



**THE MINES REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2016  
(S.R. 2016 No. 427)**

**Impact Assessment**

An Impact Assessment (IA) is a tool, which informs policy decisions. All NI Government Departments must comply with the impact assessment process when considering any new, or amendments to, existing policy proposals. Where regulations or alternative measures are introduced an IA should be used to make informed decisions. The IA is an assessment of the impact of policy options in terms of the costs, benefits and risks of the proposal. New regulations should only be introduced when other alternatives have been considered and rejected and where the benefits justify the costs.

The IA process is not specific to the Home Civil Service or the NI Civil Service – many countries use a similar analysis to assess their proposed regulations and large organisations appraise their investment decisions in similar ways too.

Please find enclosed a final IA in respect of the Mines Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Contact: Julie Gillespie  
HSENI Legislation Unit  
83 Ladas Drive  
Belfast BT6 9FR

E-mail: [Julie.gillespie@hсени.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.gillespie@hсени.gov.uk)

## **THE MINES REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2016**

### **NOTE ON COSTS AND BENEFITS**

1. I declare that :
  - a. the purpose of the Mines Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (“the Northern Ireland Regulations”) is to consolidate and modernise the law on health and safety in mines in Northern Ireland;
  - b. the Regulations retain necessary protection for mineworkers and others and clearly place the duty to ensure health and safety on the mine operator. They also remove outdated and redundant legislation, prescription and duplication.
2. I am satisfied that a regulatory impact assessment is not required in this instance as it is anticipated that there will be no extra compliance costs arising from the proposed changes given that the regulations contain no requirements above those that current mine operators are already meeting. There is no impact on charities, social enterprises or voluntary bodies.

Colin Jack  
Department for the Economy

13 December 2016

## **PART I**

### **GREAT BRITAIN IMPACT ASSESSMENT** (Prepared by the Health and Safety Executive)

#### **The Mines Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/3248)**

1. This page contains a [link](#) to the Impact Assessment, prepared by the Great Britain Health and Safety Executive (HSE), in respect of the equivalent Mines Regulations 2014 (“the Great Britain Regulations”).
2. The Great Britain Regulations replace the previous law with a single, modern set of regulations that retain necessary protection for workers and others and clearly place the duty to ensure health and safety on the mine operator.
3. There are one off costs to industry of familiarisation of around £242 thousand but these are offset against benefits such as having a single set of new Regulations containing all mines-specific safety legislation and a reduction in applications for exemptions and notifications.
4. The proposal is estimated to offer total quantified net savings to industry of between around £1.6 million and £2.5 million in present values over ten years, with a best estimate of around £2.1million. This translates into a best estimate Equivalent Annual Net Saving to Business in 2009 prices of around 0.19 million.

## **PART II**

### **NORTHERN IRELAND COSTS AND BENEFITS**

#### **The Mines Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

##### **General**

1. The Department for the Economy is of the opinion that the analysis and considerations set out in the Great Britain Impact Assessment do not directly apply to the circumstances in Northern Ireland. The Great Britain Impact Assessment includes costs and benefits in relation to coal mines but there is no coal mining in Northern Ireland at present.

##### **Costs and Benefits**

2. The Northern Ireland Regulations deliver a simplified legislative package that removes outdated or irrelevant provisions while retaining necessary legal controls over significant mining hazards. It is anticipated that there would be no extra compliance costs as a result of the proposed changes as the regulations contain no requirements above those that current mine operators are already meeting.
3. One off familiarisation would be required but as there are currently less than 150 employed in the mining industry in Northern Ireland the numbers that would require detailed knowledge of the new regulations would be small, possibly 10 or so. The remaining workforce would require a working knowledge of the regulations but this would be disseminated to them by managers.
4. Potential savings exist in relation to, for example, reduced requirement to make notifications to HSENI and as the regulations would be clearer and simpler for operators to comply with and would take less time for new users to read and understand.
5. As a result it is anticipated that any familiarisation costs would be balanced by the benefits with possible minimal savings.

##### **Conclusion**

6. Overall, it is estimated that the impact on business will be negligible.