

APPSI/160909

United Kingdom Location Programme

Paper to: The Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information (APPSI)

Title: INSPIRE Transposition Progress Report

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1. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

1.1 Consultation

The consultation on transposition policy principles and the draft impact assessment ended on 26 May. We received 46 written responses in addition to the feedback from the 200 attendees at the 5 outreach events held in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, London and Manchester. The results of the consultation informed the drafting of the Statutory Instrument and the revision of the impact assessment. The report on consultation was published on the Defra website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/inspire/summary-responses.pdf> in June.

1.2 Statutory Instrument

Defra's Transposition Project Board (TPB) has made good progress in finalising the draft Statutory Instrument that will cover England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The TPB met on 10 September.

The Statutory Instrument will be put to the devolved administrations for agreement before going to Defra Ministers. The aim is to lay the Statutory Instrument in Parliament before the end of October so that it can come into effect in November.

Scotland will be producing its own Statutory Instrument. This will mirror the Instrument for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and it will be produced to the same timetable.

1.3 Impact Assessment

An updated impact assessment has been prepared following the consultation exercise. This shows estimated costs (including local authority 'new burdens') to be £53m (net present value discounted at 3.5% over 10 years). Benefits calculated on the same basis, but assuming only 50 per cent are realised because of timing delays and lower implementation assumptions, are estimated to be between £53 - £99m. See: <http://defraweb/corporate/consult/inspire/index.htm>

1.4 Guide to the Regulations

A guide to the Regulations is being prepared. This will be available free of charge on the UK Location Programme website (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/location>).

2. INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS

The UK has received the automatic infraction letter from the EC because we had not transposed the INSPIRE Directive by 15 May. Defra is currently producing a response, which is essentially a timetable of when regulations will be made and come into effect. We expect this to happen in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland before the end of November, although as part of that we must take into account Gibraltar where progress is slower. At the moment we understand Gibraltar will not have completed transposition until the New Year.

The UK is in a similar situation to most other Member States on transposition. At the INSPIRE Conference in Rotterdam during June the Commission reported that only 4 countries had by then transposed, and the majority were in a similar position to the UK in expecting to transpose before the end of the year.