

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE ORDER 2013**

2013 No. 3161

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Purpose of the instrument

2.1 The purpose of the instrument is to declare an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around the United Kingdom. The EEZ will replace certain other existing zones in United Kingdom law and will make use of the powers conferred upon coastal States by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None.

4. Legislative Context

4.1 This Order will declare the EEZ; it is however part of a series of five statutory instruments which are necessary to enable the declaration to be made. The other instruments are:-

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (Commencement No 6) Order 2013;
The Continental Shelf (Designation of Areas) Order 2013;
The Fishery Limits (Revocation) Order 2013; and
The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution) (Limits) (Revocation) Regulations 2013.

5. Territorial Extent and Application

5.1 This instrument applies to all of the United Kingdom.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

• *What is being done and why*

7.1 The instrument will declare the EEZ around the United Kingdom. It will replace four zones established under existing United Kingdom law and will therefore lead to rationalisation and greater clarity. It will also ensure that United Kingdom law is clearly consistent with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The statutory power to declare an EEZ was conferred in 2009, and since then there

have been consultations with the United Kingdom's eight maritime neighbours to agree on the practical details.

8. Consultation outcome

8.1 All relevant Government Departments have been consulted.

9. Guidance

9.1 The necessity for guidance is not foreseen.

10. Impact

10.1 No impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is foreseen.

10.2 No impact on the public sector is foreseen.

10.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument.

11. Regulating small business

11.1 The legislation does not apply to small business.

12. Monitoring & review

12.1 No specific need for monitoring or review is foreseen, but obviously the workings of the legislation will be kept under general review.

13. Contact

Chris Whomersley at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (tel: 0207 008 3284 or email: chris.whomersley@fco.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding the instrument.