

List of Questions

Smaller Authorities

Q1. Do the regulations meet the Government's policy objective at Paragraph 2.1?

Yes.

Q2. Do you have any other comments on the proposed smaller authorities' regulations?

No other comments.

Q3. Do you agree with the differing proposals regarding the appointment of auditors to exempt authorities which are opted-in and those which are opted-out of the specified person's auditor appointment regime?

Agree.

Collective Procurement

Q4. Should regulations require that the decision to opt-in to sector-led arrangements is made by full council?

Yes.

Q5. Do you agree that the maximum length appointing period should be restricted to five years?

Agree.

Q6. Do you have any other comments on the proposed collective procurement regulations?

No other comments.

Accounts and Audit Regulations

Q7. Is 30 working days a suitable period for the accounts to be available?

Yes.

Q8. Do you agree this information should be published electronically?

Yes.

Q9. Do you agree that a common period for the exercise of public rights should be included in the regulations?

Agree.

Q10. Do you have any views on the intentions for exempt authorities set out above?

No.

Q11. Do you have any other comments on the proposed Accounts and Audit Regulations?

There is the potential for audit fees to increase as a result of the proposal for audits to be completed over a shorter period than is the case now. If there was evidence to support that was the case would this be addressed under the New Burdens Regime?

Transparency Code

Q12. Do you agree that the Code should be mandatory for internal drainage boards, charter trustees and port health authorities with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000?

Agree.

Q13. Should there be a threshold above which individual items of expenditure must be published? If yes what should this threshold be (e.g. £50, £100)?

Suggest the threshold be set at £250.

Q14. What exemptions – if any – would need to be made to information published to explain negative responses to the internal controls objectives (e.g. information relating to a current fraud case)?

Do not believe you can be prescriptive as flexibility is required in order for each case to be judged on its merits.

Q15. The Government proposes that internal drainage boards will be exempt from publishing the details of public land and infrastructure assets. Do you agree?

Agree.

Q16. The Government proposes that charter trustees will be exempt from publishing the details of public land and building assets. Do you agree?

Agree.

Q17. Do you agree this information should be published electronically?

Agree.

Q18. How much additional staff time and cost will be involved for authorities in publishing the required data online?

Question for those affected to answer.