Regulatory Policy Committee	OPINION
Impact Assessment (IA)	Consumer Landscape Review: Transfer of Consumer Advocacy Responsibilities
Lead Department/Agency	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Stage	Final
Origin	Domestic
Date submitted to RPC	24/02/2012
RPC Opinion date and reference	05/03/2012 RPC12-BIS-1233
Overall Assessment	AMBER

The IA is fit for purpose. However, given the hybrid/phased approach being taken forward, the IA should be improved to better explain why it considers that there are no familiarisation or transition costs.

Identification of costs and benefits, and the impacts on small firms, public and third sector organisations, individuals and community groups and reflection of these in the choice of options

Costs and benefits. The IA says that the majority of costs and benefits involved are transfers, though there will be a small benefit to the Exchequer from efficiency savings. The IA also says that there will be no familiarisation costs from the proposal. Given the hybrid/phased approach being taken forward, the basis for this conclusion should be more fully explained.

Preferred option. Page 1 of the IA says that option 3 is the preferred option, but paragraph 10 on page 3 says option 1 is the preferred option. To avoid confusion, the IA should clarify which option is the preferred one.

Have the necessary burden reductions required by One-in, One-out been identified and are they robust?

The IA says the proposal is a regulatory measure ('an IN') with a 'zero net cost' to business. This is because the responsibility to provide consumer advocacy is being transferred from public sector to a third sector organisation. This appears to be consistent with the current Onein, One-out Methodology.

Signed

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Michael Gibbons, Chairman