

Amendments to Adult Social Care Provider Handbooks

Care Quality Commission

RPC rating: **Validated**

Description of proposal

The Care Quality Commission's (CQC's) provider handbooks describe how it registers providers, carries out inspections, publishes ratings and states how enforcement action is taken. In April 2016 the CQC updated three provider handbooks covering the adult social care sectors. These were minor updates to clarify ambiguous or inconsistent language, to update broken links and to reflect previously introduced or changed policy.

Impacts of proposal

The CQC estimates (based on its own administrative data and Department of Health data about the proportions of non-public sector institutions in different sectors) that the numbers of businesses affected are:

- 15,111 Residential adult social care locations
- 7,852 Community based adult social care locations
- 156 Hospice service locations

CQC also expects that all the following corporate service providers are classified as businesses:

- 238 offering residential adult social care
- 183 offering community adult social care
- 2 offering hospice services

The CQC states that the change in guidance did not itself change the required services. Based on engagement with 22 adult social care services, it expects that most businesses would read the updated sections of the handbook as a one off activity with no further impact. The handbooks would be read by a registered manager and a nominated individual in each location and (for corporate service providers) by one operations director.

Familiarisation costs – Using standard assumptions about reading speeds and ASHE salary data, the CQC estimates a one off familiarisation cost of approximately £72,496.

Benefits – The CQC expects that there may be some small benefits to businesses as a result of having guidance that is slightly clearer and has updated references.

However, these changes do not require businesses to do anything differently. Feedback from business suggested that these changes would therefore have no ongoing impact.

On the basis of the information provided, the RPC verifies the estimated equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) of zero.

Quality of submission

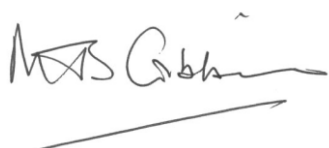
The regulator has provided a clear description of the impacts of the change on businesses. The calculation and submission could have been briefer and less complex while still remaining proportionate to the scale of the measure – for example by making use of a break-even calculation.

Departmental assessment

| Classification | Qualifying regulatory provision |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) | Zero |
| Business net present value | -0.08 |

RPC assessment¹

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Classification | Under the framework rules for the 2015-17 Parliament Qualifying regulatory provision |
| EANDCB – RPC validated | Zero |
| Business impact target score | Zero |



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

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