



RIA Bulletin

January – June 2007

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 and eCabinet

RIA has been fully integrated into the eCabinet system as part of the recent systems upgrade. Officials using the "Legislation Memorandum" template on eCabinet will be automatically presented with a new screen to enable them to attach a RIA. Users who, at that stage, have not yet compiled their RIA document will have the option of transferring to www.betterregulation.ie where templates for Full and Screening RIAs are available to download.

RIA Network

At the beginning of 2006, a RIA Network was set up to bring together officials from each Government Department/Office in order to share experience and develop best practice on conducting RIAs. Contact details for members of the RIA Network are available on www.betterregulation.ie.

RIA Economic Consultant

The Better Regulation Unit has engaged an economic consultant to assist officials with complex economic analysis involved in the RIA process. If a Section/Division of any Government Department is interested in availing of the services of the RIA Economic Consultant, please contact your Department's RIA Network Officer.

Useful sample RIAs

On the basis of its monitoring of RIAs over the period January-June 2007, the Better Regulation Unit considers that the following RIAs stand out in quality terms and may be useful reference tools for officials involved in the RIA process:

- RIA carried out on the Communications Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (D/CMNR);
- RIA carried out on the Assets Covered Securities (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (D/Finance); and
- Social Welfare Law Reform and Pensions Bill, 2007 (RIA carried out in relation to Supplementary Welfare Allowance) (D/SFA).

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 below were accompanied by a RIA. If not already available on the websites of the relevant Departments, officials can expect these RIAs to be published alongside the text of the relevant Bills:

- Communications Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (D/CMNR);
- Charities Bill, 2007 (D/CRGA);
- Control of Exports Bill, 2007 (D/ETE);
- Assets Covered Securities (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (D/Finance);
- Passports Bill, 2007 (D/FA);
- Pharmacy Bill, 2007 (D/Health);

- Criminal Justice (Forensic Sampling and Evidence) Bill, 2007 (D/JELR);
- Social Welfare Law Reform and Pensions Bill, 2007 (2 RIAs) (D/SFA);
- Money Advice and Budgeting Service Bill, 2007 (D/SFA);
- Markets in Financial Instruments and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 2007 (D/Finance);
- Employment Agencies Regulation Bill, 2007 (D/ETE); and
- Safety (Petroleum Exploration and Extraction) Bill, 2007 (D/CENR).

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

- Council Directive 2004/113/EC (equal treatment of men and women in the provision of goods and services) (D/JELR);
- European Communities (Eco-Design for Energy-Using Products) Regulations, 2007 (D/CMNR); and
- Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2006 of the Council and the European Parliament concerning the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air (D/Transport).

Departments' Annual Reports now contain information on RIA

In line with a commitment contained in *Towards 2016*, the 2006 Annual Reports of Government Departments/Offices will contain details of legislation and regulations published during the year under review and how RIA was applied in such cases. This will act as a useful point of reference going forward for officials conducting RIAs and for stakeholders in the relevant policy areas.

RIA Training

The Better Regulation Unit, in conjunction with the Civil Service Training and Development Centre, has devised a dedicated 2-day RIA training course for officials involved in conducting RIAs. The next course is scheduled to take place on 25/26 September. Further information on booking a place on this course is available on www.betterregulation.ie.

RIA Roadshow

Conscious that it can be difficult for officials to set aside 2 days to attend the RIA training course, the Better Regulation Unit is willing to go on site in Departments to deliver short presentations on RIA. Presentations have already taken place in a number of Departments and RIA has also been the subject of "lunch and learn" sessions. If you would be interested in attending a presentation on RIA, please contact your Training Officer or RIA Network Officer.

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