

Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2022

Lead department	Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Summary of proposal	The Government is planning to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a one-off additional bank holiday on Friday, 3 rd June 2022. The late May bank holiday will also be moved to Thursday, 2 nd June for 2022 only.
Submission type	Impact assessment (IA) – 18 January 2021
Legislation type	Royal Proclamation
Implementation date	2 June 2022
Policy stage	Final
RPC reference	RPC-DCMS-5045(1)
Opinion type	Formal
Date of issue	2 March 2021

RPC opinion

Rating ¹	RPC opinion
Fit for purpose	The IA is fit for purpose. This measure falls outside the scope of the Better Regulation Framework; however, the RPC appreciates the opportunity to scrutinise this IA as we did with the IA for the previous Jubilee Bank Holiday in 2012. The IA attempts to measure the overall impact of the proposal using changes in GDP and the RPC considers this approach proportionate.

Business impact target assessment

	Department assessment	RPC validated
Classification	Non-qualifying – temporary measure	Non-qualifying – temporary measure
Equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB)	Not provided	Not applicable
Business impact target (BIT) score	Not provided	Not applicable
Business net present value (BNPV)	Not provided	
Overall net present value (NPV)	-£450 million	

¹ The RPC opinion rating is based only on the robustness of the EANDCB and quality of the SaMBA, as set out in the [Better Regulation Framework](#). The RPC rating is fit for purpose or not fit for purpose.

RPC summary

Category	Quality	RPC comments
EANDCB	Not required	An EANDCB value is not required by the rules of the Better Regulation Framework.
Small and micro business assessment (SaMBA)	Green	The SaMBA is fit for purpose. The IA acknowledges that small and micro businesses (SMBs) will be disproportionately affected by the extra bank holiday. Exemption is not possible, and the Government has taken steps to mitigate the impacts on SMBs through early announcement of the bank holiday.
Rationale and options	Good	The IA describes the rationale and policy options well. The options are limited, but declaring an additional bank holiday follows established precedents to mark and enable people to celebrate the historic occasion of a Jubilee. The options with which to achieve this are limited to the Government recommending that the Queen should declare an extra bank holiday via a Royal Proclamation.
Cost-benefit analysis	Good	The IA does not attempt to disaggregate the individual costs and benefits of the policy. Instead, the overall NPV is estimated by projecting the likely change in GDP resulting from the additional bank holiday. This result is achieved by taking into account both the loss in output in some sectors and the gain in output in other sectors. The RPC considers this approach proportionate.
Wider impacts	Satisfactory	The IA provides a high-level but satisfactory discussion of the wider impacts of the additional bank holiday, including regional impacts, as well as impacts on innovation and trade.
Monitoring and evaluation plan	Satisfactory	A formal post-implementation review will not be undertaken for this policy and is not required. However, the IA states that the success of the Platinum Jubilee will be measured using an evaluation strategy.

Summary of proposal

The Government is planning to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a one-off additional bank holiday on Friday, 3rd June 2022. This follows the precedent set by bank holidays to mark the Silver Jubilee in 1977, the Golden Jubilee in 2002 and the Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The late May bank holiday will also be moved to Thursday, 2nd June for 2022 only, to create a four-day weekend.

Government intervention is necessary because only the Government can recommend to the Queen that she declare an extra bank holiday via a Royal Proclamation.

This measure falls outside the scope of the Better Regulation Framework (BRF). However, the RPC appreciates the opportunity to scrutinise this IA and review the impacts as we did with the IA for the previous Jubilee Bank Holiday in 2012.

EANDCB

An EANDCB value is not required by the rules of the BRF.

Specific costs due to business closures are difficult to separate from benefits due to various factors – for example, the resulting increase in expenditure in the retail sector – and it would be disproportionate to do so. The IA therefore seeks to assess the overall impact of the proposal using changes in GDP (see below). The RPC considers this approach proportionate.

The IA would benefit from acknowledging the recent shift to working from home which may limit the extent to which the bank holiday actually disrupts work compared to previous years.

SaMBA

The SaMBA is fit for purpose. The IA acknowledges that small and micro businesses (SMBs) will be disproportionately affected by the extra bank holiday. Due to the broad impact of this policy, the IA identifies the number of SMBs at a national level. Beyond the operating impacts of the closure itself, the IA assumes that SMBs will bear a proportional amount of any transition costs of the policy (although these costs are thought to be small as most businesses will already be familiar with the impacts of bank holidays).

The IA also explains that exemptions for SMBs are neither possible nor required for this measure. Employers are not obliged by law to give employees paid time off during bank holidays and the Government has sought to mitigate the impacts on SMBs through early announcement of the bank holiday.

Rationale and options

The rationale and policy options are well explained in the IA. The additional bank holiday follows established precedent to mark and enable people to celebrate the historic occasion of a Jubilee. The options with which to achieve this are limited to

the Government recommending that the Queen should declare an extra bank holiday via a Royal Proclamation.

Cost-benefit analysis

The IA does not attempt to disaggregate the costs and benefits of the policy. Instead, the overall net present value (NPV) is estimated by projecting the change in GDP likely to result from the additional bank holiday. This NPV calculation takes into account both the loss in output in some sectors and the gain in output in other sectors. The RPC considers this approach proportionate.

The IA applies six-year averages of quarterly GDP growth surrounding previous Jubilee years as a baseline upon which to project the change in GDP in the quarter following the proposed bank holiday. This gives a projected NPV reduction of £450m. The fall in GDP is partially offset by unquantified benefits (such as increased wellbeing from extra leisure time) as well as a ‘bounce-back’ effect in the following quarter due to businesses increasing productivity to ensure delivery deadlines are still met. The IA demonstrates this effect clearly using modelled estimates.

The familiarisation and transition costs to businesses are described in the narrative of the IA but are not quantified separately as they are considered negligible in comparison to the overall policy impacts, and the steps required do not differ greatly from bank holidays in general.

The IA could be improved by providing information on the degree to which businesses grant their employees time off on bank holidays and whether it is paid or unpaid. While the IA states this information is not available, the RPC suggests that the Department could have used data from the Department for Work and Pensions or the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee to analyse these factors from previous bank holidays – and could yet do so to inform future IAs.

However, in general, the methodology is clearly set out and appropriately caveated. The RPC is also pleased to see some discussion of the possible impacts of Covid-19 and how, on the one hand, it may suppress the expected boost in activity in those sectors (such as tourism) that would normally gain financially from the additional bank holiday, while, on the other hand, the relaxing of Covid-related restrictions may release pent-up demand.

Wider impacts

The IA provides a high-level but satisfactory discussion of the wider impacts of the additional bank holiday, including regional impacts based on the major sectors of the economy in different parts of the UK. Impacts on innovation are discussed briefly but are not considered to be significant. Impacts on trade due to closure of some businesses for the extra day are also acknowledged.

The equalities assessment could benefit from further research on employee demographics in sectors that close or remain open during bank holidays. The RPC considers such data could have been collected over previous bank holidays and could yet be collected to inform future equalities assessments.

Monitoring and evaluation plan

A formal post-implementation review will not be undertaken for this policy; it is not required. However, the IA states that the success of the Platinum Jubilee will be measured using an evaluation strategy taking into account levels of media coverage, tourism and public participation in events. The statement could be improved by defining success more specifically, e.g. by using ONS data or consulting with trade bodies to measure and project the impact in different sectors.

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