

This is a short comment on the issues rather than a substantive submission.

Co-operative and mutual enterprise are significant businesses in the UK economy and have a distinctive ownership structure. By and large, however, the way that employment legislation plays out in member-owned organisations is likely to be similar to business at large, of different scales. The one exception would be the growing field of co-operative employee ownership, in which the relationship of workers to the firm is not simply one of employees, to be protected from a third party employer, but also that of co-owners, responsible for internal practice. By and large, we favour self-governance rather than statutory regulation where this creates tensions, but as businesses that recognise the value of employee rights; this is a principle rather than a call for deregulation per se.

For more on worker co-operatives and employee ownership, please see <http://www.uk.coop/simplybuyout>

I hope this is helpful,

Co-operatives UK
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