

# Lifting the burden

## Defra Initial Regulatory Simplification Plan

November 2005



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# Introduction

1. Defra published its five year strategy in December 2004<sup>1</sup> and is committed to:
  - making progress on sustainable development;
  - meeting the challenge of climate change;
  - moving towards sustainable production and consumption;
  - protecting the countryside and natural resources;
  - creating sustainable rural communities; and
  - having a sustainable farming and food industry that promotes animal health and welfare.
2. To meet these commitments means having the right regulations in place. However, Defra is determined to regulate in a way that minimises burdens on business, whilst still securing effective outcomes. To do this Defra is taking a fundamental look at existing regulations, and identifying how they can be simplified, whether it is reducing administrative burdens, consolidating existing legislation, or providing simpler systems for businesses to provide data to regulators. This initial plan, *Lifting the Burden*, sets out how Defra is approaching simplification.
3. Defra is not alone in its determination to simplify regulation. During 2005 the Government embarked on a radical programmes of reform to remove unnecessary bureaucracy in the public and private sectors. The Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF) report 'Less is More' was accepted in full by the Government in March 2005. It called for action to reduce the administrative burdens, the so-called 'red-tape', on private sector businesses.
4. Defra is at the forefront of addressing this reduction within Whitehall. In Defra's five-year strategy a commitment was made to "reduce administrative burden by at least 25% within five years".
5. A key factor in successful simplification is the ability to work in partnership. Defra's regulators are very much partners in developing this initial simplification plan, but so too are the businesses impacted by the regulations. For example, Defra's work with the farming community and regulators led to the Government publishing '*Partners for Success*' a Farm Regulation and Charging Strategy in November 2005, which sets out many simplification actions specific to agriculture.
6. This initial plan is a living document, and will be updated on a regular basis. It sets out progress in mapping and developing the baseline of Defra's stock of regulations and looks at ongoing work to deliver the 25% target of reduced administrative burdens, and many other initiatives that will simplify regulations for our stakeholders.

<sup>1</sup> 'Delivering the Essentials of Life' Defra's Five Year Strategy

## Introduction

7. The plan has the following components:
  - Identifying Defra regulations which impose administrative burdens '**mapping**'
  - Estimating the administrative burden that these impose '**baselining**'
  - Identifying opportunities to reduce these burdens '**detecting opportunities**'
  - Agreeing projects to streamline or reduce them '**reduction**'
- 8 These tasks are not all sequential. Defra has completed an exercise to 'map' the existing stock of regulations. Defra is working with the Better Regulation Executive (BRE) on the cross-Whitehall project to measure and base-line administrative burdens using the Standard Cost Methodology (SCM).<sup>2</sup> In undertaking this work Defra is engaging closely with stakeholders, and with counterparts from the Netherlands and Denmark who have already completed this exercise to learn successful best practice. Mechanisms to identify opportunities and projects that will reduce administrative burdens are being trialled.

<sup>2</sup> The Standard Cost Model (SCM) – also known as the Dutch model – provides a simplified, consistent method for estimating the administrative costs imposed on business by central government.

# Progress on individual components

9. **Mapping** – As a first step in establishing the baseline, Defra mapped the existing regulations that impose administrative burdens. The mapping was undertaken through interviews with some twenty-five regulators and delivery bodies. The Department held four workshops with policy makers and delivery bodies during July and August 2005 to share and confirm the mapping results and to identify areas with the potential to reduce administrative burdens. A total of 650 regulations were identified, some of which only give rise to information obligations when a specific event takes place, such as an outbreak of disease, and some of which are amending regulations that revise earlier regulations without repealing them. The figures below show the number of regulations that gave rise burdens for each of Defra's policy areas and also the legal origin of the regulations.

Fig 1. Admin burdens by policy sphere

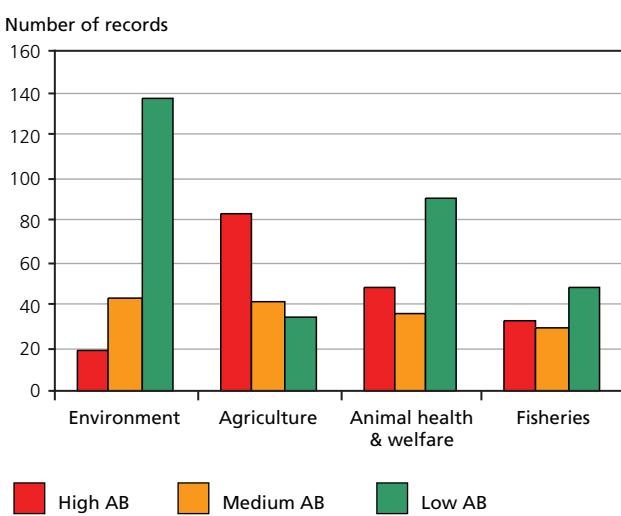


Fig 2. Origin of High Administrative Burdens

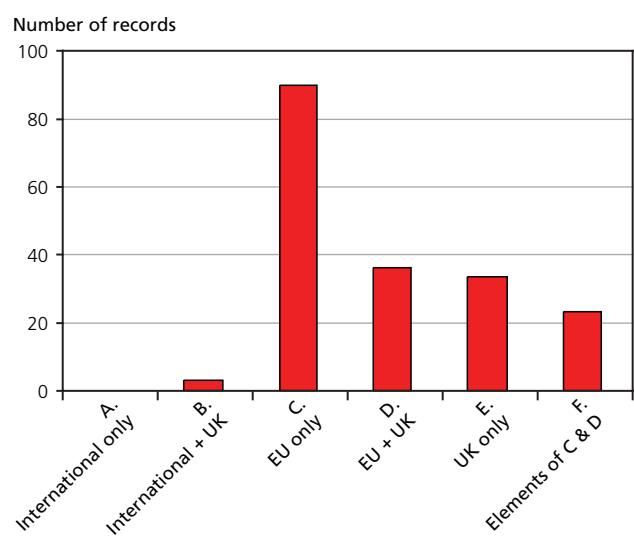


Figure 2 detailed explanation of A, B, C, D, E

- A. Obligation and the way it is to be implemented laid down directly in international law.
- B. Obligation based in international law, implementation decided by UK government.
- C. Obligation and implementation laid down in EU law.
- D. Obligation based in EU or international law, but implementation decided by UK government.
- E. Obligation and implementation decided by UK government
- F. Instrument displays elements of 'C' (eg directly applicable EU regulation) and 'D' (eg EU scheme backed up by detailed UK Statutory Instrument).

10. **Base-lining** – The mapping work informs the BRE co-ordinated exercise which is measuring the administrative burdens from each regulation by early 2006. Defra is on the project group for the overall BRE project and helped to assess and select the appointed contractors, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Defra is working closely with PwC to maximise the benefits for the Department. At the end of this exercise Defra will know both the time and cost to business of the administrative burden from each of its regulations.

## Progress on individual components

11. **Detecting new projects** – Ideas for reducing administrative burdens can come from business, representative organisations, policy makers (especially during the course of developing new proposals), individuals and from regulators. Defra is ensuring that all these sources have opportunities to put forward their ideas using a three-pronged approach:

**Measure-by-measure:** during the development of new proposals. Defra is using its Ministerial Challenge Panel on Regulation (MCPR) to challenge proposals and scrutinise opportunities for limiting or reducing administrative burden. The BRE is developing guidance on how policy makers should assess the administrative burdens of new proposals when developing the associated Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs). Defra will implement this guidance when it becomes available but has already held a major seminar for policy staff, to equip them to carry out a cost-benefit analyses of the administrative burdens of new regulatory proposals. Opportunities for reducing administrative burdens in existing regulations will also be identified over the next few months as part of the administrative burdens measurement exercise.

**Strategic:** engaging pro-actively with sectors and business to see opportunities for Defra and its family of regulators to share information, streamline regulatory administration and improve the design of legislation.

**'90-day rule':** The BRTF report recommended that Government should examine suggestions for simplification from business within 90 working days. The '90-day rule' is not just a challenge for Departments, but also for businesses, as they must come forward with concrete proposals. Defra is encouraging businesses to come forward with ideas for simplification. It is working with businesses in the fishing and water sectors, helping them to develop their simplification proposals. Senior members of staff, Chief Executives of Defra's family of regulators, and Ministers have been briefed to seek ideas for simplification during meetings with business.

# Projects to reduce administrative burden

12. In its five-year strategy Defra identified three key projects which will make a major contribution to reducing administrative burdens:
13. **Whole Farm Approach** – Offering farmers a more integrated approach to the delivery of regulation and advice. Farmers and growers who sign up for the Whole Farm Approach will be able to reduce the time they spend filling out forms and the number of inspection visits to their farms. They will also be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their business online, check that the details they provide are up to date and accurately recorded, and get help, advice and information from a single source.

The system will continue to be developed into a platform that will enable farmers to interact with Defra electronically, saving them time and money. Initially it will give farmers access to Government information currently held in different databases, including animal records, habitat maps, water catchment area data, land designations and archaeological sites. Eventually the Whole Farm Approach will be used for everything from completing the farm census and the Single Payment Scheme to registering animals and acquiring waste licences exemptions.
14. **SPS** – As part of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform, a new decoupled single payment scheme (SPS) began on 1 January 2005. It simplifies the application arrangements for subsidy payments by replacing ten major CAP payment schemes with one new single payment. Farmers will have greater freedom to farm to the demands of the market as subsidies are being decoupled from production. Environmentally friendly farming practices are also being better acknowledged and rewarded. The scheme will lead to a major reduction in time spent on form-filling.
15. **Environmental Permitting Programme** – The Environmental Permitting Programme (EPP) is designed to streamline the permitting systems for waste and major industrial operations covered by Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC). Its purpose is to reduce administrative costs, provide greater simplicity and lower charges for customers. Efficiency savings will be delivered by regulators through the integration of two permitting regimes, some of which can be passed on to business, reducing administrative burdens. Additional reductions in burdens on industry will result from having a modern system, which is easy for industry to access, understand and operate. It is envisaged that the EPP will develop a flexible permitting system which could be extended to other areas of regulatory control and as such recognised as an important contributor to the delivery of the Better Regulation Agenda. The EPP is a joint initiative between Defra, the EA and the Welsh Assembly government. A first public consultation on options will be launched in early 2006.
16. **Development of further projects** – The preceding three projects are a start. Once the baseline assessment of Defra's administrative burden is received, new projects will be identified and started to ensure that the target of reducing administrative burdens by at least 25% by 2009 is achieved. There is no presumption that every area of policy, or every customer will have the same reduction in administrative burdens, but the ambition is that all sectors will see some reductions.
17. A table of all current Defra simplification initiatives is attached to this plan as Annex 1.

# Initiatives with the Environment Agency and other regulators within the Defra family

18. For the past two years the Environment Agency (EA), working in conjunction with Defra, has reduced the administrative burden from its licensing regimes. The EA has also made good progress with its own Modernising Regulation Change Programme. Changes include:
  - **Rewrites to the Water Act** – which removed 23,000 small water abstractions posing a very low risk of environmental damage from the licensing system. This reduced administrative burdens by about £1.0m/yr for SMEs.
  - **Changing the legislation for the transfer of nuclear licences** – This will reduce the burden on industry by £0.5m/yr with an equivalent saving for the Agency.
  - **Simplifying remediation licensing** – Replacing multiple licences with a single licence for an operator carrying out treatment for remediation of soil and water. This will lead to savings on licence applications and deployment of mobile plant charges. The Agency proposes to start rolling out the new approach from January 2006, with full implementation from April 2006.
  - **Integrated Regulation of Agriculture Project (IRAP)** – will deliver an integrated and streamlined strategy for its regulation of the agricultural sector. This will enable the EA to take maximum advantage of the data generated by the Whole Farm Approach.
19. Defra is working with the EA to deliver exemptions from waste management licences more quickly. This is part of the development of a more proportionate and risk based approach to regulation. Defra is also working with the EA and other regulators to facilitate greater use of electronic processes for application forms and the issue of permits.
20. The EA has proposed that a Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) could simplify the existing exemption orders under the Radioactive Substances Act, and that this could save £1m/yr for industry and about £0.25m/yr for the EA/Defra. This will require Defra to progress the reform, or alternatively delegate its exemption-making power to the EA.
21. Since the 2005 Budget and the acceptance in full by Government of the recommendations from the Hampton review<sup>3</sup> Defra has begun developing a joint programme of better regulation with regulators. Its aim is to identify areas where delivery of the better regulation agenda needs collaboration. This was a theme of the October 2005 conference of Defra family Chief Executives, addressed by Defra Ministers and Defra Board members.
22. Local authorities are also responsible for delivering inspection and regulatory functions on behalf of Defra, particularly on animal health and welfare regulations. Improving this area of regulation is being taken forward under the Local Authority Better Regulation partnership (LABREG), which is being co-ordinated by the BRE.

<sup>3</sup> Hampton review Reducing administrative burdens: effective inspection and enforcement HMT March 2005

# Initiatives in partnership with industry

23. **Reducing red-tape in the water industry** – Defra is working with the water industry and its main regulators – the EA, Ofwat and the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) – to reduce administrative burdens, particularly around duplication of data requests, the level of detail required, and the potential for more self-monitoring. A workshop with industry and its regulators took place on 30 June 2005, to agree initial areas for action. Defra's Water Directorate has set up a project to co-ordinate progress on these areas, working with regulators and industry. This approach could also be taken with other sectors that Defra imposes a considerable regulatory burden on. Significant activity to reduce burdens on the water companies is now underway.
24. Ofwat, the water industry's economic regulator, is concluding a consultation on its June returns. These annual returns impose a considerable administrative burden on water companies. One water-only company has calculated that completing the latest return took 2,500 man-hours, and complying with all regulations just under 10% of operating expenditure. The Ofwat consultation proposes a 16% reduction in the number of data returns, compared with the 2004 submission, for water and sewerage companies, and 6% for water-only companies. The new approach will be published in December 2005.
25. The EA is working with industry to improve water resources processes and has recently started a major programme of modernising water quality regulation. Ideas are being developed in three key areas:
- Removing the need for discharge consent for 55,000 small, low-risk sewage discharges.
  - Allowing operators with appropriate systems to self-monitor their discharge quality.
  - Using the Operator Performance Risk Assessment (OPRA) methodology to reward good operator performance by reducing inspections and lowering charges.
26. The EA will consult stakeholders, and depending on their feedback, plans to implement these proposals by 2008. These changes are predicted to reduce administrative burdens and focus increased resources on the biggest environmental risks.
27. This work will be carried out in the context of a longer-term strategy for regulation to improve water quality. A Water Sector Plan is also being prepared – a vision of the outcomes, risks, priorities and ways to address them – working with the water industry and other stakeholders. There are positive signals. The water industry has indicated that it wants to prove it has earned greater autonomy. Opportunities for even lighter touch regulation will emerge as its commitment in this area becomes clearer.
28. **'90-day rule' initiative from the fishing industry** – BRTF received its first better regulation application from the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) to reduce the complexity and burdens of fishing regulations. Defra met the NFFO to learn about possible areas that could be tackled. The Fisheries Directorate is now developing a series of detailed proposals for simplification of EU legislation, for submission to the European Commission. This submission is a joint project with the NFFO, which Defra is funding. Defra is also liaising closely with the Scottish Executive on the development of the proposals.

29. The same process is also expected to help simplify UK legislation, and Defra's administrative procedures. Defra is seeking reductions in both administrative and policy burdens on the fishing industry, as well as cuts in costs for the Department. Parallel initiatives are in hand to reduce administrative burdens on the industry, for example by rewriting Defra guidance on legislation, and by providing greater support for the industry in accessing the available EU grant aid scheme. Again, it is the intention to draw transferable lessons from this initiative for the rest of Defra on how to collaborate with business in improving the regulation of complex areas.
30. **Veterinary Medicines** – Consolidating and rationalising legislation is another important aspect of simplification. The new Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005, which came into force on 30 October 2005, is a stand-alone Statutory Instrument (SI) and provides a single set of regulations governing the statutory controls on veterinary medicines, including provisions governing medicated feeding-stuffs and fees. The new regime has been written in plain English and replaced the Medicines Act 1968 plus 50 SIs (amended by a further 50 SIs). This work provides much needed clarity in a complex area to farmers and other owners and keepers of animals, the general public, the veterinary profession and the pharmaceutical industry including manufacturers, wholesalers and retail suppliers. A huge amount of consultation was carried out with stakeholders groups to develop the new regime. The Regulations can easily be updated to take account of new developments.

# Structural changes to the regulators

- 31 The Hampton review recommended that twenty-one of Defra's inspection and enforcement functions should be consolidated into new thematic regulators<sup>4</sup>. Defra is engaging with all the regulators concerned to agree how the new thematic bodies will be established and what changes this will mean for the existing thematic regulators. Some of the decisions on where the existing organisations best fit in the new delivery landscape are straightforward. However, decisions on the future of the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate, Pesticides Safety Directorate, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, and Drinking Water Inspectorate are more complex and will involve public consultation. As yet, no formal decisions have been made on the destination of the majority of in-scope bodies, but implementation plans will be published during 2006.
32. Better regulation benefits that will arise from the Hampton structural changes were discussed at a workshop held by Defra on 10 November 2005 for regulators and key business stakeholders. Some of the high-level benefits that will be realised from the formation of the new Thematics are already clear. These include:
- reducing **the total number of regulators into a smaller number of thematic areas** – business would have fewer regulators to deal with.
  - reducing **the number of interfaces between regulators** – making joint working and data sharing simpler.
  - **larger, thematic regulators** are better placed to **design and implement more robust risk management processes and methodologies** – enabling a better prioritisation of work and use of resources.
  - **common reporting and regulatory frameworks established** – making compliance much less burdensome for the customer.

<sup>4</sup> Proposed Thematic regulators: Environment Agency, Natural England, Animal Health Agency, Agriculture Agency, Food Standards Agency, Health & Safety Executive

# Work in the European Union

33. Better Regulation in the EU is a Defra priority. The UK is a signatory to the Six Presidencies Initiative on Better Regulation that seeks through a sustained prioritisation to:
  - promote improved use of impact assessments;
  - promote progress on simplification measures;
  - establish a common methodology for measuring the administrative costs of regulation; and
  - examine alternatives to classical regulation.
34. Defra has an agreed strategy to promote delivery of Better EU Regulation during the UK Presidency. This work includes:
  - a. Focussing Council Working Group discussions on the impact assessments that accompany new Commission proposals, and taking action where impact assessments are inadequate.
  - b. Prioritising progress on simplification measures, such as those associated with the Thematic Strategies, and forthcoming Commission proposals on Simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy.
  - c. Holding a debate on Better Regulation in Environment Council – with a view to promoting Better Regulation in the way Environment Council does business, and demonstrating the link between Better Regulation and good environmental outcomes.
  - d. Setting up a network of EU Environmental Lawyers to share best practice on transposition.
35. Defra officials have held discussions with Austria and Finland about continuing this work in 2006. There will be further meetings to review progress at the end of the Presidency. A revised Defra strategy document will be produced at the end of 2005, setting out the opportunities to continue to contribute to shape Better EU Regulation.

# Conclusions

36. The better regulation agenda set out in 'Less is More', Hampton and Defra's own Regulation Taskforce report<sup>5</sup> is fundamentally concerned with better policies and culture change within Defra and its delivery bodies.
37. This is vital as there will always be new regulatory challenges for Defra. The Department has to regulate in the light of emerging threats to the environment, and to animal and human health. As scientific knowledge advances it will affect the way that risk is perceived and that legislation is framed. Looking ahead, implementing REACH (registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals), tackling climate change, and implementing the Water Framework Directive, will introduce new regulatory requirements. The task for Defra is to find the most effective and least burdensome ways to implement and deliver all new legislation.
- 38 To do this Defra is actively pursuing the wider better regulation agenda through a more holistic approach, treating regulation as an end-to-end process whose output is not only the regulation, but also the policy outcome being sought. The Department is working with the wider Defra family to develop a 'Better Regulation Implementation Plan'. This will explain how Defra will progress the agenda. This is not something Defra, or parts of Defra, can undertake alone. It requires co-operation and support from the broad family of regulators and other stakeholders to ensure joint ownership and concerted action.
- 39 This initial regulatory simplification plan is very much work in progress. However, Defra hopes that it will offer valuable insights for other Whitehall departments currently embarked on the same goal as Defra, and that the plan will stimulate dialogue with stakeholders, acting as a catalyst for developing other simplification ideas to lift the burden of regulation.

<sup>5</sup> Regulation Taskforce Report Defra 2004

## Water

### Annex 1

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
Water abtractors: transfer of abstraction licenses, Water Act 2003.	Simplifying the arrangements for transfer of licences reducing costs to abtractors and facilitating the trading of licenses.	Defra	Not calculated.	Consultation September 2005. Commencement in April 2006, after new licensing regulations are in put in place.
Review of licensing thresholds of abstractors.	Removing 20,000 small abtractors using less than 20m <sup>3</sup> per day from the need to hold an abstraction license.	Defra / EA	c£200k/yr in abstraction charges (most paid nothing, but c8000 paid £25/yr) £30k/yr in application fees, based on 250-300 avoided applications (cost c£130 VAT inc).	Came into force April 2005.
Nitrates Directive: consolidation of existing Regulations for England and Wales.	To clarify the allocation of powers in the Regulations and simplify the existing legislative framework. Benefits stakeholders by bringing together regulations into a more manageable form.	Defra	Not available.	October 2006.
Proposed Marine Bill:	may include measures to consolidate several separate regimes into a single one and codifying a process currently operated as much by custom and practice as by clear statutory provisions, for benefit of regulators and regulated.	Defra	To be estimated when proposals are more advanced.	There will be a consultation paper later this year or in early 2006. The draft Marine Bill will be published in 2006, by November at the latest, and will be subject to a public consultation. Introduction to Parliament will then be dependent on the availability of Parliamentary time, but we expect that the likely date for introduction will be sometime during 2007.

Waste	Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
	Updating of the Pollution Prevention and Control (England & Wales) Regulations 2000 through consolidating principal regulations with subsequent amending regulations.	Consolidating the Principal Regulations made in 2000 and some [12] Amending Regulations into a single instrument. This benefits a wide range of sectors with industrial premises falling within the scope of the Regulations e.g. food and drink manufacturers, landfill, reducing the amount of documentation associated with the regulations.	Joint Committee of Statutory Instruments.	Limited as measure simply draws together a number of separate instruments into one without changing any of the legal provisions. Will assist business by reducing volume of reference documentation.	Undertaking to the JCSI. To enter into force October 2006
	Revision of the guidance currently provided in DOE Circular 11/94 on the interpretation of the definition of waste.	Guidance on recent judgments from the European Court of Justice on the definition of wastes interpretation which will assist both enforcement agencies and industry in understanding the definition of waste.	Defra	N/A	Aim to engage with stakeholders on a draft of the revised guidance later this year.
		Development of protocols (similar in principle to the Quality Protocol developed for the production of aggregates from inert waste) to help determine when certain waste streams can be considered to be fully recovered and to have ceased to be waste.		WRAP, the Environment Agency and industry all involved in work. Contributors to work on Quality Protocol on the production of aggregates from inert waste)	Ongoing.

## Waste

### Annex 1

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
Updating of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 through consolidating principal regulations with subsequent amending regulations.	Consolidating the Principal Regulations made in 1994 and subsequent Amending Regulations into a single instrument. This benefits the waste management sector.	Undertaking to House of Lords Merits Committee.	Limited as measure simply draws together a number of separate instruments into one without changing any of the legal provisions. Will assist business by reducing volume of reference documentation.	To be in force October 2006
Reduction in administrative burdens for those producing and managing hazardous wastes through secondary legislation.	Simplified paperwork procedures for monitoring the movements of hazardous wastes, benefiting waste producers, the waste management industry and the EA, introduction of electronic notification system.	Defra amending existing legislation to more fully transpose EU Hazardous Waste Directive.	Impact varies depending on current pattern of hazardous waste production and management of organisation. The more waste movements undertaken per year the greater the savings, up to 66% if using electronic notification system. Final RIA published.	Came into force 16 July 2005
Packaging Waste: Initiative (1): to simplify the packaging Regulations to reduce SME burden and costs. SMEs would no longer have to collate data on the packaging handled by the business, supply this to Environment Agency, and calculate their recovery and recycling obligations using this data. Delivery: amendment to the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations, to take effect as of 1.1.2006.	Change to statutory requirement to provide data, and replacement with allocation of recycling obligations to SMEs instead. Outcome for SMEs is removal of need to collate and maintain data, and calculate obligations; and a reduction in their costs of compliance.	Defra proposal strongly supported by stakeholders.	RIA currently out to consultation. To be finalised Oct/Nov 2005. Provisional cost savings compared with business as usual – £3.45million (average cost saving per SME (£3,166); Mean days saved compared with business as usual – 27468.	Amending Regulations to be laid end November 2005 and come into force 1.1.2006.
Packaging Waste: Initiative (2): to reduce burden on businesses in the packaging Regulations by reducing number of businesses required to submit an operational plan to the Environment Agency, reduce their costs of compliance. Delivery: amendment to the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations, to take effect as of 1.1.2006.	Change to statutory requirement to provide an operational plan, basing this now on tonnage handled rather than turnover. Outcome is that some 100 businesses must supply plans rather than some 460.	Environment Agency proposal supported by Defra and stakeholders	RIA currently out to consultation. Costs to be clarified following feedback in November/December 2005.	Amending Regulations to be laid end November 2005 and come into force 1.1.2006.

## Waste

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<b>Packaging Waste:</b> Initiative (3): to consolidate 13 statutory instruments (GB, Welsh and Scottish) into one GB SI. Delivery: making consolidated Regulations in December 2005 which will be the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005. To take effect on 1.1.2006. Departmental guidance note will be updated at the same time.	Consolidating statutory instrument will clarify the regulatory provisions for some 11,000 businesses in the packaging chain affected by the Regulations	Defra proposal supported by stakeholders.	Time saved for businesses through clearer regulations.	Draft SI currently out to consultation. Amending Regulations to be laid end November 2005 and come into force 1.1.2006.
<b>Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste.</b> The legislative expected to be annexed to the Strategy are likely to include repeal of the Waste Oils Directive, and the incorporation of some of the latter's requirements into the Waste Framework Directive.	Consolidation.	EU	The Commission have yet to publish their proposals and associated Extended Impact Assessment therefore difficult to estimate cost savings at this stage.	mid-November 2005 – Commission target for publishing Waste Thematic Strategy and associated legislative proposals.

## Waste

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<b>Stop, Search and Seizure</b> Regulations. This proposal will develop regulations that will lead to streamlined system for stopping, searching and seizing vehicles. The regulations will allow the enforcement authorities to carry out more effective regulation of waste carriers and continue to contribute to a reduction in illegal waste activity or fly-tipping.	This measure will reduce unnecessary bureaucracy on frontline enforcement staff in carrying out stop and search operations to deal with fly-tippers. The benefit will be felt throughout the enforcement authorities but also in the waste management business as more effective action to tackle illegal waste activity will help create a level-playing field for legitimate business, especially waste carriers. Benefits will also be passed on to the public sector and enforcement authorities in a reduction of fly-tipping incidents that must be cleared up. Defra consulted on the proposal in the Fly-Tipping Strategy consultation and conducted analysis of the powers to deal with the rising problem of fly-tipping. Enforcement authorities were supportive of a better system to deal with vehicles involved in fly-tipping. Government has now introduced the new powers to stop and search vehicles through the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.	EU	Cost benefits for enforcement authorities in more efficient and effective stop and search operations. Costs will also be saved for local authorities by removing the need to obtain warrants for seizure. There will also be cost savings for the Magistrates Courts due to time saved in issuing warrants. There will be some cost savings for the Police in reduced support for seizure although these may be counteracted by an expected increase in vehicle stops, which would require police attendance. Costs benefits can be achieved through better joint working between all the relevant agencies and ultimately there could be huge cost savings for the public sector in terms of less money spent on clearing fly-tipped waste. Policy formulation is still at an early stage but a partial RIA will be drafted later in the year and published for public consultation.	Preparing for consultation in Spring 2006. New Regulations laid in January 2007 and in force by April 2007.

## Annex 1

## Waste

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<b>Review of the waste duty of care and waste carrier registration systems:</b> The review aims to look at, update and consolidate the current set of Regulations which have been in existence since 1991. Development of policy with key stakeholders and broader consultation will culminate in a set of consolidated amendment Regulations.	More risk based and clearer regulatory structure should benefit all, including those affected in the waste management industry as well as the regulators. The review should reduce admin burdens and improve consistency between enforcement bodies. It should also modernise the regulation, introducing a risk based approach, applying an appropriate level of regulation.	Review has been set up in response to suggestions by key industry stakeholders that the system is not working effectively for them and from the Regulator that the regime is not effectively delivering the policy objectives of ensuring waste is safely and legally transferred.	Not fully costed yet	Consultation on policy issues is due in the autumn. A further consultation will be undertaken, incl., draft Regulations in Summer 2006. Final Regulations are expected by April 2007.
<b>Exemptions from Waste Management Licensing for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recovery operations.</b>	Amendment to Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994. Those engaged in the exempt operations. It will benefit businesses engaged in refurbishing WEEE for re-use and those storing WEEE prior to treatment.	Department with stakeholder input.	£10.1m; Partial RIA	In time for implementation in June 2006.
<b>Review of technical competence requirements for Waste Management Licence holders.</b> Streamlining processes for demonstrating technical competence.	Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 – waste management industry will take into account all new and future competence needs.	Defra	Not yet available – consultation with industry on options to take place. Links in with final phase of environmental permitting programme.	Review to start by end 2005.
<b>Review of hazardous waste exemptions in Schedule 3 of Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (as amended)</b>	Deregulatory changes with a view to facilitating the recovery of primary hazardous waste streams.	Defra review of EU requirements in order to address infraction.	Partial RIA published. Seeking stakeholder feedback on costs and benefits of proposals.	Consultation planned for September 2005 with view to introducing changes from early 2006.
<b>Introduction of dog control orders (replaces dog byelaws)</b>	Rationalisation – admin burden reduction. LAs will no longer have to submit byelaws to Defra for clearance.	Department and stakeholder.	Not specified – will be cost savings for local government in the designation process, in enforcement and in going to court. Cost savings also for central government. Full RIA completed (part of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act).	Planned commencement date – April 2006.

## Annex 1

Chemicals	Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
	A co-ordinated risk assessment programme developed by Defra and the Environment Agency in consultation with the UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum and the Advisory Committee on <b>Hazardous Substances</b> in selection of substances and review of the process. The results of this streamlined risk assessment process will be shared with our EU partners and the OECD. The proposal provides a way forward on chemical risk assessments during a period when EU regulatory impetus is in transition but the UK continues to have concerns about hazardous chemicals in the environment. The process will also have benefits for REACH in that substances considered under the programme are likely to be those subject to priority consideration under the new regulation as substances of high concern.	A co-ordinated approach will provide a more direct route to the hazard and risk assessment of chemicals according to international and EU guidelines through the UK working in conjunction with industry on a voluntary basis. It will provide a mechanism for easing the transition into the REACH regulation by undertaking work that will be required under REACH on the more hazardous chemicals. It will provide industry with an opportunity to carry out work required on hazardous chemicals and reduce the burden on REACH when it is implemented. The environment and human health will benefit from any risk management actions that arise from the programme.	Defra	Not quantified and no RIA since process follows existing guidelines i.e. no new regulation involved. Cost savings not likely to be significant since process essentially the same and data requirements have not changed. Process should be faster with all work co-ordinated by UK and industry voluntary action.	The programme commenced in July 2005 and it is intended to enter approvals per year into the programme up to the time of the first risk assessments under REACH.
	Consolidation of Regulations for pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) by introduction of new secondary legislation.	Consolidation and simplification of legislation: consolidation of principal Regulations and 12 amendments into one SI; rationalisation of provisions to create a single requirement to satisfy MRLs when putting produce into circulation. Main beneficiaries will be food producers, manufacturers and traders from reduction in associated reference documents.	Defra	An RIA has been prepared, but does not separately identify cost savings arising from consolidation.	The consolidated Regulations are scheduled to be: made in November 2005, laid and come into force in December 2005.
	Harmonisation of EC Maximum Residue Levels regime by introduction of new Regulation.	Harmonisation and simplification of legislation: consolidation of four Directives into a single Regulation; harmonised arrangements for setting MRLs; harmonised list of commodities to which MRLs apply; harmonised MRLs for produce in circulation in the Community. Main beneficiaries will be food producers, manufacturers and traders, and agrochemical manufacturers particularly those operating across Europe.	EU	An RIA has been prepared. Cost savings from harmonisation could not be calculated, but will arise from: the requirement to set MRLs only once (at EC level) and not separately in all member States; the removal of barriers to trade in produce which has been treated with pesticides.	The framework Regulation came into force in April 2005 and includes targets for its completion: adoption of the harmonised list of commodities within three months (actually due to be voted in October 2005); adoption of harmonised MRLs within 12 months; Regulation fully into force and repeal of the Directives within 18 months.

## Environment

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<b>Environmental Permitting Programme:</b> Designed to streamline the permitting systems for waste and the major industrial operations covered by the regime of Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC).	Develop and deliver a streamlined permitting approach for waste and PPC. Efficiency Savings by regulators through integration of two permitting regimes some of which can be passed on to business, thus reducing the admin burden. Additional reduction in the admin burden for industry as a result of a system which is easier for industry to access, understand and operate. More effective enforcement using a risk-based approach. Potential to extend this approach subsequently to other permitting regimes.	Commitment made in Defra Five Year Strategy / Joint EA / Defra Project.	Cost savings currently being quantified as part of programme.	Provisional timings: Start of policy consultation in Jan 2006. Regulations in force in June 2007. New system fully operational in Dec 2007.
<b>Review of Exemption Orders Made under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993.</b>	Removing obsolete regulation, consolidation and rationalisation of existing regulation.	Stakeholders.	Benefits to be estimated when proposals are more advanced.	Scoping/Feasibility study to be undertaken in 2nd quarter of 2006.
<b>Amendment to the Testing Instruments Exemption Order.</b> The Radioactive Substances Act requires prior authorisation for the disposal of radioactive waste. There are exemptions for this for some categories of low-risk waste. One such exemption is for testing instruments that have a small radioactive source associated with them. The previous Testing Instruments Exemption Order only covered such instruments used in laboratories and other premises. This proposal will extend the exemption to those used in a mobile situation	Extension to include mobile testing instruments which are used in the field.	Stakeholders request.	£65,000 (initial saving) plus £11,000 annual saving. RIA final.	End 2005.

## Environment

### Annex 1

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<b>Modernising Regulation and Customer Focus Strategies.</b> These form two business strategies that are fundamental to the objectives of the Environmental Agency. Modernising Regulation aims to adopt a risk based approach to the regulatory cycle (permitting, monitoring, compliance and enforcement). Success will be enhanced environmental outcomes, a reduced burden on industry and internal efficiencies. The Customer Focus strategy aims to provide a single view of customers, deliver services that the customers want and to ensure that we are easy to do business with. These are Business Change Programmes supported by the IT Strategy.	Joined up approach to agricultural regulation. Less regulation for low risk companiesSimple, intuitive online services to reduce time required to complete forms. Help available through Customer Contact Centre Overall target to reduce admin burden on companies by 25%. This is a major step to reduce regulatory burden across most of the regimes managed by the Environment Agency. The majority of the work is business and process re-engineering. This will be supported by IT services.	Environment Agency	Not yet assessed	On-going programme with delivery in stages to 2011.
	Proposed new <b>Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations</b> , which will: simplify existing EIA rules on farming on semi-natural land, making them more transparent, easier for farmers to comply with, cutting red-tape and inspections, and introducing thresholds below which the rules will not apply. Consolidate the revised EIA (semi-natural land) rules with new EIA rules on restructuring of rural land holdings (which are being introduced following EC infringement pressure).	Statutory Instrument. Farming sector to benefit from less form filling, fewer inspections, and easier to comply with Regulations.	The Regs will transpose two requirements of the EU EIA Directive. The plans to revise the existing EIA rules follow a Defra review looking at the effectiveness and performance of the Regulations.	Public consultation ends 14 Nov 2005. New Regs by April 2006.

Environment	Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
		<p>The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill is a core part of Defra's legislative programme and an important part of the Department's efficiency programme. The Bill will: Create a new agency, Natural England, by bringing together English Nature, parts of the Countryside Agency and most of the Rural Development Service. The Agency will be responsible for our landscapes, biodiversity and helping people to enjoy them.</p>		<p>In addition to efficiency savings through shared corporate services and operational efficiencies, effectively reducing these three bodies to a single NDPB with broad and enabling powers allows Natural England to have more effective and simpler relationships with land-managers and the flexibility to take a risk based approach to regulation, consistent with the Hampton Agenda. Other measures in the Bill, for example the flexible delivery powers and the levy body reform powers are enabling and designed to allow ongoing future rationalisation and simplification. Other measures in the Bill abolish defunct committees, devolve power to delivery bodies and rationalise various pieces of existing legislation. The Bill principally affects the Public Sector, farmers, landowners, land managers and environmental NGOs.</p>	<p>The core proposals in the Bill stem from the Rural Strategy, published in July 2004 - Government's response to Lord Haskins' Rural Delivery Review published in October 2003. The other measures in the Bill stem from a range of initiatives all broadly looking to update and modernise Defra's legislation.</p> <p>An updated Full RIA for the NERC Bill was published in October 2005 on the introduction of the Bill into the Lords. It can be found at: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/pdfs/ruraldelivery/bill/2005/1012ria.pdf">http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/pdfs/ruraldelivery/bill/2005/1012ria.pdf</a> In summary the efficiency figures the programme's forecast to yield savings of £11.3m by 07/08 and at least £21m p.a. by 09/10. The overall cost of the programme is estimated as between £33.4m and £47.9m. This gives a pay-back period of 3-5 years from the start of the programme.</p> <p>Subject to Parliamentary Time, we are planning for the Bill to achieve Royal Assent by the end of March 2006. We plan to commence the majority of the provisions in the Bill either two months after Royal Assent or at the next Common Commencement Date (October 2006). Subject to the successful passage of the NERC Bill through parliament, Natural England and the Commission for Rural Communities will be formally established in October 2006</p>

## Countryside

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
The Commons Bill; a legislative measure to reform and update legislation on the management and protection of common land.	Primary Legislation. The Bill contains a range of measures designed to improve the management and protection of registered common land and town and village greens in England and Wales. The measures will benefit owners and managers of common land, local authorities and those with a right of access to commons. Some of the provisions e.g. the controls on works in Part 3 and some of the registration provisions in Part 1, aim to simplify and modernise existing controls.	Defra	A Final RIA has been produced and published (subject to minor amendment as part of the legislative process). Economic, environmental and social benefits have been estimated at £76.3m over a 20 year period. The total costs of the proposed measures have been estimated at £13.9m over the same period. The benefit to cost ratio is 5.5:1. The Bill has minor administrative/ compliance implications, although the new provisions on registration are likely to bring increased administrative burdens for local authorities. These have been covered in the RIA.	Spring/Summer 2006 for Bill itself. Further 2 years for secondary legislation.
	<b>Game licensing review.</b> Propose to remove burden of obtaining licences to take and deal in game. Remove restriction on dealing game during the close season. To be delivered using an RRO.	Lord Haskins Better Regulation Team. Stakeholders – British Association of Shooting and Conservation and the County Land and Business Association. Part of Labour's manifesto commitment to 'modernise game laws'	Cost savings: Central government – f300K. Hunters – f400K, surveyors of game – f33k Partial RIA developed for planned consultation.	Consultation planned for end 2005. Planned changes in 2007 subject to availability of resources.
	Removing redundant legislation – benefit mainly to local government sector (specifically the National Park Authorities and AONB Conservation Boards).	Defra	None. Included in RIA for Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill.	In Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill – expected to take effect summer 2006.

<b>Countryside</b>				
Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
Transfer of the power in section 42 of the <b>Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981</b> from Sec of State to National Park Authorities – provides for a temporary prohibition on ploughing or other potentially harmful agricultural operations on moor and heathland in National Parks.	Simplifying the process – of benefit to the natural environment through allowing National Park Authorities to act more quickly.	Regulatory review.	No significant. Included in RIA for Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill.	In Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill – expected to take effect summer 2006.

## Agriculture General

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<b>Single Payment Scheme</b> By 2007, all farmers previously in receipt of CAP payments (principally beef & sheep, dairy and arable) will experience a substantial time saving in form filling as a result of the introduction of the SPS. Farmers from other sectors - pig & poultry farmers and horticulturalists - who choose to apply for the Single Payment, will, however, need to complete the necessary form. After their initial application, this will be a pre-populated form. No farmer is required to apply for SPS.	Application for the SPS and additional form filing requirements related to cross compliance ("CC") and the Entry Level Stewardship ("ELS") Deliver a new scheme for subsidy payment.	EU and Defra.	It is estimated that by 2008 the introduction of the SPS (including the effects of CC and ELS) will mean a reduction of time spent on comparable form filling of 90% for the average farmer (this equates to 185 days). On this basis the total benefit is estimated to be £20.6m for farms in England.	The first Single Payment Scheme year started on 1st January 2005. Revised handbook for cross compliance containing some new exemptions – Jan 2006. Pre-populated forms sent to farmers – March 2006.
		Defra		Basic customer registration for 2007 and extended activity recording and data sharing for 2009.

## Agriculture General

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<b>Whole Farm Approach:</b> The whole farm approach (WFA) is a long-term project to develop an integrated solution to support the farming industry. For the farmer, WFA aims to develop a single set of core data that will identify, from the farmers' perspective in particular, where there is a regulatory requirement and the actions necessary to fulfil that requirement. Current thinking on WFA envisages an IT framework linking together all existing work programmes to provide a single method for farmers to access DEFRA, and other national and local government departments that wish to participate. This would give access to government information currently held in different databases – animal records, integrated administration and control information, habitat maps, water catchment area data, land designations, archaeological sites etc. Emphasis is being placed on maximising the advantages of sharing data, while avoiding duplication of information.	Amongst a range of benefits, WFA will reduce the number of requests for data made to the farming sector, make data easier to access and maintain accurately. It will also make clear that information provided once may be used across DEFRA, its agencies, and other government regulators and at farmer's discretion for non-regulatory purposes. Farmers and growers could use the system to: confirm the accuracy of information as a basis for subsidy payment; use data to develop and submit plans for regulatory compliance; access advice and guidance tailored to the farm's characteristics.		Not fully costed yet but estimated savings of up to £28m per year for farmers by 2008.	A system preview was launched in September 2005 and a further operational release is planned for early in 2006. This will be followed by a series of enhancements.
(Probable) repeal of the Agricultural Land (Removal Surface Soil) Act 1953. Delivered when next tidy-up exercise takes place.	Removal of defunct legislation.	Defra	No cost savings (the Act has not been used for many years). No RIA required.	Timing not urgent. This Act can be repealed in next exercise.

## Agriculture General

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
Rural Business Advice Channel (RBAC): RBAC's aims to provide clear, consistent, easy-to-use, accessible internet advice and services for the rural business sector. It is part of the overall development of DEFRA's website. It will take account of, and if possible, integrate with other: DEFRA advice, communications and website projects such as the Farm Business Advice Service, Project Mercury, Farming Link newsletter, Whole Farm Approach (WFA) and the Farm Advisory System. The first phase of RBAC will provide farmers and land managers with an advice channel for: business advice (employment, operations, environmental issues etc), regulations grants and payments.	RBAC will provide easier access to relevant and useful advice, cutting down on duplication and conflicting messages for the farming community.	Defra	Time savings for farmers still to be quantified.	First phase of the channel will launch on March 2006.
To establish a single legal framework for financing the Common agricultural policy. To that end two funds will be set up: a European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and a European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The Regulation itself is "simplifying". So, whilst there is no offsetting Regulation, neither is this an entirely new Regulation. There has always been a separate Regulation(s) on how funds relating to the CAP should be spent – but this one has the virtue of merging two separate funds into one.	Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 on the financing of the CAP. Prior to the new CAP Financing Regulation 1290/2005, agriculture expenditure was split into two pillars: Pillar 1 – direct & market support payments; funded from EAGGF "Guarantee" funds Pillar 2 – Rural development: Funded from EAGGF "Guarantee", plus some Objective One "Guidance", plus LEADER funding. The new system brings all these payments within the same framework ("Preservation and management of natural resources"), under just two funding streams: EAGF (for Pillar 1) and EAFRD (Pillar 2). So, while Pillar 1 funding remains essentially the same, Pillar 2 has fewer funding streams.	EU	Difficult to assess, but a similar operating system for the two funds should provide the necessary streamlining for both Member States and the Commission.	Publish EU Official Journal on 11/08/05 applies from 01/01/07 but certain provisions will apply earlier.

## Agriculture Livestock

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
The programme will implement an amending Directive (2004/28/EC) which governs veterinary medicines following the so-called "Review 2001" of Directive 2001/82/EC and to take forward recommendations of the Independent Review of Dispensing (Marsh) Report and the Competition Commission report on the cost of prescription only medicines (POMs) as well as carrying out a full Better Regulation Review of existing UK legislation on veterinary medicines. Currently veterinary medicines legislation is included as part of the Medicines Act 1968, in the form of a raft of amending legislation, and constitutes a large volume of complex and unwieldy legalise. The new Regulations will disapply the Medicines Act 1968 in respect of veterinary medicines and some secondary 50 statutory instruments (SIs) and replace them with a single set of Regulations containing all the statutory controls. Member States were required to implement the provisions of the amending Directive by 30 October 2005.	The new Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005 will be a stand-alone Statutory Instrument. The outcome will be a single set of regulations governing the statutory controls on veterinary medicines including provisions governing medicated feedingstuffs and fees. The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005 are of benefit to farmers and other owners and keepers of animals, the general public, the veterinary profession and the pharmaceutical industry including manufacturers, wholesalers and retail suppliers. Improved clarity of Regulation - move from Medicines Act 1968 plus 50 SIs (amended by a further 50 SIs) to a single set of Regulations under ECA written in plain English. Disapply Medicines Act 1968 but retain relevant provisions in new Regulations. Delete provisions from current legislation where not required by Directive and no longer considered necessary. SoS to be responsible for veterinary medicines legislation – instead of licensing authority comprising Defra, DH and NI Ministers, each of whom can act on their own.	Primarily EU Directive 2004/28/EC and also including the "Marsh" Report, the Competition Commission Report on the Cost of Prescription only Medicines, and the Better Regulation Review initiative.	Estimated cost savings are not significant and detailed figures are not available.	The deadline for all Member States to implement Directive 2001/82/EC was 30 October 2005. The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005 came into force on 30 October.

## Agriculture Livestock

### Annex 1

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<b>SVS Business Reform Programme.</b> The business reform programme aims to redesign SVS's business processes, replacing the current paper-based administration and its supporting legacy applications with modern applications driving updated administrative practices. Whereas the current applications and processes do not readily support risk-based inspection regimes, it is expected that their replacement will allow the development of a risk-based approach to animal health inspection and enforcement.	Targeting for inspection of customers with known problems and potential reduction of frequency of inspection of those with lower risk operations and a history of good practice, will benefit the majority of low risk animal keepers who will see reductions in the number of inspections.	State Veterinary Service (Defra Agency).	N/A	Phased implementation between 2006 and 2010.
<b>Consolidation of the cattle Identification Regulations, bringing together 6 SIs into 1</b>	Modernising, clarifying and tidying up existing regulations benefiting the cattle industry.	Defra	Not calculated yet.	
<b>Exemption order under Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (artificial insemination of cattle).</b>	This will permit non veterinarians to carry out artificial insemination in cattle. The exemption will regularise what is already custom and practice amongst the farming community.	Defra	Cost neutral except where re-training necessary on animal welfare grounds, but no registration required or other administrative burdens.	Order due to come into force in February 2006.
<b>Reviewing the PPC permit application process for farmers.</b> Providing model permit applications.	Simplifying the PPC application form and key accompanying documents to reduce farmers' time and costs while meeting regulatory requirements. Will affect larger pig and poultry farmers.	IPPC Steering Group, and Model Applications Sub-group – both groups include Defra, Environment Agency and industry stakeholders.	In the region of £800 per applicant.	Early 2006. The vast majority of applications from pig and poultry sector are currently expected in the window November 2006 to January 2007.

## Agriculture Livestock

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<b>Replacement of the Over Thirty Month Scheme (OTMS) with the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme (OCDS) for animals born before 1/08/96.</b> The Rural Payments Agency will be responsible for scheme operations of the OCDS in the same way they currently administer the OTMS.	Deregulatory. Cattle born after 1 August 1996 will be allowed back into the food chain subject to testing negative for BSE. Farmers will be able to take advantage of market prices (which are higher than current OTMS compensation rates) and at the same time, receive compensation on those animals born before 1 August 1996 who will be permanently excluded from the food chain.	Government proposed changes. EC in charge of Regulation changes (7/16/96).	Ministerial Agreement given on need for Partial RIA only. Status: 1st draft completed. Estimated savings equals £320m per annum (average annual OTMS cost) but will be offset by OCDS costs for 3 years (until 31/12/08) and BSE testing regime (approx £14m per annum).	Assuming no delays, the OCDS should be implemented by 23 January 2006 and will last until the end of 2008.
<b>Animal Welfare Bill</b> to reduce suffering by consolidating and bringing up-to-date legislation that exists to promote and improve the welfare of farmed, domestic and captive animals.	Primary and secondary legislation. Better welfare standards and an ability to take effective action to improve the welfare of an animal before actual physical suffering starts. Regulations to improve the welfare relating to performing animals, animals being sold in pet shops and pet fairs, dogs and cats being boarded, animals in sanctuaries, horses in riding establishments and livery yards, tethering and horses, dog breeding, racing greyhounds and rearing of greyhounds. Regulation of mutilations to ensure compatibility with the promotion of welfare. Establishment of a database to support better enforcement. Society in general – better cared for animals are less likely to show aggression, stray and prevent disease risks.	Department in close consultation with stakeholders.	RIA has been prepared. RSPCA estimate that simpler more easy to enforce legislation could reduce savings for their enforcement side of from an average of about £6m to £4m. Licensing is undertaken on a cost recovery basis and so should not produce additional expenditure for local authorities. At present animal sanctuaries, livery yards and racing greyhound welfare is not regulated – the use of a risk managed approach will allow these activities to be regulated by the local authority without the need for any significant increase in their manpower.	Depends on when the Bill becomes an Act. The aim is for the regulations to come into force by the end of the decade.

## Agriculture Livestock

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
Livestock Register: The Programme will create a new Livestock Register. This register will replace existing silo systems and will act as the sole repository for all livestock data within Defra. The register will be delivered in partnership with IBM.	Increased efficiency and reduced costs to government from processing livestock data and tracing animal movements. These savings will be created largely by a move away from paper channels to increased use of electronic methods of data transfer. There will also be significant cost avoidance to government and industry through better disease outbreak avoidance and management.	Defra	The Livestock Data Programme. Business case will be finalised in Spring 2006, in preparation for an OGC Gateway review, where we will be in a position to accurately estimate the cost savings associated with the delivery of the Livestock Register.	Livestock Register go live scheduled for first quarter 2007 with phased roll-out of species capabilities over remainder of calendar year.
The Bovine Semen (England) Regulations 2005 (control regulations) and their associated Bovine Semen Fees (England) Regulations 2005 (fees regulations). There will be reduced levels of testing proposed within the regulations, based on veterinary risk assessments, putting more of an onus on the industry itself - in controlling the quality of their semen products. The regulations will also revoke other obsolete regulations (advertising regulations) and outdated policy decisions (removal of zones for the distribution of semen) - opening up the market place for more healthy competition. The regulations will also consolidate the different EC and domestic controls within one piece of legislation.	Statutory Instruments with a large area of deregulatory measures within the proposals. Several regulations will be revoked by the new control and fees regulations: 1. The Artificial Insemination of Cattle (Animal Health) (England and Wales) Regulations 1985 (as amended). Cattle artificial insemination is an act of veterinary surgery and will be removed from these regulations and covered under an Exemption Order to the Veterinary Surgeons Act - that will come into force concurrently with the new control regulations. 2. The Artificial Insemination (Cattle and Pigs) (Fees) Regulations 1987 (as amended). The new fees have been constructed to be equitable and transparent on how industry would be charged for any official services provided as a result of requirements coming from the control regulations. 3. The Artificial Insemination of Cattle (Advertising Controls etc.) (Great Britain) Regulations 1987. Action on misleading or inaccurate advertising can be taken under trading standards legislation.	Defra – acting on concerns raised and in agreement with the bovine semen industry (plus consultation with all stakeholders).	Benefits of c£610,000 from changed licensing system, and c£8000 per annum from new inspection regime.	Estimated coming into force of both the control and fees regulations – January to end of February 2006.

## Agriculture Livestock

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
The Porcine Semen (England) Regulations 2006 (control regulations) and their associated Porcine Semen Fees (England) Regulations 2006 (fees regulations) aim to consider the controls necessary to best control animal and public health risks associated with pig AI. Where regulatory action is deemed necessary the new legislation will take a proportionate approach to controlling risk, thus accommodating business needs. Where it is deemed suitable for industry to regulate itself, ensure that it has sufficient guidance and sanctions to do so.	Statutory Instruments with a large area of deregulatory measures within the proposals. Several regulations will be revoked by the new control and fees regs. The new fees have been constructed to be equitable & transparent on how industry would be charged for any official services provided as a result of requirements coming from the control regulations.	Defra International Animal Health Division in consultation with legal & veterinary colleagues, SVS, Defra policy colleagues, RCVS, devolved colleagues, Industry, BvA.	RIA – Initial status. Cost forecast is still ongoing and at present is not possible to quantify.	Estimated coming into force of both the control and fees regulations – October 2006.
Amendments to the <b>animal and animal products</b> (examination for residues and maximum residue limits) regulations 1997 delivered through an SI.	Proposed removal of provisions of Residues Regulations. This will avoid duplicating legislation and offences.	Implementing EU directive.	N/A. RIA to be produced following consultation.	Consultation on draft SI issued August 2005, to make amendments in December 2005.

## Annex 1

## Agriculture Crop

### Annex 1

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
Review of National List testing of new plant varieties.	Reduced administrative burden. The co-ordination of most statutory testing for Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) is being transferred to industry representative organisation (BSPB), to be done under official supervision.	British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB).	Testing costs to breeders reduced by about 30%, totalling about £500k p.a.	Review started in 2001. Implementation began in 2004 and will be completed during 2006.
Amendment to Plant Breeders Rights Regulations.	Removing obsolete provisions and aligning naming rules with EC regs and setting fees administratively rather than by SI.	Defra	Neutral	Spring 2006
Provision for marketing of Preservation Mixtures. Amendment to Fodder Plant Seed Regulations.	Benefit to seed trade permits species of known provenance to be included in mixtures to be used for specific natural habitats.	Defra in advance of EU legislation.	Not known	Late 2005
Reduction in Official Supervision- Seed Registration, Licensing and Enforcement regulations & internal procedural changes.	Less supervision by officials at seed companies to facilitate more efficient operation of enforcement activity.	EU and regulator.	Reduction in NIAB and PHSI costs to PVS which could affect seed certification fees.	July 2005-09-06, Review June 2006.
Electronic Seeds Project.	Applications for seed certification can be submitted on line.	PVS / Seed Trade.	Should lead to cost savings and a reduction in fees.	System now operational.

## Agriculture Crop

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
Implementation of EC Regulation 2003/2003 concerning EC Designated fertilisers. Delivered by a S.I. Repealed EC designated part SI, the Fertiliser Regulations 1991 and Fertiliser (Sampling and Analysis) Regulations 1996 and put it in the new SI.	The disapplication of the 'EC Designated' parts of the Fertiliser Regulations 1991 S.I. No. 2197 and of the Fertiliser (Sampling and Analysis) Regulations 1996 S.I. No 1342 thereby simplifying requirements for EC designated fertilisers under one Community Regulation. Sectors to benefit are Farmers, fertiliser manufacturers/importers, fertiliser users and enforcement authorities.	EU Regulation being implemented within UK	Not possible to specify cost savings - RIA not considered necessary.	Original 'coming into force' date of 27 February 2006 - possible slight delay due to a late declaration of Welsh Assembly involvement, necessitating a rewrite of the S.I. to include them.
Amendment & consolidation of main Plant Health order.	Consolidation and revocation of 18 pieces of existing legislation affecting agriculture and horticulture industry importers/exporters.	Defra / EU	RIA completed for amendments in relation to implementation of new import regime.	Came into force 3 October 2005.
Implementation of revised EU import regime.	Provision to reduce frequency of inspection if material can be shown to be low risk, with consequent reduction in import inspection charges.	EU	circa £120,000 total saving to importers in 2005/06.	First tranche of trades accepted for reduced inspection frequency from 1st January 2005. Further tranche likely from January 2006.
Implementation of charging for revised import regime.	Adoption of scale of import charges set out in Plant Health Directive on an interim basis as opposed to charges set to recover full cost. Importers.	Defra / stakeholder	RIA completed. Cf£200,000 saving to importers in 2005/06.	Charges introduced in April 2005.
Amendment & consolidation of Seed Potatoes Regulations.	Legislative – consolidation. The new Regulations will consolidate the existing Regulations plus the 5 amendments so 6 in all for the Seed potato industry.	Defra/EU	No savings. RIA to be prepared.	Regulations in force Spring 2006

## Fishing

### Annex 1

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
Move to a flat rate of penalties on <b>fishing vessel licensing transactions</b> . Introduction of the new system along side the old to allow vessel owners time to get used to the system, and to use the most advantageous to them during the 18 month dual running.	Administrative measure to simplify licence penalties. Benefiting all fishing vessel owners completing licence transactions.	Joint industry/Defra working group on fishing Vessel licensing.	Reduction to 5% flat rate will save individual vessel owners money on vessel licence transactions – cost unknown.	Hoped to be in place before 31 December 2005
<b>Fisheries</b> Directorate is developing a series of concrete <b>proposals for simplification</b> of EU legislation, for submission to the Commission. We are seeking reductions in both administrative and policy burdens on the industry, as well as cuts in costs for the Department.	This submission is being drawn up in conjunction with the main English fishing organisation through a joint project which Defra is funding. The same process is also expected to identify the scope for simplification of UK legislation, and our administrative procedures. Parallel initiatives are in hand within the Directorate to reduce administrative burdens on the industry, e.g. by rewriting our guidance on legislation, and by providing greater support for the industry in accessing the available EU grant aid scheme.	Defra/Industry		

Climate Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<p>A key priority for the UK is to address the treatment of small installations in Phase II (2008-2012) of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).</p> <p>Following requests from Member States at Environment Council Working Party meetings, and under the UK presidency of the EU, the UK has proposed draft text for inclusion in Environment Council Conclusions requesting that the burden of the Scheme on small installations is addressed. A range of legislative and administrative options are now being examined by the Commission and other Member States.</p>	<p>Annex I of the EU ETS Directive (2003/87/EC) identifies the industry activities that fall within the scope of the Scheme. The treatment of small installations has emerged as one of the key issues resulting from the implementation of Phase I - concerns have been raised as to whether it is appropriate for such installations to be included in the EU ETS when the financial and administrative burdens are high in relation to their actual emissions. As an indication of scale, more than 50% of the installations in Phase I account for less than 5% of the emissions covered by the Scheme. A related issue is that of a de minimis threshold for participation in the Scheme is currently 20MW. The EU ETS Directive requires that this threshold may be achieved by aggregating all combustion activities from individual units on the same site. As a result, a number of small installations and relatively low emitters (e.g. universities, hospitals) have been excluded. It is hoped that thorough amendment to the Directive, or strengthened Commission guidance on the preparation of National Allocation Plans (NAPs), small installations and low emitters will be excluded from the Scheme for the second Phase. Additionally, the UK remains in favour of identifying the potential for lighter monitoring requirements for small installations and this option is also being pursued at European and national level.</p>	<p>The UK, other Member States (e.g. the Netherlands) and EU ETS participants identified the treatment of small installations as an area of concern. UK Government is currently working with other Member States and the Commission to develop potential deregulatory options for the treatment of small installations.</p>	<p>The recent consultation on EU ETS Phase II sought stakeholder views on the treatment of small installations, and requested detailed information on EU ETS related operator costs for Government analysis.</p>	<p>The UK will press for any amendment to the Directive to be announced in time for changes to be incorporated in the UK Phase II National Allocation Plan. The EU ETS Directive requires that the Phase II NAP is submitted to the European Commission by June 2006. Based on this timetable, the UK has committed to a formal consultation on the draft NAP at the end of 2005.</p>

## Air

### Annex 1

Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Source of proposal	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
Revision of EU air quality policy, including reassessment of existing EU air quality standards	Consolidation and simplification. 5 existing EU Directives to be repealed. Benefits to government and agencies, and to all industrial sectors that emit to air.	EU	We are determining the possible cost savings which will depend on the precise formulation of measures eventually adopted and an RIA is being prepared.	Depend on European processes, substantive negotiations unlikely to start before 2006. The new Directive is unlikely to be agreed before 2008.

IT	Brief description of the initiative and how it will be delivered	Type of measure and outcome (including sector/s to benefit)	Estimated cost savings and RIA status where applicable	Source of proposal	Milestones / deadlines for delivery
<p><b>International Trade Single Window (ITSW):</b> ITSW is a 'single-window' web based portal covering all aspects regarding regulatory requirements for international trade (Import and Export), including trade within the EU. The portal is a destination for information and guidance, and a transactional gateway between the private and public sectors. The portal helps businesses understand what regulatory requirements applies to them, keeps them up to date with these, and enable them to handle the regulatory and information requirements online. When fully implemented, the portal will allow import/export businesses (or their agents) to submit all information required for regulatory compliance in a single message via the portal, as well as undertake a range of other transactions with government departments and agencies. ITSW is being developed a cross-departmental project which will drive forward more joined up government working and better sharing of information between government.</p>	<p>There are about 150,000 SMEs engaged in international trade. They have to deal with a number of different departments and agencies in terms of paperwork and inspections. These government organisations do not share information effectively and often require businesses to present physical documentation. By e-enabling these interfaces and moving transactions online, the compliance burdens for businesses is significantly reduced. The ITSW business case estimates that over 5 years, the net present value of benefits is conservatively in the region of £125.5m.</p>	<p>SBS, HMRC, Food Standards Agency, DEFRA</p>	<p>The timetable for implementing a full ITSW is 2010.</p>		

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