



Introducing an RIA System: UK and European experience

Mark Courtney

Objectives for RIA

- Improve transparency and policy-making – within Government
- Improve transparency and policy-making – with Civil Society
- Improve competitiveness

Elements of RIA

- Problem definition
- Identifying Options
- Consultation
- Analysis of Costs and Benefits
- Post-implementation review

Prerequisites for RIA

- high-level political or legal support
- strong co-ordination and enforcement of use of RIA
- a centre of expertise on RIA
- ability to change public service culture
- external business and media interest and support

In UK: Prime Minister's Commitment

“No proposal for regulation which has an impact on businesses, charities or voluntary bodies should be considered by Ministers without a regulatory impact assessment being carried out”

Tony Blair, August 2000

Other UK institutional elements

- Ministerial Committee (Panel for Regulatory Accountability)
- Better Regulation Executive in the Cabinet Office
- Departmental networks
- external institutions: Better Regulation Commission and National Audit Office
- strong business pressure to reduce government red tape
- increasing use by Parliamentary committees

Initial



Partial



Full



Final

Initial Policy Discussion

Collective Agreement

Consultation

Legislative Bid

Recommend to Minister

Legislation to Parliament

the RIA process

Techniques of RIA

- Problem definition (risk analysis)
- Identifying Options (including non-regulatory)
- Consultation
- Analysis of Costs and Benefits
- Consideration of compliance and enforcement
- Post-implementation review

Cost-Benefit Analysis

The essence of evidence-based policy-making

- Economic, Social, Environmental
- Quantified and monetised where possible
- Depth of analysis proportional to the issue
- Includes unintended consequences
- Special attention to: small businesses;
competition; administrative costs

Information

↙ Better Regulation Executive

– www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation

↙ Better Regulation Task Force

– www.brtaf.gov.uk

↙ HM Treasury Green Book (economic appraisal in central government)

– greenbook.treasury.gov.uk