 Regulatory Policy Committee	Validation of the Net Direct Impact on Business
Title of the ‘Validation’ Impact Assessment (IA)	Repeal of s63- 67 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (NAZs)
Lead Department/Agency	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
IA Number	DEFRA 1484
Expected date of implementation	6 April/1 October
Origin	Domestic
Date IA submitted to RPC	28/01/2013
Date of RPC Assessment?]	N/A
Date of Regulatory Triage Confirmation	28/02/2013
Regulatory Triage Assessment reference	RPC13-DEFRA-1704
Departmental Assessment	
One-in, One-out (OIOO)status	IN
Estimate of the Equivalent Annual Net Cost to Business (EANCB)	£0
RPC Validation	
Direction of Impact	IN
Estimate of the Equivalent Annual Net Cost to Business Validated by RPC	£0
<p>RPC comments</p> <p>The IA explains that repealing sections 63 to 67 of the Control of Pollution Act (1974) for England and Wales may result in additional planning application costs to those businesses currently operating in an active Noise Abatement Zone. However as feedback from local authorities “..<i>suggested that the two NAZs in active use cover just one premises each</i>” (p. 5), the total cost to business is expected to be very low, (£2,000 per year as an upper estimate).</p> <p>The IA also explains that repealing the legislation is expected to have direct benefits to businesses located in “inactive” NAZs, in terms of having a clarified regulatory landscape. These benefits have not been monetised but the IA expects the direct impact on business to be broadly neutral after allowing any costs. Based on the evidence presented, including the estimate that a total 79 Noise Abatement Zones are ‘inactive’ compared to only 2 ‘active’ zones, this seems a reasonable assessment of the likely direction of the impact on businesses.</p> <p>The IA would have benefited from quantifying the direct benefits to business.</p>	

However, given that the costs and benefits involved are very small, both in terms of the number of business affected and the scale of the impacts, the IA's justification that '*Gathering further data to increase the robustness of these estimates would be resource consuming and is considered disproportionate*' (p. 8) seems reasonable.

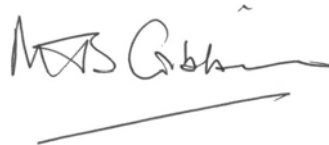
The IA could have included an extended discussion as to why so few NAZs can be considered 'active' and whether there are underlying inhibiting factors, for example difficulty in enforcing the regulation.

Presentation

The IA's summary page states that the benefit to businesses from reduced noise survey costs are "...considered an **unintended** benefit of the legislation." (emphasis added). But later the IA states these are "...considered to be an **intended benefit** of the legislation." (p. 6, emphasis added). The IA should make it clear which is the correct statement.

In addition, the IA should explain the use of 'N/A' as the Net cost to business per year as opposed to zero in the summary page.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gibbons", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Michael Gibbons, Chairman