



# ***Business Plan 2020-21***

This document sets out:

- the **mission** and **visions** of the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) for the rest of this Parliament
- its six **strategic objectives** with, for each, the **key performance indicators (KPIs)** that we will use to track progress
- **Priority actions (PAs)** for the coming year, with milestones where appropriate

## *Mission*

**To improve the evidence and analysis informing regulatory decisions through independent scrutiny**

## *Vision*

- 1. Business, civil society organisations and the public are confident that regulatory decisions in the UK are informed by robust and proportionate evidence and analysis**
- 2. Departments and regulators actively turn to us, as a centre of excellence, for independent, expert advice to improve their impact assessments and evaluation**

## Strategic objectives

### Core casework

1. To deliver independent opinions on impact assessments and post-implementation reviews that are timely, clear and consistent
2. To verify regulatory impacts measured against the business impact target (BIT)

### Improving systems and processes

3. To encourage and assist departments and regulators to improve the quality of their impact assessments and evaluation of regulation
4. To engage effectively with parliamentarians; business, civil and voluntary organisations; and the public on the evidence and analysis supporting regulatory proposals
5. To contribute to the development and implementation of policies for better regulation and inform the wider regulatory landscape in the UK
6. To enhance UK regulatory scrutiny through engagement with international counterparts, and to encourage evidence-based regulation in our trading partners

## 1. To deliver independent opinions on impact assessments and post-implementation reviews that are timely, clear and consistent

*KPI 1 – Timely: 90 percent of opinions are delivered by target deadlines*

*KPI 2 – Clear: positive departmental feedback on the clarity of the RPC opinion.*

### Priority actions

#### *ONGOING PROCESSING OF CASES TO HIGH STANDARDS AND TO AGREED TIMESCALES*

PA 1.1 – Introduce the new casework database, train staff and encourage best practice in its use to ensure cases are processed efficiently and management information is readily available.

PA 1.2 – Review the departmental survey process to ensure that it produces timely feedback from departments and regulators and produces outputs that can be used to improve RPC processes.

PA 1.3 – Work with Committee to develop revised template for RPC opinions that gets our views across more effectively.

PA 1.4 – Maintain internal guide and induction training to ensure all staff are clear on approach and apply it consistently.

PA 1.5 – Develop approach to using Twitter to publicise opinions.

## 2. To verify regulatory impacts measured against the business impact target (BIT)

*KPI 3* – The absolute difference made by RPC verification to equivalent annual net direct cost to business calculations that qualify for the BIT.

### Priority actions

#### *ONGOING VERIFICATION OF BIT SCORES*

PA 2.2 – Produce required RPC published reports verifying final BIT scores for the previous Parliament and an initial RPC response to the first annual BIT Report for the new Parliament, that offers our independent perspective on the new metric and the Government's initial steps to deliver against it.

PA 2.3 – Ensure that the new database captures all of the necessary information to ensure that BIT scores are verified as part of ongoing process of handling cases.

### 3. To encourage and assist departments and regulators to improve the quality of their impact assessments (IAs) and evaluation of regulation

*KPI 4 – Proportion of all final stage IAs processed that were seen at consultation stage*

*KPI 5 – Counts of interactions:*

- a) page views on guidance page of RPC website*
- b) number attending RPC policy training*
- c) count of committee engagements with departments*

#### Priority actions

PA 3.1 – All teams to maintain regular contact with departmental better regulation units (BRUs), and equivalents in regulators, to promote and encourage submission of consultation stage impact assessments to the RPC, whether formally or informally, to produce post-implementation reviews, and to provide bespoke advice to departments as requested.

PA 3.2 – Deliver 12 policy training courses a year, with an average of 15 attendees, and receive positive feedback.

PA 3.3 – Produce 3 guidance notes and publish them on the website.

PA 3.4 – Meet 4 times per year at BRU level, and for main departments, meet once per year at ministerial, better regulation board-level champion or chief economist level.

#### 4. To engage effectively with parliamentarians; business, civil and voluntary organisations; and the public on the evidence and analysis supporting regulatory proposals

*KPI 6 – Counts of engagements:*

- a) count of engagements between Trades Union Congress (TUC) and Business Representative Organisations (BROs) and committee;*
- b) count of engagements between sector contacts and/or civil society organisations and committee.*

*KPI 7 – Feedback from external stakeholders on satisfaction in annual survey*

*KPI 8 – Proportion of opinions published within agreed timescales*

*KPI 9 – Trends in social media:*

- a) number of tweets*
- b) link clicks to website from Twitter and LinkedIn*
- c) page views on published opinions*

##### Priority actions

PA 4.1 – Meet with agreed list of BROs, National Council for Voluntary organisations and TUC once per year.

PA 4.2 – Sectoral meetings with 12 sectoral stakeholders (including civil society organisations).

PA 4.3 – To develop processes for tracking and communicating to Committee and secretariat passage of legislation through Parliament and flag up any cases where impact assessments and opinions are missing.

PA 4.4 – To tweet and/or retweet at least 5 times a month, including on publication of all opinions and documents.

## 5. To contribute to the development and implementation of policies for better regulation and inform the wider regulatory landscape in the UK

### Priority actions

PA 5.1 – Contribute to the Government’s review of the business impact target (BIT) such that the Committee are comfortable with the BIT metric and their role for the new Parliament and that RPC views were taken into account appropriately.

PA 5.2 – Review processes for call in (and other aspects of framework guidelines) to ensure all are clear on their operation and we are content with role of RPC and secretariat.

PA 5.2 – Work to include additional issues are considered in opinions and are reflected in the framework guidance and processes. Including:

- key considerations of international trade and investments
- innovation test

PA 5.4 – Work with the Department for International Trade to consider how the RPC can scrutinise the assessments of the potential impacts of free trade agreements.

PA 5.5 – Development of other approaches to advocate RPC views on how the framework might be improved.



## 6. To enhance UK regulatory scrutiny through engagement with international counterparts, and to encourage evidence-based regulation in our trading partners

KPI 10 – Counts of RegWatchEurope (RWE) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) international engagements

KPI 11 – Counts of additional international engagements as reported to committee.

KPI 12 – Counts of thought pieces from international engagement.

### Priority actions

PA 6.1 – To participate in 4 RWE events and 3 OECD events each year.

PA 6.2 – To forge and develop relationships with key organisations in at least 2 countries with which the UK seeks to establish bilateral trade agreements.

PA 6.3 – To develop and make available 3 thought pieces on relevant issues based on best practice shared internationally to the RPC and beyond.

## Notes

1. The RPC risk register 2020 captures the most significant current risks to the delivery of the strategic objectives set out in this plan.
2. The RPC KPI dashboard 2020 shows the current position against the KPIs.
3. This document sets out the strategic plan for the RPC as an independent advisory body. Additional objectives for the activities of the RPC secretariat and the teams within it are set out in the better regulation executive strategy for 2020-21 and associated plans, and work plans for individual teams in the secretariat.