
The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2011

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

RPC rating: fit for purpose

Description of proposal

The Order sets out the requirements for the registration of pig-holding premises, pig identification, recordkeeping, movement recording and the central database. It is derived from the EU Council Directive 2008/71 on the identification and registration of pigs. In 2011, the Order was amended to provide an electronic system to report pig movements in England. Previously, movements were reported via a paper system, whereby records were sent to local authorities to upload manually onto a central database.

The post-implementation review (PIR) fulfils a five-year statutory review obligation and focuses on the impact of the 2011 amendment. The outcome of the PIR is also expected to shape the UK's position during discussion with the European Commission on the detailed rules and procedures to be developed, over the next three years, under the overarching framework of the new EU 'Animal Health Law', a regulation that was adopted in March 2016.

Impacts of proposal

The Department's research for the PIR has drawn upon pig movement data collected by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Boards, stakeholder consultation and discussions with other member states about their implementation of EU rules. The Department has revisited the original impact assessment using the results of the PIR.

The PIR provides two key findings. First, cost savings have been higher than anticipated. This is because take-up of electronic reporting has risen to 95 per cent, whereas the original IA assumed a level of 70 per cent (rising to 85 per cent). The benefit to business over the period 2012-15 is estimated at £722,000, compared to the £652,000 anticipated in the original IA (both figures in 2011 prices). The unit cost savings to business associated with electronic reporting in the IA are based upon trials data; these estimates have been validated by the stakeholder consultation for the PIR.

Second, the PIR has identified two opportunities for reducing further the burden on business. The first is to remove the residual requirements for paper records to permit businesses to opt for use of a completely paperless system. The Department estimates that this could save business a further £8,600 in total each year. The second is to introduce a temporary identification mark for piglets accompanying sows to shows, replacing the requirement for a permanent identifier. Provisional analysis indicates this could save £10.44 per sow in monetised time savings. Both changes would, of course, need further assessment, including more detailed cost-benefit analysis, if and when concrete proposals are made to take advantage of these opportunities. On the basis of the analysis undertaken so far, the Department recommends further amendment to the regulation.

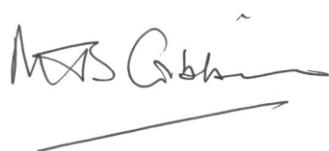
Quality of submission

The Department has provided a proportionate and good quality PIR. The re-estimation of benefits to business and the identification of evidence to support amendment of the regulation, to reduce further the burden on business, are particularly welcome. The PIR would benefit from discussion of the feasibility and purpose of the proposed amendments, given the underlying EU requirements and the new EU Animal Health Law, and from clarifying whether businesses will be permitted to continue using paper records if they wish. The PIR would also benefit from explaining further the planned additional analysis of the proposed amendments and whether an IA would be submitted to the RPC for scrutiny and validation of an EANDCB figure.

Departmental recommendation	Amend
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RPC assessment

Is the evidence in the PIR sufficiently robust to support the departmental recommendation?	Yes
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Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman