 <b>Regulatory Policy Committee</b>	<b>Opinion</b>	
<b>Impact Assessment (IA)</b>	Changes to Parts A and C of the Building Regulations - Referencing of British Standards Based on Eurocodes	
<b>Lead Department/Agency</b>	Department for Communities and Local Government	
<b>Stage</b>	Final	
<b>IA number</b>	DCLG/0076	
<b>Origin</b>	European	
<b>Expected date of implementation (and SNR number)</b>	1 October 2013 (SNR 6.)	
<b>Date submitted to RPC</b>	20/05/2013	
<b>RPC Opinion date and reference</b>	10/06/2013	RPC11-CLG-1107(2)
<b>Overall Assessment</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	
<p><b>RPC comments</b></p> <p>The IA is fit for purpose. This measure provides an EANCB of £4.9m. This appears to be a reasonable assessment and is consistent with the current One-in, Two-out Methodology (paragraph 2.9.8 ii of the Better Regulation Framework Manual).</p>		
<p><b>Background (extracts from IA)</b></p> <p><b>What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?</b></p> <p>On 1 April 2010 the British Standards referenced in the current Approved Document A (and to a lesser extent Approved document C) were withdrawn by the British Standards Institution (BSi) and replaced with new British Standards based on a pan-EU harmonised approach to structural design (the "Eurocodes"). The withdrawn standards will no longer be maintained and will become increasingly out-of-date with time with a corresponding risk to structural safety. In addition, there is a risk that the UK could face legal challenge if we do not reference the Standards based on Eurocodes in the Approved Documents as it may be seen as putting up barriers to trade.</p> <p><b>What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?</b></p> <p>To continue to provide a regulatory framework into the future that ensures buildings are structurally safe for people in or around them in a way that complies with European requirements in the most cost-effective manner. Doing so will in turn support the aims for which the Eurocodes were developed - to eliminate technical barriers to trade in goods and services created by Member States all having different design methodologies, to boost the internal market and aid growth and exports.</p>		
<p><b>Comments on the robustness of the OITO assessment</b></p> <p>The OITO assessment appears sufficiently robust to justify validation as the measure does not go beyond the EU minimum requirements and is out of scope of OITO (paragraph 25). The IA discusses the potential risk through not aligning</p>		

British Standards with Eurocodes (paragraph 10).

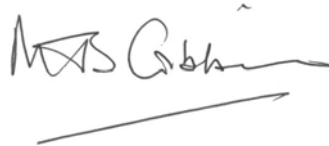
**Comments on the robustness of the Small & Micro Business Assessment (SMBA)**

*SMBA*. The IA discusses how the measure will impact upon small businesses (paragraph 118 – 121). The IA should discuss the impact further, in line with the SMBA of the Better Regulation Framework Manual (paragraph 2.6.7). In particular in relation to the possibility that smaller scale development may continue to refer to British Standards and, while the Eurocodes will be introduced in October 2013, that there will be a five year transition period.

**Quality of the analysis and evidence presented in the IA**

The IA explains how the proposals intend to meet the requirements of Eurocodes. We note that the Department has provided additional information in relation to the EANCB methodology which has been included within the revised IA.

**Signed**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gibbons", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right below the name.

**Michael Gibbons, Chairman**