

The Criminal Justice Act – Zombie knives

Home Office

RPC rating: **validated**

Description of proposal

The department proposes to ban the manufacture, import, sale, offer for sale etc. of weapons known as ‘zombie knives’, ‘zombie killer knives’, ‘zombie slayer knives’ etc. in the UK. These are knives that have a cutting edge, a serrated edge and words or images which suggest that the blade is intended for violence. These knives are often seen in videos made by gangs and have recently been used in gang-related violent crimes, but are currently readily available over the internet.

Impacts of proposal

The department believes that all of these knives in the UK are made available by two wholesalers: Anglo Arms and BA Blades. The department uses revenue information provided by these wholesalers to estimate that the total value of lost retail sales, as a result of the proposal, would be approximately £104,000 per year.

The RPC verifies the estimated equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) of £0.1 million. This will be a qualifying regulatory provision that will score under the business impact target.

Quality of submission

There are several potential problems with the estimated cost to business:

- The department has not included familiarisation costs for affected businesses.
- The department has used the lost revenue of retailers from the banning of the sale of retail knives, instead of the lost profits.
- The department acknowledges that it may not be aware of additional retailers that make zombie knives available. For instance, this could be because these retailers are small scale. If this is the case, then it will have missed the costs to these retailers, however, the department has discussed this risk and shown that it is unlikely to affect the EANDCB materially.

However, these potential problems appear unlikely to affect the EANDCB by more than the RPC’s materiality threshold of £100,000.

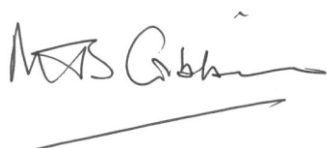
The department does not currently acknowledge the potential for a substitution effect between sales of zombie knives and sales of other knives; as individuals who would have bought zombie knives, but will be stopped by this proposal, may instead buy other types of knife. This should be acknowledged in the IA before publication.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
Equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB)	£0.104 million
Business net present value	-£0.899 million

RPC assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
EANCB – RPC validated ¹	£0.1 million
Business Impact Target (BIT) Score ¹	£0.5 million
Small and micro business assessment	Not required (fast track low-cost regulation)



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

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