

Revised specifications for reasonable adjustments in general qualifications

Department for Education – Ofqual

RPC rating: **fit for purpose**

Description of proposal

Under the Equality Act 2010, Ofqual has the power to regulate the extent to which awarding organisations allow ‘*reasonable adjustments*’ for disabled students taking general qualifications. The measure assessed revised existing specifications on reasonable adjustments and introduced one new specification. The revisions to existing specifications consisted predominantly of wording changes. The new specification banned the provision of materials such as calculators, which would ‘*compromise the ability of the awarding organisation to make judgements on the learner’s knowledge, skills and understanding being assessed*’.

Impacts of proposal

The cost to business of the measure is expected to relate solely to familiarisation. Under the BIT framework, only impacts on independent schools need to be considered. The assessment states that awarding organisation employees will read and familiarise themselves with the new and updated specifications. For large organisations, of which there are 5, it is assumed that 10 employees per business will read the specifications. For medium and small organisations, of which there are 17, it is assumed that 5 employees per business will read the specifications. Overall, it is assumed that 135 staff members across industry are affected. These assumptions are based on Ofqual estimates of the number of staff in each organisation that deal with reasonable adjustments. There are 21 pages of new guidance to read, and Ofqual assumes that full understanding and absorption will take 6 times as long as a first reading. Based on an assumption that Ofqual documents take 1 minute per page to read, the assessment therefore estimates 2.1 hours for each staff member required to absorb the guidance. Using an industry average wage rate of £26 per hour, Ofqual estimates the total cost to business of familiarisation to be £7,371.

The assessment states that the changes will impose no further implementation costs. In fact, Ofqual believes that the revised specifications may lead to time and

monetary savings for awarding organisations, which will no longer need to make specific decisions relating to reasonable adjustments. This is because the specifications set out rules that prescribe when adjustments cannot be made.

The RPC verifies the estimated equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) of £0.0 million. This will be a qualifying regulatory provision that will score under the business impact target.

Quality of submission

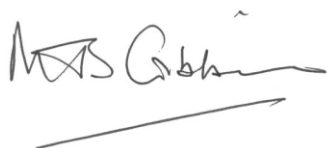
The assessment is concise, proportionate, and contains sufficient analysis for the RPC to verify an EANDCB of zero.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision
Equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB)	£0.0 million
Business net present value	-£0.01 million
Societal net present value	-£0.01 million

RPC assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision
EANCB – RPC validated ¹	£0.0 million
Business Impact Target (BIT) Score ¹	£0.0 million
Small and micro business assessment	Not required



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

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