

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Structural Reform Plan Monthly Implementation Update	December 2011
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(1) Actions due to be completed in December 2011

Section	Action	Status
1.2(v)	Work with the food and drink industry, and other government departments, to take full advantage of the potential for growth through overseas trade (including by identifying global market opportunities and barriers to exports)	Complete
1.3(x)	Establish the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England	Complete
3.2(ii)	Examine the conclusions of the Cave and Walker Reviews and publish a White Paper on the reform of the water industry to ensure a more efficient use of water and to protect poorer households	Complete
3.5(iii)(a)	Establish a rural Community Broadband Fund to provide an opportunity for rural communities to apply for funding for eligible small scale community broadband projects	Complete

(2) Actions due to be started by end December 2011

Section	Action	Status
1.3(viii)	Make the case for significant reform of the CAP as part of the EU's negotiations for the period beyond 2013 (due to complete Jan 2013)	Work ongoing
1.5(i)	Conduct a pilot project to develop and trial methods for delivering integrated environmental advice for farmers (including on reducing greenhouse gas emissions; adapting to climate change; improving air, soil and water quality; biodiversity; farming competitiveness; performance and resilience; and Environmental Stewardship) (due to complete Jun 2012)	Work ongoing
1.5(ii)	Review progress made towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture (due to complete Nov 2012)	Work ongoing
2.1(iii)(a)	Transfer British Waterways from government to a new charity for the waterways in England and Wales, through the Public Bodies Bill (due to complete Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.1(iii)(c)	Consult on whether the legislation for National Park Authorities needs to better reflect their role in facilitating sustainable development (due to complete Mar 2012)	Work not started
2.2(i)	Complete a programme of investment to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion for 145,000 households (due to complete Apr 2015)	Work ongoing
2.2(ii)	Implement the findings of the Pitt Review to improve our flood defences and prevent unnecessary building in areas of high flood risk (due to complete May 2015)	Work ongoing
2.2(ii)(d)	Implement the Flood and Water Management Act (due to complete Dec 2014)	Work ongoing
2.3(i)(b)	Analyse the formal advice on Marine Conservation Zones, with impact assessments, provided by the statutory nature conservation bodies (due to complete Apr 2012)	Work not started
2.3(v)	Complete the dispersal of £2.9bn of climate finance, with other government departments (due to complete Mar 2015)	Work ongoing
2.3(vii)	Work with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other international partners to improve synergies between climate change and biodiversity policy, in particular through the development of advice on biodiversity safeguards in "REDD+" strategies to reduce emissions from deforestation, by the next CBD COP in New Delhi (due to complete Oct	Work ongoing

	2012)	
2.3(viii)(c)	Implement legislation to make it a criminal offence to allow illegal timber to enter the UK market (due to complete Mar 2013)	Work ongoing
3.3(vii)(b)	Work with Cabinet Office to promote mainstreaming of SD in Departmental Business Plans, including by (b) establishing a process to inform the annual refresh of Business Plans (due to complete Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
3.3(viii)	Agree UK objectives on the green economy and institutional framework for SD, in the context of poverty reduction, for the UN Conference 'Rio+20' (due to complete Jun 2012)	Work ongoing
3.4(i)(b)	Produce new supplementary Green Book guidance to assess social impacts (due to complete Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
3.4(iv)	In line with the Red Tape Challenge, bring forward proposals to reduce and reform the stock of statutory instruments and regulations for which the Department has overall responsibility (due to complete Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
3.4(v)(b)	Work with the EU to agree energy efficiency and labelling standards for remaining energy using products in residential and tertiary sectors, for example: imaging equipment (voluntary agreement); heating boilers and water heaters (due to complete Mar 2012)	Work ongoing
3.5(i)	Work with the Treasury and DECC to investigate the options available to help those in remote rural areas with the cost of fuel (due to complete Mar 2012)	Work ongoing
3.5(ii)	Options set out for helping with fuel costs in remote areas (due to complete Mar 2012)	Work ongoing
3.5(iii)	Work with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to deliver universal broadband at speeds of 2mbps and stimulate private sector investment to deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015 (due to complete May 2015)	Work ongoing

(3) Explanation of missed deadlines

In December 2011, Defra missed the following deadline:

Action	Reason
2.1(iii)(c). Consult on whether the legislation for National Park Authorities needs to better reflect their role in facilitating sustainable development	We have chosen to delay the consultation until we have the outcome of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation, which closed on 17 October. We are delaying because we need to wait to see how sustainable development will be reflected within the NPPF. It is important to give our stakeholders an opportunity to consider this before responding to the consultation on National Park Authorities.

The status of missed deadlines from previous reports is:

Deadline missed	Status	Comments
2.3(i)(b) Analyse the formal advice on Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), with impact assessments, provided by the statutory nature conservation bodies (end Nov 2011)	Still not started	Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee will provide the MCZ impact assessment and their formal advice in July 2012, six months later than previously planned. This will enable them to address the recommendations from the Independent Review of the Evidence Process for Selecting Marine Special Areas of Conservation (published July 2011) and take account of any

		further evidence obtained from the work that Defra is now commissioning. Defra will consider all the advice received before undertaking formal public consultation on MCZs by the end of 2012, with the first MCZ designations envisaged in summer 2013.
3.4(i)(b) Produce new supplementary Green Book guidance to assess social impacts (end Apr 2011)	Complete	N/A
3.4(vii) Decide whether to pursue a statutory or voluntary approach to encouraging corporate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions in the light of public consultation on options (end Sep 2011)	Still not complete	There have been delays in the internal clearance process for reaching a decision on this issue. We are working towards a decision as soon as possible within the next few months.