



RIA Bulletin April 2008

In June 2005, a Government decision was taken to introduce Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) across all Government Departments and Offices. RIAs must be conducted on (1) all proposals for primary legislation involving changes to the regulatory framework; (2) significant Statutory Instruments; and (3) proposals for EU Directives and significant EU regulations when they are published by the European Commission. This Bulletin seeks to provide officials with information on RIAs carried out across Departments and on relevant developments taking place in the broader area of Better Regulation.

RIA Review

An independent review of the operation of RIA commenced on 31 October 2007, in line with the terms of *Towards 2016*. The review will assess the effectiveness of the current RIA model having regard, in particular, to the principle of proportionality and current international best practice. RIA outputs from Departments and Offices will be assessed on a quantitative and qualitative basis having regard to the requirements of the RIA model itself. The review will also examine the effectiveness of current supports available to officials involved in preparing RIAs and recommend how best to support the RIA process into the future. At the end of the Review, recommendations will be made for any necessary changes to the model itself or to its operation. It is expected that the report on the Review will be finalised shortly.

RIA Network

The RIA Network was set up in early 2007 to bring together officials from each Government Department / Office in order to share experience and develop best practice on conducting RIAs. The RIA Network meets on a quarterly basis and has a role in supporting RIA development within their own Departments. The RIA Network also has a role in ensuring that the commitments on RIA contained in "*Towards 2016*" are met. Contact details for members of the RIA Network are available on www.betterregulation.ie.

RIA Economic Consultant

Following a tender process, Goodbody Economic Consultants have been re-appointed as the independent Economic Consultant available to assist officials conducting RIAs involving complex economic analysis. If a Section/Division of any Government Department is interested in availing of the above services, please contact your Department's RIA Network Officer.

Useful sample RIAs

On the basis of recent monitoring of RIAs, the Better Regulation Unit considers that the following RIAs have some interesting aspects and may be useful reference tools for officials involved in the RIA process:

- The Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2008. D/EHLG
- Electricity Amendment (EirGrid) Bill 2008. D/CENR

To obtain further information on the compilation of these RIAs, please contact the RIA Network Officer of the relevant Department.

RIAs due for publication

The legislative proposals listed were accompanied by a RIA. If not already available on the websites of the

relevant Departments, Departments should put these up as soon as possible and, at a minimum; publish them alongside the text of the relevant Bills:

- Companies Consolidation and Reform Bill (D/ETE) – RIA is published as part of the Report on the General Scheme of Companies Consolidation and Reform Bill
- Chemicals Regulation and Enforcement Bill 2007 (D/ETE)
- General Scheme of a Harbours (Amendment) Bill 2007 (D/TM)

The following Regulations/Directives were also subject to RIA and, similarly, officials can expect to see the relevant RIAs published shortly:

- Amendment of the taxation provisions relating to petroleum exploration and production
- Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) - RIA is published as part of the consultation on the transposition of the Environmental Liability Directive

FOI

There is a requirement that all RIAs are published. In this respect, officials conducting RIAs should be mindful of the sensitivities that can surround draft RIAs, especially, in the context of Cabinet Confidentiality and the exemptions from the Freedom of Information Acts. The Freedom of Information Guidelines can be considered when publishing RIAs

RIA Training

The Better Regulation Unit, in conjunction with the Civil Service Training and Development Centre, carry out a two day training course on Regulatory Impact Analysis. This course is aimed at officials who will be involved in conducting RIAs. The next training courses for 2008 have been scheduled for 21/22 May and 18/19 June. Further information on this course is available on www.betterregulation.ie. Please contact your Departmental Training Officer if you are interested in attending this training course.

RIA Roadshow

The Better Regulation is aware that it can be difficult for officials to attend a dedicated two day course. In this context, the Better Regulation Unit is available to carry out short presentations to individual Departments if a number of officials are interested. These presentations can be carried out as simple information sessions or more detailed presentations. They can be tailored to suit the Department and their needs. Please contact your Departmental Training Officer or your RIA Network Officer if you would be interested in attending one of these sessions.

To contact the Better Regulation Unit, please call 01.6194593 or log on to www.betterregulation.ie.