

Research and analysis: Sharing resources with the Fire and Rescue Service during air quality incidents

This project explored how the Environment Agency and the Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) might collaborate and coordinate use of their resources to produce better air quality information during major incidents. Major incidents such as large fires or accidental chemical releases can lead to toxic material entering the atmosphere.

As a result, the Environment Agency and the FRS now have a clearer understanding of each other's roles and capabilities, which will enable even closer collaboration in future.

Independent report: Farm Inspection and Regulation Review

Updated: We have published the interim report from this review.

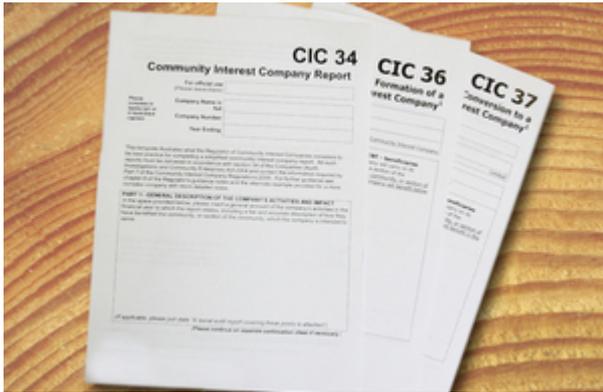
The interim report sets out possible new approaches to regulating farming. We expect that the review will finish by the end of December 2018 and that we will publish a final report then.

The Secretary of State commissioned a review to identify opportunities to improve farming-related regulation and enforcement (including farm inspections). The review will apply only to England. The review began in March 2018 and is being chaired by Dame Glenys Stacey. She is supported by a small working group.

The terms of reference set out the scope of the review, and explains how the review will report.

News story: CIC Directors Remuneration

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1. The Government's objective is to ensure that small Community Interest Companies (CICs) continue to report on Director remuneration (pay as well as other benefits).
2. Although CICs can make and distribute a share of profit, they have a higher duty of transparency than private companies to satisfy their regulatory "community interest test". Reporting remuneration is important for ensuring the community interest test is met. It has long been accepted practice and satisfies CIC regulatory corporate governance requirements.
3. The Accounting Directive restricted the disclosures required of small companies and removed the obligation for small companies to report on Directors' remuneration. The transposition of the Accounting Directive therefore inadvertently created a gap by removing Schedule 3 of the Small Accounts Regulations 2008 in relation to reporting remuneration of directors when a CIC is a small company. The amendments restore the requirement for Directors of small CICs to report on their remuneration (pay as well as other benefits). Directors of large CICs will be unaffected by this requirement.

The Regulator of Community Interest Companies (CICs) maintains an expectation that CICs continue to provide remuneration information on their Annual Report (CIC34) for the maintenance of confidence in CICs, as a CIC must satisfy the community interest test. Within the Regulator's functions is the power to investigate the affairs of a CIC and, if it appears that a CIC is not satisfying the community interest test, the Regulator can take enforcement action. One way in which a CIC might be revealed as not satisfying the community interest test is if it is paying an unreasonable level of remuneration to its directors.

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Thank you for your feedback