ADEPT: Consultation Tracker

March 2019

This document is tailored to provide a monthly overview of key consultations and committee inquiries (2016 onwards) relevant to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

**Department consultations**

**Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

**Confidentiality clauses: measures to prevent misuse in situations of workplace harassment or discrimination**

We're seeking views on proposals to improve the regulation of confidentiality clauses, also known as non-disclosure agreements or NDAs. This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 29 April 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/confidentiality-clauses-measures-to-prevent-misuse-in-situations-of-workplace-harassment-or-discrimination>

**Enrolment of Secure SMETS1 meters in the Data Communications Company (DCC)**

We're seeking views on a proposal requiring the Data Communications Company (DCC) to provide an interoperable SMETS1 smart meter service in respect of the Secure meter set.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 2 April 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enrolment-of-secure-smets1-meters-in-the-data-communications-company-dcc>

**Consumer Contract Regulations 2013 review: call for evidence**

We're seeking views on the Consumer Contract Regulations 2013, and whether their objectives have been achieved.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 1 May 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consumer-contract-regulations-2014-review-call-for-evidence>

**Capacity Market: further technical amendments**

We're seeking views on additional measures to keep the Capacity Market (CM) running smoothly during the standstill period.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 4 April 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/capacity-market-further-technical-amendments>

**Designing the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund**

We're seeking views on the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund, which will help industry to improve energy efficiency, cut energy bills and shift to lower carbon energy and processes.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 31 May 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/designing-the-industrial-energy-transformation-fund>

**Pregnancy and maternity discrimination: extending redundancy protection for women and new parents**

This consultation seeks views on extending redundancy protection for pregnant women and new parents. It also sets out more widely what the department is doing to tackle pregnancy and maternity discrimination, and explain the current law on redundancy protection.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 5 April 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pregnancy-and-maternity-discrimination-extending-redundancy-protection-for-women-and-new-parents>

**Energy efficiency scheme for small and medium sized businesses: call for evidence**

This call for evidence seeks views on various proposals for a new Business Energy Efficiency Scheme focused on SMEs.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 8 May 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/energy-efficiency-scheme-for-small-and-medium-sized-businesses-call-for-evidence>

**Strengthening the UK’s offshore oil and gas decommissioning industry: call for evidence**

A call for evidence to identify what more should be done to further strengthen Scotland and the UK’s position as a global hub for decommissioning.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 8 May 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-the-uks-offshore-oil-and-gas-decommissioning-industry-call-for-evidence>

**Independent review of the Financial Reporting Council: initial consultation on recommendations**

This consultation seeks views on the recommendations made by the Independent Review of the Financial Reporting Council to create a new regulator responsible for audit, corporate reporting and corporate governance.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 11 June 2019**

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-review-of-the-financial-reporting-council-initial-consultation-on-recommendations**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-review-of-the-financial-reporting-council-initial-consultation-on-recommendations)

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

**WEEE: Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) Balancing System (PBS)**

We want to know your thoughts on the two proposals we’ve received for a WEEE Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) Balancing System (PBS). We also want to know which of the proposed methodologies and administrators best meet the evaluation criteria.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 15 April 2019**

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/approvalofpbsproposal/>

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government**

**Decapitalisation rates for the 2021 business rates revaluation**

The government has committed to introduce more frequent business rates revaluations and will bring forward the date of the next revaluation from 2022 to 2021. Thereafter the government will move to 3 yearly revaluations ensuring rating assessments are more up to date. This technical consultation concerns whether the government should prescribe decapitalisation rates for 2021 and, if so, how the rates should be prescribed

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 30 May 2019**

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/decapitalisation-rates-for-the-2021-business-rates-revaluation**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/decapitalisation-rates-for-the-2021-business-rates-revaluation)

**Department for Transport**

**Aviation 2050 — the future of UK aviation**

We are extending the Aviation 2050 green paper consultation period to 20 June 2019 to provide further time for stakeholders to consider its proposals and submit their consultation responses. This consultation closes at **11:45 on 30th June 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/aviation-2050-the-future-of-uk-aviation>

**Reinstating a road after street works: new edition of the code of practice**

Seeks views on a new edition of the 'Specification for the reinstatement of openings in highways', a statutory code of practice for street works.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 6 May 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reinstating-a-road-after-street-works-new-edition-of-the-code-of-practice>

**Williams Rail Review**

On 19 March the Review published a series of evidence papers and its draft assessment criteria.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 31 May 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/williams-rail-review>

**HM Treasury**

**Preventing abuse of the R&D tax relief for SMEs**

This is a consultation on the measure announced at Budget 2018. This consultation will focus on how the “cap” will be applied, to minimise any impact on genuine businesses.

This consultation closes at **11:59pm on 24 May 2019**

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/preventing-abuse-of-the-rd-tax-relief-for-smes**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/preventing-abuse-of-the-rd-tax-relief-for-smes)

**Civil Liability Act report on savings provision**

Seeking views on draft regulations requiring insurers to submit information for a report detailing the impact of the Civil Liability Act reforms on their business.

This consultation closes at **11:59pm on 3 May 2019**

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/civil-liability-act-report-on-savings-provision**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/civil-liability-act-report-on-savings-provision)

**Infrastructure Finance Review**

The government has published a consultation on how best to support private investment in infrastructure.

This consultation closes at **11:59pm on 5 June 2019**

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/infrastructure-finance-review**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/infrastructure-finance-review)

**Draft legislation detailing a new capital allowance for new non-residential structures and buildings**

We invite views on this draft secondary legislation, following announcement of the Structures and Buildings Allowance at Budget 2018. The government announced this measure to support business investment in new non-residential structures and buildings, and to enhance tax relief for such assets.

This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 24 April 2019**

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-legislation-detailing-a-new-capital-allowance-for-new-non-residential-structures-and-buildings**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-legislation-detailing-a-new-capital-allowance-for-new-non-residential-structures-and-buildings)

**Department for Exiting the European Union**

**No Updates**

**Current committee consultations & inquiries**

**Transport Committee**

**HS2: update with Allan Cook inquiry**

Allan Cook was appointed as Chair of HS2 Ltd. in December 2018. The Transport Select Committee will be questioning him about his new role, how the scheme is progressing and gauging his views on the challenges it faces. **No end date listed.**

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/hs2-update-allan-cook-inquiry-17-19/>

**Taxi and private hire reform in England inquiry**

One-off evidence session with the Chair of the Task and Finish Group on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing (TFG)

One-off evidence session: **Wednesday 27 March 2019**

[**https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/taxi-private-hire-reform-england-17-19/**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/taxi-private-hire-reform-england-17-19/)

**Road Safety inquiry**

The inquiry will investigate which changes would be most effective at reducing the number and severity of road traffic accidents.

**There is no listed deadline.**

[**https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/road-safety-17-19/**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/road-safety-17-19/)

**Science and Technology Committee**

**Commercial genomics inquiry (commons)**

The Science and Technology Committee launches an inquiry into commercial genomic testing to establish what safeguards need to be put in place to protect those who get tested. **The deadline for written submission is 26 April 2019**

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/commercial-genomics-17-19/>

**Commercial and recreational drone use in the UK inquiry**

This inquiry will look at the ethical and safety implications of the growing use of civilian drones, of all sizes, across the UK.

The deadline for written submissions is **12 April 2019**

[**https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/commercial-recreational-drone-uk-17-19/**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/commercial-recreational-drone-uk-17-19/)

**Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee**

**Local Government Finance and the 2019 Spending Review inquiry**

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has announced a new inquiry into local government finance. Ahead of the Spending Review 2019 expected this autumn, the inquiry will consider how effective the existing funding set-up for local government is in providing resources to meet need and demand for local services both now and in the future. The Committee’s work will seek to directly inform government policy towards local government funding in the Spending Review and beyond. **The deadline for written evidence is Wednesday 17 April 2019**

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/housing-communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/inquiry18/>

**Implications of the Waste Strategy for Local Authorities inquiry**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published its Resources and Waste Strategy for England on 18 December 2018. The Strategy sets out how the country will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy.

Deadline for written submissions is **26 April 2019**

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/housing-communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/implications-waste--17-19/>

**Business Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee**

No updates.

**EFRA Committee**

**Plastic food and drink packaging inquiry**

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee launches an inquiry into plastic food and drink packaging.

**There is no listed deadline.**

[**https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/plastic-food-and-drink-packaging-17-19/**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/plastic-food-and-drink-packaging-17-19/)

**Environmental Audit Committee**

**Sustainability in the Department for Transport inquiry**

The Committee will be taking evidence from the Minister of State for Transport, to follow up on its 2016 Inquiry into Sustainability in the Department for Transport. The session will explore the progress that the Department has made on the recommendations made by the Committee.

**There is no listed deadline.**

 <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/sustainability-in-the-department-for-transport-17-19/>

**Voluntary National Review of UK progress against the Sustainable Development Goals inquiry**

The Environmental Audit Committee holds a one-off evidence session later in the Spring to consider the domestic aspects of the UK’s Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals, following its earlier reports on The Sustainable Development Goals in the UK, and Sustainable Development Goals in the UK follow up: Hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity in the UK.

**There is no listed deadline.**

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/voluntary-national-review-sustainable-development-goals-17-19/>

**Exiting the European Union**

**National Infrastructure Commission**

**Resilience study scoping consultation**

This consultation paper will inform the Commission’s study on the resilience of the UK’s national infrastructure. The key outcome from the [resilience study](https://www.nic.org.uk/our-work/resilience/) is expected to be a framework to consider resilience across economic infrastructure, for application during the next National Infrastructure Assessment. This consultation will gather views on resilience priorities and on issues emerging from sectoral interdependencies. The consultation will run until **1 April 2019**.

<https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/resilience-study-scoping-consultation/>