

UKSMC **UK SINGLE MARKET CENTRE** UKSMC
UKSMC UKSMC UKSMC UKSMC UKSMC UKSMC UKSMC UKSMC UKSMC UKSMC UKSMC

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4: October 2014

IN THIS ISSUE:

Introduction

Revised PQD
update

Commission
congratulates
UKSMC on
SOLVIT

Technical
Regulations
Directive
98/34/EC
latest

Latest on
Online
Licensing

Internal
Market
Scoreboard
latest

IMI use
continues to
rise

Electronic
Signatures –
revised
guidance

Introduction

Hello again from the team at the [UK Single Market Centre \(UKSMC\)](#). Welcome to the fourth edition of our Newsletter and please feel free to forward it on to any of your contacts that may have an interest in the following articles.

Revised Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC (PQD) update



As we approach the end of the first year of implementing the revised PQD, a number of projects are well underway. Firstly, we have published a consultation, calling for views from all those interested in the new amendments within the revised Directive. So, if you are interested in this, we would very much like to hear your views - the consultation and response form can be found [here](#). We will consider all responses when producing guidelines and drafting the new regulations, which will come into force in December 2015. In

May 2015, we are planning to run a second consultation seeking views on our draft regulations and will let you know when that is happening.

Secondly, we, with the help of competent authorities, are making headway in updating the [Regulated Professions Database](#) and the 'transparency process'. This is a requirement of the Directive and allows each Member State to take an in-depth look at the regulation of their professions to ensure they are fair and do not create barriers to the free movement of professionals.

Lastly, discussions with the Commission are continuing regarding the Implementing Acts for the European Professional Card (EPC) and Alert Mechanism. We expect to have more detail, including the final selection of professions, in the form of an Implementing Act by the end of the year. This will allow relevant regulators to undertake the work necessary so that the EPC and Alert Mechanism will be in place by January 2016. We will be issuing further guidance on the new amendments and are on hand to provide authorities with any extra support or queries during implementation.

Commission congratulates UKSMC on SOLVIT



The Commission has written commending the UK SOLVIT Centre's excellent performance in 2013. In 2013, we dealt with 2.5 times more cases submitted by other SOLVIT centres than in 2012 (192 cases in 2013 compared to 77 - an increase of 150%) and submitted 26 more cases to other centres. In addition, the Centre dealt with 193 cases that were not within scope of Solvit by referring people on to other, more

appropriate, sources of help.

The Commission has once again recognised that UK SOLVIT has managed all these cases to a high standard. Our overall performance has remained stable despite the higher volume of cases we handled. We again responded to clients quickly (within an average of 5 days) - clients were contacted within the 7-day SOLVIT benchmark in 80% of cases and, on average, cases were prepared within 23 days with 86% of cases prepared within 30 days. We also managed to solve 94% of our cases and were recognised as being amongst the best performing centres in terms of our resolution rate. The average time taken to resolve cases submitted against the UK also improved in 2013 (53 days) compared to 2012 (65 days). Cases we dealt with continue to be in the areas of Visa applications, professional qualifications recognition, and residency rights.

Technical Regulations Directive 98/34/EC latest



In July, the UK submitted its first urgent notification for 11 years on behalf of the Home Office on the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Bill and Data Retention Regulations 2014. We dealt with this within one day of the Commission telling us that the bill needed to be notified. As a result, we have

decided that we need to be better informed on how the urgency procedure should be applied and are working with the Commission on how we can update our guidance in light of this. Please note that the Commission has recently updated the Technical Regulations Information System (TRIS) website. The FAQ section also provides useful information on Directive 98/34/EC: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tris/en/>

Further information on the Technical Regulations Directive 98/34/EC can be found in the attached guidance for officials <http://is.gd/1G5XK0>

Latest on Online Licensing

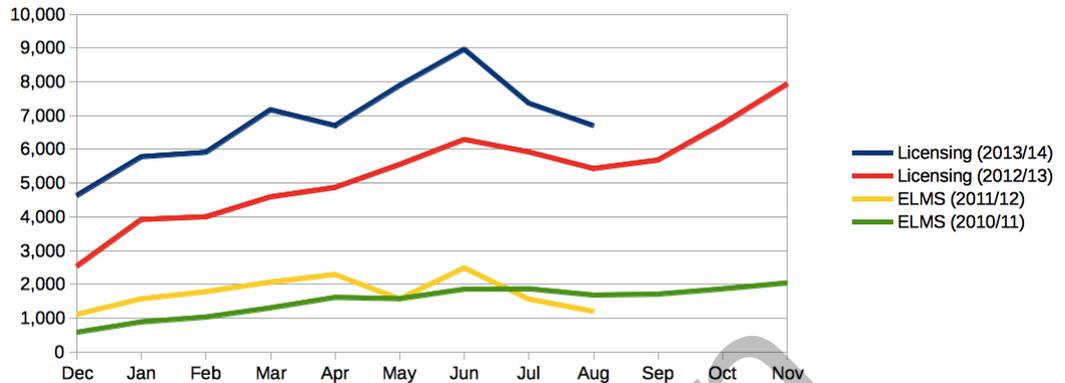


The Government Digital Service (GDS) has confirmed that it remains committed to finding the right solution for stakeholders. However, GDS will need to take time to ensure that user needs are accurately assessed and also fit in with the wider government digital roadmap.

The [GOV.UK](http://gov.uk) team have confirmed that they are currently reviewing their priorities to make sure that our ambitions can be properly matched to the right resources at the right time – unfortunately, this means that not everything can be done now. The number one priority for GOV.UK development this year is to complete the transition to the single domain. GDS has over sixty government agencies/and other organisations still to bring onto the platform by the end of the year and is therefore focusing as much development effort as possible in achieving this timescale.

As a result, the timescale for further development of [GOV.UK](http://gov.uk) Licensing is being moved to the right but GDS has assured us that it will continue to preserve the current system in the meantime in order to ensure that the UK continues to meet its legal obligations in this area. We will be discussing what this might mean in practice and will keep you informed of progress.

Online Licensing – table showing the number of forms downloaded:



Internal Market Scoreboard latest



The European Commission confirmed the results of the Internal Market Scoreboard (No. 29) in July 2014. The UK met and exceeded the 1% target set for transposition, and achieved a transposition deficit of **0.3% with just 4 Directives outstanding** and was placed joint 6th (with Finland) out of 28 Member States. The UK also met the 0% target (that no Directive must be more than 2 years late in transposition).

Looking to the current Scoreboard (No. 30) that covers all Internal Market Directives not fully transposed with a deadline of up to and including 30 November 2014, the UK has a current transposition deficit score of 0.6% and 8 Directives outstanding. There are no Directives affected by the 0% target for this Scoreboard. To equal the 0.3% result for the last Scoreboard, the UK must fully transpose at least 4 of the 8 outstanding Directives. We are holding a workshop with other Government Departments and key stakeholders in October to discuss how we can continue to meet the targets and maintain/improve our rating in future Scoreboards.

IMI use continues to rise



Use of IMI continues to grow as the latest figures show that the number of exchanges through IMI reached 1,990 at the end of Q2 2014 compared to 1,371 in Q2 2013, an increase of 45%. This is set to increase further with the addition of notification of diplomas in the medical and architectural professions as well as train driver licences (pilot) to the system. During

January to June 2014, UK authorities responded to 123 requests on time out of 164 (75%). Services Directive Notifications are also increasing, with the total submitted at the end of September standing at 175. Member States that submitted the most notifications continue to be Croatia (45), Hungary (22), Sweden (30) and Belgium (19).

Electronic Signatures – revised guidance

We published revised guidance in September, which is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/electronic-signatures>

Our next Newsletter will be issued in the January 2015. If you would like to suggest or contribute an article, please contact Herbee Thomas
herbee.thomas@bis.gsi.gov.uk We would also welcome feedback on any of the items mentioned in this newsletter.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET
Tel: 020 7215 5000

If you require this publication in an alternative format, email enquiries@bis.gsi.gov.uk, or call 020 7215 5000.

URN BIS/14/P193C

© **Crown Copyright 2014**