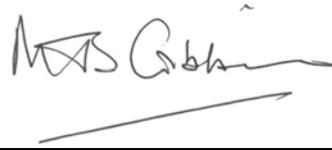


 Regulatory Policy Committee	OPINION	
Impact Assessment (IA)	Revision of Fees: Amendment of the Plant Health (Export Certification) (England) Order 2004 and the Plant Health (Export Certification) (Wales) Order 2006	
Lead Department/Agency	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs/Food and Environment research Agency	
Stage	Final	
Origin	Domestic	
IA number	DEFRA 1351	
Date submitted to RPC	09/01/2013	
RPC Opinion date and reference	25/01/2013	RPC12-DEFRA-1308(2)
One-in, One-out (OIOO) Assessment	GREEN	
<p>Overall comments on the robustness of the OIOO assessment.</p> <p>Based on the evidence presented in the IA, the OIOO assessment of the proposal as being out of scope of OIOO appears robust. The proposed increase in fees to business is not the result of increased regulatory activity in this area but rather (<i>..to remove [the existing] subsidy, with the intention of increasing the charges to exporters to full cost recovery level.</i>) Page 1. This is consistent with the current OIOO Methodology (paragraph 16). However, given that the proposal appears to stem from the requirement for the UK to discharge an obligation under an international convention, the extent to which the proposal is out of scope on these grounds should be made clearer (OIOO Methodology, paragraph 24)</p>		
<p>Overall quality of the analysis and evidence presented in the IA</p> <p><i>Proposed Fee Increases.</i> Given the potential increase in the fees that would impact on business, and particularly micro-businesses from the proposal, we asked in our previous Opinion (23/03/2012) on the consultation stage IA, for the Final stage IA to consider in greater detail both the potential impact on market participants, and the scope within the Agency for efficiencies in this area</p> <p>The IA does include greater discussion of these issues and the preferred option is to phase in the proposed fee increases to reduce the short-term impact on business. However, the IA still assumes that there will be no impact on the demand for the Agency's services following the increase in cost to business, and that there are no significant efficiencies open to the Agency in this area. The IA could usefully provide a clearer presentation of the results of the consultation to support the preferred option.</p>		

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end. There is a small mark above the 'i' in "Gibbons".

Michael Gibbons, Chairman