

Provider information request for independent mental health services undergoing an announced inspection

Care Quality Commission

RPC rating: validated

Description of proposal

The CQC inspects providers of mental health services once every five years on average; before an inspection it requests information from the provider it plans to inspect, in order to help it plan the inspection effectively. From February 2016, the CQC made changes to its provider information request template that were intended to reduce the volume of supporting evidence requested and to encourage providers to set out their strengths and weaknesses more clearly.

Impacts of proposal

Based on the CQC's five-year inspection cycle and on Department of Health estimates of the proportion of providers outside the NHS, the regulator estimates that the revisions will impact 16 businesses in the UK, of which 20% will be required to complete returns annually.

Using information from a pilot, the CQC estimates that completing the revised template will require an additional 6 hours of both a senior manager's and a nurse's time, an additional hour of time from each of four middle-managers, and an additional hour of administrative staff's time. Based on NHS pay grades, the assessment estimates that this will lead to an increase in total costs to business by £800 annually.

The RPC verifies the estimated equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) of zero. This is a qualifying regulatory provision that will score under the 2015-17 Business Impact Target.

Quality of submission

Based on the figures provided, the assessment's calculation that the cost of returns will rise by £800 across all businesses is incorrect. Figures used show a difference in the cost of returns costs of £7,000. However, as this error does not significantly alter the EANDCB, the RPC can validate the measure. Future assessments must provide a robust cost calculation to allow for verification of the BIT score.

The submission does not make clear the source for some assumptions used in the cost calculation, such as the length of time taken to complete the information return and the positions and number of employees required to complete returns. It also does not provide a source for the number of businesses (55) affected by the policy. The assessment should provide detail of source information to allow verification of figures used in the cost calculation.

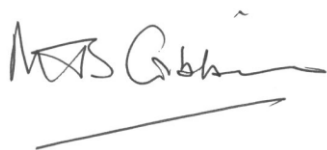
The assessment does not explain whether familiarisation costs were included in the CQC's calculation of the costs associated with completing returns. The submission could be improved by clarifying whether familiarisation costs were included in the cost calculation.

Regulator assessment

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

RPC assessment

Classification	Qualifying Regulatory Provision (IN)
EANCB – RPC validated	Zero
Business Impact Target (BIT) Score	Zero



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman