

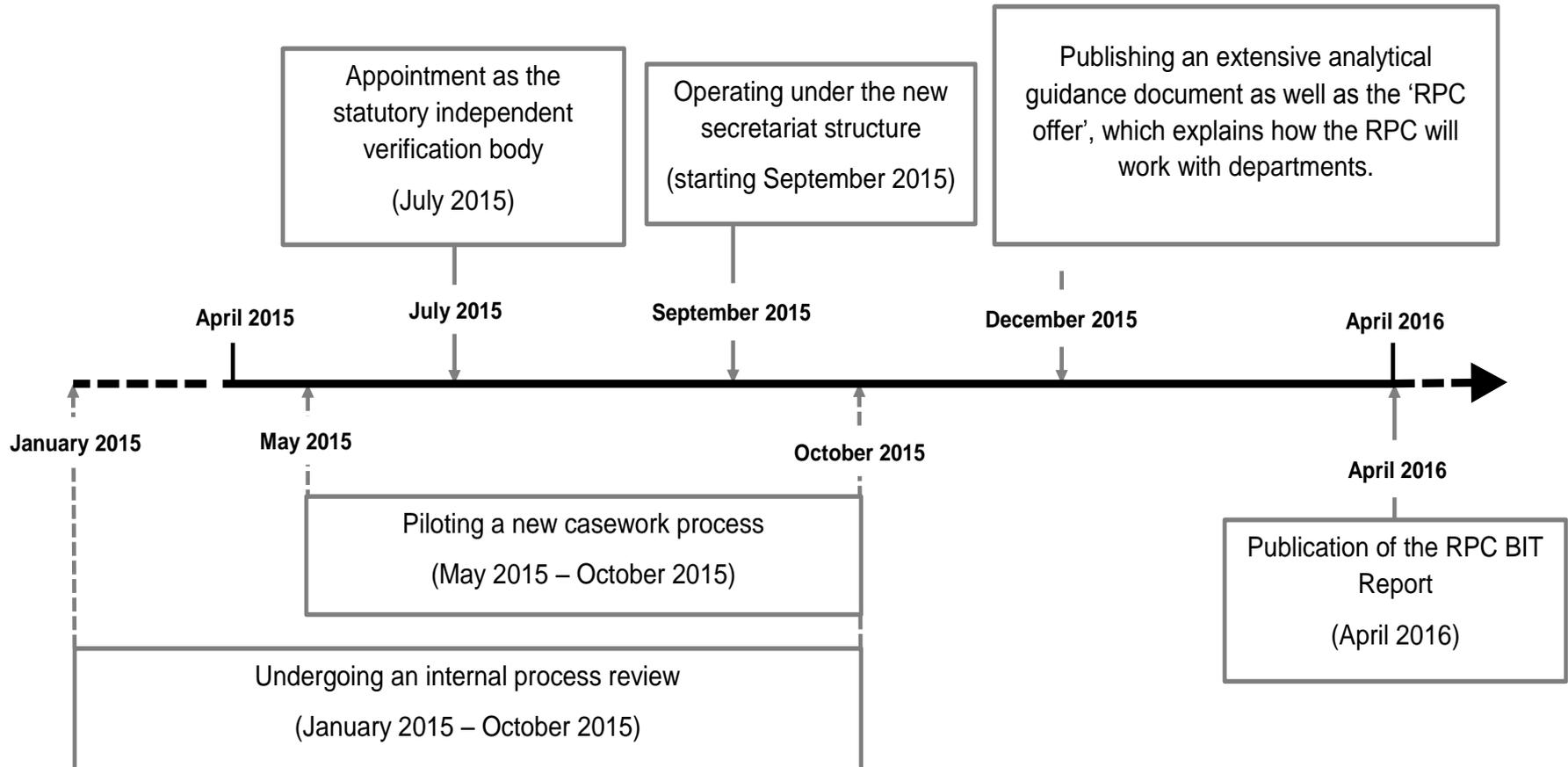


Business plan for 2015/16

Introduction

- The RPC provides independent scrutiny of government analysis supporting regulatory changes that impact business and civil society organisations. The RPC is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The Committee consists of 8 independent members and is supported by a secretariat of 15 staff.
- Under the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015, the Government is required to decide on a number of key elements of the better regulation framework. These include:
 - the Business Impact Target (BIT);
 - which type of measures are in and out of scope of the BIT;
 - a methodology to assess the economic impact of regulatory changes that are in scope of BIT; and
 - the appointment of an independent validation body (IVB).
- Whilst some decisions are still outstanding, the RPC has already been announced as the IVB (21 July 15 - <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2015-07-21/HCWS158/>)
- Other decisions still need to come into effect, and publication of this Business Plan has been subject to a lot of discussion and delay as a result of some pending decisions, following the election in May 2015.

Milestones 2015-2016



Priorities 2015-2016

- We have identified a number of priorities with associated actions and targets.
- 2015-2016 represents the first year of this new parliament, and the first year starting with new arrangements in respect of the BIT. This is still work in progress and requires full implementation, which brings two key challenges for us:
 - Working with BRE in developing the underlying processes for the operation of the new framework and setting the rules for measuring the business impact target – what is in scope of our scrutiny, and on what basis will impacts be assessed.
 - Our role in respect of the expansions of the framework from just legislation to also cover the impact of independent regulators.
- In order to tackle these challenges, the focus of our work will be:
 - Working with the Better Regulation Executive (BRE) to understand and rationalise the new legal framework established by the SBEE Act.
 - Providing clear guidance for government departments on how we will operate in this parliament;
 - Looking at ways to streamline our work to ensure we have sufficient capacity to manage the new work on independent regulators.

Priority 1(i): Maintaining efficient and effective scrutiny of individual cases in respect of regulatory and de-regulatory proposals

- We will scrutinise the evidence base in departmental Impact Assessments, Regulatory Triage Assessments and validation statements, of the costs and benefits to business and civil society organisations, of new regulatory and deregulatory proposals.
 - Assessment will be based on the Better Regulation Framework Manual (BRFM) published in March 2015 until the scope and metric for the BIT framework for the 2015-20 parliament is published.
 - This includes:
 - Completion of validation of measures implemented during 2010-15 parliament
 - Scrutinising new submissions submitted to us
- We will scrutinise the evidence base in Post Implementation Reviews (PIRs)
 - Many of the Committee and Secretariat members have already completed internal training on the assessment of PIRs.

Priority 1(ii): Maintaining efficient and effective scrutiny of individual cases in respect of regulatory and de-regulatory proposals

Performance metrics:

- We will ensure that we review regulatory proposals, including the quality of the proposals, within agreed turnaround times whenever possible, as follows:
 - 10 days for fast-track confirmation;
 - 30 days for impact assessments, validations and PIRs;
 - We will report on our performance;
 - We will seek feedback from Departments and stakeholders.
- We will improve clarity of opinions as well as engagement and collaboration with departments, through closer working and by seeking their feedback.
- We will regularly review and seek to improve, our processes and governance, including:
 - Maintaining our existing level of transparency;
 - Developing a register of risks;
 - Being clear about our remit.

Priority 2: Working with BRE in developing the underlying processes for the operation of the new framework and setting rules for measuring the business impact target

- We will meet with new Ministers that are responsible for better regulation and brief them on our work, including:
 - Provision of background information and analysis on the operation of the 2010-2015 framework;
 - Provision of recommendations to Ministers, for improvement to the framework.
- We will contribute to the on-going development and implementation of the framework, including:
 - Pilot, with departments, a more effective and collaborative approach to our scrutiny of impact assessments;
 - Collaborative working with colleagues in the BRE to introduce operational changes required for the introduction of the 2015-20 framework. For example, working with BRE to develop a process for including regulators' proposals in the new business impact target;
 - Publication of our analysis, for example application of SaMBA; use of alternatives;

Priority 3: We will set clear standards and promote good practice to assist in building capability across Whitehall

- We will assist in building capability across Whitehall in the use of evidence and analysis in regulatory policy making by:
 - Providing advice to departments on case-specific issues and at RPC workshops;
 - Publishing a clear statement of the RPC offer, setting out what departments can expect when working with us;
 - Publishing an extended analytical guidance document covering methodological questions;
 - Introduce the RPC Whitehall web-portal to improve accessibility to RPC guidance.

- **Performance metrics:**
 - We will improve clarity of opinions as well as engagement and collaboration with departments.
 - We will collate feedback via a quarterly “customer satisfaction survey” to develop a ‘quality’ measure of performance on clarity of opinions and RPC satisfaction.
 - We will routinely act on that feedback.

Priority 4 – Continuous improvements in transparency of our work and the system in which we operate

- We will publish every opinion, where an Impact Assessment has been published. This will be at periodic intervals, for example, every 6 months;
- We will publish a regular overview of our validations to date;
- We will publish our validations;
- We will work to improve clarity of opinions as well as engagement and collaboration with departments;
- We will improve accessibility of our opinions and corresponding impact assessments by linking them on our website;
- We will publish our analysis.

Performance metric:

- Publication of, and monitor reaction to, our opinions.

Priority 5: We will broaden our engagement with external stakeholders, including work with European partners

- We will continue to develop our links with stakeholders, making it easier for business groups and civil society organisations to engage with the evidence base, in relation to new regulatory and de-regulatory proposals. We will do this by ensuring that the evidence and analysis in our opinions is clear and robust. This will include:
 - Regular publication of opinions;
 - Our Chair presenting at the Whitehall & Industry Group;
 - Meetings with major external stakeholders, including CBI / TUC / BCC / EEF / FSB & IoD;
 - Extending invites to other Business Representative bodies to attend and present at Committee meetings;
 - Our Chair attending a meeting of the UK Regulators' Network.
- We will continue working with our partners, for example, through *RegWatchEurope* to influence the smart regulation agenda in Europe and more widely with international organisations.
 - We will seek to influence partners in the adoption of our practices and processes for their own organisations;

Budget

- The RPC is a small advisory NDPB comprising a Committee of 8 independent members and supported by a secretariat of 15 members of BIS staff.
- As such, the RPC receives its funding by budgetary delegation within BIS's financial framework, rather than a separate grant or grant-in-aid. This is contained within the overall budget envelope for the BRE, and is monitored (and reported onwards to parliament), as a consolidated budget within BRE's budget.

| 2015/16 | Budget |
|---|---------|
| Pay costs | 846,000 |
| Honorarium payments | 118,000 |
| Travel | 10,000 |
| Other, including printing, office running costs, events and hospitality | 4,500 |
| Training and development | 3,500 |
| Admin total | 982,000 |
| Programme costs, including external comms adviser and external research | 30,000 |