

Rural Payments Agency

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Non-qualifying regulatory provision assurance statement: confirmed

Under the better regulation framework, for measures being introduced during the 2017-22 parliament there is no requirement for regulators to submit their NQRP summaries for Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) assurance. The RPC welcomes the Rural Payments Agency's voluntary submission of its 2018/19 NQRP summary for RPC assurance.

The Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) is content that, based on the summary information provided by the regulator, none of the measures or activities covered in the summary document should be considered as a qualifying regulatory provision for the purposes of the business impact target (BIT). This statement does not provide a detailed view of any specific activity in the regulator's summary document. Nor does it comment on any activities not covered in the summary. Some activities might, however, have been the subject of separate assessments of qualifying regulatory provisions.

Comments on the non-qualifying regulatory provision summary

The regulator has reported, in its statement, measures that fall within the following excluded categories: EU regulations and changes to the management of the regulator.

Clarification was sought by the RPC to ensure that the costs associated with the updating of guidance on a range of EU regulatory schemes were below the *de minimis*. The Rural Payments Agency provided sufficient information to confirm that this was the case. The RPC welcomes this clarification and notes that the summary would have benefitted from an indication of the impacts associated with the measures under EU regulation category.

The RPC is, therefore, content with the regulator's assessment of the measures against the exclusion categories in the present BIT framework and that they are, therefore non-qualifying regulatory provisions.

Annex A

Non-qualifying Regulatory Provisions Summary

Regulator: Rural Payments Agency

Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered: 21st June 2018 to 20th June 2019

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available**
Measures certified as being below de minimis (measures with an EANDCB below +/- £5 million)	N/A
EU Regulations, Decisions and Directives and other international obligations, including the implementation of the EU Withdrawal Bill and EU Withdrawal Agreement	<p>RPA published updated guidance on a range of schemes administered under the Common Agricultural Policy/Rural Development Programme for England including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Payment Scheme (including Cross Compliance) • Countryside Stewardship • Environmental Stewardship • External Trade (sCMO) • Livestock identification (administered by British Cattle Movement Service) <p>These are all schemes administered under EU regulation so fall into this exempted category. All of the guidance products are regularly reviewed and updated to account for changes of dates, minor delivery improvements and/or to make them less ambiguous for the customer.</p>
Measures certified as concerning EU Withdrawal Bill operability measures	N/A
Pro-competition	N/A
Systemic Financial Risk	N/A
Civil Emergencies	N/A
Fines and Penalties	N/A
Misuse of Drugs	N/A
Measures certified as relating to the safety of tenants, residents and occupants in response to the Grenfell tragedy	N/A
Casework	N/A
Education, communications and promotion	N/A
Activity related to policy development	N/A
Changes to management of regulator	In October 2018, RPA took over the delivery of all land based schemes under the CAP. This has led to changes within the organisation as with the transfer of staff from Natural England to RPA.

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available**
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RPA is realigning people to deliver the additional work,• that work is the administration of all CS, ES and BPS payment of EU subsidies and support RPA customers, the financial impact on those customers is negligible.

* For full, legal definitions of these exclusion categories, please see

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-06-20/HCWS776/>

** Complete the summary box as 'Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.' where this is appropriate.