

Reforms to the Streetworks Qualifications Regulations

Department for Transport

RPC rating: fit for purpose

Description of proposal

Businesses that undertake streetworks, such as those carried out by or on behalf of utility companies, are required to ensure that an operative with the necessary qualifications is on site when work is in progress.

The regulations covering these qualifications, and the procedures for assessment, registration and renewal of qualifications, contain a number of inconsistencies. This has reportedly given rise to a number of issues, some of which have had financial implications for businesses.

The Department is proposing to make eight changes that will simplify and improve the regulations. Among these changes, the Department will introduce flexibility by allowing candidates to renew a certificate by reassessment at any time during its life, and up to five years after it has expired. The Department will also remove the requirement for the approved assessment bodies to provide certificates directly to candidates, and will exempt the Fire and Rescue Services from the need to have a qualified operative present when lifting access covers to check fire hydrants.

Impacts of proposal

The only costs associated with the proposals are one-off and will fall on public bodies. The central registration body will need to make adjustments to its IT system (£0.02 million), while assessment centres will need to familiarise themselves with the new regulations (£0.05 million).

Businesses will benefit from the proposals as a result of reduced administration, assessment and renewal costs. The key savings are from: allowing renewals via reassessment rather than full assessment, saving £30 per renewal (with 5,600 renewals each year, resulting in a total annual saving of £0.17 million); and removing the need for assessment bodies to issue certificates directly to candidates, resulting in an administrative saving of approximately £10 per candidate (equating to a total annual saving of £0.06 million).

The RPC verifies the estimated equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) of -£0.3 million. This will be a qualifying regulatory provision that will score under the business impact target.

Quality of submission

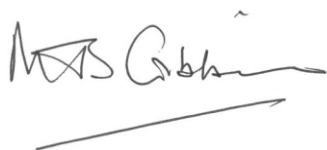
The Department has provided sufficient evidence to enable the RPC to validate the estimated EANDCB.

Departmental assessment

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Classification | Qualifying regulatory provision (OUT) |
| Equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB) | -£0.3 million |
| Business net present value | £2.33 million |
| Societal net present value | £4.67 million |

RPC assessment

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Classification | Qualifying regulatory provision (OUT) |
| EANCB – RPC validated ¹ | -£0.3 million |
| Business Impact Target (BIT) Score ¹ | -£1.5 million |
| Small and micro business assessment | Not required (deregulatory) |



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

¹ For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANCB and BIT score figures to the nearest £100,000.