

The Treasury

Temporary Suspension of Regulatory Impact Analysis Requirements for Direct Covid-19 Responses Information Release

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Additional Item: Temporary Suspension of Regulatory Impact Analysis Requirements for Direct COVID-19 Responses

Portfolio Finance

On 23 March 2020, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) requirements do not provide for proposals developed at pace to respond to emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 2 **noted** that the current approach of considering whether these proposals may proceed without RIA, and invoking no consequences when they do, consumes scarce departmental and Treasury resources and time without adding value, and risks bringing the RIA process into disrepute;
- 3 **agreed** to suspend the RIA requirements for emergency regulatory proposals relating directly to COVID-19, so that these proposals may proceed to Cabinet without accompanying RIA at any time up until or on 31 August 2020;
- 4 **agreed** to mitigate the risks of the decision in paragraph three above by providing that:
 - 4.1 the suspension apply only to direct COVID-19 responses, as determined by the Treasury;
 - 4.2 the Treasury will work with departments to ensure that available relevant analysis is included in Cabinet papers to inform Ministers' decisions;
- 5 **noted** that the decisions in paragraphs three and four above do not alter the RIA requirements for any other government regulatory proposals;
- 6 **noted** that officials will develop advice on standing provisions for RIA in times of emergency.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet
