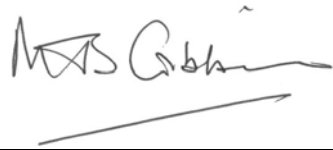
 <b>Regulatory Policy Committee</b>	<b>OPINION</b>	
<b>Impact Assessment (IA)</b>	A new approach to charges for official controls on meat: delivering efficiency and reform	
<b>Lead Department/Agency</b>	Food Standards Agency (FSA)	
<b>Stage</b>	Final	
<b>Origin</b>	Domestic	
<b>Date submitted to RPC</b>	20/12/2011	
<b>RPC Opinion date and reference</b>	30/01/2012	RPC11-FoodSA-1096(2)
<b>Overall Assessment</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	
<p>The IA is fit for purpose. Most of the issues raised in our previous opinion of 24/10/2011 have been adequately addressed. However, the IA should provide more discussion about the risk of some establishments closing as a result of this policy and make a better use of all available evidence (both formal and informal) from industry.</p>		
<p><b>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</b></p>		
<p><i>Evidence base.</i> Most of the issues raised in our opinion of 24/10/2011 have been adequately addressed. In particular, the IA now contains a better discussion of the limits of the available evidence, the assumptions that have been made and how these assumptions affect the impacts of the policy. For example, the IA explains why direct evidence, such as on turnover, operating costs and profit margins, was not possible to collect from business due to the businesses' reluctance to share such information. It also provides more information about the responses received during the public consultation.</p> <p>However, the IA does not consider some of the evidence gained during consultation to be robust where the response rates were below 20% and were not representative of the industry as a whole. The IA should provide more details on the public consultation, including the actual number of responses (not just percentages), to justify this position.</p> <p><i>Risks.</i> While the IA explains that the policy has been designed to minimise the risk to the viability of small slaughterhouses, there is still a risk that some businesses will close as a result of this policy. The IA should provide more discussion around this risk and explain better the impacts this may have.</p>		
<p><b>Have the necessary burden reductions required by One-in, One-out been identified and are they robust?</b></p>		
<p>As this proposal relates to a change in fees and charges, with no evidence of the proposal resulting in a change in the level of regulatory activity, it is out of scope of 'One-in, one out'.</p>		

**Signed**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end. There is a small mark above the letter 'i' in "Gibbons".

**Michael Gibbons, Chairman**