

Provider information request for independent ambulance services

Department for Health – Care Quality Commission

RPC rating: validated

Description of proposal

In September 2015 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) started to inspect the independent ambulance sector. At the same time, it introduced a requirement for the regulated companies to complete a provider information return prior to inspections. The return comprises information on a range of health services delivered by the inspected companies. A guidance document on how to complete the new form was published at the same time.

Impacts of proposal

The assessment states that approximately 62 businesses are affected by this change. This number is estimated based on CQC's internal data and on information from the Independent Ambulance Association stating that 20% of their members are privately funded.

Providers face a one-off cost of approximately £14,500. This includes familiarisation (£6,000) and transitional (£8,500) costs.

The familiarisation cost estimate is based on the assumption that 3 members of staff (one registered manager, director of operations and senior compliance/information manager) have to read the guidance once. The CQC uses wage rates from NHS's pay scales and ONS's Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

The transitional cost is related to the need to update provider's documentation. The assessment assumes that one additional day would be needed for such updating.

The CQC estimates on-going costs to be approximately £7,600 per annum. This is based on the assumption that 20 hours would be required to complete the form and that inspection would take place approximately once every three years.

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

Quality of submission

The analysis presented in the assessment is sufficient to validate the impact estimate of this policy.

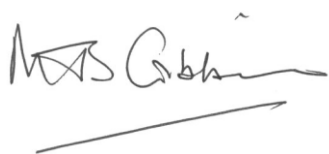
The assessment could have provided a slightly more detailed justification of the assumptions used to estimate impacts (e.g. the assumption of the time needed to complete the return). However, considering the small impact of the measure, the approach taken by the CQC appears proportionate.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
Equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB)	Zero
Business net present value	Zero

RPC assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
EANCB – RPC validated ¹	Zero
Business Impact Target (BIT) Score ¹	Zero



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

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