Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

International Regulatory Cooperation Toolkit

This toolkit is for government officials and regulators. It offers guidance and advice on how to effectively conduct international regulatory cooperation (IRC).

About the International Regulatory Cooperation Toolkit

This toolkit has been developed by the Better Regulation Executive (BRE) and sits alongside the International Regulatory Cooperation Strategy.

Who this toolkit is for

This toolkit is aimed at both UK government officials and industry regulators who work on the design, monitoring, enforcement, and review of regulation. It acts as a reference guide to consider where and how international regulatory cooperation (IRC) considerations fall within the policymaking process. It does this by providing a series of prompts to ensure a more systematic consideration of the international environment when working on regulation.

As better regulation policy is a devolved competency, the devolved administrations have their own frameworks and processes. However, devolved administration officials may benefit from the material in this toolkit and apply its guidance to their own better regulation frameworks.

How to use this toolkit

This guidance reads from the perspective of a policymaker or regulator with little or no prior knowledge of international regulatory cooperation. Users can read through each section in turn to build one's knowledge sequentially or navigate to the most appropriate section.

Further help and support on IRC

The BRE can support UK Government policy teams with IRC best practice, including signposting relevant international guidance. Users can also find resources from international organisations online, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) Best Practice Principles on International Regulatory Co-operation.

Your department's Better Regulation Unit (BRU) can provide advice on IRC and where it should be considered within the existing regulatory development process.

Departments' international teams should be able to advise on engaging with relevant forums in international organisations or existing international instruments that may be relevant to the development of your policy.

Colleagues should refer to the guidelines set out in the HMT's Green Book, Aqua Book, and Magenta Book for a full summary of the guidance for completing appraisals and evaluations in government. The devolved administrations may have their own (additional) guidance.

Further guidance on setting regulation, including information on the process for developing policy for regulation, engaging with the UK's Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC), seeking collective ministerial agreement, and laying legislation in Parliament is provided in the Better Regulation Framework. A full list of UK Government regulatory guidance can be found here.

Contents

Introduction

What is international regulatory cooperation?

International regulatory cooperation (IRC) is about considering both the implications of domestic regulations beyond national borders, and the impact of international regulation on our domestic environment.

In practical terms, it's identifying and seizing opportunities to collaborate with international partners, either bilaterally or through multilateral forums, at all stages of the regulatory lifecycle.

In this toolkit, IRC refers to any agreement or organisational arrangement, formal or informal, between countries to promote some form of co-operation in the design, monitoring, enforcement, or ex-post management of regulation. [1]

This toolkit is designed for government officials and regulators, and offers guidance on how to conduct international regulatory cooperation effectively. It provides a series of prompts to ensure a more systematic consideration of the international environment when working on regulation.

The purpose of the toolkit is to:

- Explain what international regulatory cooperation is, why it is undertaken, when it should come under consideration and how it can be applied across the policy development cycle.

- Help policymakers and regulators recognise what aspects of policymaking need to be considered to ensure successful outcomes of international regulatory decisions.

- Provide practical tools and guidance to help policymakers and regulators consider the international impacts of their policy and how international regulatory cooperation mechanisms might apply.

Why is IRC important?

Emerging technologies are increasingly trans-border in nature. Whilst they create exciting frontiers for innovation, they also create new opportunities and challenges for how we regulate. We therefore require an understanding of other countries' regulatory approaches to ensure that we remain leaders at the cutting edge of regulating the technologies of the future. At the same time, it is in our interest to cooperate on regulating these technologies in line with UK priorities.

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[1] OECD definition.

New and emerging technologies are not the only areas where IRC can have a positive impact on setting the right regulatory environment for their use and growth. IRC is also important in sectors and industries that already have established regulatory frameworks.

IRC initiatives can lead to a number of benefits for governments, regulators, standards bodies, industry, and ultimately citizens. Greater cross-border regulatory alignment in some areas – through the close collaboration of governments, regulators, and international organisations – can lead to reduced non-tariff barriers (NTBs) for businesses, resulting in greater trade and investment, the fostering of technological innovation and sharing of ideas. This can help to establish the right regulatory environment for UK businesses to thrive, while creating jobs and supporting economic growth.

IRC is not a mandatory requirement and policymakers should make their own judgement about whether undergoing IRC is appropriate in their policy development. However, if undertaken successfully, it can:

- Reduce unnecessary regulatory divergences between jurisdictions, and prevent future ones, that can hinder economic growth and trade.

- Facilitate alignment with existing regulatory instruments between countries, making it easier for industry and business to collaborate with each other and innovate.

- Help level the playing field of global regulation by promoting smoother supply chains and business interactions with customers.

- Promote good regulatory practices – through sharing information and expertise with international partners – to enhance the UK's reputation as a leader in regulatory governance.

- Strengthen UK influence on standards and regulations in international organisations.

Case study: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency – collaborating to tackle COVID-19

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is the UK competent authority for regulating medicines, medical devices, and blood components for transfusion in the UK. It plays a leading role in protecting and improving public health and supports innovation through scientific research and development.

The UK joined the Access Consortium as a full member in January 2021. The consortium is a medium-sized coalition of regulatory authorities that work together to promote greater regulatory collaboration and alignment of regulatory requirements. It consists of health regulatory partners from Australia, Canada, Switzerland, and Singapore working together to maximise international co-operation between partners in the consortium, reduce duplication, and increase each agency's capacity to ensure patients have timely access to high quality, safe and effective therapeutic products. This is mainly done by working together in the review and authorising of medicines onto the market through a process known as 'joint-work sharing'.

The Access Consortium explores opportunities for information and collaboration in areas such as sharing assessment reports for new prescription medicines, information sharing and investigations into post-market surveillance, alignment of IT systems for information sharing and the development of technical guidelines. The Access partners are aligned by high standards of scientific rigour and integrity and will maximise the use of available resources and minimise duplication of effort. MHRA has joined this consortium bringing additional resources and expertise to this well-established group.

During the pandemic, the MHRA has collaborated significantly with the Access Consortium, particularly on information exchange between assessors on COVID-19 vaccines. Specific discussions have taken place on areas of the vaccine assessments bringing together the skills and expertise from five regulatory authorities. COVID-19 has demonstrated these connections to be very productive and worthwhile when collaborating

Overview of tools

The five tools in this toolkit have been designed to prompt policymakers to identify opportunities to carry out IRC at different stages of the policy cycle. Users of the toolkit can jump to specific tools as required or work through the toolkit sequentially.

- Tool 1 asks users five questions about the policy in question and probes them to think about the possible international implications of their policy. Having answered the five questions, users will have a sense of the relevance of engaging with international stakeholders during policy development.

- Tool 2 gets users to think more systematically about how and when they should be considering IRC. It uses the ROAMEF [2] policy cycle as a framework to signpost opportunities for cooperating internationally to improve the design and evaluation of policy.

- Tool 3 expands on two regulatory instruments used in good regulatory practices (GRP) – IAs and PIRs. These are critical regulation tools to ensure that the best regulatory decisions are made before and after policy implementation. Advice in this tool prompts policymakers to think about the international evidence and impacts of their policy.

- Tool 4 sets out the benefits of international engagement and outlines practical ways to engage with international stakeholders in IRC initiatives.

- Tool 5 provides information on international organisations and departmental functions that can support your IRC efforts. It also directs users to sources of international evidence and additional IRC guidance.

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[2] The ROAMEF cycle (Rationale, Objective, Appraisal, Monitoring, Evaluation, Feedback) is the expected lifecycle for all policies. Refer to the Green Book for more information.

Tool 1 – considering the relevance of IRC to your policy

The questions and statements below relate to the consideration of international regulations and standards in the UK rule-making process. Users should use these to help you decide which tools, if any, are applicable to the policy you are developing.

The key theme under the questions below is the need to collaborate with other jurisdictions, i.e. addressing policy challenges collectively and utilising an international evidence base with similar international policies in mind.

If the answer to any of the following questions below is 'yes', you should consider opportunities to undergo IRC to improve the development and implementation of your policy. Refer to the appropriate advice which follows in this toolkit.

Question 1: is this policy likely to have significant impacts on international trade and investment?

- In line with the current BRE guidance on trade, policymakers should give due consideration to the direct or indirect impacts that your policy may have on foreign trade and investment into, and out of, the UK. Your policy should try to avoid burdensome regulation or new non-tariff barriers (NTBs) as far as possible.

- For example, will the policy impact the ability of UK businesses to trade or provide services overseas or, alternatively, the ability of foreign businesses to export or provide services to the UK?

- If this is relevant to the policy under development, policymakers should consult the Better Regulation Framework and notify contacts in the [Department for International Trade (DIT)](#) so that they can provide further advice on completing an IA.

Question 2: is the policy adopting, or covered by, either a binding or non-binding international instrument?

- Aligning with an existing international instrument can ensure consistency with internationally accepted standards and reduce additional NTBs for businesses. You should seek to gain insight from other jurisdictions party to the instrument as this can lead to more effective implementation of your policy.

- Crucially, you can assess whether an existing international instrument meets your policy objectives without creating additional regulation.

Question 3: is the policy likely to have implications beyond the national border?

- Consideration should be given to business impacts of the policy, such as cross-border transactions or flows (such as that of data, people, or infrastructure), requirements to share different types of compliance data or changes in consumer safety provisions.

- Users should also consider whether the policy may lead to improved outcomes for citizens in more than one country, such as consumer rights, or health or environmental protections. Exploring whether similar regulation set in foreign jurisdictions has had an impact on the UK could provide a helpful indication on the impacts of your proposed policy.

Question 4: is the evidence base that underpins the policy likely to be more effective if gathered from a broad range of international sources?

- If the policy implications have been the subject of discussion or debate at an international forum, then it may be necessary to further consult or engage with that forum when establishing the evidence base that underpins the policy.

- You should also consider exploring whether other countries or international organisations have already addressed the issue at hand, and where cooperation or convergence with these approaches could help to achieve the desired policy outcome.

Question 5: will enforcement or monitoring of the policy be more effective if done in collaboration with other jurisdictions?

- Consider whether the use of shared learning, experience and expertise via joint jurisdictional collaboration may help to facilitate enforcement of, and compliance with, the policy.

- Assess whether enforcement agencies have the ability to gather data on the implementation of the policy to ensure more effective monitoring and data collection mechanisms.

Case study: the Global Financial Innovation Network – driving innovation through collaboration

In 2019, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) launched the Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN). The GFIN is an international network of financial regulators and related organisations. It aims to create a framework for cooperation on innovation-related topics to share different experiences and approaches. By attempting to emulate the FCA's domestic success of the regulatory sandbox in a global context, the GFIN seeks to provide a more efficient way for firms to interact with regulators, helping them navigate between countries as they look to scale new ideas.

The GFIN's membership includes over 70 financial regulators and organisations globally and the FCA has chaired two major GFIN workstreams – one on cross-border testing and another on regulatory technology (RegTech) and supervisory technology (SupTech) research.

Evaluation of the IRC initiative found that GFIN has yielded several positive benefits, including reduced regulatory costs for businesses and regulators; improved regulatory

coherence and cross-border regulatory enforcement through better knowledge exchange between businesses and regulators via the RegTech and SupTech workstreams; and the establishment of long-term agreements between the UK and other countries.

Moreover, evidence suggested that GFIN had enhanced the FCA's reputation as a global leader in the field of financial services innovation and produced wider economic outcomes for UK consumers. [3]

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[3] Impacts of International Regulatory Cooperation (IRC) initiatives: Research project.

# Tool 2 – embedding IRC considerations in policymaking

To better embed IRC into domestic policymaking, greater consideration should be given to the international environment in the policymaking process. This involves a more systematic review of international regulatory frameworks and an assessment of how changes in domestic regulation fit within, and have an impact on, the global regulatory landscape.

ROAMEF is a policy development cycle set out in the Green Book: appraisal and evaluation in central government. It guides policymakers through a step-by-step process of policy development. ROAMEF proceeds from developing a rationale for the proposal, through identification of objectives, to options appraisal, monitoring, evaluation and feedback to inform future policymaking.

It is important that none of the stages within the ROAMEF cycle are considered in isolation – the process should be viewed as iterative rather than linear. As such, monitoring and evaluation should inform thinking throughout the ROAMEF cycle – before, during and after implementation – which maximises learning to adjust short-term policy implementation and inform future policy interventions.

This tool will provide suggestions on how you can embed IRC considerations within the ROAMEF policy cycle that you will be referring to when designing your policy. This will make it easier for policymakers to think about IRC considerations within the same structure as that used alongside the policy development process. It will offer guidance on thinking about when and how changes in domestic regulation may impact on international trade and other cross-border activity.

Figure 1: ROAMEF policy development cycle
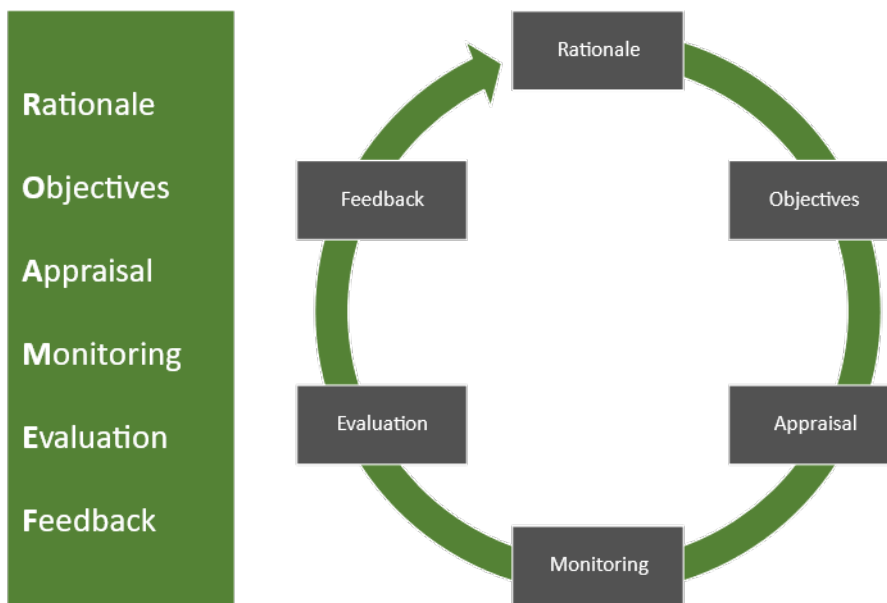
Rationale – what is the case for change?

The first step of the ROAMEF cycle looks at the reasons for government intervention. At this stage, you should have identified the problem that you are trying to solve and have some initial evidence to suggest that a new policy, or a change in policy, is needed to solve this problem.

Defining the problem in the global context

Is the problem you are facing one that has an international dimension that requires international collaboration to solve? For example, are you faced with an existing NTB to trade that needs removing or enforcement issues that require global coordination? If so, you will need to work cooperatively with international partners to reach a resolution.

Horizon scanning

During the early stages of your policy development, you should keep abreast of international policy debates and political contexts to understand emerging issues and responses. Consider intelligence from other jurisdictions and international organisations, and the rationale for, and approach to, their interventions. This will help you start to build a body of evidence of international comparisons and prepare a greater range of targeted policy options in response. For more information on horizon scanning, visit the [Futures toolkit for policymakers and analysts](#).

UK regulatory leadership

A positive outcome of IRC is that it can strengthen UK influence on setting new regulation and standards by exploiting its first-mover advantage. At the start of your policy development, you should have a sense of whether there is an opportunity to demonstrate global leadership in this space and set the agenda as an early mover, working bilaterally or multilaterally to spearhead a globally coordinated effort.

Objective – what are the outcomes you are hoping to achieve through this change?

The second stage of the ROAMEF cycle looks at the objectives you are seeking to achieve through your policy. In other words, what does success look like? Building on the rationale, this is where your body of evidence will highlight how existing regulatory models or policies have been effective (or ineffective) in other jurisdictions.

Cross-border movement

Does the policy under consideration involve transboundary features or flows, such as trade, data, or labour? Are there international treaty obligations that the UK must comply with? You may be required to notify the WTO or Free Trade Agreement partners if your policy will have an impact on other countries' trade and investment. Contact your BRU for further support.

Existing international instruments

Have you considered aligning with international instruments or adopting existing international rules or standards as part of your policy options, if applicable? Using international instruments in domestic regulation will help to embed consistency with international approaches and therefore reduce the costs of businesses to comply with multiple requirements. You should analyse whether existing international approaches could be applied to the UK, either through aligning regulatory approaches to reduce the barriers to trade and investment or identifying whether greater regulatory cooperation may be necessary to achieve the desired outcome.

International expertise

Does the complexity of the issue at hand require the pooling of international knowledge, expertise, or administrative resource? You should consider whether international institutions or organisations, such as the OECD, have published recommendations or guidance on policy solutions. Also consider researching IAs and PIRs of policies that have been enacted in comparable jurisdictions to assess the efficacy of these interventions.

Stakeholder cooperation

Given the cross-border impacts of technologies, such as digital and cyber, there may be like-minded countries that face similar regulatory issues with whom you could work to develop cross-border regulation and coordinate enforcement approaches. This may involve gathering relevant sector information or solve cases when applicable enforcement authorities or instruments are located outside of your jurisdiction. Such cooperation needs are better foreseen early in the policy development process. Actively engage foreign stakeholders on the policy area and their appetite for cooperation.

Devolved Administrations

Responsibility for better regulation policy falls to the Devolved Administrations in their areas of competence. Where an area of regulation includes a mixture of devolved and reserved provisions, you should consult with officials in the Devolved Administrations at an early stage in the policymaking process.

Behavioural insights

Policymakers should consider the use of behavioural insights (BI) to help achieve their objectives and mitigate any biases in the policy development phase. This can help to better understand why businesses and individuals make the decisions they do and lead to policy options which encourage the desired behaviours and/or discourage undesirable behaviours without having to enforce regulation. Look to international sources for existing BI research and best practice on how to conduct effective BI analysis and evaluation.

Appraisal – what are the options to achieve the desired objective?

Once you have identified what you are seeking to achieve, you should now produce options to achieve your objectives, including the 'do nothing' option and non-regulatory alternatives, such as setting standards or providing guidance. International evidence should be used to inform the options appraisal. This requires presenting how other countries or international organisations have already sought to address the problem (including any evidence on efficacy). An IA will help you assess the impact on groups affected. [4] If your policy is likely to impact businesses, you should also refer to the Better Regulation Framework for guidance.

International standards

Standards describe agreed good practice in how things are done and made. They are developed through a stakeholder-driven process based on the principles of consensus, openness, and transparency. The adoption of international standards can help to facilitate trade, open markets, and protect the interests of UK businesses and consumers abroad. During the appraisal stage, policymakers should actively consider the role international standards can play as a complement or alternative to regulation to meet policy objectives. This should include due consideration of existing international standards and/or the opportunity to develop them through collaboration with the British Standards Institution (BSI) [5] or other relevant bodies.

Potential international implications

You should consider the international implications of your policy. Beyond trade and investment, think about the international security, diplomatic, technological, and environmental implications of your options. Looking at the implications of similar enforced international instruments may give a broad indication of efficacy in the UK.

Conducting an IA will help you assess the potential international trade, investment, or other implications of enacting your preferred policy option, as well as the monetised and non-monetised costs and benefits to those being regulated. [6] WTO members are also required to "notify" other members, through the WTO Secretariat, of proposed policies that may have a significant effect on other members' trade and that are not based on relevant international standards. This may also apply to Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners under the agreement's obligations. [7]

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[4] See Tool 3 for more information on IAs.
[5] See Tool 5 for more information on the British Standards Institution.
[6] See Tool 3 for more information on IAs.
[7] The UK has obligations under the WTO TBT agreement to base new technical regulations on international standards. Your area may be subject to challenge at the WTO if you cannot demonstrate how you have taken any relevant international standards into account. Contact the DIT BRU for guidance on WTO notifications.

Also consider whether your policy options will have an impact on, or are related to, existing domestic regulations with international implications. You will want to ensure that any new policies are fully aligned and do not duplicate or contradict existing domestic regulation.

Alignment or divergence

Assess whether your policy is aligning with, or diverging from, existing international rules and/or standards and why. Collaborating with international partners can help reduce regulatory NTBs to trade by exploring the potential to harmonise approaches, or at least to reduce inadvertent divergence. A common regulatory approach may reduce burdens on businesses and promote trade and economic growth. In turn, this may open new markets by creating export opportunities and encouraging inward investment.

There may be strong incentives for diverging from an existing international instrument, such as significant economic benefits, creating opportunities for innovation or the need for stronger environmental protections. The costs and benefits of both aligning with and diverging from international practice should be fully analysed, and any unintended trade consequences that may be a source of regulatory friction should be identified.

Consultation and evidence gathering

Building on your initial data gathering, now consider a more thorough consultation or evidence-gathering process with international stakeholders. This could include engaging stakeholders in international organisations or foreign governments to draw on their experience on developing and implementing comparable regulatory policies. [8] This can help gain a critical insight into the potential international implications of their alignment or divergent approach and raise awareness for your regulatory approach in partner countries. [9]

International requirements

What are the international requirements for implementing each option? For example, given that the burden of regulation can often fall disproportionately on small and micro businesses, considerations of the impact of your policy on these businesses is required under the UK-EU Trade Co-operation Agreement. As above, also consider whether you are required to notify other trading partners, such as WTO members or FTA partners, on the trade and investment impacts of your policy.

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[8] You may wish to refer to the OECD's Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance which sets out principles to support the implementation of systematic regulatory reform to deliver regulations.
[9] See Tool 4 for information on international stakeholder engagement.

Monitoring – how will you know whether your policy is having the desired impact?

Once you have chosen your preferred policy option, you should think about how you are going to monitor its impacts.

Throughout the implementation and enforcement of your policy, there may be opportunities to work with international partners. For example, you may need to collaborate with a foreign jurisdiction to bridge gaps during implementation. Or you may need to work closely with foreign counterparts on enforcement to address non-compliance by those under regulation. Both monitoring and evaluation should be considered before, during and after implementation and enforcement.

Effective monitoring

As required in all policy development, you will need to put in place monitoring and data collection systems to track and record intended and unintended consequences of the policy and measure them against success milestones. These systems should be captured within an evaluation plan. Evaluation plans should be incorporated early on within the policy development and should cover the evaluation objectives, methodology, the data, and evidence required (including monitoring data), and frequency of collecting the data and evidence.

A useful method of designing this to use a Theory of Change. This is an important part of the policy development cycle and is vital for successful monitoring and evaluation. A Theory of Change demonstrates how the inputs and activities related to the policy are intended to lead to the outcomes and impacts. This not only underpins the monitoring and evaluation steps of the ROAMEF cycle, but the broader understanding of the policy as a whole. The development of the Theory of Change should be done early in the policy development and be encompassed within the evaluation plan. [10]

Monitoring international impacts

As well as monitoring the domestic impacts of your policy, you should also take time to consider what impact your policy is having internationally. For example, explore your policy's impact on the ability of overseas businesses to export to the UK. Set out the quantitative and qualitative metrics that you will use to monitor and evaluate your policy. Speak with your departmental analyst for additional support, if required.

Cooperating with international partners

If you have worked with international regulatory partners to consult on your policy thinking during the rationale and appraisal stages, you should think about sharing knowledge and good practice on establishing data collection systems. They may have implemented similar policies

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[10] See the Magenta Book for guidance on developing a Theory of Change.

in the past and are able to share good practices and some of the challenges related to capturing the required data.

Evaluation – has your policy brought about the desired impacts?

Once you have robust monitoring and data collection systems in place, you will be able to assess whether your policy has worked as expected. Based on the evidence, you should review what the impact was, who was impacted and why. As noted above, evaluation should be carried out throughout all stages of the policy development process to maximise its utility.

An evaluation plan is a critical step to ensure that the evaluation delivers useful findings, is of appropriate quality, and draws out valuable insights to inform the implementation of future policy. Please refer to the Green Book and Magenta Book for more detailed guidance.

You may be required to complete a PIR to review whether your policy has met the intended objectives. You may wish to seek advice from your department's BRU on preparing a PIR.[11]

Analyse the international costs and benefits of your approach

If your policy diverged from international instruments, what effect did this have on those being regulated and were some groups affected more than others? Did they experience additional NTBs and to what extent did this have an impact on their operations? Is there evidence that the new policy facilitates the creation of new products and processes, or has it locked out innovation? And how did the impacts of the policy compare with those of existing international instruments? You should refer to your IA and compare the actual against the forecast impacts.

Share your findings with international stakeholders

You should explore opportunities to share your regulatory approach and provide information on enforcement outcomes of your policy, including its impacts on trade and the practical effects of aligning or diverging regulatory approaches. Lessons that you have learned could be valuable to other jurisdictions who may seek to harmonise with your policy. It will also offer the opportunity for foreign stakeholders to provide feedback on your approach.

You may be required to notify foreign countries on draft regulations under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. Contact DIT's BRU for further advice.

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[11] You should also refer to the guidelines set out in the Treasury's Green Book, Aqua Book, and Magenta Book. In particular, the Magenta Book supplement and the Regulatory Policy Committee's (RPC) Guidance for Conducting Regulatory Post Implementation Reviews, which provides analytical guidance for conducting PIRs.

Feedback – how could you improve future policy development and implementation?

Now that you have evaluated the effects of your policy, you should have a set of lessons learned from the entire policy development cycle which should inform future policymaking.

Policy development

What are the lessons you can extract from all stages of the policy cycle that could inform and improve future policymaking? For example, how effective was horizon scanning of foreign jurisdictions in preparation for upcoming issues? Did you sufficiently consult those whom your policy had the biggest impact on? And are there any ways you could have improved monitoring and evaluation methods?

Assessing the implementation and impact of IRC

Take some time to reflect on how effective your international regulatory cooperation was in supporting the development and performance of your policy. The evaluation of your IRC should be proportionate to its scale. You may wish to consider the following questions:

- During the policy cycle, how and when did you participate with international stakeholders?

- How did you monitor or record your participation in any IRC activities?

- What impact did your engagement with international stakeholders during the policy development have on your policy?

- What insights to comparable international policies did you gain that you would not have otherwise, and how did these insights improve your policy?

- How did you ensure that your IRC efforts consumed a proportionate amount of time and resources?

- Do you have any evidence that your international cooperation, whether bilateral or multilateral, had an impact on the UK's reputation for regulatory leadership?

- How valuable will the relationships you have established with international stakeholders be in future policy development?

- What lessons have you learned from your IRC and how would you do things differently next time?

Case study: International Accreditation Forum – mutual recognition to reduce regulatory costs [12]

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) is a global association of accreditation bodies. It seeks to limit the duplication of accreditation by promoting mutual recognition of accredited certification statements. This can help to avoid the requirement for multiple testing or inspections, thereby reducing regulatory costs and barriers to trade. To address this, the IAF set up a Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) between accreditation bodies that meet its requirements. This is an agreement of mutual recognition between signatories to the MLA. Once an agreement is in place, an accreditation certificate can be awarded by an MLA member, and indicates that there is a strong degree of confidence in the competence of organisations accredited by that member. This form of mutual recognition reduces the need for duplicative accreditation.

Through undergoing the IRC initiative, in the short-term, it found that more countries became signatories to the MLA, including China, Pakistan and Kazakhstan, which was believed to be promising for the sustainability of the initiative and potentially open new markets to trade. In the longer-term, the evaluation found that trade had increased between IAF members and had led to increased UK exports. In addition, it is believed that these benefits would persist and were not an isolated occurrence.

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[12] Impacts of International Regulatory Cooperation (IRC) initiatives: Research project.

Tool 3 – mechanisms for better regulation

Impact assessments

As set out in the HM Treasury Green Book, the aim of appraisal and evaluation is to provide objective analysis to support decision making. Where government intervention requires a legislative or policy change to be made, departments are expected to analyse and assess the impact of the change on the different groups affected – which should generally take the form of an impact assessment (IA).

For small regulatory changes, standalone IAs may not be required, though any analysis included to support these changes should be in line with Green Book methodology. When a policy change impacts business, the Better Regulation Framework should be consulted.

As part of good regulatory practice, policymakers should gather evidence that goes beyond domestic implications to provide justification for the regulatory policy. This is particularly important if the regulation under development is likely to have implications on business or industry. Policymakers should consider cost elements (particularly on exporters), such as:

- Information costs, such as familiarisation of regulatory information to comply with foreign regulations.
- Specification costs, such as adjusting products to meet foreign regulations requirements.
- Conformity costs, such as certification costs.

If you are seeking to align with international regulation, the costs, and benefits of doing so should be clearly set out in the IA. Consideration should be given to comparable international instruments, such as international treaty obligations or other similar laws or agreements.

If you are seeking to diverge from an international instrument – for example, amend, replace or repeal retained EU law to better serve the interests of UK businesses and consumers – you should set out how your approach will differ from existing regulation, with comparative costs and benefits of your approach.

Not all regulations will have IRC implications. However, the IA should make clear the degree to which the regulation does or does not have such implications.

Below are some prompt questions to consider when completing your IA:

- How have other countries or international institutions addressed the issue at hand, and could cooperation with these approaches be beneficial to achieving the desired policy outcome?
- How have you assessed the extent to which the regulation is compatible with international standards?

- Is your policy aligning or diverging from established international instruments and how have you justified your approach?

- If the regulation is diverging from an established international instrument, what are the costs and benefits of doing so (particularly on small and micro-sized businesses)?

- How have you engaged with international organisations, partners and/or businesses to consult on your policy and who are they?

- How do you expect the policy to impact industry and business and what indicators are you using to measure this impact?

- How does your policy interact with other transnational issues, such as the environment, taxation, data, or emerging technologies?

- How has evidence from international sources been applied in the IA?

- Are you required to notify other countries of your policy, as per WTO or FTA obligations, if it will impact on trade or investment?

Post-implementation reviews

Once the policy has come into force, the post-implementation review (PIR) offers the opportunity to review whether the regulation has met the intended objectives. The requirement to complete a PIR is triggered by a statutory review clause within the legislation, or an equivalent administrative commitment to carry out a review. Where appropriate, the PIR stage should also be used to compile experiences of IRC and record the degree to which IRC initiatives impacted the objective of the regulation.

The PIR should review whether the policy's outcomes are consistent with other approaches internationally which seek to address the same issue. This can include, for example, international instruments, standards, and other approaches abroad. Policymakers should consider if there is merit in carrying out a review with other jurisdictions or sharing initial findings at international forums. If the regulation under review diverged from an existing international instrument, the actual costs and benefits of that action should be evaluated.[13]

It should also be noted that, under the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 (SBEE Act) where the regulatory provision being reviewed implements an international obligation of the UK, the review must, so far as is reasonable, have regard to how the obligation is implemented in other countries which are subject to the obligation. It should analyse the costs and benefits of diverging from international practice, if such a choice was made, and identify any unintended outcomes that have become a source of friction.

Results of PIRs should be made publicly available to relevant partners and international stakeholders for their consideration. Once you have received departmental approval to publish

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[13] You may wish to refer to the OECD's Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG) – its metric for measuring the quality of member countries' regulatory environments, including ex-post evaluation (PIR) practices.

your PIR, the UK RPC may need to undertake a review of the quality of the evidence base and any analytical elements. Your BRU can advise you on whether this is required.

To help with the PIR process, some prompt questions are below:

- To what extent is the policy compatible with international standards and have standards changed significantly?

- If your policy diverged from established international instruments, was this decision justified? Have new approaches been introduced by other jurisdictions since and what have their impacts been?

- Based on relevant international standards where possible, was the policy more trade restrictive than necessary? What were the additional costs or benefits of the policy on businesses, particularly small and micro-sized businesses?

- Did the policy introduce different requirements for foreign businesses compared to domestic ones, or for businesses from different foreign countries?

- How was the policy consistent with the UK's international obligations for equal treatment?

- Can the policy achieve its objectives more effectively to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, including the impact on small and micro-sized business, and if so, how?

- When formulating your policy, did your IRC initiative lead to any intermediate outcomes, such as reducing regulatory costs, achieving greater regulatory coherence, improving cross-border regulatory enforcement, or leading to the establishment of any long-term agreements with other countries? If so, how, by how much and were they 'one-off' or persistent benefits?

- Did the IRC initiative lead to long-term economic benefits, such as increased trade, foreign direct investment (FDI), productivity or growth? If so, how and by how much?

- How have you made your findings publicly available and shared your evaluation with relevant and/or interested international organisations and partners?

The OECD's [Recommendation and Guidelines on Regulatory Policy](#) provides guidance on both impact assessments and ex-post evaluation (or PIRs) with international considerations.

Cabinet Office's [Open Policy Making toolkit](#) includes a section on how to measure the impact and success of Open Policy Making, which sets out useful principles for PIRs. HM Treasury's [Magenta Book](#) also provides useful guidance.

Tool 4 – international engagement

Stronger forms of bilateral, regional, or international cooperation approaches are needed to lay the ground for sustainable collaboration and greater coherence in regulatory matters. Actions taken to embed greater consideration of the international environment in domestic rulemaking and ensure greater consistency with relevant international frameworks are important elements of IRC.

Engagement with foreign stakeholders in regulatory processes can help raise awareness of approaches in other jurisdictions. It can also provide information on enforcement consequences of regulatory options, including their impacts on trade and the practical effects of maintaining the same or different regulatory approaches. To remain engaged on these issues, policymakers and regulators should be active participants in appropriate international fora where possible.

If you have identified that your policy has an international angle (using Tool 1), you should look to bring foreign stakeholders into your policymaking. The type of international cooperation will depend on the legal and administrative system, and the sector or policy area under consideration. If policymakers and regulators are not in the process of developing new policy, they can still play an important role in shaping international regulation and standards in international fora. International cooperation can take the form of communication through bilateral partners, international organisations, business platforms or other means, to improve regulatory outcomes.

Engaging with international stakeholders

First, research the international stakeholder and details of their activity related to the issue of interest, such as recent papers, reports, or announcements. [14] Your horizon scanning will direct you to the appropriate country or organisation to engage with on your policy and ensure that you are abreast of their political position and any recent policy changes.

Contact your department's international team which may have an existing relationship with your target stakeholder(s) and should be able to provide advice on their specific areas of interest and ways of leveraging engagement. Your international team may also provide advice on the best avenue for engaging with your target stakeholder and any geopolitical nuances to consider.

Consider your departments' participation in multilateral fora, such as the OECD and upcoming set-piece meetings, that might be good opportunities to gather IRC feedback or propose new workstreams on HMG priorities in your area. International engagement teams in your

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[14] See Tool 5 for more information on international information sources.

department should be able to help. If you do not know who the relevant person in the international team is, your BRU may be able to provide details of the relevant contacts.

Think about informing other cross-Whitehall teams who may have an interest in your policy. This is important to gain buy-in if your policy will go through the write-round process. It will also help to ensure that government policy across Whitehall is fully aligned, and you have considered all angles to your policy. Other departments may also help introduce you to your target stakeholder(s) if they maintain an existing relationship.

You should also inform the FCDO of your intention to engage internationally as they may provide advice on geopolitical considerations before engaging with a particular stakeholder. Your department's international team should be able to refer you to the relevant FCDO desk officer. The FCDO, through the Regulatory Diplomacy network, can advise on priority areas of influencing international regulation and standards and support in putting you in touch with relevant in-country contacts at diplomatic Posts.

DIT's BRU can also provide advice if your policy is trade related. Guidance on best practice on working bilaterally and multilaterally can be accessed on the diplomatic academy learning resource. [15] And the Policy Profession Standards provide detailed best practice descriptors setting out the specific skills for each learning outcome, including working internationally.

Case study: The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors – setting global standards in fire safety

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is a professional body that sets standards for, and regulates, professionals and firms in the development and management of land, real estate, construction, and infrastructure.

RICS has led several international coalitions focussing on important topics such fire safety and ethical standards. Through collaboration and dialogue with international partners, these coalitions have successfully developed a number of international standards, which are recognised around the world by governments, clients and intergovernmental bodies.

In 2018, RICS developed the International Fire Safety Standards (IFSS) Coalition as a result of high-profile global failures in building safety and a need to bring a common global approach in order to protect the public from the risk of death or injury from fire. The IFSS Coalition now has over 80 organisations signed up to develop a shared international approach to the design, construction and management of buildings and infrastructure in order to restore public confidence in fire safety. The initiative has been supported since launch by the United Nations (UN).

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[15] Available to HMG officials only.

The Coalition published its first global fire safety standards in October 2020, which were adopted by the UN, and has recently published a Decade of Action for Fire Safety 2022-2032 document setting out the Coalition's strategy for fire safety over the next decade. It is now looking at how to measure the impact of the Coalition's activities.

Tool 5 – stakeholders and sources of international evidence

IRC is facilitated by a wide range of stakeholders, through arrangements with multilateral international organisations to smaller initiatives on a bilateral level. International organisations have material on standards, existing legal instruments, and research which you can draw on during your policy development.

This tool provides information on a range of international and domestic stakeholders that you may engage with, their roles and how they may be able to support you throughout your policy development cycle. It also includes sources for international evidence during all stages of policy development.

International organisations

International organisations are standing bodies, whose members are usually states, which aim to foster international cooperation. They commonly possess their own bureaucracy or Secretariat.

World Trade Organization

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is a global international organisation that deals with the rules of trade between nations. Its goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by most of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. WTO agreements set important legal disciplines to promote good regulatory practice (GRP) and IRC at the domestic level with the aim of reducing unnecessary barriers to trade. WTO Agreements do the following:

- Encourage WTO members to use relevant international standards as the basis for their policies.

- Promote equivalence and recognition of foreign conformity assessment results to reduce duplicative enforcement requirements and procedures.

The WTO has also published the [Facilitating trade through regulatory cooperation](#) document. It uses a case study to explore how WTO Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Policies (SPS) and their related Committees promote opportunities for IRC between WTO members. In includes a variety of approaches to help policymakers achieve their policy objectives and address the trade costs and benefits of regulatory divergence, including unilaterally, bilaterally, and multilaterally.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is a leading authority on regulatory policy. The OECD's Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) published a [Best Practice Principles on International Regulatory Co-operation report](#) which outlines the key principles and priority approaches on rulemaking in today's interconnected world. These principles intend to assist policymakers and officials with practical guidance to make better use of IRC. They outline essential steps in defining a whole of government strategy and governance, to embed international considerations throughout the regulatory design, development, and delivery, and to leverage bilateral, regional and multilateral co-operation on regulatory matters to support national policy objectives. The RPC has also produced best practice reports on other aspects of regulation, including enforcement, IAs and the governance of regulators.

The [OECD Network of Economic Regulators (NER)](#) promotes dialogue between over 70 regulators from across the world that operate in different sectors like communications, energy, transport, and water. NER members share their experiences, challenges, and innovative solutions, and together define what makes a "world class regulator" that is equipped to face the future.

Government departments and functions

Department for International Trade

The Department for International Trade (DIT) is the leading government department that promotes and finances international trade and investment, and champions free trade. DIT can:

- Advise on Government's current trade priorities and trade developments in international and regional fora.

- Inform government departments' policy teams when notification procedures to the WTO are applicable. In some instances, the UK is obliged to notify Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners and the WTO of draft regulation. DIT also represents the UK Government in the WTO on issues relating to product regulation.

- Advise on requirements for the UK to engage directly with some FTA partners when planning regulatory measures.

- Give feedback to policymakers on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade from intelligence received from the DIT [market access tool](#).

- Support in upskilling teams across Government on the consideration of international standards, where they exist, as the basis for regulation.

- Work with government and non-government stakeholders to build competence on technical barriers to trade (TBT) and provide information on registering with the [ePing notification system](#) and filtering notifications.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) works to pursue our national interests and project the UK as a force for good in the world. It promotes the interests of British citizens, safeguard the UK's security, defend our values, reduce poverty and tackle global challenges with our international partners. The FCDO can:

- Offer advice on country specific areas of collaboration and act as a broker between UK and foreign officials and international organisations to discuss IRC.

- Advise on how broader foreign policy and political contexts can impact on regulatory cooperation initiatives.

- Provide intelligence relevant to the policy area to ensure the UK is maximising influence through international regulatory and standards setting.

- Give guidance on drafting international treaties and advice on UK engagement protocols at international organisations via Permanent Delegations.

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) seeks to building a stronger, greener future by fighting coronavirus, tackling climate change, unleashing innovation, and making the UK a great place to work and do business. It houses regulatory teams which aim to improve the quality of regulatory practices across government.

The Better Regulation Executive

The Better Regulation Executive (BRE) is a directorate in BEIS. It leads the regulatory reform agenda across government and is responsible for embedding better regulation in policymaking. It works with government departments to monitor the measurement of regulatory burdens and coordinate their reduction, and to ensure that the regulation which remains is smarter, better targeted and less costly to business. The BRE can:

- Provide advice on where and how IRC fits in the policymaking cycle and share examples of case studies and IRC initiatives from across HMG.

- Advise on the priority areas of IRC and governance structure across HMG.

- Offer examples of how groups, such as regulators and business, already engage in IRC.

Regulatory Policy Committee

The Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) is the independent better regulation watchdog. It brings an external perspective on how regulatory proposals can impact businesses and civil society organisations. The independent committee does this by appraising critically the evidence and analysis presented in IAs and PIRs, which support regulatory policy decisions. Through the RPC's published work, it can:

- Provide best practice examples of international considerations presented in IAs.

- Advise on the methodology the committee use to assess international considerations.

- Share knowledge and understanding of good regulatory practices and establish common language on key regulatory policy terms and concepts.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) helps to drive growth, enrich lives and promote Britain abroad. DCMS has a key role in delivering on commitments and objectives related to IRC as set out in the relevant national strategies (e.g. the Integrated Review, the National Cyber Strategy, the National AI Strategy, the Plan for Digital Regulation and the forthcoming Digital Strategy). DCMS can:

- Influence other countries and enable global alignment on cyber security.

- Identify opportunities and offer advice on specific areas of digital and technology policy for collaboration with international stakeholders - and promote IRC within bilateral and multilateral fora.

- Advise on how the current and future digital landscape might impact on international regulatory cooperation initiatives.

- Identify areas where it could be advantageous for the UK to diverge from other countries in its regulatory approach to digital technologies.

- Consider how digital technical standards can support domestic rulemaking as a complement or alternative to regulation, how they can facilitate global interoperability and coordinate routes for direct engagement in standards work.

Departments' international directorates/teams

Government departments with an international focus will have international directorates or teams. They will be able to advise on your department's international policy priorities and provide international or other government department contacts to facilitate your IRC efforts. International teams can:

- Provide advice on your department's international policy priorities and linking up with policy teams for possible joint approaches and collaboration.

- Offer support on how to strategically engage with international organisations and other government departments with an international focus.

- Give a view of how your policy relates to ongoing work in the international space. For example, whether your policy area has recently been discussed at an international forum which might provide any statistical analysis at an international level.

Better Regulation Units

Most government departments have a Better Regulation Unit (BRU) which oversees the department's process for better regulation and advises on how to comply with the requirements set out in the [Better Regulation Framework](#). If your policy directly regulates business activity it is likely to be in scope of 'Better Regulation'. BRUs can usually:

- Share guidance on considering international impacts in the policymaking cycle.

- Direct policy teams to advice on reducing the burden of regulation on businesses by making regulation more effective and support deregulation where appropriate.

- Advise on principles and processes associated with the Better Regulation Framework.

- Facilitate engagement with BRE on emerging policy issues.

- Manage their department's relationship with the RPC.

- Coordinate and deliver progress against the [Business Impact Target (BIT)](#), including provision of quality, robust management information.

- Provide advice and support to regulators on regulatory issues such as the Regulators' Code.

See [Annex C](#) for a list of government department BRUs and contacts who can provide support on matters related to regulation.

UK national standards and accreditation bodies

British Standards Institution

The British Standards Institution (BSI) is the UK's National Standards Body. BSI operates in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the UK Government and is responsible for independently developing national standards and for representing the UK in key international standardisation bodies. It works to develop standards by sharing knowledge, innovation and best practice across industries, businesses, governments and consumers. BSI facilitates the involvement and influence of UK stakeholders in the development of standards in Europe via the European Standards Organizations (CEN and CENELEC) and internationally via ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission).

Alongside the UK's national accreditation body – United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) – BSI has developed the ['Standards and accreditation – tools for delivering better regulation'](#) handbook for government ministers. It explains how standards and accreditation can help government to deliver policy through self-regulation, earned recognition and co-regulation and in line with better regulation principles.

The BSI provides free [guidance documents](#) published by the international and European standards bodies to help standards developers take account of particular topics in their work.

United Kingdom Accreditation Service

The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is appointed as the sole National Accreditation Body for the United Kingdom to assess conformity assessment organisations in the mandatory and voluntary sectors that provide certification, testing, inspection, and calibration services (e.g. Approved Bodies in Great Britain and UK Notified Bodies for the

Northern Ireland market). Accreditation is a means of assessing the technical competence and integrity of conformity assessment bodies. The ultimate purpose of UKAS's accreditation activity is to provide confidence in the results of conformity assessment bodies and assurance to consumers, purchasers, regulators and government in goods and services.

UKAS's involvement in international groups serves to harmonise accreditation and conformity assessment activities around the globe and recognise technical equivalence of accredited conformity assessment through mutual recognition agreements. This reduces the need for multiple assessments of suppliers, and therefore helps to reduce barriers to trade for organisations who have UKAS accreditation.

Sources of international evidence

When carrying out the policy appraisals, it is important to gather data on the international regulatory environment upon which your policy may have an impact. IRC is not a prerequisite to using international evidence, which itself is good regulatory practice. However, engaging with international stakeholders who collected primary or secondary evidence may lead to greater insight and understanding of its contextual background and data collection methods. Policymakers should consider how the policy will impact on businesses and their activity in foreign countries in which they operate. Findings from this process should be set out in the IA. For example, you may need information on:

- Data on trade activity, such as the value of imports or exports by sector.

- Costs and benefits of aligning or diverging with existing international instruments.

- Costs and benefits of similar policies implemented in comparable economies and regulatory environments.

- Burden reduction costs to business as a result of creating smoother supply chains.

- Statistics in research undertaken by international fora.

- International best practice and consideration of jurisdictions implementing similar policies.

- Broader evidence bases in sectors where the policy may have an impact internationally, such as the biodiversity, migration, climate change and financial stability.

This section provides a number of sources that policymakers can access to obtain qualitative and quantitative international data on regulatory policies from a range of sectors. You may also wish to consider obtaining data from the suggested sources below and in tables 1 and 2:

- International organisation databases, research papers, reports and case studies.

- Government sources, including IAs, quantitative sectoral data and sectoral reports.

- Research by international industry bodies.

- Consultations with and feedback from businesses which operate internationally.

- Research conducted by think tanks, academia and other research institutions on sector-specific issues.

Databases

Table 1: international databases.

Name of organisation	Description and source
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	The ILO provides statistics for the development and evaluation of policies and for assessing progress towards decent work. https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/lang--en/index.htm
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	The IMF publishes a range of time series data on IMF lending, exchange rates and other economic and financial indicators. https://www.imf.org/en/Data
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	The OECD has a number of regulatory databases and indicators, including the Product Market Regulation (PMR) indicators database which is a comprehensive and internationally comparable set of indicators that measure the degree to which policies promote or inhibit competition in areas of the product market where competition is viable. https://www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-databases-and-indicators.htm
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	The UNECE Statistical Division maintains an online statistical database based on data collected directly from Member States and, in part, from the databases of other international organisations (such as Eurostat, the OECD, the International Labour Office). https://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en
World Bank	The World Bank provides free and open access to global a wide range of development data. https://data.worldbank.org/
World Trade Organization (WTO)	The WTO data portal gives access to a selection of key databases offering statistics and information on different trade-related policies under its purview. https://data.wto.org/en The Technical Barriers to Trade Information Management System is a comprehensive database that allows users to search all TBT notifications and Specific Trade Concerns raised in the TBT Committee. http://tbtims.wto.org/

Reports, papers and other data sources

Table 2: international reports and papers on IRC.

Name of organisation	Description and source
European co-operation for Accreditation (EA)	The EA website provides access to publications published by the EA. https://european-accreditation.org/information-center/ea-publications/
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	The OECD Best Practice Principles on International Regulatory Co-operation provide advice for policymakers and civil servants in a variety of legal and administrative environments on how to promote quality and resilience of regulatory frameworks. https://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/international-regulatory-co-operation-5b28b589-en.htm The OECD Recommendation of the Council of Regulatory Policy and Governance sets our measures that governments should adopt to support the implementation of systematic regulatory reform to deliver regulations that meet public policy objectives. https://www.oecd.org/governance/regulatory-policy/2012-recommendation.htm
Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC)	The RPC website on gov.uk provides published opinions, guidance and case histories and other useful links for regulation-setting. https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/regulatory-policy-committee
United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)	UKAS provides access to its publications and case studies. https://www.ukas.com/resources/
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	The joint UNECE-OECD publication "International Regulatory Cooperation: the Case of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe" presents the rulemaking and standards-setting activities of UNECE. https://unece.org/info/Trade/WP.6/pub/2463
World Bank	The World Bank's Global Indicators Group produces a range of datasets and benchmarking products on regulations and business activity around the world. Global Indicators of Regulatory Governance https://rulemaking.worldbank.org/en/rulemaking Global Database for Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) https://rulemaking.worldbank.org/en/ria-documents
World Economic Forum (WEF)	The World Economic Forum (WEF) publishes reports on a broad range of global issues, such as the environment, education, individual industries and technologies. https://www.weforum.org/reports
World Trade Organization (WTO)	Joint WTO-OECD case study on how WTO members' notification of draft policies, harmonisation of policies with international standards, discussion of specific trade concerns and other practices help to facilitate global trade in goods. https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/tbtsps19_e.htm WTO's Trade Policy Review Mechanism provides surveillance of Members' trade policies and may provide useful information on a country's regulatory landscape. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tpr_e.htm

Annex A: glossary and acronyms

Glossary

Business impact target

Relates to the economic impact on Business of Qualifying Regulatory Provisions that come into force or cease to be in force during parliament (this covers amendments to regulations).

Conformity assessment body

An organisation that undertakes checks, such as testing, inspection and certification, to provide assurance that what being supplied meet the expectations specified or claimed.

Good regulatory practice

An internationally recognised process, system, tool, or method for improving the quality of regulation. GRPs systematically implement public consultation and stakeholder engagement, as well as impact analysis of government proposals before they are implemented to make sure they are fit-for-purpose and will deliver what they are set to achieve. [16]

International regulatory cooperation

An agreement or organisational arrangement, formal or informal, between countries to promote some form of co-operation in the design, monitoring, enforcement, or ex-post management of regulation. [17]

International evidence

Evidence received from sources, such as other jurisdictions, international organisations, or think tanks, that contain international data.

International implication

An effect that a policy may have on trade and investment, supply chains, multi-national business, innovation, data sharing or other cross-border activity on citizens in more than one country.

International instrument

A regulation, standard, agreement, or other form of binding or non-binding regulatory mechanism in place that applies to two or more jurisdictions.

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[16] OECD definition.
[17] OECD definition.

International organisation

A standing body whose members are usually states which aim to foster international cooperation. They commonly possess their own bureaucracy or Secretariat.

International rulemaking

The process of countries setting rules that apply internationally, often through international organisations by their member states.

Non-tariff barrier

A barrier to trade that is not a tariff, such as rules on labelling and safety standards.

Sandbox

A way of testing new technologies in bounded, real-world environments.

Standard

A technical document that is used as a rule, guideline, or definition. It is a consensus-built, repeatable way of doing something, developed by bringing together all interested parties such as manufacturers, consumers, and regulators of a particular material, product, process, or service.

Acronyms

Better Regulation Unit (BRU)

British Standards Institution (BSI)

Business Impact Target (BIT)

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

Department for International Trade (DIT)

European co-operation for Accreditation (EA)

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

Good regulatory practice (GRP)

Impact assessment (IA)

International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International regulatory cooperation (IRC)

International Standards Organization (ISO)

Network of Economic Regulators (NER)

Non-tariff barrier (NTB)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), also OCDE (French)

Post-implementation review (PIR)

Product Market Regulation (PMR)

Rationale, Objective, Appraisal, Monitoring, Evaluation, Feedback (ROAMEF)

Regulatory Policy Committee, UK (RPC)

Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 (SBEE Act)

Technical barrier to trade (TBT)

United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

World Economic Forum (WEF)

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Annex B: Better Regulation Unit contact details

Government department/agency	Email address
Cabinet Office	ai-economics@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	beis.bru@beis.gov.uk
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	better-regulation@dcms.gov.uk
Department for Education	BRU.ENQUIRIES@education.gov.uk
Department for Food, Environment & Rural Affairs	Better.Regulation@defra.gov.uk
Department for International Trade	dit.bru@trade.gov.uk
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	MHCLGBetterRegulation@levellingup.gov.uk
Department for Transport	ImpactAssessments@dft.gov.uk
Department for Work & Pensions	Prabhavati.Mistry@dwp.gov.uk CaxtonHouse.Legislation@dwp.gov.uk
Department of Health and Social Care	Laura.Green@dhsc.gov.uk
HM Revenue & Customs	mailbox.bceit@hmrc.gov.uk
HM Treasury [18]	Steven.Foster@hmtreasury.gov.uk Chris.Curran@hmtreasury.gov.uk
Home Office	BetterRegulation@homeoffice.gov.uk
Ministry of Defence	Analysis-Econ-Gen-GroupMailbox@mod.gov.uk
Ministry of Justice	BRU@justice.gov.uk

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[18] Search for 'Better Regulation' or 'RedBox' on the HMT Intranet for up-to-date contact details.

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