

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE CONTINENTAL SHELF (DESIGNATION OF AREAS) ORDER 2013**  
**2013 No. 3162**

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 this instrument is to designate the areas of the United Kingdom Continental Shelf.

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

3.1 None.

**4. Legislative Context**

4.1 The Order revokes the two existing Orders under Section 1(7) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964. It has become necessary in view of the declaration of an Exclusive Economic Zone around the United Kingdom.

**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 not subject to any Parliamentary procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

**7. Policy background**

• *What is being done and why*

7.1 The Order declares the United Kingdom continental shelf to be co-extensive with the United Kingdom's Exclusive Economic Zone, with two exceptions. The first is that, under the treaty relating to the Faroe Islands, it has been agreed that the Exclusive Economic Zone boundary should extend beyond the continental shelf boundary. The second is west of the Hebrides, where the United Kingdom has made a submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (which is established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea) claiming an area of continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. The effect of the Order is to maintain the existing boundaries, but express them in the most up-to-date datum system.

**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.

**13. Contact**

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