofing the IA states that: <i>This measure applies across England and Wales and, as an enabling measure, will not adversely affect communities whether they are rural or urban. Rural communities are less densely populated and tend therefore to have fewer religious buildings, meaning that rural same-sex couples may have less opportunity to register their civil partnership in a religious setting. The opportunities in urban areas may also be greater because a wider variety of faith groups may have places of worship in them. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the LGB people are more likely to live in an urban than a rural area.</i>  Further evidence to more accurately support the above LGB statement above would be obtainable through rural and urban analysis of the Census.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£0.9m (overall cost – not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£0.9m (overall benefit – not rural)

Title of IA	UK Implementation of European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes
Date IA published	28/05/2012
Rationale for selection	Some laboratories will be located in rural areas and will therefore impact on these organisations.
Description of policy rationale	European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes was adopted in September 2010 and came into force on 9 November 2010. Directive 2010/63/EU replaces Directive 86/609/EEC which is transposed into current UK legislation by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. In common with other Member States, the UK has Treaty obligations to transpose the new Directive into UK legislation and must complete this process by 10 November 2011. The implementation of the new Directive must be implemented in the UK and other Member States from 1 January 2012.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>C</b>
Qualitative description	IA systematically works through detailed rural proofing questions. It states that there will be no rural impact overall. The IA also states no impact on rural businesses – although arguably it might if a lab. is based



	in rural areas. The small business impact test has also been completed, so this would cover concerns to an extent.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£20.9m (overall cost not just rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£1.3m (overall benefit not just rural)

Title of IA	New offence of driving with a specified controlled drug in the blood in excess of the specified limit for that drug (and related consequential amendments)
Date IA published	29 May 2012
Rationale for selection	The majority of the road networks are in rural areas of the country. Most fatal accidents happen on rural A roads. Rural residents/motorists are more likely to have drink/drug driving related convictions on their licences, according to analysis of insurance policies held.
Description of policy rationale	<p>Drug driving contributes to or causes road deaths and injury and therefore is a problem in road safety terms. Very few proceedings are brought under the existing offence available to proceed against drug driving, especially when compared to proceedings brought under the prescribed limit drink driving offence.</p> <p>There is a low rate of convictions resulting from proceedings brought under the existing offence, compared to the offence for drink-driving. Therefore government intervention is required to bring in a new offence to provide for more effective enforcement against drug driving.</p>
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural areas in the IA at all.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£144m (overall – not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£230m (overall – not rural)

Title of IA	Impact of Legislative Changes to Firearms Controls: i. Increasing the maximum sentence for importation of illegal firearms (Customs and Excise Management Act 1979); and ii. Increasing the maximum sentence for manufacture, purchase or acquisition, sale or transfer of prohibited firearms or ammunition and introducing a new offence of possession of illegal firearms for sale or transfer (Section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968).
Date IA published	22/10/2012
Rationale for selection	Policy targeted at illegal firearms suppliers. Looked at this IA initially as most firearm recreational activity takes place in rural areas e.g. organised shoots
Description of policy rationale	At the moment there is no specific offence in relation to possession of firearms or ammunition with intent to “supply”, and such cases can be prosecuted under existing offences of importation (under CEMA) and possession, manufacture, purchase or acquisition and sale or transfer of firearms or

	ammunition (section 5 of the Firearms Act), which carry a maximum sentence of 10 years. Some cases are also being prosecuted under section 16 of the Firearms Act (possession with intent to endanger life or to enable another person to endanger life) but the mental element is often difficult to prove in trafficking cases. We know that middle men loan or lease illegal firearms and ammunition to criminals. These weapons are used in multiple incidents, by different individuals and in different parts of the country. The number of illegal firearms in circulation is small, but these weapons have a disproportionate impact on our communities because they are used time and time again. The Government is clear that these individuals, the middle men who supply illegal firearms to criminals, should face a punishment commensurate to the level of harm their actions cause to society. Although the evidence on deterrence effect is weak, tougher sentences may contribute to reduce gun crime.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural areas in the IA
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£19m (overall – not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	IA states that it was not possible to quantify benefits

Title of IA	Strengthening and simplifying civil penalties to prevent illegal migrant working.
Date IA published	05/02/2014
Rationale for selection	Policy targeted at employers to prevent illegal migrant working. Rural businesses (mainly agri. and tourism) employ seasonal/part time overseas staff. Policy change may have an impact on this.
Description of policy rationale	The ability to work illegally encourages migrants to come to the UK illegally and legal migrants to overstay their visas. Illegal working is frequently associated with tax evasion and exploitative working conditions, and undercuts legitimate business. Employers are required to check that a prospective employee has the right to work. It is proposed that the current maximum penalty of £10,000 per illegal worker is increased to give a greater deterrent to illegal working, and to ensure any financial gain is eliminated. Simplifying the right to work check will reduce employer's costs and encourage compliance. The penalty increase and process simplification requires secondary legislation. More effective debt recovery requires an amendment to primary legislation.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural in IA at all. Might be worth at least recognising that illegal migrant working practice does exist and it happens in rural areas, as well as urban, in respect of low skill low pay often seasonal work. So there will be a potential impact of this policy on rural employers.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£9.7m (overall – not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£19.8m (overall – not rural)

## Ministry of Justice

Title of IA	Options for dealing with squatting
Date IA published	26/10/2011
Rationale for selection	Squatting is an issue that cuts across rural and urban communities alike. So worth looking to see if any separate consideration is required for rural communities.
Description of policy rationale	The government has become increasingly concerned about the harm that can be caused by squatters following correspondence from property owners and members of the public and reports in the press. The government consulted publicly on this issue between 13 July and 5 October 2011 to gain a better understanding of the scale and nature of squatting and to invite views on whether the law should be strengthened.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural proofing in IA
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£5m (overall cost not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not available for both

Title of IA	A Single County Court for England and Wales and the deployment of High Court Judiciary to the County Court
Date IA published	2 February 2012
Rationale for selection	Worth checking for fair and equitable rural impact due to access issues as the intended effects are to reduce waiting times, to enable court users to make more informed choices over court location, to deploy judicial resources more flexibly in the future and to improve overall resource efficiency.
Description of policy rationale	<p>There are long waiting times in the County Court: cases (apart from small claims cases) took an average of 33 weeks from allocation to the start of a trial in 2010. This may be caused, in part, by inefficiencies in case allocation and transfer processes which can result in case hearing delays and customer dissatisfaction. The proposals within this Impact Assessment seek to address these problems by improving the processes by which cases are allocated to County Court. The proposals also seek to provide flexibility in the deployment of High Court judges to the County Court.</p> <p>Government intervention is necessary because the proposed changes would require legislation.</p>
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	IA states the following under rural proofing: <i>These proposals may affect litigants based in rural areas if they have to attend a non-local court. However it is considered unlikely that this will happen as HMCTS will endeavour to allocate cases to local courts in the first instance, and court users will still maintain the same level of control over where their case is heard as at present.</i> No quantification of impact is provided.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not quantified and negligible for both
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified and negligible for both

benefits (if available)	
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Title of IA	Court Broadcasting
Date IA published	23/05/2013
Rationale for selection	Given public confidence in CJS is low and this policy is too help overcome this by giving better public access to court proceedings and sentencing decisions. This IA was chosen given these issues may be more pronounced for rural communities due to distance issues, has the policy therefore been designed to take account of physical and digital access issues?
Description of policy rationale	There is evidence that public confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) is low and this provides the rationale for increasing access to court proceedings and sentencing decisions for the general public. The Government, in cooperation with broadcasters, is the best placed actor to ensure greater accessibility to court proceedings for the public.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	Rural proofing is provided as a header but IA states 'not applicable'. Further analysis of variance between rural and urban communities in terms of confidence in the CJS would have been useful to see from survey material.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not quantified for both
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified for both

Title of IA	Impact Assessment of the closure of Magistrates Courts
Date IA published	15/03/2010
Rationale for selection	This IA was chosen to ensure the policy took account of rural communities (travel to service issues) in rationalising the service
Description of policy rationale	The court estates reform programme has been established to review the condition and utilisation of the HMCS estate. Much of the estate is under-utilised and a number of areas within England and Wales have more than one court within a reasonable public transport commute. The programme has proposed a number of magistrates' and county courts that could be closed across England and Wales that would result in improved utilisation and efficiency in the courts that remain open whilst ensuring access to justice.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	IA states that: <i>Rural impacts will depend on the extent to which court users live in rural communities, and on the quality of transport links in the region. These factors were considered when assessing whether the closure of the court would have a disproportionate travelling burden on rural communities.</i> Geographical Information Systems analysis was undertaken which consider the next nearest court to the one which was closing for rural and urban communities alike. It would have been useful to see this analysis used for informing which courts should be closed possible on a minimum distance to travel criteria basis.
Total IA Costs and rural costs	Costs were assessed for individual court closures not

(if available)	nationally
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Benefits were assessed for individual court closures not nationally

Title of IA	Updating the Electricity Act “necessary” wayleaves process for overhead lines in England and Wales
Date IA published	09/07/2013
Rationale for selection	This IA was chosen given the majority of Electricity infrastructure is likely to be in rural areas that requires tree felling/lopping to keep lines maintained through wayleave agreements with land owners. The policy is to make it easier to sort out access disputes.
Description of policy rationale	<p>When Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and/or Transmission Network Operators (TNOs) need to install new or retain existing transmission or distribution lines and structures over land which they do not own, and this cannot be secured by voluntary agreement with the landowner, the DNOs/TNOs can seek a necessary (compulsory) wayleave from the Secretary of State to enable them to install or retain that line over third party land. The regulations also allows DNOs/TNOs to seek a tree felling or tree lopping order where there are trees or other vegetation close to electric lines that interferes with the installation, maintenance or working of the line or where it constitutes an unacceptable source of danger to children or other persons. The current legislative framework for processing such applications (applications for necessary wayleaves, tree felling and/or tree lopping orders and services relating to hearings collectively referred to as “applications and hearings”) and resolving disputes in relation to them is unnecessarily burdensome for DNOs/TNOs.</p> <p>There are two issues to deal with:</p> <p>(1) improving the current legislative framework to enable earlier and more effective communications between parties, allow faster processing of applications and hearings and reduce the burden of compensation claims made against DNOs/TNOs by owners and occupiers of land where electricity lines and apparatus have been installed in the past; and</p> <p>(2) introducing fees payable by DNOs/TNOs to recover the full costs of processing applications and conducting hearings to relieve the burden on the taxpayer of Government providing these services.</p> <p>This IA reflects costs and benefits of improving the current legislative framework for necessary wayleave and tree felling and tree lopping orders and introducing fees payable by DNOs/TNOs for the provision of services relating to applications and hearings.</p>
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	States that there will be no impact in rural areas, despite throughout the document talking about making it more straight forward to sort out disputes between industry and landowners. Seems to be a complete oversight!?
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£659,000 (national, not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£719,000 (national, not rural)

Title of IA	Implementing the new family court
Date IA published	28/11/2013
Rationale for selection	This policy is about simplifying family court rules and streamlining services that were previously across three tiers of court. The IA was chosen to see if the intended impact was assessed as fair and equitable for rural and urban communities alike.
Description of policy rationale	Currently, there are three separate tiers of court dealing with family matters. This structure is complicated and inflexible. It is difficult for court users to navigate, and does not allow for flexible, efficient deployment of judicial and HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) resources. The need to transfer cases between the three tiers of court can cause delay. Further, some family matters are currently not covered by the single set of family court rules, adding to complexity and causing confusion for court users. Only the government can pass secondary legislation to make the changes that are necessary and to implement in practice certain changes which have already been made by primary legislation.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural proofing at all
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not quantified
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified

Title of IA	Impact Assessment for Level Crossings
Date IA published	10/08/2010
Rationale for selection	Whilst the framework outlined in our proposals does not differentiate between rural and urban areas, the likelihood is that more closures of level crossings will occur in rural areas and so there will be a greater impact.
Description of policy rationale	The legislation governing level crossings is complex, antiquated and difficult to access, much of it dating back to the nineteenth century when the main railways were constructed. The legislation has been heavily amended over the years. This has led to confusion as to which provisions still apply. There has been no consolidation of the legislation governing level crossings. The procedure for making changes to safety provisions at level crossings is cumbersome, expensive and does not easily allow generic changes to be made. The procedures for closing level crossings are complicated and time consuming so that level crossings are not closed even where net financial benefit is indicated. Only primary legislation can resolve these problems.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>C</b>
Qualitative description	Very good appreciation of rural issues with implementing policy well set out in the document. No quantification of rural impact included. Rural stakeholders consulted.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not quantified for both
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£375.1M (national not rural)

Title of IA	Transforming the Services of the Office of the Public Guardian
Date IA published	08/05/2012
Rationale for selection	Lasting Powers of Attorney will need to be applied for by rural and urban citizens alike. This IA was chosen as some services may be made available digitally so thought it worth checking to see if any assessment has been made about digital access issues.
Description of policy rationale	The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) wishes to transform the way in which it delivers its services to customers in terms of the process for making and registering Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) and the supervision of deputies. The current IT system within the OPG is obsolescent and much of it is, in fact, out of support. As a result the OPG is losing a significant number of man hours per month due to computer down time (currently around 2000) and cannot adapt the computer system to deal with new ways of working. There are two options: either replace the computer system only or replace the computer system and add a digital front end. By providing digital channels to citizens, the OPG will improve customer service, enable business growth and reduce costs and fees from their current levels over time and it will also make the creation and registration of an LPA easier and more efficient. Government intervention is needed to reform the existing public service and provide citizen benefit. This also closely aligns to the Government's Digital by Default Strategy.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	IA states no impact on rural communities or businesses
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	No preferred option stated so IA includes various costs for different options
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	No preferred option stated so IA includes various benefits for different options

Title of IA	Prosecution and the Courts – responding to community concerns about crime
Date IA published	19 February 2010
Rationale for selection	Policy about improving the CJS specifically relating to communities concerns about crime. IA was chosen to see if any analysis has been undertaken to assess rural and urban difference in concerns about crime. Generally fear of crime is higher than rates of recorded crime in rural areas when compared to urban.
Description of policy rationale	The policy objective is to improve public confidence in the Criminal Justice System. In addition to raising public confidence itself, one of the intended effects is to improve the way the CJS works. The aim is to achieve this by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the quality and consistency of the services;</li> <li>• Improving the experience of all those who use and work in 5 or with 5 the CJS;</li> <li>• Responding effectively and proportionately to the concerns of the communities we serve; and</li> <li>• Improving criminal justice outcomes for all.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>

Qualitative description	No rural quantification but acknowledgement of rural proofing issues included.  <i>IA states: As these proposals develop we will consider whether any of them are likely to have a different impact in rural areas, because of particular rural circumstances or needs. A key theme of the Green Paper is to make the criminal justice service more accountable and responsive to local communities, taking into account community needs, concerns and priorities. This means tailoring the work of the criminal justice services to the demographics of their communities, including engaging and involving people living in rural areas.</i>
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£141m (national not rural)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified (national not rural)

Title of IA	Transforming Legal Aid: Scope, Eligibility, Merits (Criminal Legal Aid)
Date IA published	05/09/2013
Rationale for selection	Policy is about ensuring public confidence in the legal aid scheme by targeting limited public resources at those cases which justify it and those people who need it. IA chosen to assess whether rural impact was taken into account.
Description of policy rationale	We are concerned that limited public resources should be targeted at the people and cases where funding is most needed to ensure the legal aid scheme commands the confidence of the public and is credible. The changes to the scope of criminal legal aid for prison law are intended to focus public resources on cases that are of sufficient priority to justify the use of public money. The proposals to introduce a financial eligibility threshold is intended to ensure that the wealthiest Crown Court defendants, who are able to pay privately, are not automatically provided with legal aid at the taxpayer's expense.  The Government is responsible for the terms and conditions of access to legal services funded by the legal aid budget; hence government intervention is necessary in order to make any changes.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention of rural proofing
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Op 1 - £4m Op 2 - £3m (preferred not stated) national not rural
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Op 1 - £4m Op 2 - £3m (preferred not stated) national not rural

**Department for Communities and Local Government**

Title of IA	Localism Act – Neighbourhood Plans and Community Right to Build
Date IA published	20/02/12
Rationale for selection	Relates to neighbourhood planning which is relevant for rural communities



Description of policy rationale	Challenge from local communities to proposals for housing and economic development within their neighbourhoods is partly related to communities' lack of opportunity to help shape the development. A top-down and target-driven approach has alienated communities and has been a cause of opposition to development. This flaw in the current system can lead to development being delayed by objections (at expense to both business and the local authority) or blocked, compromising housing and economic growth. The Localism Act empowers local communities to take responsibility for the development of planning policy for their neighbourhood through a Neighbourhood Plan and, where communities wish to bring forward small scale development themselves, to give them a Community Right to Build.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing or assessment of impact. Although states that "The majority of frontrunner applications have been led by parish councils in rural areas." Also recognition that "The planning system can frustrate the ability of communities, particularly rural ones, to see the development that they want brought forward."
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£217m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£907m

Title of IA	Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 (England and Wales)
Date IA published	06/09/2013
Rationale for selection	Reforms to pension scheme may have impact on public sector workers living in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	At the June 2010 Budget, the Government committed to establishing an independent commission to review the long term affordability of public sector pensions. The cost of public service pensions paid out has risen by over a third over the last 10 years, and Lord Hutton's review found that the cost had mostly fallen to the taxpayer. The review recommended that significant reform was needed to make these Schemes more sustainable and affordable in the long term, fair to public sector workers and the tax payer. In response, the Government brought forward the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 ("the 2013 Act"). These proposals are necessary to meet the requirements for reform set out in the 2013 Act for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	No estimate
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£622m

Title of IA	Extending Permitted Development Rights for Mobile Telecommunications Operators
Date IA published	16/07/13

Rationale for selection	Highly relevant for not spot areas in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	Improving the country's communications infrastructure is integral to our ability to grow the economy and compete on a global scale. Demand for mobile broadband services is rising, and new 4G services are now being rolled out. Access to mobile services varies significantly across the country, with particularly poor provision in some rural areas. Planning delays can hold back and increase the cost of deploying mobile infrastructure. Government intervention is needed to ensure that planning controls are proportionate and operate in a way that facilitates swift deployment of mobile networks.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing despite mentioning that improving connectivity in rural areas is one of the main objectives and underpins the policy rationale.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	No estimate
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£20m

Title of IA	Improving mobility in social housing
Date IA published	15/10/2012
Rationale for selection	Relevant for rural with mobility problems
Description of policy rationale	Social housing provides decent, affordable homes to around 3.8m households in England. But the current system is inflexible and fails to maximise the opportunities for tenants to move to alternative accommodation within the social sector when their circumstances change. This means that many people are trapped in unsuitable accommodation, unable to take advantage of opportunities to improve the quality of their lives, such as employment opportunities. It is right to increase flexibility so that tenants have more opportunities to move to properties and locations across the country if they wish.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No rural proofing assessment or mention in test section
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£9.3m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£21.8m

Title of IA	Recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations
Date IA published	08/11/2012
Rationale for selection	May be relevant for buildings in rural areas covered by scheme
Description of policy rationale	The Recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is an EU measure that must be implemented by 9 January 2013. It builds on the existing Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and is designed to reduce carbon emissions from buildings and increase their energy efficiency. The Recast complements the 2008 Climate Change Act which requires a reduction in carbon emissions by 80% on 1990 levels by 2050. Emissions from buildings account for 40 - 45% of all CO2 emissions in the UK. Therefore, it is particularly

	important that carbon emissions from existing buildings are reduced by making them more energy efficient and those new buildings are designed and built with high levels of energy efficiency.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	States for Rural proofing: The recast does not relate to specific geographical areas. However, the Recast does include exemptions for agricultural buildings that use small amounts of energy. No assessment provided on the value of this impact.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£7.5m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£273.6m

Title of IA	Simplifying the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licence Renewal Application Form
Date IA published	04/05/2012
Rationale for selection	Relevant for rural landlords
Description of policy rationale	The Housing Act 2004 introduced a comprehensive package of powers for local authorities to deal with the worst privately rented properties, including the statutory duty to licence larger, high risk privately rented Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Whilst the Government is satisfied that the overall legislative framework for tackling problems in HMOs achieves the right balance between the rights and obligations of private landlords and tenants, the current application process for HMO licence renewals makes the relicensing of HMOs burdensome on business. Ministers therefore wish to simplify the HMO licence renewal application form as part of the commitment to reduce red-tape and unnecessary form filing.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	No estimate
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£6.32m

Title of IA	Localism Act – Neighbourhood Plans and Community Right to Build
Date IA published	19/02/13
Rationale for selection	Relevant for rural communities wanting to develop land
Description of policy rationale	This measure will create the legal framework to enable businesses to vote in referendums into the making of Neighbourhood Plans or Development Orders in designated business neighbourhoods. The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 will set out the conduct rules for running the referendums to be followed by the relevant councils and their associated election officials. This measure is necessary because the August Regulations did not provide for referendums on a Neighbourhood Plan or Order in a designated business area. We are bringing forward amendments to the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum)

	Regulations 2012 that will make provision for an additional referendum to be held in a designated business area in which non domestic rate payers will be able to vote if they choose to do so.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing
Total IA Costs	No estimate
Total IA Benefits	No estimate

Title of IA	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
Date IA published	15/12/2011
Rationale for selection	Infrastructure and EIAs are relevant for rural areas
Description of policy rationale	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 implement the provisions of the European Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (Council Directive 85/337/EEC - the 'EIA Directive') with respect to nationally significant infrastructure proposals that fall under the Planning Act 2008. As far as was feasible, these Regulations closely followed the approach taken by the Town and Country Planning Act system (TCPA) to implementing that Directive. They now need amending so as to appropriately address recent court judgements on cases relating to the TCPA approach. Failure to do this will risk infraction proceedings being made by the European Commission against the UK.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	Rural proofing - We do not anticipate the policy having any adverse impacts upon rural issues.
Total IA Costs	No estimate
Total IA Benefits	No estimate

Title of IA	Permitted development rights for installations of wind turbines and air source heat pumps on domestic premises
Date IA published	February 2011
Rationale for selection	Infrastructure and EIAs are relevant for rural areas
Description of policy rationale	Government policy is to encourage the take up of small scale renewable and low carbon energy technologies as part of its renewable energy and climate strategies. The planning application process can be a disincentive to the take up of microgeneration technologies, as submitting a planning application for the equipment imposes time and financial costs on an applicant. Government intervention is necessary to remove disincentives to the take up of these technologies. Permitted development rights (PDRs) remove the requirement for specific planning permission to be sought for development which meet certain criteria (designed to minimise impacts). PDRs were extended to a number of domestic microgeneration technologies, including solar panels, in 2008. Unresolved issues meant that it was not possible to introduce these rights for domestic installations of wind turbines and air source heat pumps at that time. Having now progressed the policy position on these technologies, and, informed by the

	outcome of the 2009 consultation, the Government is now in a position to introduce these rights for domestic installations of wind turbines and air source heat pumps.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	Rural proofing: Microgeneration equipment could potentially impact on the quality and character of the natural and built rural landscape. Conditions and limitations in the permitted development rights have been designed to limit visual impact. Specifically, limitations for installations in areas such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty will afford greater protection to rural landscapes.  No analysis undertaken to assess this impact but good to see this has been taken into consideration.
Total IA Costs	£2.8m
Total IA Benefits	£26.2m

Title of IA	Proposal to consolidate and amend the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (as amended).
Date IA published	05/08/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant for planning in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	The 1999 Regulations transposed into English law the European Union Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Since the 1999 Regulations came into force, they have been amended substantially to take account of case law and changes to the planning system. Recent court cases have highlighted other areas where the UK has failed to properly transpose the Directive. There is therefore a need to make the necessary changes to the 1999 Regulations to avoid potential infraction proceedings (pre-infraction action has already been taken by the EU Commission with regard to these cases) and the fines associated with infraction. It is also our intention to consolidate the 1999 Regulations, as amended, to make them more accessible and up-to-date.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No rural proofing issues have been identified
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£28.8m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£26.7m
Title of IA	Changing or revoking a Development Consent Order for nationally significant infrastructure (Planning Act 2008)
Date IA published	12/08/2011
Rationale for selection	Consent orders are relevant to rural business
Description of policy rationale	The Planning Act 2008 has established a new regime for the consenting of nationally significant infrastructure projects. Consent is granted through the making of a development consent order. As circumstances may change after the order has been made, it is necessary for the new regime to also include procedures for making changes to, or revoking, a made order. The change in circumstances could require either 'nonmaterial' changes to an order (i.e. relatively insignificant) or 'material' changes (i.e. significant, including revocation), and be requested by either the project's promoter or other persons

	as specified within the Planning Act. Without such procedures, the whole order would unnecessarily have to be applied for again, and which would thereby entail a higher cost to the applicant.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	Rural proofing - We do not anticipate the policy having any adverse impacts upon rural issues
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£2m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£8m

Title of IA	Localism Bill: Community Infrastructure Levy
Date IA published	January 2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant to developments in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	The Community Infrastructure Levy was introduced as an alternative to planning obligations. It provides a simpler, fairer and more transparent system of standard charges to unlock additional funding for infrastructure and respond to the needs of local communities. The planning obligations system by which developers contribute funding for infrastructure is often slow and unpredictable, based on ad hoc negotiations conducted in private. Research shows the burden of funding is unfair, falling primarily on major residential developments: in 2007/08 around 14 per cent of all residential permissions had planning agreements attached to them (51 per cent of major developments and 9 per cent of minor developments); in contrast only 7 per cent of permissions for offices had planning obligations attached to them. The Government has reviewed the Community Infrastructure Levy – in particular to assess its ability to respond to local needs and to incentivise development.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	States in rural proofing section” The infrastructure needs and economic circumstances of a small rural community are likely to differ from those of an urban borough, and it is our view that the Community Infrastructure Levy, through its flexible design and discretionary nature, can be effective in rural and urban communities alike. The increased flexibility that the reforms mean for the setting up and administration of the Community Infrastructure Levy should only increase the suitability of the Community Infrastructure Levy for both rural and urban communities”. But no assessment made of potential benefits or impacts for rural business.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£6,225m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£8,100m

#### Department for Transport IA Review Summary

Title of IA	<b>Implementing the certification requirements of the European Directive on the maintenance of railway vehicles.</b>
Date IA published	18/04/2013

Rationale for selection	Could have an adverse effect on rail freight companies operating in rural areas.
Description of policy rationale	Different national procedures in the EU for the approval of freight wagons hinder the free movement of trains and impose costs on businesses. Railway undertakings assert that these procedures are bureaucratic and expensive when freight wagons are placed in service. "Keepers" of freight wagons have identified that meeting multiple maintenance regimes of different railway undertakings is onerous and expensive. EU-wide action is needed to address this, as no member State can unilaterally determine that the operating authorisation it has issued will be valid elsewhere.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	Rural Proofing considered. The railways affect both urban and rural areas and the Miscellaneous Amendments regulations apply to the whole of GB without being specific to any particular geographic location. There is no evidence or analysis to back this up however.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£2m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£3.1m

Title of IA	<b>Reforming the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG)</b>
Date IA published	01/07/2013
Rationale for selection	Subsidy is based on fuel consumption and aims to incentivise operators to improve service and reduce environmental impact. Subsidies based on fuel consumption will impact differently across urban and rural space.
Description of policy rationale	BSOG is linked to fuel consumption so bus operators receive more subsidy if they increase consumption this suggests the subsidy is poorly linked to environmental objectives. In reforming BSOG, DfT will create better incentives for local authorities and operators to work together provide better services for passengers and deliver better environmental outcomes and value for money.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing or key rural issues. Operating viable services in rural areas is often less commercial in rural areas due to lower and more dispersed demand. With subsidy based on consumption, rural areas are likely to be disadvantaged, receiving lower subsidies than urban areas which are likely to run more frequent services. There is evidence which can support this – see Defra's Statistical Digest for rural England.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not estimated
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not estimated

Title of IA	<b>Amendments to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) for compliance with the Fuel Quality Directive – Non Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM)</b>
Date IA published	16/02/2012

Rationale for selection	NRMM fuel prices could potentially pose an additional cost burden on rural businesses, as many these will be in the agricultural sector, which is one of the main users of NRMM.
Description of policy rationale	Transport GHG emissions impose a significant external cost that is not reflected in the market price of transport fuel. THE EU Fuel Quality Directive requires fuel and energy suppliers to reduce the lifecycle GHG emissions per unit of energy of the fuel/energy that they supply. A certain proportion of the fuel they supply must be sources from renewable sources. The Government intends to extend the RTFO to include fuels used in non-road mobile machinery.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>C</b>
Qualitative description	The IA mentions that this may have a disproportionate effect on rural areas due to the number of agricultural businesses that locate there. There is no basic analysis of how many businesses this might effect in both urban / rural areas for example. This analysis might be relatively straight forward, by estimating take up, average cost to each business and aggregating across rural / urban areas.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	PV Costs: £0.09m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	0 – Environmental benefits not estimated.

Title of IA	<b>Street Works (Charges for Unreasonably Prolonged Occupation of the Highway) England Regulations 2011</b>
Date IA published	03/02/2012
Rationale for selection	Street works often over run which impose additional social costs on local areas. The costs to rural and urban areas are likely to be different E.g. effected by a.) alternate routes b) demand or use of roads c.) severity of work – rural areas likely to be more extensive works to join up more networks which span greater geographical area.
Description of policy rationale	Street works are needed for essential repairs for example to utilities, but they sometimes over run. This causes unnecessary disruption and costs to transport users and other and which are estimated by the Dept to be at £667.2m per year. Currently, there is statutory provision for undertakers of street works to be charged for overruns. Existing charge levels are not sufficient however to minimise overruns. Government intervention required to incentivise undertakers to finish work on time.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>C</b>
Qualitative description	Rural Proofing considered and data available using a reasonable proxy for rural areas. Compares congestion data and vehicle class distribution to estimate urban and rural benefits of reducing over runs. Analysis shows that most of the benefits will accrue to urban areas due to higher demand in these areas.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£493.87 (2) - £726.72m (1)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£950.34m (1) - £1203.14m (2)



Title of IA	<b>The Motor Fuel (Road Vehicle and Mobile Machinery) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Regulations 2012</b>
Date IA published	28/11/2011
Rationale for selection	An increase in Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) could pose an additional cost burden on rural businesses as many of these will be in the agricultural sector. An increase in fuel costs may also have a disproportionate impact on rural communities and businesses which have higher fuel demand than their urban counterparts. UK agriculture sector may also benefit if they supply sustainable biofuels.
Description of policy rationale	Transport GHG emissions impose a significant external cost that is not reflected in the market price of transport fuel. Fuel suppliers have little incentive to deliver GHG savings through lower emission renewable fuels such as biofuels due to their higher cost. Government intervention required to meet the Fuel Quality Directive target.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The rural proofing section provides a reasonable qualitative coverage of the potential impacts on rural areas. Analysis could be straight forward for NRMM (see above) & the impact on rural fuel consumption which is well evidenced.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£854 - £18,627
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£4,986 - £8,272

Title of IA	<b>Impact Assessment for Blue Badge Regulations</b>
Date IA published	29/06/2011
Rationale for selection	Reforms of the blue badge which allow people to park in disabled parking. Reforms which aim to address increasing demand, inconsistent assessment, abuse and misuse, and inefficient service delivery will impact differently on rural / urban areas due to the different demographics in rural / urban areas.
Description of policy rationale	The Blue Badge (disabled parking) scheme has been in place since 1971, and enables over 2.5m disabled people to retain their independence by allowing them to park close to where they need to go. Reforms to the scheme were introduced in 2011. The reforms will address – increase demand for badges, inconsistent assessment
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The rural proofing assessment is difficult to follow and has not been covered systematically. There is clearly sufficient evidence on the impact in rural areas however, providing ranges of rural - urban benefit per person (in terms of avoided charges for Blue Badge holders). Surprisingly the number of blue badge holders in rural / urban areas is not covered. Given the ageing demographic in rural areas, you would expect a greater number of people in rural areas to benefit from holding the Blue Badge.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£155m
Total IA Benefits and rural	£275m

benefits (if available)	
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Title of IA	<b>Reimbursement Arrangements for the England-wide concessionary travel scheme</b>
Date IA published	26/11/2010
Rationale for selection	Rural areas have an ageing demographic, therefore benefits or costs of the revisions to the scheme are likely to be different for rural and urban areas.
Description of policy rationale	Concessionary travel scheme entitles senior citizens to free off peak travel on buses across England. The current system for reimbursing bus operators for concessionary travel in England is complex, not easily understood, inconsistent in application and can lead to perverse incentives for operators. Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) are required by law to reimburse bus operators so that they are left no better or worse off than in the absence of the scheme. Government intervention is necessary to simplify the system, ensure more accurate levels of reimbursement using the best evidence available, and reduce the scope for dispute and perverse incentives.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>C</b>
Qualitative description	One of the policy options was to taper reimbursement rates by different geographical areas and/or trip characteristics (E.g. Rural and Urban). Rigorous analysis undertaken to show that any reduction in services that occurs as a result of the proposals will not affect those living in rural areas significantly more than urban areas.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Preferred option not provided. Likely to be poor value for money.
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Preferred option not provided. Likely to be poor value for money.

Title of IA	<b>Proposed Amendment to the Fees Charged by Approved Tachograph Centres (Tachographs record speed and are fitted to every vehicle)</b>
Date IA published	16/06/2011
Rationale for selection	Deregulating the tachograph market could cause rural tachographs to increase their prices as they face less competition.
Description of policy rationale	The current fees that approved Tachograph centres can charge are insufficient to cover the cost of performing the calibration and periodic inspections. The Maximum Allowable Fee is insufficient and is set in the approved Tachograph Centre Manual. As the fee is set in statute it requires government intervention to make the substantial changes required to amend the fee to a more appropriate level.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>C</b>
Qualitative description	Qualitative and rather theoretical assessment of the potential impacts in rural areas. They determine there to be sufficient competition between rural and urban Tachographs so that negative effects of anti-competitive behaviour will not materialise.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£54.55

Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£100.84
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Title of IA	<b>Changes to bus service registration requirements relating to frequent services to improve competition in the bus market.</b>
Date IA published	27/11/2013
Rationale for selection	Competition likely to be lower in rural areas as many routes are less commercially viable. More likely to be sole operators in rural areas.
Description of policy rationale	Local bus market outside of London is deregulated, with competition expected to take place on bus routes. A competition commission inquiry found that there was insufficient competition in the local bus market leading to adverse effects of competition such as high fares and poor services. The existing rules allowed frequent operators to
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No Rural Proofing assessment carried out.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£0.042m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	N/A

Title of IA	<b>Night Flying Restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted Airports</b>
Date IA published	07/11/2013
Rationale for selection	Approaches to both Stansted and Gatwick are likely to be in rural areas, which may have different impacts to rural areas. For example background noise in rural areas is likely to be lower, and therefore perception of aircraft noise may affect people living in rural areas more than urban areas who are used to higher background noise.
Description of policy rationale	Night noise from aircraft can impose significant costs on local communities, including health effects and other next day effects associated with sleep disturbance (including fatigue and sleepiness). The Government has been restricting night flights for around 50 years at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, in order to limit the impact of night noise on local residents. The IA considers a change to night flight operations limiting noisier aircraft from the period 23:00-23:30.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No rural proofing carried out despite 2 of the three airports having final approaches over rural areas. There is a wealth of evidence on the perception of aircraft noise and how it can have different impacts on different households over time.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	N/A
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	N/A

Title of IA	<b>Compensation Arrangements – Driving Instruction Suspension and Exemption Scheme</b>
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Date IA published	12/08/2010
Rationale for selection	Could reduce the number of driving instructors in rural areas which could impact on the number of people learning to drive in rural areas. Likely to be particularly problematic if there are 1-2 driving instructors in local area.
Description of policy rationale	The Driving Instruction (suspension and exemption powers) act 2009 introduces a new power for the Registrar of Approved Driving Instructors (ADI) to suspend the registration of driving instructors who pose a significant danger to the public.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	Qualitative assessment of potential impacts in rural areas where there are likely to be few driving instructors. Likely to be a lack of data to do more in depth analysis on quality and quantity of driving instructors across the country.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£17,047 (Not millions)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£12,480 (not millions)

#### Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

Title of IA	A Low Emissions Zone framework for inclusion in the Time Extension Notification for compliance with the EU limit value for NO2
Date IA published	13/01/2011
Rationale for selection	Vehicle emissions regulation that will potentially impact on car fleets used in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) is a harmful air pollutant which has adverse effects on health and the environment. Directive 2008/50/EC sets limits for concentrations of NO2 in air, setting the minimum standard of air quality. By acting as a safety net on exposure to air pollution they manage uncertainties around the impact of air pollution, protect vulnerable groups and irreparable damage. The UK (like many other Member States) is not predicted to achieve compliance when the limit comes into effect in 2010 but the above Directive does allow postponement to 2015 subject to submission by September 2011 of plans setting out how compliance will be delivered by 2015. Normal fleet improvements would deliver slower progress than if Government intervened.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural business impacts. No rural proofing assessment undertaken
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£277m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£432m

Title of IA	Amendment to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 - new schedule for Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs)
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Date IA published	21/01/2014
Rationale for selection	May impact on waste recycling facilities in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	Our approach to collecting recyclate needs to generate material of sufficient quality to meet the needs of reprocessors (a requirement of the EU Waste Framework Directive WFD) and comply with international rules on waste shipments. Market signals regarding quality are not working in the way they should, partly because not all Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) are measuring the quality of their output material or making this information transparent where they are. This is causing inefficiencies in the market and MRFs delivering recyclate of sub-standard quality in some cases. Government intervention is needed to address the market failure of imperfect information, and demonstrate to the Commission where co-mingling is capable of supporting the WFD objective of high quality recycling.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing or rural business that may be affected by changes to regulations.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£8.49m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not estimated

Title of IA	Changes to the Glass Packaging Recycling Business Target to 2017
Date IA published	01/12/2013
Rationale for selection	Could impact on tourism and hospitality sectors recycling glass in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	The management and disposal of packaging waste produces environmental externalities such as greenhouse gas emissions and disamenity impacts from landfill, the full social cost of which is not taken into account in production or consumption decisions. Without intervention, there would be overproduction of packaging and insufficient levels of recycling. The EU sets mandatory packaging recycling targets. The UK complies through mandatory statutory recycling business targets, achieved through a producer responsibility system. By making packaging handlers and producers pay some of the costs of recycling packaging, these costs are internalised and lead to reduced environmental impacts and a more efficient outcome.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	State that "The proposed changes have no undue effect on rural areas" but not assessment of potential impacts
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£144.9m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£149.1m

Title of IA	Impact Assessment of Options for Company GHG Reporting
Date IA published	31/08/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant for business reporting of GHG in rural areas and

	energy using companies
Description of policy rationale	Businesses can save money by reducing their emissions, e.g. by minimising energy and resource use. Even when measures to reduce emissions are cost effective, there may be barriers preventing action such as lack of information, transaction costs and organisational inertia (see section 4.1 to 4.7). Regulating to require GHG reporting will ensure that quoted companies have the information and tools to reduce emissions, and, by creating consistency of disclosure, will provide investors and shareholders with information on climate change risks to inform their investment decisions. Regulation is required because voluntary approaches have not led to a sufficiently high level of reporting or consistency of reporting.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing in IA. SME test is undertaken but shows no disproportionate impact.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£6.3m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£94m high (no central estimate provided)

Title of IA	Introducing Retail Competition in the Water Sector
Date IA published	02/12/11
Rationale for selection	Potential impact on water users in rural areas e.g. farmers
Description of policy rationale	The water and sewerage industry in England consists of vertically integrated regional monopolies. Although the current form of price cap (RPI-X) regulation has been successful, the sector is facing new challenges which demand reform. To meet these challenges the independent review of competition in the water sector led by Professor Cave recommended a series of reforms to facilitate effective retail competition for non-households. The Government has since committed to reforming the sector to ensure more efficient use of water and to protect poorer households. Intervention is necessary as there are a number of barriers to competition which are set out in legislation and need to be changed. Set against this is the need to ensure continued investment in water and sewerage infrastructure in the face of a range of challenges facing the water industry through to 2050 as set out in the Water White paper.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	In rural proofing section states "There is unlikely to be an inherent bias for or against rural areas in this proposal as any regional impacts are driven by factors that are not specific to rural conditions. Therefore a given rural area may experience a positive impact, a negative impact or a neutral impact from this proposal, but any negative impacts would be unlikely to be significant, as none of the identified costs is high". But no analysis undertaken to examine this in any detail
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£1,374m
Total IA Benefits and rural	£1,669m

benefits (if available)	
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Title of IA	Managing the future financial risk of flooding
Date IA published	24/05/2013
Rationale for selection	Relevant in relation to flooding in rural areas and cost to business from insurance
Description of policy rationale	To date, flood insurance has been widely available mainly due to agreements between government and insurers. Premiums have also been kept affordable because customers at risk have not been differentiated from those not at risk, as information on flood risk has been poor. With recent advances in flood mapping, insurers are increasingly able to set premiums more reflective of risk; this process has begun. Whilst ultimately, more risk-reflective premiums are economically efficient, if transition is too rapid those living at high flood risk may face increases in premiums which are not compensated by reductions in other costs (e.g. mortgages). There is a rationale to improve equity and reduce transitional costs.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No rural proofing assessment
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not estimated
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not estimated

Title of IA	Measures to address bovine TB in badgers
Date IA published	30/11/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant to farming and other rural businesses affected by TB
Description of policy rationale	Bovine TB (bTB) is a serious infectious disease of cattle. Disease freedom is a "public good" affecting the whole cattle industry. Private actions to control or eradicate disease are likely to be non-optimal because of externalities and information asymmetry. Badgers are known to harbour bTB and without addressing TB in badgers, it will not be possible to eliminate the disease in cattle. However, badgers are an important native species, and the general public value their existence and freedom from cruel treatment. There is no practical market mechanism that could adequately internalise the trade-off between the existence and welfare of badgers and the control of bTB, so there is a need for Government policy to address this explicitly.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	States in rural proofing test section" The policy applies principally to rural areas as it concerns the control of wildlife delivered through services that are already available in rural communities." Unclear from this whether all the costs and benefits are related to rural areas or if there are impacts on towns and urban. No assessment made of differences in rural areas that may be affected.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£4.56m
Total IA Benefits and rural	£3.68m

benefits (if available)	
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Title of IA	Offsetting the Impact of Development on Biodiversity
Date IA published	17/05/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant for business in rural areas that may be impacted by offsetting
Description of policy rationale	Biodiversity provides a range of non-market and non-economic values free of charge, leading to over-consumption and under-production of biodiversity. However, it may be possible to correct this "market failure" in the development sector, by ensuring developers secure action to re-create biodiversity lost through development. This would ensure decisions taken by developers include consideration of biodiversity impacts, without unduly preventing the development from taking place. Whilst planning policy already includes provisions on compensation for biodiversity loss resulting from development, there is no standard approach to use. This has led to continued losses in biodiversity beyond what is economically efficient.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	Rural proofing test states "Offsetting will not have a significant adverse impact on rural communities. As offsets provision is likely to occur in rural areas there is potential for rural businesses to benefit." No attempt is made to quantify the potential benefits or costs to rural business.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£2,860m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£3,070m

Title of IA	Future Water Resources Management: Reform of the Water Abstraction Regulation System
Date IA published	11/10/2013
Rationale for selection	Potential impact on water users in rural areas e.g. farmers
Description of policy rationale	Water, in rivers and aquifers, is a common property resource and therefore needs a system of regulation to manage its use. This use, called abstraction, is currently regulated by a system of licences set up in the 1960s. This system is not flexible or responsive enough to deal with the challenges of climate change and predicted increases in water demand with pressures already on the environment. Reforming the abstraction regulation system effectively is key to successfully regulating access to water in the future to promote resilient economic growth and protect the environment in a manner which is fair and adaptable at a reasonable cost
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	States in non-monetised benefits section that "There are also likely to be benefits to non-abstractors and the rural economy from more efficient use of water." Also within social analysis states that "There is expected to be a positive impact on rural areas, as these are the areas which are most likely to abstract and trade water. Specifically, water scarce rural areas in the south-east and east of England are most likely to gain the greatest benefits from the proposals due to the barriers to trading within a catchment being removed. This will need to be



	taken into account when designing any trading system.” No rural proofing assessment is made or analysis of impact.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£30.6m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£336.0m

Title of IA	Review of Waste Policies
Date IA published	01/04/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant from waste operators in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	As a country, England has made real progress over the last 10 years in how it treats its waste. Waste going to landfill has nearly halved since 2000 while household recycling has almost quadrupled over a similar period. However, there is still much more we could do and the Government is committed to going further and faster on waste, wanting to pursue new approaches to waste and delivery, wanting to work towards a 'zero waste economy'. At the same time the Government recognises that the economic climate has changed, and everyone needs to do more with less. The Review is necessary to review our progress on waste to date and refocus our current and future activities and ambitions in line with these new priorities.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	In rural proofing section states that “The proposals that have been put forward as part of this Waste Policy Review are unlikely to have a different or disproportionate impact on rural areas due to particular circumstances or needs. However, one of the key objectives of the Review is to ensure that more decision making powers are decentralised to local communities. As policies are developed, further assessments will be undertaken, as required, to ensure that individual policies do not have a different or disproportionate impact on rural areas, and where proposals allow for future policies to be developed locally, we recognise that it will be important for local policy planners and service deliverers to consider any impacts on different local groups.”
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	No estimated (as a review of existing policies)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not estimated

Title of IA	Sheep Identification - Electronic slaughter tag
Date IA published	11/11/2013
Rationale for selection	Relevant to farmers operating in rural areas
Description of policy rationale	For disease control purposes the EU has a system of traceability for sheep movements (responding to negative externalities of disease) which allows in England the use of non-electronic tags for certain types of movement. The result has been a regulatory compliance issue particularly for high throughput premises (markets, abattoirs, store lamb finishers) which find it very impractical and costly to record movements manually rather than electronically. Four years of non-regulatory measures to increase the use of electronic

	identification (EID) slaughter tags to address this problem have failed. Government intervention is required to change producer behaviour i.e. mandatory use of EID slaughter tags, and electronic reading by markets and abattoirs. This approach also underpins Defra's new e-movement reporting system for sheep being implemented in line with the Government's digital strategy
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No reference to rural proofing assessment.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£21m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£21.4m

### Department for Work and Pensions

Title of IA	<b>Housing Benefit: Under occupation of social housing</b>
Date IA published	28/07/2012
Rationale for selection	Rural areas are likely to have a more limited range (in terms of size) of social accommodation. This could result in the restriction being applied to the claimant's rent, the tenant moving further distances in order to secure accommodation of the appropriate size.
Description of policy rationale	Housing Benefit claimants living in the social rented sector generally have no restrictions placed on the size of accommodation that they occupy and the amount of Housing Benefit to which they are entitled. Eligible rent levels for claimants in the social rented sector are not currently determined by reference to the size of the claimant's household, in contrast to the rules that apply in the private rented sectors. Government intends to introduce size criteria for working age Housing Benefit claimants living in the social rented sector.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	Describes issues in rural areas, and runs a policy simulation model for different regions of the UK. It doesn't however show how impacts are taken into consideration in policy design.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£930m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£930m

Title of IA	<b>Pension Protection Measures for the Pension Bill</b>
Date IA published	09/11/2010
Rationale for selection	Ageing demographic in rural areas could mean a greater impact in rural areas.
Description of policy rationale	The Bill makes a number of minor amendments to legislation that governs the operation of the Pension Protection Fund and the Pensions Regulator. The one substantive measure is the change of basis for indexation of pension compensation. The Government is intervening to amend legislation in the light of live running of PPF and PR since these bodies commenced operations in April 2005, and to complement wider changes to indexation of pensions.

<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	It states in the IA that a rural proofing assessment has been made, although no rural issues are discussed and no evidence used to support the case.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£500m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£504m

Title of IA	<b>Control of Asbestos Regulations</b>
Date IA published	16/02/2012
Rationale for selection	Small businesses may find they need additional source to be able to organise medicals, notifications and record keeping (i.e. higher compliance cost). There are a larger number of small businesses in rural areas and may have a disproportionate impact on rural areas.
Description of policy rationale	Change to amending Asbestos Worker Protection Directive. UK has failed to fully implement the EU Directive. The UK government has agreed to comply with the reasoned opinion and has confirmed to the EC that the necessary legislative changes will be made within 12 months, by April 2012.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	Describes that it may take rural SMEs longer to comply with this directive, but then states there are no specific rural impacts. It is likely that this proposal will lead to greater burden on rural SMEs which account for a greater number of total businesses in rural areas.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£190m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	0

Title of IA	<b>Housing Benefit: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance Arrangements</b>
Date IA published	24/11/2010
Rationale for selection	Reductions in Local Housing Allowance rates could limit the number of properties in an area that are affordable to households on Housing Benefits. Tenants in some rural areas might find it difficult to access alternative affordable accommodation and may be forced to move considerable distances.
Description of policy rationale	Expenditure on Housing Benefit in cash terms has increased significantly to £22bn in 2010. The overall cost of Housing Benefit must be controlled and reduced, particularly given the budget deficit and the reductions in public expenditure that the Government is making to tackle it. Basic idea is to reduce some local housing allowance rates.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>C</b>
Qualitative description	Rural Issues considered and analysis on number of households has been carried out using an ONS data set which splits urban/rural areas as per Defra's definition. The analysis shows that rural areas would not be significantly worse off than

	urban areas through this analysis.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£170m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£3,000m (benefits are savings in benefit expenditure due to reduced spend)

Title of IA	<b>IA of Welfare Reform Bill 2009</b>
Date IA published	19/03/2009
Rationale for selection	Unmarried parents in rural areas are likely to have to travel greater distances to the register office than those in urban areas.
Description of policy rationale	The Welfare Reform Bill will help tackle inequality of opportunity and improve employment outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged groups. There are still marked differences between the national employment rate and rates for disadvantaged groups and still just fewer than 2.6 million incapacity benefit claimants 2.9 million children still live in relative poverty. Government intervention is necessary to help tackle barriers to work – increasing support but also increasing our expectations to ensure that, for those who can, people are fully able to take advantage of employment opportunities.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>C</b>
Qualitative description	DWP held a full consultation with stakeholders on rural impacts, which suggested there was no major difference between rural and urban areas. There is little evidence to suggest that travelling greater distances to register offices leads to their being more likely to sole register.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£302m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£287m

Title of IA	<b>Housing Benefit – uprating local housing allowance rates by 1% for 2 years from April 2014</b>
Date IA published	07/2013
Rationale for selection	Could impact rural areas more significantly than urban areas due to the lower availability of social housing. (see housing benefit rationale above)
Description of policy rationale	Between 2000 and 2010, spending on housing benefit almost doubled in cash terms. The changes introduced in 2011 to the Local Housing Allowance arrangements will contain the levels of rents met by Housing Benefit in expensive areas and apply downward pressure on expenditure more generally. This pressure must be maintained to contribute to the Government's fiscal reduction strategy.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No Rural Proofing and no consideration in their assessment.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£970
Total IA Benefits and rural	£970

benefits (if available)	
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### Department for Culture Media and Sport

Title of IA	Impact Assessment for the Digital Economy Act 2010
Date IA published	April 2010
Rationale for selection	Relevant to the broadcasting and communications infrastructure in rural and remote areas.
Description of policy rationale	<p>The UK Government attaches particular importance to establishing the UK as a leading digital economy for several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Digital Britain can make a significant contribution to the Government's New Industry, New Jobs agenda.</li> <li>• A Digital Britain can play a crucial role in helping the Government deliver a number of wider policy objectives.</li> <li>• Broadcasting, the creative industries and the information and communication technology sectors are of major economic importance in the UK.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes rural proofing test but no analysis of potential impact is undertaken.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not quantified
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified

Title of IA	Ending age discrimination in the provision of services
Date IA published	15/05/2012
Rationale for selection	Relevant to service deliverers in rural areas who face challenges caused by distance, population, infrastructure and critical mass.
Description of policy rationale	<p>There is evidence that some people experience unjustified discrimination because of their age when being provided with services, resulting in an inferior service; or having access to a product restricted, simply on the basis of age; or not being treated with dignity and respect when receiving a service. The responses to the consultation <i>A Framework for Fairness: Proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain</i><sup>1</sup> showed that age discrimination (an umbrella term which, whilst primarily describing direct discrimination in this context, also includes indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation) is widespread. Age equality groups cited a survey in which almost 30 per cent of adults questioned said they had been discriminated against because of their age. This piece of research suggests that Government intervention is necessary to prohibit age discrimination outside work and to put it on a similar basis to the prohibition on discrimination in the workplace, sending an unequivocal message that ageist attitudes, and the discriminatory practices they often lead to, are no longer acceptable, in the same way as previous discrimination legislation has helped to changes attitudes and behaviour towards women, ethnic minorities and disabled people.</p>
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>

Qualitative description	The IA includes rural proofing statement highlighting that the proposed age discrimination ban and exceptions do not adversely impact the rural community. As the proposed policy will apply equally to people who live in rural and urban areas.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£11.4m
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£40.2m

Title of IA	Impact Assessment of Proposal to amend the Licensing Act 2003 to simplify the procedures for Licensing Statements; Interim Authority Notices and Reinstatements on Transfer; and Temporary Event Notices (TEN).
Date IA published	November 2010
Rationale for selection	Rural pubs/communities are more than likely to be the hub for events requiring a TEN.
Description of policy rationale	In general, the burdens imposed by the Licensing Act 2003 are justified by the need to prevent potential adverse impacts on the four licensing objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; and the protection of children from harm. However, stakeholders have identified the detailed requirements of the Act with regard to some of the procedures for Licensing Statements; Interim Authority Notices and Reinstatements on Transfer; and Temporary Event Notices as being unduly restrictive and burdensome. The Government therefore agrees that these procedures be simplified, as described in the Consultation Document.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>B</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes rural proofing test but no analysis of potential impact is undertaken. Rural proofing statement included in annex which quotes evidence provided "Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE). This evidence estimates that its members make a substantial proportion of all Temporary Event Notices. Rural organisations are therefore likely to benefit from the proposals related to TENs in particular, and from the other proposals in common with others.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	0.37m - £1.06m (10 years)
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£76m - £199m (10 years)

Title of IA	Impact Assessment for the proposal to exempt live music from the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003
Date IA published	25/05/2011
Rationale for selection	Relevant to village halls/pubs/small venues wishing to stage live music events.
Description of policy rationale	The burdens imposed by the Licensing Act 2003 were justified by the need to prevent potential adverse impacts on the four licensing objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; and the protection of children from harm. However, stakeholders believe the requirements of the Act are unduly restrictive and burdensome in respect of live music and there is some

	evidence of negative impact in deterring the staging of small live music events.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>C</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes rural proofing test with an analysis of potential social impacts. Rural proofing statement also included in annex which states that the impact of these proposals on rural communities will be beneficial.
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	£2.9m rural costs = £194k to £386k per year
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	£9.5m

### Cabinet Office

Title of IA	Public Bodies Bill
Date IA published	01/09/2010
Rationale for selection	Reducing number of public bodies some of which may impact on rural representation
Description of policy rationale	The public bodies landscape in the UK is crowded, and in need of rationalisation in order to improve accountability, transparency and the delivery of value for money in public services. As many public bodies were founded in statute, Government intervention to grant enabling powers to Secretaries of State is necessary to make it possible for them to amend, abolish or transfer the functions of public bodies considered in need of reform.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	The IA includes rural proofing test which states that "The Bill has no direct impact on rural communities". This seems odd as in cost benefit section it states that "The use of the powers in the Bill to abolish, merge or transfer the functions of a body will, as outlined above, lead to the closure of some bodies and resulting job losses. The impact of these losses is likely to be felt most strongly in regions that are most dependent on the public sector and particularly in rural areas where access to services is more limited".
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not quantified
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not quantified

Title of IA	Impact Assessment of The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
Date IA published	28/10/2011
Rationale for selection	Civil contingencies may require greater organisation in rural areas which are more sparsely populated with greater distances between communities
Description of policy rationale	The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 establishes a set of roles and responsibilities for those involved in emergency preparation and response at the local level. The Act divides local responders into two categories, imposing a different set of duties on each (see evidence section for more detail).

	The Civil Contingencies Act Enhancement Programme (CCAEP) assessed whether the Act is working as intended. Evidence from responders and independent reviews indicated that a lack of clarity had led to a failure in effective compliance in some areas. The implication is that emergency planning may not be carried out as effectively as possible.
<b>Assessment Score</b>	<b>A</b>
Qualitative description	No mention or reference to rural proofing or any analysis
Total IA Costs and rural costs (if available)	Not estimated
Total IA Benefits and rural benefits (if available)	Not estimated