



HM Treasury

# Update Against the Regulation Action Plan's 'Key Regulator Pledges' (Annex B)

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October 2025

# Update Against the Regulation Action Plan's 'Key Regulator Pledges' (Annex B)

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| Regulator                          | Commitment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Progress Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) | The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) will decrease the administrative burdens of regulation, from reviewing and streamlining its guidance and utilising AI to working with chosen international counterparts to maximise the acceptance of each other's regulatory assessments to avoid duplication and speed up deployment. | ONR have set milestones on target for guidance simplification using AI, reviewing design assessment and licensing engagement processes, international collaboration and increasing use of digital tools in duty holder engagement and information sharing. |
| The Pensions Regulator (TPR)       | TPR will review the amount of capital reserving that Master Trusts are required to hold, with a view to safely freeing up millions of pounds for schemes by the end of 2025/26.                                                                                                                                                 | The Pensions Regulator have completed its desktop analysis of master trust reserving and will engage directly with the Master Trusts and industry stakeholders in October 2025, with findings to be published by the end December 2025.                    |
| TPR                                | TPR will develop an innovation framework and criteria to trial pensions innovation ideas and launch a hub to test a variety of innovation services with the market by the autumn of 2025.                                                                                                                                       | The Pensions Regulator have launched its TPR Innovation Support Service in May 2025, so industry can engage with TPR on innovations directly and through industry events.                                                                                  |
| TPR                                | TPR will reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and improved data and data-sharing by:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | By moving to an outcome-focussed supervisory model, TRP have started identifying activities that do not add value for savers whilst imposing burdens on schemes,                                                                                           |

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|     | <p>i. Monitoring its engagements with schemes and employers over the course of 2025/2026 to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden whilst maintaining current high levels of compliance. As part of this, it will monitor the quality and value of regulatory interaction and make sure that new interventions are not just clearly linked to delivery of better outcomes for savers but are also efficient and effective in delivery;</p> <p>ii. Conducting a review of its scheme return and supervisory return data collection requirements by the end of March 2026 to identify options to reduce unnecessary burdens on schemes. Subject to the outcome of the review, the government will consider how and what we capture including amendments to legislation as required.</p> | <p>and will address these by March 2026. The 'Submit a scheme' to automate the submission of scheme returns went live in May 2025. TPR have completed the initial review and has started exploring APIs with external working group, being on track to deliver proposals for appropriate data collection by March 2026.</p>                                                                                                          |
| TPR | <p>TPR will encourage consolidation and consideration of investment in productive assets through the following:</p> <p>i. The Value for Money framework will bring public disclosure of long-term risk adjusted net returns to help drive competition, growth and enhanced member outcomes. In advance of this TPR will drive consolidation in savers' interests and encourage the voluntary disclosure of asset allocation data to shine a</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>TPR have started working with Government to consult on reforms to the value for money framework in December 2025 and publish guidance to support the consolidation of smaller DC schemes where it is in savers' best interest to do so.</p> <p>In early 2026, The Pensions Regulator will ask for master trusts' asset allocation data as of 31 December 2025 to better understand investment performance and prepare for the</p> |

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|                    | <p>light on the relationship between asset allocation and net performance;</p> <p>ii. TPR will conduct a review of its scheme return and supervisory return data collection requirements by the end of March 2026 to identify options to reduce unnecessary burdens on schemes. Subject to the outcome of the review, the government will consider how and what we capture including amendments to legislation as required.</p>                                                                | <p>launch of the VFM framework. The Defined Benefit endgame guidance published June 2025, and revised DB Code support investment in productive finance.</p>                                                                                              |
| Environment Agency | <p>The Environment Agency will accelerate responses to planning applications, bringing performance back within the 21-day target by September 2025, supported through:</p> <p>i. Investment in the development of modernised, fit for purpose digital systems and enhancing digital services;</p> <p>ii. Dedicated support for infrastructure related to priority sites contributing to housing and clean energy priorities through its recently established National Infrastructure Team.</p> | <p>The Environment Agency have met and sustained its 21-day planning target and has delivered the first phase of transforming its digital platforms, with its National Infrastructure team managing 99 National Significant Infrastructure Projects.</p> |
| Environment Agency | <p>The Environment Agency will make its permitting service more efficient and transparent for investors by:</p> <p>i. Introducing priority tracked services for more complex applications, starting with a trial for major infrastructure projects and growth sites;</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Following a successful pilot, the Environment Agency have prepared to set out the Priority Tracked Service by the end of 2025, helping more businesses to navigate permitting requirements and speed up delivery of major projects.</p>               |

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|                    | ii. Providing additional support through the Hydrogen and Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage Programme to ensure permitting does not delay roll-out.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Environment Agency | The Environment Agency will commence the process of finding an AI partner to collaborate with on streamlining digital services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | The Environment Agency have developed a strategy to streamline its digital services and use AI to deliver faster for its customers, including through environmental permitting. The strategy has unlocked the next step towards finding an AI partner.                                                     |
| Environment Agency | The Environment Agency will improve its regulatory transparency and consistency to help businesses they regulate understand EA decision making and reduce uncertainty. It will enable communities to better understand their local environment and take appropriate action. Starting in the Spring, Compliance Assessment Reports (CAR) for water quality Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) permits will be published online, providing access to records when EA visit operators to check they are complying with their permit. A rolling programme bringing CAR forms for further sectors will follow. | The Environment Agency have begun publishing water discharge compliance assessment report (CAR) forms in Spring 2025. Waste and installations forms will be published from September 2025 and forms related to intensive pig and poultry, radioactive substance, and flood risk activities by summer 2026. |
| Environment Agency | The Environment Agency will ensure growth projects consider environmental limits and solutions from the outset by providing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | The Environment Agency have published technical advice on environmental capacity for growth, covering strategic planning,                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|                    | technical advice on environmental capacity for growth in industrial clusters to support our approach to spatial planning, commencing with Humberside, Teesside and Merseyside.                                                                                                                                                         | environmental permitting, water availability, waste quality, air quality and climate impacts in July 2025. This has supported environmental capacity for industrial clusters, commencing with Humberside, Teesside and Merseyside.                                                                                                                  |
| Environment Agency | The Environment Agency will partner with the Office for Investment to attract investment in priority sectors, identifying key investment opportunities for priority sectors with the EA providing early advice to support planning and environmental permitting.                                                                       | The Environment Agency have been providing early advice to support investment in priority sectors in the Government's Industrial Strategy, including the recently announced AI Growth Zone in the North East.                                                                                                                                       |
| Natural England    | Natural England will increase usage of self-regulation by moving regulatory responsibilities onto trusted landowners, large organisations and trade bodies, including through accelerating Organisational and Project Licensing and the Bat Earned Recognition Programme, with assurance achieved through more monitoring of outcomes. | Natural England have begun working on a Bats Road Map, which will be in place and ready for engagement with stakeholders from 21 <sup>st</sup> November. It will set out actions Natural England will take over the next two years to enable changes to accelerate authorisations of licenses and its approach to developing new strategic schemes. |
| Natural England    | Natural England will deliver a more flexible service to customers, proactive engagement with major housebuilding programmes through enhanced pre-application advice and greater use of strategic solutions.                                                                                                                            | Natural England have appointed dedicated leads, speeding up pre-application advice and providing strategic solutions to support major housebuilders and New Towns planners. Natural England have been working closely with MHCLG, developers and local authorities                                                                                  |

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|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | on the New Homes Accelerator to unlock 92,000 houses and secure strong environmental outcomes. <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Natural England | Natural England will maximise strategic approach through reform, where the current legislative framework could be streamlined, for example on nutrient pollution and newt and bat licensing, including delivering Local Nature Recovery Strategies and the Nature Restoration Fund, which will save developers time and money whilst protecting the environment. | In June, the water vole strategic licence pilot has launched in East Anglia, simulating strong interest. The Nature Restoration Fund will allow a more strategic approach to be taken to addressing environmental impacts caused by development. The legislative framework for this will be delivered by the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, and Natural England are working closely with government to prepare for implementation of the first Environmental Delivery Plans. |
| Natural England | Natural England will reduce the cost of delivering regulatory requirements by embedding changes to increase NE's risk appetite and optimise opportunity for environmental gain through updating guidance and increasing the use of Ministerial directions.                                                                                                       | By December, Natural England will have improved its wildlife licensing guidance on gov.uk to make it quicker for customers to apply for a wildlife licence for housing developments, helping to reduce the cost of delivering regulatory requirements. Natural England is also working on a more detailed plan to go further to take a more proportionate approach to wildlife licensing guidance.                                                                              |

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<sup>1</sup> MHCLG (2025) [Turning the tide: government clears path for almost 100,000 homes - GOV.UK](#)

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| Natural England | Natural England will work with government to develop a workforce plan on how to improve skills capability, including addressing environmental skills necessary to implement reforms with decision makers. For example, through an enhanced training offer for Local Authorities with the Planning Advisory Service. | Natural England have shared a draft workforce plan with Defra in response to the HMT action plan. We will have expanded our planning team by up to 25 staff next year, to streamline planning casework.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Ofwat           | Ofwat will work with the sector and other regulators to optimise the pipeline of £50 billions of investment across 30 major projects and work with the sector to accelerate projects where possible.                                                                                                                | Ofwat have worked as part of the government's Water Delivery Taskforce, launched in April, to accelerate and successfully deliver major water infrastructure projects that are critical to economic growth. The Taskforce is currently focused on resolving water neutrality in North Sussex, challenging rising infrastructure costs and has established several innovation projects in Cambridge. |
| Ofwat           | Ofwat will deliver the innovation fund to £400m, which has doubled in size, to drive innovation and productivity within the water sector.                                                                                                                                                                           | The Innovation Fund has run competitions to award funding to innovation projects that deliver benefits to customers, communities and the environment. Ofwat's Water Breakthrough Challenges are aimed at water companies and their partners and the Water Discovery Challenge aimed at innovators and those new to the sector. In May, Ofwat announced £40 million to support innovative            |

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|       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | solutions to water and waste management as part of the fifth Water Breakthrough Challenge, <sup>2</sup> and a further £50m will be available in the sixth Water Breakthrough Challenge that opened in September. The second Water Discovery Challenge aimed at innovators and early-stage innovations will open in January 2026. <sup>3</sup> In November 2025, Ofwat will launch the Innovation Fund to help successful innovations scale-up. |
| Ofcom | In 2025, Ofcom will be finalising the second half of its ten-year framework to secure competitive investment in fibre. As part of this, Ofcom commits to publishing its consultation on the Telecoms Access Review by the end of March 2025. Secure and reliable networks are central to all aspects of our digital lives and a key driver of economic growth, and these efforts will contribute to that. | Ofcom launched a consultation on the Telecoms Access Review in March 2025, which remained open for responses until June 2025. Ofcom remain on track to publish a statement in early 2026, which will outline the framework for the next five years and support further investment.                                                                                                                                                             |
| Ofcom | Ofcom will use spectrum to power innovation across the economy. This year, Ofcom will go further to unlock spectrum-sharing and make spectrum more available by:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | a) The 26 GHz band has been made available for private networks, supported by a self-service online tool launched in April 2025. The 40GHz band is scheduled for release in 2028.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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<sup>2</sup> MHCLG (2025) [Turning the tide: government clears path for almost 100,000 homes - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>3</sup> Ofwat (2025) [Water Breakthrough Challenge 6 - Ofwat Innovation Fund](#)

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|       | <p>a) opening up shared access in mmWave for private networks;</p> <p>b) auctioning mm-Wave spectrum for mobile use;</p> <p>c) facilitating greater use of existing spectrum by enabling greater sharing by Autumn 2025.</p> | <p>Ofcom are currently in the process of revoking existing licences, which requires a five-year notice period.</p> <p>b) Regulations for the mmWave auction have been established as of June. This September and October, Ofcom will be auctioning mmWave spectrum for localised use in urban areas, with the auction set to conclude in late October.</p> <p>c) Ofcom have been developing a new antenna library to enhance coordination and enable greater spectrum sharing. This will go live before the end of 2025.</p> |
| Ofcom | In October, Ofcom will also consult on satellite direct to mobile device (services that enable mobile handsets to connect to satellites), which could assist in plugging mobile coverage gaps.                               | Ofcom launched a consultation in March 2025, followed by the publication of a statement and further consultation in September. Ofcom are on track to publish a final statement by the end of 2025 and expect to be ready to facilitate direct to mobile device in the UK by early 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Ofcom | To improve the data provided to consumers on the mobile coverage they are likely to experience where they live, Ofcom will deliver the first phase of the improved web-checker by summer 2025.                               | The improved mobile coverage web checker has launched as of June 2025. Ofcom will be initiating the next phase of work to explore further enhancements to the data available to consumers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| Ofcom                                   | Ofcom will likely complete the next phase of their dedicated Digital Support Service which provides interactive guidance to help organisations understand and implement the Online Safety rules by summer 2025. The first phase of this service launched in beta in January 2025.                                    | Initially launched in beta in January 2025, the platform was enhanced by May to include features for the Protection of Children.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) | The ICO will pilot an extension of its regulatory sandbox to enable organisations to test data-driven innovations with exemptions from specific regulatory requirements, under supervision by the ICO. Findings will inform future regulatory reforms, ensuring that data protection law keeps pace with technology. | Industry feedback has indicated concern around the pilot with some organisations feeling there would still be a substantial risk of private legal challenge to sandbox participants, even with a policy of non-enforcement of certain requirements from the ICO. The focus of this commitment has therefore shifted to exploring a longer-term solution, building an evidence base and testing design assumptions for a potential regulatory sandbox, which would allow organisations to unlock real-world testing of emerging technologies, which is currently not permissible under data protection rules. The ICO has been secured funding from the Regulatory Innovation Office for feasibility and design work, to be completed by Spring 2026. |

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| ICO | Developing new guidance on international data transfers, which underpin 40% of UK exports, to support frictionless trade across borders. The ICO will also update their transfer risk assessment tools to underpin the Data (Use and Access) Bill reforms to create a more proportionate and risk-based regime.                                                                                                                     | The ICO will develop new guidance on international data transfers, which underpin 40% of UK exports, to support frictionless trade across borders. They will also update their transfer tools to underpin the Data (Use and Access) Bill reforms that are intended to create a more proportionate and risk-based regime. The ICO launched targeted engagement with law firms and small businesses over the summer and in conjunction with government launched a public call for views that closed in August. The publication of the first significant guidance updates is expected in December. |
| ICO | ICO will relax enforcement of consent rules for privacy-preserving online advertising, ahead of exemptions to these legal requirements being introduced by government, where appropriate. This will support growth in the advertising sector whilst making privacy enhancing online advertising viable in the market. The ICO will invite organisations to test new advertising business models in its extended regulatory sandbox. | The government has continued to support the ICO's efforts to encourage growth in the advertising sector. Over the summer, the ICO has undertaken research and analysis and engaged with a variety of stakeholders including a public call for views. The ICO will publish an external statement on regulatory posture in February 2026 and, subject to a new legislative exemption, will publish final guidance on the use of storage and access technologies, including ICO interpretation of a new Reg 6 PECR exemption in spring 2026.                                                       |

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| ICO                               | ICO will produce a new statutory Code of Practice on AI and automated decision-making to make it easier for AI developers and users to understand and apply data protection law and innovate responsibly. With the ICO's innovation services, this will make the UK the destination of choice for AI developers looking to test their ideas before entering the European market. | The ICO have begun to put in place plans to develop a new statutory Code of Practice on AI and automated decision-making. The first stages of development (scoping non-legislative guidance, impact assessments and expert panels) will be complete in the spring. Following passage of the Data Use and Access Act, the government has worked closely with the ICO to ensure that legislative timelines and the scope of the required secondary legislation will be ready for April 2026. |
| ICO                               | ICO will scale up their data essentials training and assurance for SMEs to reduce industry compliance costs. This will increase customer trust and grow SMEs' confidence in using personal data responsibly to grow their businesses.                                                                                                                                            | The ICO have undertaken research and analysis and started to develop product content after a public procurement process for a platform provider and research partner, with both completed in September 2025. The training and assurance platform will be launched in spring 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Health and Safety Executive (HSE) | HSE will initiate work in 2025 to consult on potential changes to the definitions, occupational diseases and dangerous occurrences reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations 2013 and consider improvements to the reporting process to ensure business can comply in the most efficient way possible.                             | HSE have planned to initiate a public consultation on potential changes to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) in late March 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| HSE                               | HSE will initiate work in 2025 to review older prescriptive legislation, specifically the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. They will also consult to identify and remove unnecessary regulatory burdens and identify potential legislative changes to reflect technological advances and reliability of work equipment. | HSE have planned a 'call for evidence' (CfE), due to launch in October 2025, on Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. The CfE will provide HSE with appropriate stakeholder evidence to determine the optimum path to modernising these regulations.                                                   |
| HSE                               | HSE and Defra will consult on how international approvals can be recognised to reduce the time and cost to bring chemical products, including biocides, to the GB market.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | HSE have completed a public consultation from June to August 2025, with the analysis of responses being underway.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) | PFCA will provide a dedicated authorisations case officer to every firm within the FCA's regulatory sandbox.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | All firms who apply to FCA's regulatory sandbox have now received a dedicated case officer in authorisations, ensuring a smoother experience for applicant firms.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| FCA                               | FCA will provide 50% more dedicated supervisors to early and high growth firms to help them navigate the regulatory system and support their growth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>FCA have increased headcount in their Early and High Growth department by 50% so that they can support more firms.</p> <p>Building on the March announcement, the FCA have now commenced a pilot programme in Payments, Asset Management and Wealth Management sectors, where they have proactively identified a small cohort of 15 growing firms and provided them a</p> |

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|     |                                                                                                        | dedicated supervisor to support on their growth journey.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| FCA | FCA will extend pre-application support to all wholesale payments and crypto firms.                    | FCA have started providing pre-application support (PASS) meetings to all firms in the wholesale, payments and crypto sectors. (Building on this, FCA has launched PASS meetings for firms seeking to conduct the new 'targeted support' activity as part of the Advice Guidance Boundary Review (AGBR).                                                                                                                  |
| FCA | FCA will indicate more often that the FCA is 'minded to approve' startups to help them secure funding. | FCA have increasingly indicated to start-ups that they are 'minded to approve' their applications to help them secure funding. The FCA have updated its systems and processes and trained all Authorisations staff on the use of this function. Between April and August, decisions were made on 132 cases that were 'minded to approve'. Of these, 129 were approved and 3 were withdrawn, as this could not capitalise. |
| FCA | FCA will simplify its mortgage and advice rules to help more people access sustainable home ownership. | FCA have acted quickly, taking several steps to simplify mortgage rules and support home ownership. In March, they clarified their affordability rules, and in response, most major lenders have adjusted their policies to allow greater borrowing. In July, FCA confirmed rule changes to make it easier for                                                                                                            |

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|     |                                                                                                          | <p>consumers to re-mortgage, reduce their mortgage term and speak to a mortgage provider about their mortgage needs and get advice when they need it. The FCA also retired two pieces of guidance which had served their purpose, reducing regulatory burden. In June, FCA published a wide-ranging Discussion Paper, seeking views on the future of mortgage regulation, including several proposals that could help first time buyers own their own home. This paper closed for comment in September, and FCA will announce its next steps once responses have been considered.</p> |
| FCA | HMT will review FCA and PRA's 'have regards' to rationalise them and ensure a focus on their priorities. | <p>In her Mansion House speech on 15 July 2025, the Chancellor announced that the government will require the FCA and PRA to set out long-term strategies for how they will advance their objectives, ensuring clear goals and priorities within their remits. It launched a consultation on rationalising the application of the regulators' "have regards", applying them to the long-term strategy rather than day-to-day decisions. The government also recognised that there may be scope to rationalise the overall reporting structure the regulators are subject to. This</p> |

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|             |                                                                                                                               | consultation recently closed and the government is now analysing responses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| FCA         | HMT will welcome FCA work to review the contactless payment limits, including removing the £100 limit on individual payments. | FCA have recently closed a consultation to allow firms to disapply Strong Customer Authentication (SCA) for low-risk contactless payments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| FCA         | FCA will accelerate a review of capital requirements for specialised trading firms.                                           | FCA have continued to progress their policy development in anticipation of an engagement paper being published before the end of the year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| FCA and PRA | FCA and PRA will reduce regulatory reporting requirements for firms.                                                          | <p>Through their Transforming Data Collection programme, FCA have significantly reduced the regulatory burden on businesses by improving the quality of data it collects by decommissioning low-value data returns and simplifying reporting requirements for firms. Over 2025, the FCA have consulted on proposals that would reduce reporting burdens for over 36,000 firms which are expected to deliver over £28m in annual savings to firms.</p> <p>The FCA is actively streamlining other processes to further reduce the regulatory burden on firms, including the launch of the new <i>myFCA</i> portal to simplify regulatory interactions by allowing firms to use multiple</p> |

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|  |  | <p>systems with a single login, the redesign of the Handbook website to improve useability, a more flexible approach to supervision of its largest firms (with less intensive supervision for firms demonstrably seeking to do the right thing), and the digitisation and streamlining of the authorisations gateway, making it easier to apply and reducing follow-up requests</p> <p>The PRA is significantly reforming the information it requires from financial services firms to ensure it is proportionate, such as reducing the volume of regulatory reporting and the frequency with which firms need to update key documents. The PRA has already proposed or implemented cuts to existing requirements which save businesses over £100m per year in administrative costs and is continuing to identify further opportunities for reforms, particularly in relation to banks' regulatory reporting.</p> <p>On 22 September, the PRA published a consultation as part of the Future Banking Data (FBD) review, which aims over time to significantly reduce burdens on firms whilst ensuring the PRA receives the high-quality data it needs to do its job. These initial</p> |
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|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                          | proposals are a set of targeted deletions of whole reporting templates as a first deliverable from the FBD programme. The PRA has held roundtables with industry bodies throughout the summer to inform its thinking as it plans further stages of the programme. It will publish a Discussion Paper in December this year, which will set out the principles underpinning the PRA's approach with a view to supporting a series of pragmatic and incremental changes to bank reporting over the coming years. |
| PRA                           | PRA will consult this April on a Matching Adjustment Investment Accelerator aimed at reducing the time between life insurers identifying a productive investment opportunity and making that investment. | As of 4 June, the PRA has closed its consultation on a Matching Adjustment Investment Accelerator, aimed at reducing the time between life insurers identifying a productive investment opportunity and making that investment. The PRA will publish its response to this consultation by the end of October this year.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Office of Rail and Road (ORR) | ORR will conduct a deep dive into the rail network investment framework with the rail supply chain to encourage direct investment into railway infrastructure.                                           | ORR have published the findings of phase 1 of their deep dive in June, which outlined barriers to investment and recommendations. Phase 2 commenced in July, focussing on a technical update of the Rail Network Investment Framework. The full Network                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Investment Framework will be updated by the end of this year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) | The Government and CAA will deliver a step change in how airspace modernisation is taken forward by establishing a UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) and Support Fund. The Government and the CAA will now be working with NATS with the shared ambition for the UKADS to be up and running this year. | DfT and CAA have confirmed plans for the UKADS in June 2025 and have put in place regulations to support its creation. Further detail will be published including the CAA's statutory consultation on changes to NATS (En Routes) plc (NERL's) licence. UKADS will be in a position to start work on the design of London airspace before the end of the year. |
| CAA                            | By September 2025, the CAA and DfT will consult on a package of changes to the process for making airspace design decisions more proportionate, whilst retaining the important principles of a transparent, evidence-based airspace change process that will involve impacted stakeholders.             | CAA have been nominated as the Market Surveillance Authority and DfT will establish this appointment in legislation to take effect on 1st January 2026. CAA's CAB application service will be live in January, the product evaluation service in April and the MSA in March.                                                                                   |
| CAA                            | CAA will enable at least two further and larger scale trial operations by the end of 2025, building on the successful beyond visual line of sight drone trial operations in 2024.                                                                                                                       | CAA have continued to deliver on beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) drone priorities. In August, National Police Air Service have launched the first BVLOS trial to assess the viability of large uncrewed aircraft supporting the delivery of police air support.                                                                                            |
| CAA                            | During 2025, the CAA will launch an initial implementation of the UK's Drone Market Surveillance Authority, streamlining the                                                                                                                                                                            | CAA have been nominated as the Market Surveillance Authority and DfT will establish this appointment in legislation to take effect                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|       | process for companies to manufacture and identify drones that are able to pass required safety criteria, which in turn will simplify commercial operations for many UK businesses.                                                                                                  | on 1st January 2026. CAA's CAB application service will be live in January, the product evaluation service in April and the MSA in March.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| CAA   | In 2025, the CAA will deliver a new digital licensing service for air traffic controller licensing and conclude the first stage of a new digital professional pilot licensing service that will make it quicker and easier for pilots to get and retain their licenses.             | The CAA's digital licensing programme for Air Traffic Controllers is progressing well and the service will be launched in Spring 2026; the discovery work on pilot licensing digital service is progressing well and will conclude in Spring 2026.                                                                                                             |
| CAA   | The CAA will expand its sandbox safe trial activity for hydrogen propulsion to help inform the regulatory framework for this nascent technology and encourage investment. With DfT funding for the next 12 months confirmed, the number of participants is increasing from 3 to 13. | The CAA have established working groups with industry, academia and other aviation authorities to help inform the design of the necessary regulatory framework for hydrogen propulsion alongside the outcomes of the sandbox. Supported by DfT funding, CAA's Hydrogen in Aviation Regulatory Challenge will be continuing its work until at least March 2026. |
| Ofgem | Ofgem will ensure that the price cap continues to protect consumers who are not able to engage, but that it can adapt to a changing market, with more options for consumers to                                                                                                      | Ofgem has recently consulted on mandating low standing charge tariffs to improve customer choice and plans to consult later this year on options for future price cap reform, which will include consideration of                                                                                                                                              |

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|                             | take advantage of different pricing and to flex their usage accordingly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | market instability, consumer flexibility and price stability.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Ofgem                       | Ofgem will offer flexibility in retail rules to allow new entrants or existing companies to try new commercial approaches. Ofgem will be updating its licence application guidance in the summer to help innovators who are looking to apply. Later in the year, Ofgem will set out next steps on more flexible retail rules, and in the meantime will work closely with DESNZ on how to support local energy. | Ofgem have published updated Licence Application Guidance in July and will carefully consider feedback to their consultation on Innovation in the Energy Retail Market to increase flexibility in retail rules.                                                               |
| Ofgem                       | Ofgem will work with the government to develop ways of rewarding consumer-led flexibility - so customers can benefit from using energy at times when it is cheapest to produce, and system costs can be minimised for everyone. A package of measures will be announced in the summer.                                                                                                                         | In July, DESNZ, Ofgem and NESO have published the Clean Flexibility Roadmap to create a smarter and more flexible electricity grid which will help speed up the transition away from fossil fuels, meet our clean power and Net Zero goals and help consumers and businesses. |
| Food Standards Agency (FSA) | The FSA will roll out a new approach to food standards inspections across all local authorities in England by spring and consult on                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | In April, FSA rolled out its new approach to Food Standards Inspections. . 99% of LAs have begun this transition. FSA's response to their consultation on food hygiene official controls has been published in August, and, with                                              |

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|     | new approaches to food hygiene controls by June.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Ministerial approval, FSA will lay these before Parliament by the end of October.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| FSA | The FSA will support UK businesses in meeting EU regulatory requirements for food grade recycled plastic, by taking on a new role as the competent authority.                                                                                                                 | In July (England) and August (Wales), FSA have officially been designated to undertake audits under official controls of recycled plastic food contact materials in England and Wales by Ministers, in respect of EU Commission Regulation 2022/1616. The auditing programme is being finalised in line with the original commitments. The first UK official control audits of plastic recycling sites will commence before year-end. |
| FSA | The FSA will prioritise its work on trade to conduct six inward audits in 2025 in order to facilitate trade in food and drink.                                                                                                                                                | FSA have supported four inward audits so far in 2025 and stand ready to support the two outstanding audits this year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| FSA | The FSA will establish a regulatory sandbox for cell cultivated products (CCPs). We will publish our first wave of bespoke guidance this year to provide industry with essential clarity on safety and legal requirements to enable these products to be considered for sale. | FSA have been working with the CCP industry, across government and with international food regulators to produce this guidance and remain on track to publish it by the end of 2025. This guidance will provide clarity to industry about how legislation applies to their products and what data to include in applications for regulatory approval. FSA will continue to publish guidance throughout 2026, as well as               |

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|                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | continuing to offer their business support service, which will help companies better understand the data they should include in their applications.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) | The UK will be the first country in the world to bring the delivery of innovative and personalised medicines ever closer to patients. From July 2025, new regulations will allow the safe development of highly personalised and critical medicines to be manufactured and supplied for patients in hospitals or in their homes, at the point of care. Making it easier to manufacture innovative medicines in the UK will increase the attractiveness of the UK as a destination to market new life-saving medicines. | <p>The new regulations came into force on 23 July 2025, and introduced a world-first regulatory framework which will enable highly personalised medicines and innovative treatments with a very short shelf life or where there are significant clinical or patient benefits from local manufacture to be prepared and provided safely to patients in hospitals, care facilities or at home.</p> <p>Since July the MHRA has been providing advice through our Innovation Office to producers who have applied for a decentralised manufacture designation. These changes will enable patients to benefit from innovative, personalised treatments such as cell and gene therapies, 3D-printed medicines, biologics and personalised medicines for certain types of cancers, rare genetic disorders, autoimmune diseases and wound care, and will bring benefits to the health system and the UK life sciences sector. This new pro-innovation regulation is an example of how the MHRA is helping to</p> |

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|                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | deliver the 10-Year Health Plan for England, providing a framework for transformative treatments and ensuring the UK is one of the best places in the world to develop and launch new life-saving personalised medicines.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) | NICE will continue to transform its Technology Appraisal process, building on its success reducing evaluation times by a quarter in the last year. This year 40% of Technology Appraisals were completed in 240 working days after Marketing Authorisation, and NICE's transformation will reduce this further to 60% for appraisals started in 2025/26.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | NICE have forecasted that they will complete 100% of appraisals with an invitation to participate starting in 2025 within 240 working days, exceeding their 60% target for 2025/26.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| MHRA and NICE                                            | The MHRA and NICE will improve alignment between MHRA marketing authorisation and NICE guidance publication decisions. They will tackle information sharing and collaboration to remove delays to patient access to medicines. This will see the MHRA and NICE exploring the development of a joint process to provide a new offer to industry: concurrent marketing authorisation (from the MHRA) and technology appraisal (from NICE), enabled by enhanced data sharing and collaboration, saving time and delivering further efficiencies intended to benefit industry and patients. | Through closer collaboration between MHRA and NICE, we will launch an aligned pathway supported by information-sharing and integrated scientific advice. This will mean earlier decisions, allowing us to bring medicines to patients 3-6 months sooner, contributing to reduced administrative costs and support for a thriving UK life sciences sector.<br><br>By April 2026, industry will benefit from better MHRA and NICE collaboration and alignment during development of a medicine, from |

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|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>clinical trial to patient, helping accelerate access to new innovative treatments for NHS patient.</p> <p>The aligned pathway will provide developers with priority committee scheduling by NICE, with a commitment to publish guidance in parallel with the MHRA marketing authorisation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| MHRA and NICE                      | Working in partnership, the MHRA and NICE will launch a fully 'Integrated Scientific Advice' service, accessed through a single point of entry. The new service will further establish the UK as a primary destination for clinical trials and investigations while ensuring translation of investigative medicines and medical devices to licensed products and quicker access to the healthcare system. | <p>MHRA and NICE pre-market have integrated scientific advice service will open to early adopters in January and launch fully by April 2026.</p> <p>Closer working between agencies can help to reduce uncertainties around evidence requirements and support administrative efficiencies, helping companies avoid unforeseen delays and increasing their <b>ability to achieve aligned decisions.</b></p> <p>The new integrated scientific advice service will also provide a smoother user experience through a single-entry form, advice report and payment.</p> |
| Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) | The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) will decrease the administrative burdens of                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | ONR have set milestones on target for guidance simplification using AI, reviewing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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|  | regulation, from reviewing and streamlining its guidance and utilising AI to working with chosen international counterparts to maximise the acceptance of each other's regulatory assessments to avoid duplication and speed up deployment. | design assessment and licensing engagement processes, international collaboration and increasing use of digital tools in duty holder engagement and information sharing. |
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