



CORPORATE REPORT

1 APRIL 2021 - 31 MARCH 2022

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FOREWORD



This has been my first year as Chair of the Regulatory Policy Committee, the independent better regulation watchdog, having been formally appointed in May 2021 after 18 months as Interim Chair. This report summarises our work over the past 12 months.

This year saw an increase in activity across government to deliver policies designed to help the UK recover from Covid and take advantage of the freedoms offered by having left the EU. In the course of the year we received nearly 50% more cases than we had the previous year. I was very pleased with how both the committee and the secretariat rose to the challenge of the extra workload with reduced resources, however this did mean that some opinions were issued later than we would have liked.

The pace of activity meant that there was a significant increase in the number of cases that came to the RPC for scrutiny late in the process of preparing regulatory proposals – often while the relevant legislation was already in parliament. This, of course, means that our opinions (and in many cases presumably the IAs) were not available either to support ministers as they made decisions on proposals, or to support parliamentarians to assist them in their scrutiny role.

The Government issued a [consultation](#) on the Better Regulation Framework over the summer of 2021 and provided some early high-level views on the way forward at the end of January this year in the [Benefits of Brexit](#) paper. However, we have not yet seen definitive proposals for a reformed system. Our detailed response to the consultation is on [our website](#), and [our blog](#) contains posts on some of the key issues. This is a critical area for us. It is important that the new framework properly incorporates independent expert scrutiny throughout the policy development and evaluation process. We remain keen to help the Government in shaping and improving the framework.

This year saw four members leave the RPC and five new members join. I would like to thank Laura Cox, Sheila Drew-Smith, Jeremy Mayhew and Brian Morgan for the work that they did for the RPC during their time as members, and I wish them well for the future. I am pleased to welcome Daniel Dalton, Stephen Gifford, Hilary Jennings, John Longworth and Derek Ridyard to the committee, and look forward to working with them.

I would also like to thank the RPC secretariat for all they have done over the year. I am particularly pleased that we are all now spending more time in the office, although the skills we have developed for remote working have definitely helped the operation of what has always been a partly virtual organisation.

Stephen Gibson, RPC Chair

Executive Summary

During 2021-22, the RPC continued to deliver robust, independent scrutiny of the impact of government regulatory proposals in a timely and proportionate manner. The analysis of casework and departmental feedback shows that:

- **in the period covered by the report, the RPC received 122 submissions from over 23 different departments, agencies and public bodies.** This is a significant increase from 2020-21 and reverses the fall in submissions seen over the previous few years, reflecting an upturn in government regulatory activity as the UK recovered from the Covid pandemic;
- **the RPC issued 86% of opinions within the standard timescales, just missing its target of 90%** (down from 92% in 2020-21); and
- **the RPC received a higher proportion of submissions that were not fit for purpose, as first submitted, in 2021-22 (22%) than in 2020-21 (17%).**

Other points of note:

- The introduction of the RPC's revised opinion format in November 2020 means that **we are now able to report on the quality of various aspects of IAs that are not reflected in our overall fitness-for-purpose ratings.** We include a summary of these in the report.
- **We were pleased to opine this year on Australia and New Zealand Free Trade Agreements IAs for the Department of International Trade.** We discussed our opinions on these FTA IAs with the House of Commons International Trade Select Committee.
- In October 2021, **we responded to the government consultation on reforming the Better Regulation Framework.** We argued for: requiring independent scrutiny of IAs earlier in the policy development process; ensuring that monitoring and evaluation plans are in place before regulation is introduced; and that post-implementation reviews are carried out more comprehensively than has been the case in recent years.
- **We developed our [blog](#)** during the year, to keep stakeholders informed of our views on different issues. We published 19 articles in the course of the year, including a number offering our opinions on issues relevant to the review of the Better Regulation Framework.
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ABOUT THE REPORT

1. This report summarises the RPC's activities and performance for the year from April 2021 to March 2022.
2. The report includes an analysis of the submissions to the RPC and of feedback from departments. Our achievements are reported against the objectives set out in our 2021-2022 Business Plan¹, reproduced in the box below.
3. The report also includes a summary of our other activities and an overview of budgets, staffing, and Freedom of Information Act 2000 responses.
4. Details of our vision and strategic objectives for the future are set out in the *RPC Interim Business Plan 2022-23*². We have published an interim plan pending the preparation of a more comprehensive review of our strategy and plans on the conclusion of the Government's review of the Better Regulation Framework.

The RPC's objectives for the period covered by this report were:

1. To deliver independent opinions on impact assessments and post-implementation reviews, which are timely, clear and consistent;
2. To verify the impacts of regulatory proposals and confirm whether they are qualifying or non-qualifying for the Business Impact Target (BIT);
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 business, civil and voluntary organisations, parliamentarians 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
6. To enhance UK regulatory scrutiny through engagement with international counterparts, and to encourage evidence-based regulation in our trading partners.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-policy-committee-business-plan-2021-2022>

² Published alongside this report at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-policy-committee-interim-business-plan-2022-2023>

About the Regulatory Policy Committee

- **The RPC is the independent better regulation watchdog.** The RPC is an advisory non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
- The RPC provides independent scrutiny of the quality of analysis and evidence presented in government impact assessments (IAs) and post-implementation reviews (PIRs) where the impact on business, as measured by the 'equivalent annual net direct cost to business' (EANDCB), is greater than \pm £5 million. The RPC also offers formal or informal scrutiny for IAs that are submitted on a voluntary basis at the consultation stage, or where assessment of the impacts falls below the £5 million *de minimis* threshold.
- The RPC was appointed, under the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015, as the independent verification body (IVB) for the 2017-2019 parliament's business impact target (BIT) and was re-appointed, in December 2020, as the IVB for the 2019-24 parliament. As the IVB, the RPC has a statutory role to confirm whether a regulatory provision is a qualifying regulatory provision (QRP) for the BIT and to verify the EANDCB figure for most regulatory proposals above the *de minimis* threshold.
- The RPC assesses and rates departmental IAs. A 'green-rated' opinion indicates that the analysis used to calculate the EANDCB and assess the quality of the small and micro business assessment (SaMBA) is robust and fit-for-purpose. A 'red-rated' opinion shows that the EANDCB and/or the SaMBA is/are not sufficiently robust and that the IA is therefore, not fit-for-purpose. The RPC also comments on the quality of the: rationale and options, cost-benefit analysis, wider impacts, and monitoring and evaluation plans in IAs and assesses whether they are 'good, satisfactory, weak or very weak' – but this does not affect the red/green rating of the opinion.
- In cases where an IA is found not to be fit-for-purpose as first submitted, the RPC usually issues an 'initial review notice' (IRN) explaining what needs to be addressed. The department is expected to respond to the IRN within 15 working days. Following submission of a revised IA, the RPC's opinion is issued as green or red-rated, depending on whether the revised IA is assessed as fit-for-purpose or not fit-for-purpose.
- The RPC aims to scrutinise final stage IAs within 30 working days. We work to a reduced target time scale of 20 working days for informal review of consultation stage IAs (and, previously, for measures that supported the UK's exit from the European Union). In cases where an IRN has been issued, the time scales may be extended. Within these targets, the RPC always aims to work flexibly with departments so as not to delay the policy process.

PERFORMANCE

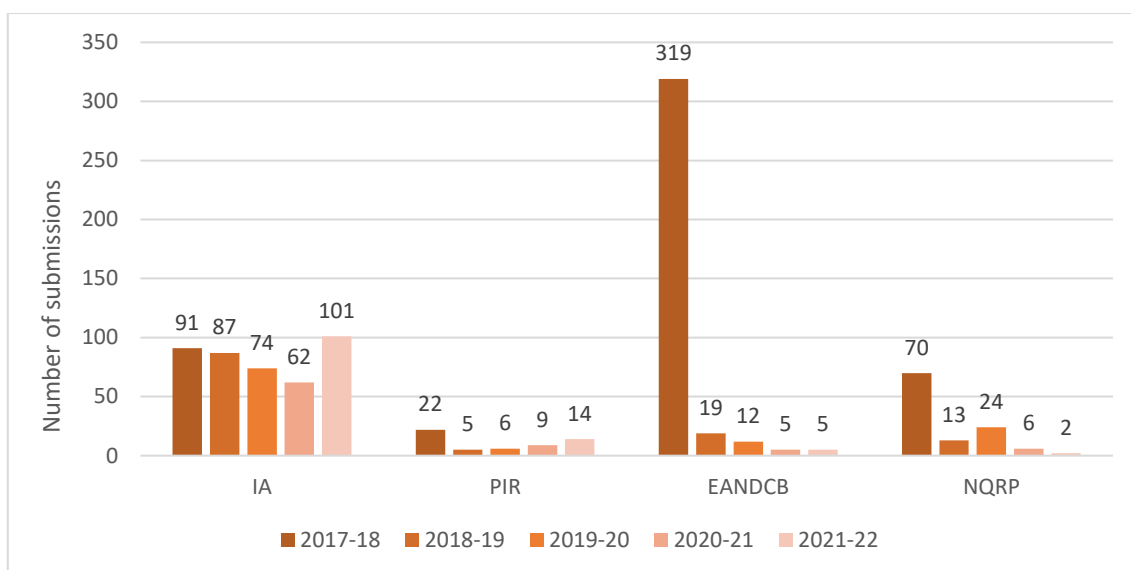
Casework summary

Numbers of submissions

6. In 2021-22, the RPC received significantly more submissions from departments and regulators (122) than in 2020-21 (82), reversing the downward trend seen in recent years.
7. This reflects an increase in most types of submissions and suggests an increase in the volume of primary and secondary legislation produced by the Government during the period covered by this report.
8. Figure 1 and Table 1 show the trends in recent years in the different types of submission that the RPC receives. The fall in submissions after 2017-18 can primarily be attributed to a reduction in the number of EANDCB validations from regulators: decreasing from 319 in 2017-18 to 19 in the following year. This reduction was a result of the introduction of the *de minimis* threshold and followed a significant rise in EANDCB validations³ in the second quarter of 2017 (when regulators came under the scope of the business impact target for the first time).
9. Activity in 2020-21 was curtailed, as much of government focused on developing emergency regulation in response to Covid 19 (much of which was exempt from the framework), rather than on creating more-usual regulation. There was a rebound in the number of submissions to the RPC in 2021-22 as government renewed its focus on introducing and amending legislation.
10. Table 1 below shows that the significant increase in submissions means that there was a reduction in the percentage of opinions issued within the agreed target time frame over the period from 92% last year to 86% this year, meaning we just missed the target of 90% of opinions issued on time.

³ These are where regulators submit BIT scores for validation to the RPC.

Figure 1 – Number of submissions by type 2017-18 to 2021-22



IA – Impact assessment
 PIR – Post-implementation review
 EANDCB – Regulator EANDCB validation
 NQRP – Non-qualifying regulatory provision verification

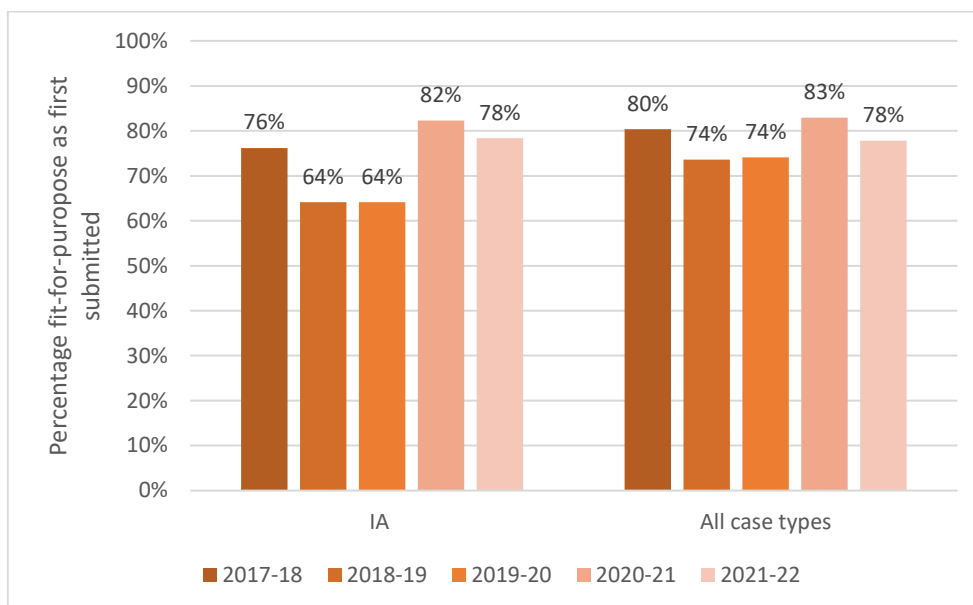
Table 1 – Submissions for financial years

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total number of cases submitted	502	125	116	82	122
Average number of days taken for RPC scrutiny	27.6	19.5	22.9	21.8	22.7
Percentage of opinions issued on time (all cases)	72% ⁴	80%	89%	92%	86%

11. Figure 2 shows that the percentage of final stage IAs that were considered fit-for-purpose as first submitted, fell from 82% in 2020-21 to 78% in 2021-22. The total figures also include the other case types included in Figure 1 above. Not shown separately in Figure 2, the proportion of EANDCB validations that were considered fit for purpose, as first submitted, in 2021-22 also fell – from 80% to 60% – although, given the small number of EANDCB validations now submitted to the RPC, this reflects only two sub-standard cases in this category.

⁴ The 2017-18 RPC corporate report stated that 77.5% of opinions were issued on time in 2017-18. In this and other recent reports, we have expanded the analysis to include cases with a timeline of 20 working days, in addition to 30 working days previously included.

Figure 2 – Percentage of cases fit-for-purpose, at first submission, for IAs and all cases⁵

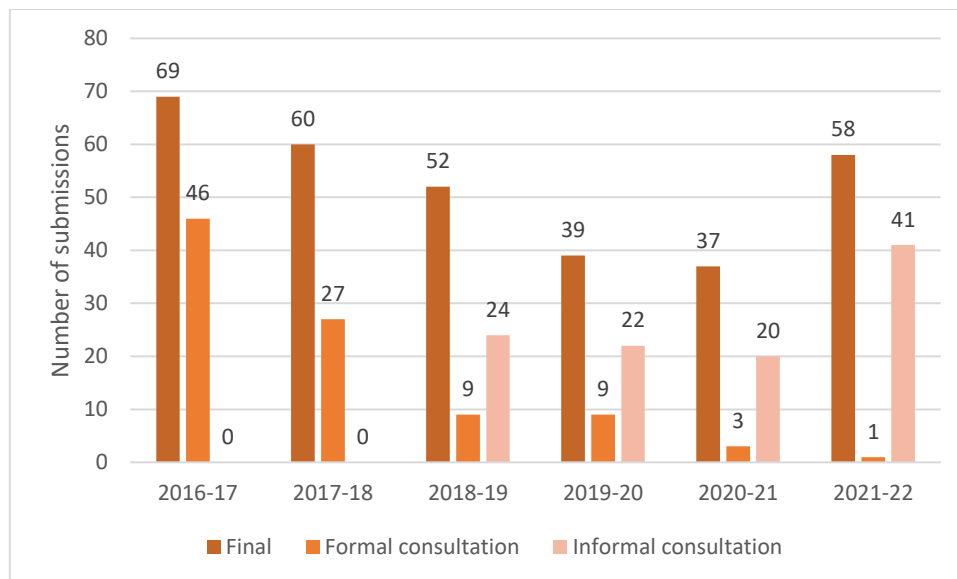


12. In 2018, the Better Regulation Framework was changed and the previous requirement for departments to submit IAs for RPC scrutiny at the consultation stage was removed. In response to this change, the RPC introduced an offer of voluntary scrutiny, either formal or informal, at the consultation stage. Informal advice is issued directly to the department without being published and no rating is provided.

13. Figure 3 shows that the number of formal submissions to the RPC at the consultation stage has continued to reduce substantially since 2018-19, the first year after the *de minimis* threshold was introduced, with only one such case being seen by the RPC in 2021-22. Informal scrutiny now appears to have broadly replaced formal scrutiny at the consultation stage.

⁵ All case types include, in addition to final stage and consultation IAs receiving formal opinions, PIRs, NQRP validations and EANDCB verifications from regulators. Consultation stage IAs (receiving informal opinions) are not considered in the percentages covered by Figure 2.

Figure 3 – Number of IA submissions by type



14. Through its role as IVB, the RPC helps to ensure that BIT accounting of the impact of regulatory measures on business is accurate. The RPC improves the accuracy of the BIT account as part of a statutory obligation to validate EANDCB figures for qualifying regulatory provisions. Further details of the BIT and our verification role can be found in our most recent IVB report.⁶

Quality of submissions

15. In late 2020, the RPC introduced a new format for its opinions which, in addition to providing either a ‘fit-for-purpose’ or ‘not fit-for-purpose’ rating, introduced individual ‘quality indicators’ for key aspects of IAs.⁷

16. The RPC now provides quality ratings on a four-point scale – ‘good’, ‘satisfactory’, ‘weak’ or ‘very weak’ – against additional categories depending on the type of submission:

- **Final stage IAs**, alongside red/green ratings on the ‘EANDCB’ and SaMBA’ we now offer quality indicators for:
 - i. rationale and options;
 - ii. cost-benefit analysis;
 - iii. wider impacts; and
 - iv. monitoring and evaluation.
- **Consultation stage IAs**, in addition to red/green ratings on ‘rationale and options’, ‘identification of impacts’ and ‘SaMBA’, we offer quality indicators on:
 - i. cost-benefit analysis;

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rpc-independent-verification-body-report-december-2020-to-december-2021>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rpc-launches-new-opinion-templates>

- ii. wider impacts; and
 - iii. monitoring and evaluation.
- **Post-implementation reviews**, we red/green rate on the ‘recommendation’ and offer quality indicators on:
 - i. monitoring and implementation; and
 - ii. evaluation.

17. We have produced opinions in this new format across the full year covered by this report. Figures 4a to 4c below show the quality ratings given by the RPC for consultation and final stage IAs during the period covered by this report.

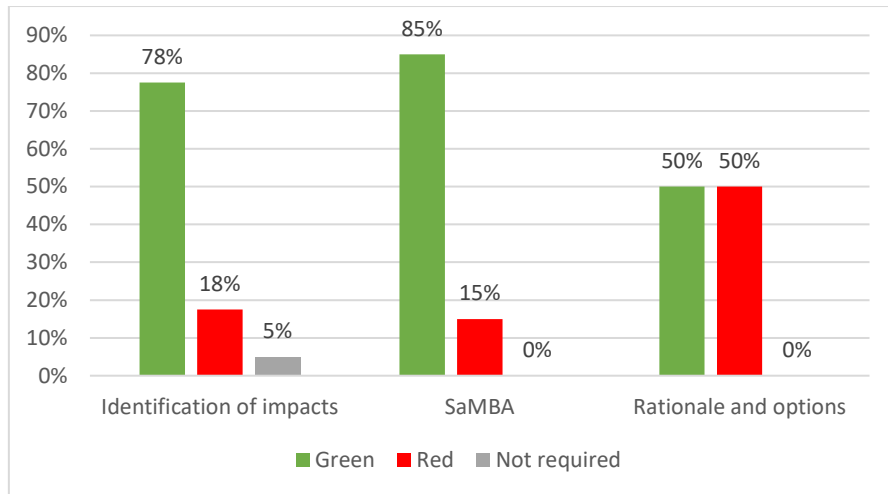
Consultation stage IAs

18. For the 40 consultation stage IAs we have reviewed over the period covered by this report, one half (50%) received a red (not fit-for-purpose) rating for ‘rationale and options’ (Figure 4a). Within this, the most common weakness was insufficient identification and analysis of credible non-regulatory options. The Government’s review of the Better Regulation Framework (BRF) is considering ways to focus policy making on non-regulatory options, and our experience over the last year highlights the importance of independent scrutiny in understanding whether non-regulatory options may be a better way to tackle a particular problem than a regulatory approach.

19. 13% and 15% of consultation stage opinions were rated as not fit-for-purpose on the identification of impacts⁸ and SaMBA respectively. This suggests that departments need to develop their analysis of policy proposals in more detail before they reach the stage where they are consulting stakeholders.

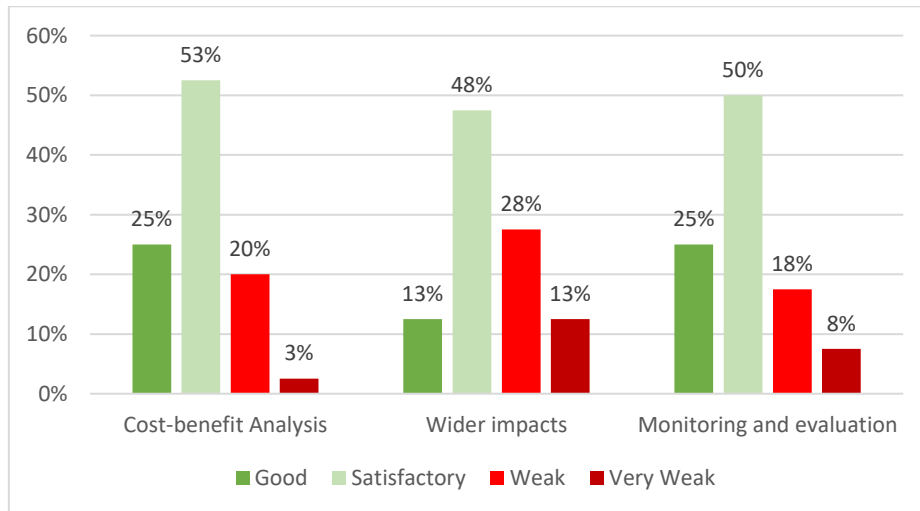
⁸ At the consultation stage, the RPC provide scrutiny on the identification and consideration of the full range of likely impacts of proposals. The intention of this is to prepare departments and regulators better for estimation the EANDCB at the final stage.

Figure 4a - Ratings⁹ by category for consultation stage IAs



20. Across the other quality ratings, over half (58%) of consultation stage IAs received at least one 'weak' or 'very weak' rating. The consideration of 'wider impacts' is an area for particular improvement, with only 13% of IAs being rated 'good' (Figure 4b). This supports the case that we make in our submission to the Better Regulation Framework review¹⁰ that we should be able to red/green rate on consideration of these wider impacts.

Figure 4b - Quality ratings by category for consultation stage IAs



⁹ For some submissions (for example measures that are out of scope of the Better Regulation Framework), the production of a rating may not be required for some categories. In these instances, the RPC does not provide a rating for this, but does comment on the quality of the category to aid the department or regulator to improve the quality of the IA.

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rpc-response-to-the-government-consultation-on-reforming-the-framework-for-better-regulation>

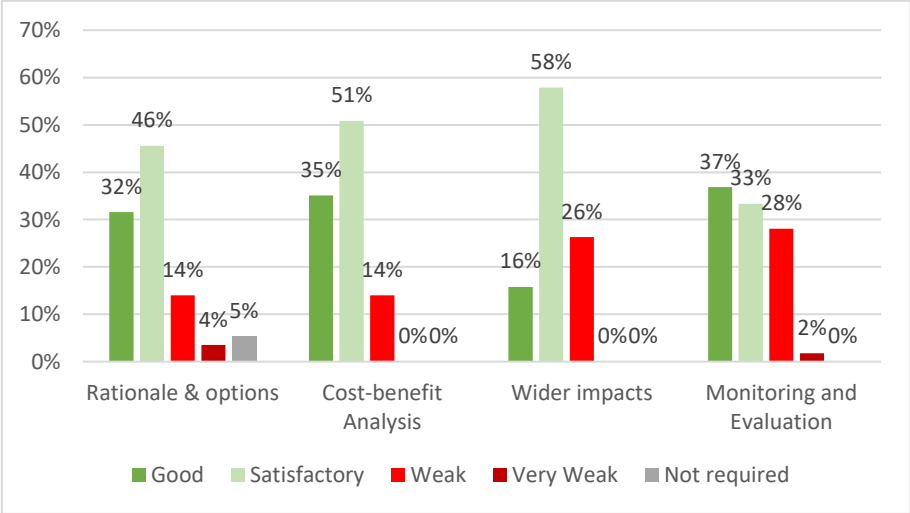
Final stage

- 21. At the final stage, rather than issue a not fit for purpose (red) rating directly, we typically issue an initial review notice (IRN), which identifies issues that would otherwise lead to a red rating, and offers the department the opportunity to amend their IA. Of the 57 final stage IAs we scrutinised this year, 10 (17.5%) received an IRN, of which all but two received a green rating when revised and re-submitted.

- 22. Similar to the consultation stage, we often identify weaknesses in the quality of the analysis at the final stage, with 51% of IAs receiving at least one ‘weak’ or ‘very weak’ rating against the four categories on which we offer ratings at this stage. Wider impacts is again an area that particularly needs to be improved, with only 16% being rated ‘good’ (Figure 4c).

- 23. Significantly, there is considerable scope to improve the quality of the monitoring and evaluation plans. Although a significant proportion (37%) are rated ‘good’, around 30% are rated as ‘weak’ or ‘very weak’. Given the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of regulation, we believe that it is essential that impact assessments contain good monitoring and evaluation plans. This will ensure that early arrangements are in place to deliver robust post-implementation reviews that inform future decisions to retain or amend regulation. Again, this is an issue that is being considered as part of the Government’s current review of the BRF.

Figure 4c - Quality ratings by category at final stage



Departmental feedback

24. The RPC requests feedback from departments upon its opinions (through an on-line form). This is sought from those leading on the development of the relevant submission or who have been leading on the policy and engagement with the RPC. We introduced this new process in mid-2020, so the information listed below reflects the feedback from the past two years only.

25. The RPC received 45 responses from departments between April 2021 and March 2022 (compared with 25 responses for the second part of the previous year). As shown in Figures 5 a-c, feedback from departments has been generally positive across the year.

Key messages are:

- 78% of respondents felt the RPC's opinion was either 'very clear' or 'clear'
- 82% felt that the RPC's scrutiny had been either 'very useful' or 'useful'.
- 80% found it either 'very easy' or 'easy' to communicate with the RPC.

26. The feedback on clarity shows a reduction from the previous year (when it was 88%). Across these three questions, 7% of cases (a different three of 45 in each case) were rated in the bottom two categories.

Figure 5a – Departmental feedback, Question 1

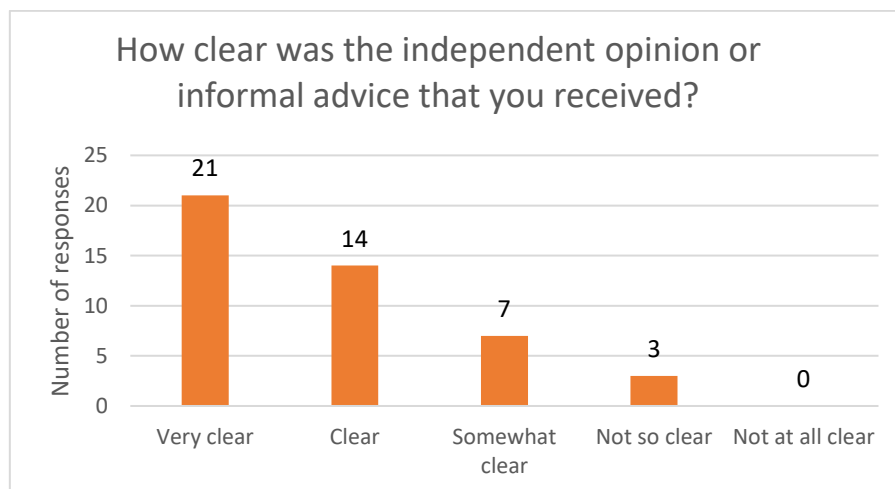


Figure 5b – Departmental feedback, Question 2

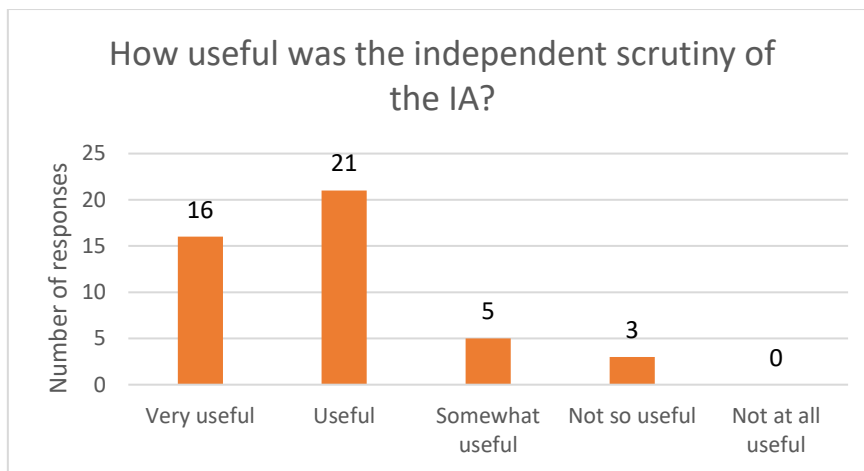
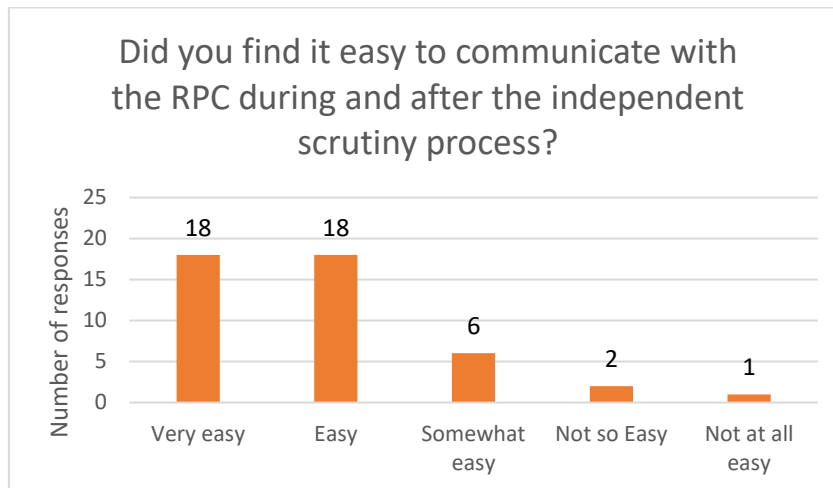


Figure 5c – Departmental feedback, Question 3



27. The RPC also provides departments with an opportunity to provide qualitative feedback through open questions. The majority of feedback was positive, and departments provided the following useful constructive feedback:

- The need for us to communicate the, sometimes technical, points as clearly as possible.
- The importance of being clear with departmental teams on both timescales and who their points of contact are.
- The value of face-to-face interaction, suggesting that more short meetings with departments, where appropriate to clarify points, might save time and effort elsewhere in the process.

Other RPC activities

28. Alongside its core role of scrutinising government impact assessments (IAs) and post-implementation reviews (PIRs), the RPC aims to improve the quality of government regulatory analysis by continuing to develop itself as a 'centre of excellence' on IAs and PIRs, and by sharing good practice across government through in-person and online training, and with RPC case histories and guidance documents. The increase in caseload and reduction in resources over the year limited our capacity to deliver this activity this year but this section summarises some of the key activities in this area over the past year.

High-quality, objective opinions and statements

29. As set out above (para 18), this year was the first full year of using the revised opinion format we launched at the end of 2020. The new format was designed to make our opinions more consistent and accessible and to help them get their points across. To date¹¹, we have issued around 192 formal and informal opinions in the new template, on IAs, PIRs and cost-to-business calculations produced by government on a huge range of policy areas.

30. One of the benefits of the new format is that it allows us to analyse the quality of IAs across government against the different categories that we assess. We have published blogs using initial data and have included some of this material in this report for the first time.

Enhancing better regulation

31. With the UK having left the EU, the Government have been developing and implementing a new independent trade policy. In support of this, in August 2020, we agreed to supplement our existing role by providing independent scrutiny of the IAs prepared following new free trade agreements (FTAs), negotiated by the Department for International Trade (DIT).

32. As with regulatory proposals, we produce opinions that provide a fitness-for-purpose rating on the analysis and consideration of impacts in the final IA. In these new opinions on trade agreement IAs, we comment on the strength of evidence and analysis of the impacts of the negotiated agreement. We have developed with DIT a comprehensive checklist for our scrutiny, as well as an opinion template and guidance to align with our regulatory opinions. We delivered our first opinion on an FTA IA in September 2020, on the final IA for the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

¹¹ From November 2020 to July 2022.

33. This year we produced opinions on two more final IAs for the FTAs with Australia and New Zealand, both of which are published on our website. These opinions highlighted the areas for improvement such as contextualising the results with descriptive trade statistics and trend data, and deeper analysis of the short-term versus longer-term impacts in those sectors and regions most affected by the agreements.
34. As with the earlier UK-Japan CEPA FTA, the RPC Chair was invited to discuss our opinion with the International Trade Select Committee.
35. We look forward to working with DIT on further IAs for forthcoming FTAs.

Methodological and guidance documents

36. With the completion at the end of 2020-21 of a programme of new and updated guidance documents, the RPC decided to ease back on activity in this area pending the outcome of the better regulation framework review, including the nature of the role for independent scrutiny.
37. Nevertheless, over the year we held three meetings of the methodology committee sub-group, where issues discussed included the innovation test, reviews of the business impact target metric and scrutiny of Free Trade Agreement assessments.

Training

38. Over the years, the RPC and its secretariat have developed a set of face-to-face training sessions that we deliver to government officials at all levels, often tailored to the specific analytical requirements of their specific policy areas. Over the reporting period covered by this report, we delivered 12 policy training sessions across Whitehall and several tailored analysts training sessions. These continued to be conducted virtually but, according to feedback received, every bit as effectively, enabling non-economists especially to understand the economic requirements of constructing impact assessments.
39. Due to resourcing demands, the RPC has had to deprioritise the IA training for economists across government departments. However, the RPC continues to work closely with the Better Regulation Executive and the Government Economic Service team in HM Treasury to develop our training offer for economists.

International

40. As the world opened up again after the Covid pandemic, the RPC continued to engage with its international counterparts and others with an interest in scrutiny of regulation, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and

RegWatchEurope (RWE), to promote international co-operation and cohesion across the regulatory landscape.

41. As part of RWE, we have been exchanging best practice on how governments have been handling Covid regulation, and how to engage with different stakeholders. With Czechia (the Czech Republic) in the chair for this period there has been a special emphasis on ways to ensure the permanence and acceptability of better regulation procedures over time.
42. With the OECD we have considered how regulation can work with infrastructure, as well as the core topic of international regulatory co-operation.
43. Over the past year, we also engaged in bilateral meetings with various international governments and agencies, including the Forum of Indian Regulators, ensuring that our sharing of knowledge on regulation remained up to date.

Stakeholder engagement

44. The RPC has maintained its efforts to engage with business, sector and civil society organisations. This engagement is very valuable to the RPC in understanding the different perspectives of stakeholders on the impacts that might result from specific regulatory proposals covered in IAs.
45. During the period covered by this report, government launched its consultation on the restructuring of the Better Regulation Framework. As part of this, the RPC undertook a programme of engagement with its stakeholders to hear first-hand their views on this as well as encouraging them to submit responses to the consultation. The RPC wishes to thank its stakeholders for their contributions, which has assisted us in developing our views.
46. Over this period, we have spoken to a number of academic, research and think-tank organisations to understand better the latest issues on regulation and regulatory reform. We were particularly interested in how they thought the Better Regulation Framework might adapt over time. This proved very useful in understanding how the framework could be improved and how we can add most value.
47. We have also maintained our engagement within Westminster, speaking to parliamentarians (as key “customers” of our opinions), who shared our concern about the lack and lateness of impact assessments being available for their legislative scrutiny. We share this concern and the impact it has on access to our opinions.

48. The RPC also maintains a close working relationship with departmental better regulation units, departmental policy and analytical teams and regulators, as well as with the Better Regulation Executive, as our sponsor.

Raising awareness of the importance of regulatory scrutiny

49. A key component of our approach to the engagement with stakeholders described above was the blog platform we started using in June 2021. Since then we have published 21 posts on a range of topics including updates on what we have been doing, setting out our views on aspects of the better regulation system, and encouraging people to engage with government.

50. We would encourage anyone interested in the work of the RPC to bookmark our blog site - <https://rpc.blog.gov.uk/> - and sign up for alerts on new posts here - <https://rpc.blog.gov.uk/subscribe/>

FINANCES

Table 2 – RPC budget for period 2019-20 to 2021-22

	<i>Budget 2020-21</i>	Outturn 2020-21	<i>Budget 2021-22</i>	Outturn 2021-2022	<i>Budget 2022-23</i>
Pay costs	<i>£1,164,396</i>	£1,137,905	<i>£1,020,000</i>	£1,131,333	<i>£856,800</i>
Honoraria	<i>£173,000</i>	£162,684	<i>£180,000</i>	£180,741	<i>£180,000</i>
Other costs	<i>£15,000</i>	£29,863	<i>£40,000</i>	£10,702	<i>£24,000</i>
Programme ¹²	<i>£45,000</i>	£0	-	-	-
Total	<i>£1,397,396</i>	£1,330,452	<i>£1,240,000</i>	£1,322,776	<i>£1,060,800</i>

51. Table 2 sets out the RPC budgets and outturn expenditure for 2020-21 and 2021-22, and the budget for 2022-23. The overspend in 2021-22 was anticipated and was accommodated within an underspend in the overall budget for the Better Regulation Executive (of which the RPC secretariat budget is a part). The budget for 2022-23 is a 16% reduction on the budget for 2021-22, which itself was a 12% reduction on 2020-21 (a 26% reduction in budget over the two years).

52. Pay costs refer to the salaries of the civil servants in the RPC secretariat. All secretariat staff are employed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and are subject to the Department's terms and conditions. In any given year, the RPC secretariat can include staff paid from these budgets, and staff on annual rotation on development schemes paid from central budgets. Staff numbers across the period are set out in the next section.

53. Honoraria refers to the payments made to committee members for the services they provide. Over the period of this report, committee members were paid at a daily rate of £350 and the Chair at a daily rate of £500. These daily rates have been retained for the new appointments, with members being paid for 50 days per year and the Chair for 100 days per year, reflecting the amount of their time spent on RPC business.

54. Other costs refer to non-staff costs such as office supplies, travel and catering. These have been lower over the last two years as a result of many meetings taking place virtually rather than in the RPC office in London during the Covid pandemic.

¹² The Programme line was a budget allocated for specific work to support the RPC on communications, which was not used in 2020-21 and removed for subsequent years.

PERSONNEL

The Regulatory Policy Committee

56. The Regulatory Policy Committee has members from a range of business and academic backgrounds. The committee started the year with the seven members below. Stephen Gibson (previously a committee member) was Interim Chair at the start of the period covered by this report and, following a public appointment process, was appointed RPC Chair in May 2021.



Stephen Gibson
May 2018 – present



Jonathan Cave
Mar 2015 – present



Laura Cox
May 2018 – Feb 2022



Sheila Drew-Smith
May 2018 – Feb 2022



Jeremy Mayhew
Apr 2012 – Apr 2022



Brian Morgan
May 2018 – Feb 2022



Andrew Williams-Fry
May 2018 – present

57. Five new members (below) joined the RPC on three-year terms in January 2022. Laura Cox, Sheila Drew-Smith and Brian Morgan then left the RPC at the end of their terms of appointment at the end of February 2022. Andrew Williams-Fry was reappointed as a committee member for a second term. Jeremy Mayhew left at the end of his term in April 2022 (shortly after the period covered by this report).



Daniel Dalton
Jan 2022 – present



Stephen Gifford
Jan 2022 – present



Hilary Jennings
Jan 2022 – present



John Longworth
Jan 2022 – present



Derek Ridyard
Jan 2022 – present

The RPC secretariat

58. The RPC secretariat supports the committee and is staffed by civil servants employed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The secretariat is headed by a senior civil servant (at SCS pay band 1) who reports to the Director of the Better Regulation Executive in BEIS.
59. Staffing in the RPC secretariat reduced from 17 people at the start of the year (April 2021) to 15 people by April 2022. We anticipate staffing levels to fall slightly further during 2022/23 although this may be affected by the conclusions of the ongoing review of the Better Regulation Framework.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

60. Freedom of Information (FOI) requests provide for public access to information held by public authorities in two ways:
- Public authorities are obliged to publish certain information about their activities.
 - Members of the public are entitled to request information from public authorities.
61. Environmental information requests are handled under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). Environmental information includes carbon emissions and the environment’s effect on human health.
62. The RPC endeavours to be an open and transparent organisation. It makes available, on its website, a variety of information such as minutes of meetings, reports and various publications, thereby helping to minimise the number of FOI and EIR requests.
63. The RPC is required to respond to FOI requests within 20 working days although it aims to provide information sooner. Table 5 summarises the numbers of FOI requests the RPC received, and responded to, from 2018-19 to 2021-22.
64. As shown in Table 3, the RPC received nine FOI requests in the period covered by this report. All the requests were met within 20 working days. The average turnaround time is 3.3 days, two were responded to on the same day, three within one day, two within four days, one within five days and one within fourteen days.

Table 3 – FOI performance for 2018-19 to 2020-21

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of requests	3	10	7	9
Requests met within 20 working days	2	10	7	9
Requests not met within 20 working days	1	0	0	0
Average turnaround time in working days	15	10	7	3