

To: All Consultees

Dear Consultee

10 August 2017

## **CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT: PROPOSALS FOR THE IONISING RADIATIONS REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2017**

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (“the Executive”) has prepared a Consultative Document (CD) containing proposals for the Ionising Radiations Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017. The CD has been published on its website [www.hseni.gov.uk](http://www.hseni.gov.uk) where it can be read, copied or printed. It is available under the “Quick Links” section of the Homepage under “Consultations” and also in the “Our documents” section or downloaded [here](#). **If you would prefer a printed version, it can be obtained on request. Furthermore, if you require a more accessible format, executive summaries are available in Braille or large print, on disc or audio-cassette, or in Irish, Ulster Scots and other languages of the minority ethnic communities in Northern Ireland. To obtain a summary in one of these formats, please contact myself at the address shown overleaf.**

The proposed Regulations relate to implementation of Directive 2013/59/EURATOM laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation. In order to transpose the requirements of the Directive, which relate to occupational health and safety, the Executive is proposing to revoke and replace the Ionising Radiations Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (IRR 2000).

The aim of the directive is to update and simplify existing arrangements for radiological protection by bringing five directives and an EU commission recommendation into one directive.

Many of the requirements of the BSS Directive are already part of the UK’s health and safety regime and are covered by existing legislation and practices, including IRR 2000, the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information)

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Regulations 2001 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000. However, some of the requirements of the Directive go further than our existing legislation.

One of the key changes relates to one of the dose limits for radiation exposure to the lens of the eye, with a reduction of equivalent dose from 150 mSv to 20 mSv in a year.

IRR 2000 currently requires that exposure to ionising radiation is calculated and assessed on a calendar year basis, so if this new dose limit is introduced on 6 February 2018, the transposition deadline, it would mean two dose limits would apply in one calendar year. HSENI therefore proposes to transpose the BSSD on 1st January 2018 five weeks before the transposition deadline

Another change is the introduction of a new three tiered risk-based system of regulatory control called the 'Graded Approach'. The BSSD refers to these levels as notification, registration, and licensing and the higher the radiation protection risk associated with the work, the greater the requirements.

Further details of these and other proposed changes can be found in the CD.

An assessment of the costs and benefits of the proposal has been prepared in relation to the GB equivalent Regulations. The proposed approach will maintain existing health and safety protections and increase standards in some instances. HSENI is of the opinion that, with the exception of fees, the analysis and considerations as set out in the GB Impact Assessment can be applied to Northern Ireland on a proportionate basis. HSENI estimates that the total net present value costs over a ten year period will be around £241,750 of which approximately £87,500 will be attributable to business with the remainder falling to the public sector.

As regards equality of opportunity, there will be a justified differential impact on those of working age. However, there will be no adverse impact on any group.

The Executive has a statutory duty, under the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, to consult before submitting proposals, to make the Regulations, to the Department for the Economy. Accordingly, the Executive seeks your views on the proposals contained in the CD.

Comments, in whatever format you choose to use, should be sent to:

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so as to arrive not later than **noon on 05 October 2017**.

Comments are invited on any matters in the CD but particularly, on the assumptions relating to costs and the conclusion that there will be no adverse effect on any section 75 group.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Beck', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**David Beck**