

New Portal for awarding organisations (AO Portal)

Department for Education - Ofqual

RPC rating: validated

Description of proposal

The measure replaced the previous IT system (RITS) used to gather data on regulated qualifications with a new Awarding Organisation (AO) Portal. The change was intended to make the data gathering process less onerous for affected parties; for example, the number of data fields to be completed was reduced from 300 to 45. Awarding organisations were consulted during the development of and transition to the new portal.

Impacts of proposal

The IA states that up to 1,500 users across 156 Awarding Organisations might be affected by the change, though only 298 users currently have permission to submit qualification data.

Ofqual used feedback from awarding organisations to estimate that the time required to complete all data for a single qualification would decrease from 11 hours to 3 hours and that the average hourly salary (appropriately uplifted) for a staff member submitting data is £23.29. Combining these estimates with the number of qualifications loaded to AO Portal in 2016 (2800), the regulator estimates the total on-going saving at £521,000 per annum.

One-off costs listed in the assessment include:

- Familiarisation with a new user guide for the AO Portal (£10,000);
- Familiarisation with a new user guide for Contact Ofqual (a system used for sending enquiries) (£16,000); and
- Administrative cost related to adding a new data item (website link) to the qualifications already on the register (£50,640).

The RPC verifies the estimated equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) of - £0.5 million. This will be a qualifying regulatory provision that will score under the Business Impact Target.

Quality of submission

The assessment is appropriately concise and discusses the costs and benefits of the measure proportionately.

Issues addressed following RPC's initial review

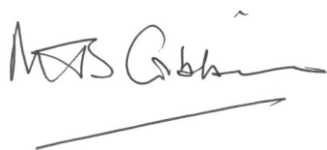
As originally submitted the IA did not provide complete information in relation to on-going costs and savings. The revised assessment includes a clearer explanation of how costs and benefits were estimated. The RPC is now able to validate the EANDCB.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (OUT)
Equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB)	£0.5 million
Business net present value	£4.4 million

RPC assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (OUT)
EANCB – RPC validated ¹	£0.5 million
Business Impact Target (BIT) Score ¹	£2.5 million



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

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