Update Against the Regulation Action Plan's 'Key Regulator Pledges' - as of May 2026

Regulator	Pledge	Progress Update
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	The Government and CAA will deliver a step change in how airspace modernisation is taken forward by establishing a UK Airspace Design Service, (UKADS) and Support Fund. DfT and the CAA are working with NATS, with the shared ambition for the UKADS to be up and running this year.	On 25 March 2026, the CAA published CAP 3225, the Final Decision modifying the conditions of NERL's licence to require the provision of the UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) and the UK Airspace Co-ordination Service (UKACS). The licence modifications are due to come into effect on 6 May 2026, subject to a six-week appeal window. The CAA also published CAP 3219 (final guidance for the UKADS and UKACS), CAP 3220 (final requirements and associated guidance for the UKACS) and CAP 3231 (application process and guidance for the UK Airspace Design Support Fund). These publications represented the final step in the policy and legal processes required to set up the UKADS. In practice NERL began to get the UKADS up and running at the end of 2025 and is continuing to step up its mobilisation activities.
CAA	By September 2025, the CAA and DfT will consult on a package of changes to the process for making airspace design decisions more proportionate, whilst retaining the important principles of a transparent, evidence-based airspace change process that will involve impacted stakeholders.	The CAA has completed its consultation on proposed updates to the airspace change process (CAP 1616), aimed at making decision-making more proportionate while maintaining transparency, robust evidence, and stakeholder engagement. Final publication of the updated processes expected later this year.
CAA	CAA will enable at least two further and larger scale trial operations by the end of 2025, building on the successful beyond visual line of sight drone trial operations in 2024.	The Future of Flight Programme is the UK's cross-government and industry endeavour to safely introduce the next generation of aviation technologies, particularly Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drones, Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) passenger services, and the digital systems needed to integrate them into everyday airspace use. This work is a key part of the CAA's work

		to support the Government's mission to drive economic growth and investment.
CAA	During 2025, the CAA will launch an initial implementation of the UK's Drone Market Surveillance Authority, streamlining the process for companies to manufacture and identify drones that are able to pass required safety criteria, which in turn will simplify commercial operations for many UK businesses.	In March 2025, the government named the CAA as the UK's Market Surveillance Authority (MSA) for UAS. As the MSA we will be responsible for ensuring product standards for UAS are met by manufacturers, importers and distributors (i.e. economic operators) and intervening when there is non-compliance. This will involve executing the surveillance and control of products placed on or entering the market under UK Regulation (EU) 2019/945. Part of this work will involve evaluating UAS products to identify potential risks to health or safety. We will require manufacturers and distributors to withdraw a UAS product from the market, or to recall it within a reasonable period, should a serious risk be identified by the MSA. We will also inform the Secretary of State for Transport about UAS products that present a serious risk at the national level, as well as taking appropriate measures to alert users of these hazards.
CAA	In 2025 the CAA will deliver a new digital licensing service for air traffic controller licensing and conclude the first stage of a new digital professional pilot licensing service that will make it quicker and easier for pilots to get and retain their licenses.	Going live with our first digitalised service, Manage Personnel Licences, marks a significant milestone for the CAA's customer experience programme. Now that the system is live, it represents the first step toward delivering our vision of an excellent customer experience that is straightforward, joined up and personal, without compromising regulatory decisions.
CAA	The CAA will expand its sandbox safe trial activity for hydrogen propulsion to help inform the regulatory framework for this nascent technology and encourage investment. With DfT funding for the next 12 months	Through DfT funding, the CAA is continuing its sandbox activity for hydrogen propulsion to help inform the regulatory framework for this nascent technology and encourage investment. DfT funding will continue until at least March 2027.

	confirmed, the number of participants is increasing from 3 to 13.	
Environment Agency	The Environment Agency will accelerate responses to planning applications, bringing performance back within the 21-day target by September 2025, supported through: i. Investment in the development of modernised, fit for purpose digital systems and enhancing digital services; ii. Dedicated support for infrastructure related to priority sites contributing to housing and clean energy priorities through its recently established National Infrastructure Team.	The EA achieved its target of responding to 95 per cent of planning applications within 21 days by September 2025; it is currently achieving 98 per cent. The EA's new National Infrastructure Team is supporting over 100 nationally significant infrastructure projects and other priority growth projects, such as the White Horse water reservoir and the Hynet Hydrogen Pipeline.
Environment Agency	The Environment Agency will make its permitting service more efficient and transparent for investors by: i. Introducing priority tracked services for more complex applications, starting with a trial for major infrastructure projects and growth sites; ii. Providing additional support though the Hydrogen and Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage Programme to ensure permitting does not delay roll-out.	The EA continues its excellent progress on transforming environmental Permitting to deliver better outcomes for people, nature, and growth. We continue to deliver year on year improvements and delivered a 6% improvement in performance in 2025/26, with 80% of applications determined within target timescales. We have removed backlogs of c1000 permits to increase processing speed. The EA's Priority Tracked Service (PTS) has been fully launched (PTS) and allows developers to work with a dedicated team for their permits and track progress. The service is currently supporting 56 major developments in housing, energy, infrastructure, mining, and technology with bespoke advice. Developers are welcoming this service, with positive feedback to date. We have also launched a service to support nature recovery projects. We continue to modernise our permitting through digital transformation and better use of data at pace and have over the last year improved systems, developed new AI capability, and

		have launched better online services for our customers for applications and payments. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-environmental-permit#apply-online
Environment Agency	The Environment Agency will commence the process of finding an AI partner to collaborate with on streamlining digital services.	The Environment Agency, supported by Defra technology teams and suppliers is making steady progress in its exploration and adoption of AI capabilities. It has been developing an organisation-wide AI strategy to ensure that it builds credible, secure, and well-governed AI capabilities that strengthen operational delivery and improve the permitting service for customers. In addition, the EA has developed AI Assistants for small sewage discharge and flood risk activity permits, which are now being piloted with 150 officers. These aim to reduce manual effort and speed up processing while improving consistency.
Environment Agency	The Environment Agency will improve its regulatory transparency and consistency to help businesses they regulate understand EA decision making and reduce uncertainty. It will enable communities to better understand their local environment and take appropriate action. Starting in the Spring, Compliance Assessment Reports (CAR) for water quality Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) permits will be published online, providing access to records when EA visit operators to check they are complying with their permit. A rolling programme bringing CAR forms for further sectors will follow.	The EA has been working to proactively publish Compliance Assessment Reports (CAR) under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016. The EA began publishing water discharge CAR forms from 11 April 2025, for CAR forms written from 28 February 2025; waste and installation CAR forms were published online from 29 September 2025, and included forms written from 18 August 2025 onwards. To date, the EA has published over 13,000 water CAR forms, and over 8,500 waste and installation CAR forms. Intensive Pig and Poultry agriculture CAR form will be published from the 30 April 2026, and the EA remains committed to publishing CAR forms for other EPR regimes.
Environment Agency	The Environment Agency will ensure growth projects consider environmental limits and solutions from the outset by providing technical advice on environmental capacity for growth in industrial clusters to support our	The EA published technical advice on environmental capacity for growth in July 2025. It continues to work with DESNZ, developers and industrial cluster partnerships to provide technical advice on the development and deployment of low-carbon industry in

	approach to spatial planning, commencing with Humberside, Teesside, and Merseyside.	Teesside, Humberside, and Merseyside (Hynet). The EA has supported the New Towns Taskforce and MHCLG on the Strategic Environment Assessment for shortlisted locations – a key step in ensuring there is adequate environmental capacity for the new towns and urban extensions that will contribute to building 1.5 million homes.
Environment Agency	The Environment Agency will partner with the Office for Investment to attract investment in priority sectors, identifying key investment opportunities for priority sectors with the EA providing early advice to support planning and environmental permitting.	Working with the Office for Investment, the EA continues to provide advice and support for investment in priority sectors, such as the AI Growth Zone in the North East. Additionally, we have dedicated teams working on priority growth projects including Agratas Giga factory, Universal Studios and Heathrow expansion.
Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)	To support early-stage innovative firms to start conducting regulated activities, the FCA will provide a dedicated case officer to every firm within the FCA's regulatory sandbox.	Since Q4 2024, the FCA has allocated a dedicated authorisations case officer to each firm admitted to the Regulatory Sandbox. This enhanced level of support helps firms to better understand the regulatory requirements associated with testing, improves their preparedness to apply for authorisation where appropriate, and facilitates a more efficient authorisation assessment as firms progress beyond the Sandbox. Over the previous financial year, a total of 14 firms were supported through this approach. The data is from 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026.
FCA	To support early-stage innovative firms to start conducting regulated activities, the FCA will provide 50% more dedicated supervisors to early and high growth firms to help them navigate the regulatory system and support their growth.	The FCA's Early and High Growth Oversight function has supported more than over 600 newly authorised firms to understand their obligations and meet its regulatory standards, and the FCA now has 50% more dedicated supervisors to support early and high growth firms. Firms can benefit from engagement with FCA supervisors, who offer proactive support and guidance. This includes deep dives into business models, operational resilience, and advice on

		financial promotions, consumer protection, and risk management. By fostering open communication, the FCA can spot emerging challenge early and resolve them swiftly. Early & High Growth Oversight also supports firms facing the pressures of rapid expansion, helping them implement controls and strengthen governance.
FCA	To support early-stage innovative firms to start conducting regulated activities, the FCA will extend pre-application support to all wholesale payments and crypto firms.	The FCA's pre-application support service provides dedicated assistance to early-stage firms navigating the authorisations process, including pre-application meetings, tailored guidance, and practical advice on preparing high-quality application. In line with the FCA's wider growth commitments, pre-application support is now available to a broad range of firms, including all cryptoasset, wholesale and payment services firms from April 2025, as well as insurance intermediaries, consumer investment firms, and targeted support firms from FY25/26 Q2. It is also available in relation to changes in control. In FY25/26, the FCA received 306 applications for pre-application support service, comprising 60 crypto-assets; 56 wholesale; 102 payment services; 37 Advice Guidance Boundary Review (AGBR) targeted support firms. The remaining applications related to consumer investments, insurance intermediaries, and waivers applications.
FCA	To support early-stage innovative firms to start conducting regulated activities, the FCA will indicate more often that the FCA is ‘minded to approve’ startups to help them secure funding.	The FCA committed to making greater use of ‘minded to approve’ decisions for startups, where firms are credible and well prepared, to provide earlier regulatory clarity and support access to funding. In FY25/26, decisions were made on 382 cases that were ‘minded to approve.’ Of these, 357 were approved and 7 were

		withdrawn. The average time from MTA issuance to final approval was 26 days.
FCA	FCA will simplify its mortgage and advice rules to help more people access sustainable home ownership.	Thanks to the FCA's efforts as part of their Mortgage Rule Review, 85% of the market has changed how they test affordability and are able to offer around £30,000 more off the same income. In December 2025, the FCA set out next steps to reshape mortgage regulation. As part of that, in June 2026, the FCA published proposals to further support first-time buyers and underserved consumers.
FCA	HMT will review FCA and the Prudential Regulation Authority's (PRA) 'have regards' to rationalise them and ensure a focus on their priorities.	The government is legislating to rationalise the regulators' consideration of the regulatory principles (or "have regards") when carrying out their general functions. Instead, the regulators will be required to have regard to all of their regulatory principles, including those in Financial Services and Markets Act, the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 and the Regulators Code, and the Treasury recommendations contained in their remit letters, when producing their new long-term strategies. This more focused accountability framework will make it easier for Government, Parliament, the public and the financial services sector to scrutinise the work of the regulators and hold them to account.
FCA	HMT will welcome FCA work to review the contactless payments limit, including removing the £100 limit on individual payments.	The FCA has introduced changes which allow banks and payment providers with strong fraud controls to set their own limits for contactless payments.

FCA	FCA will accelerate a review of capital requirements for specialised trading firms.	HMT support the FCA's work to seek a creative, pro-growth and proportionate approach to capital requirements for specialised trading firms.
FCA and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA)	FCA and PRA will reduce regulatory reporting requirements for firms.	The FCA and PRA have identified reductions in regulatory reporting requirements in a number of areas: The FCA has stripped out data requests for 36,000 firms, saving them £6m in admin costs, and reduced transaction reporting requirements saving firms over £80m, while the PRA launched the Future Banking Data programme to reduce reporting requirements, cutting costs by around £26m annually, contributing to a total of over £100m in wider reporting reductions proposed or implemented. The FCA and PRA are continuing to work to identify further reductions.
PRA	PRA will consult this April [2025] on a Matching Adjustment Investment Accelerator aimed at reducing the time between life insurers identifying a productive investment opportunity and making that investment.	The investment accelerator was delivered in October 2025 and reduces the time between life insurers identifying a productive investment opportunity and making that investment.
Food Standards Agency (FSA)	The FSA will roll out a new approach to food standards inspections across all local authorities in England by spring and consult on new approaches to food hygiene controls by June.	The FSA has engaged fully with the government's Regulation for Growth work. All our commitments within the Regulation Action Plan have been delivered, alongside our additional innovation work funded by DSIT. We have implemented new approaches to local authority food standards regulation and food hygiene regulation, to make inspections more risk-based and proportionate. Full details for each individual commitment were set out in FSA's public report to the FSA Business Committee in March 2026.

FSA	The FSA will support UK businesses in meeting EU regulatory requirements for food grade recycled plastic, by taking on a new role as the competent authority.	The FSA has been formally designated as competent authority for recycled plastics in Great Britain and completed the first audits. This supports exports by enabling UK businesses to meet EU requirements for food grade recycled plastics. Full details for each individual commitment were set out in FSA's public report to the FSA Business Committee in March 2026.
FSA	The FSA will prioritise its work on trade to conduct six inward audits in 2025 in order to facilitate trade in food and drink.	The FSA has supported six inward trade audits from the European Union, South Korea, and the USA in 2025 to facilitate the UK's international trade in food and drink. Full details for each individual commitment were set out in FSA's public report to the FSA Business Committee in March 2026.
FSA	The FSA will establish a regulatory sandbox for cell cultivated products (CCPs). We will publish our first wave of bespoke guidance this year to provide industry will essential clarity on safety and legal requirements to enable these products to be considered for sale.	The FSA has published the UK's first safety guidance for cell cultivated products (CCPs) via our regulatory sandbox programme, increasing regulatory clarity for innovators and supporting investment in a sector which could contribute up to £2.1 billion to the UK economy by 2030. Full details for each individual commitment were set out in FSA's public report to the FSA Business Committee in March 2026.
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	HSE will initiate work in 2025 to consult on potential changes to the definitions, occupational diseases and dangerous occurrences reported under the Reporting Of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations 2013 and consider improvements to the reporting process to ensure business can comply in the most efficient way possible.	HSE launched a public consultation on potential changes to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) in April 2026, running until the end of June 2026.

HSE	HSE will initiate work in 2025 to review older prescriptive legislation, specifically the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. They will also consult to identify and remove unnecessary regulatory burdens and identify potential changes to this legislation to reflect technological advances and reliability of work equipment.	HSE held a call for evidence on Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. Following consideration of the responses received, both sets of the regulations are considered to be operating effectively, and no regulatory changes are deemed necessary at this time.
HSE	HSE and DEFRA will consult on how international approvals can be recognised to reduce the time and cost to bring chemical products, including biocides, to the GB market.	HSE has introduced legislation to reform Great Britain's chemicals regulatory framework, amending three HSE-led regimes in Great Britain covering biocides, classification and labelling, and the export/import of hazardous chemicals. These changes are intended to support a more agile and proportionate chemicals regulatory system by: reducing delivery times for mandatory classifications by 6 months by 2027; putting in place provisions ensuring the continued availability of biocidal substances essential for public health, animal health, and environmental protection by 2027; and streamlining the UK's international obligations on the import and export of chemicals, including removal of unnecessary regulatory burdens by 2027.
Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)	The ICO will pilot an extension of its regulatory sandbox to enable organisations to test data driven innovations with exemptions from specific regulatory requirements, under supervision by the ICO. Findings will inform future regulatory reforms, ensuring that data protection law keeps pace with technology.	The ICO has secured funding from the Regulatory Innovation Office (RIO) for feasibility and design work. This will identify enhancements to its existing sandbox and present options for legislative change for government to explore further that could allow organisations to unlock real-world testing of emerging technologies, which is currently not permissible under data protection rules. Reports covering the outcomes of its research into the potential economic impact and levels of demand for the service, and a citizens' jury looking into the public's views and expectations were completed earlier this year, with the

		remainder of work timed to inform the government's AI Growth Lab proposals.
ICO	ICO will relax enforcement of consent rules for privacy-preserving online advertising, ahead of exemptions to these legal requirements being introduced by government, where appropriate. This will support growth in the advertising sector whilst making privacy enhancing online advertising viable in the market. The ICO will invite organisations to test new advertising business models in its extended regulatory sandbox.	The ICO is analysing low-risk online advertising activities that could be delivered without consent under PECR. This will support growth in the advertising sector and provide opportunities for innovation in new privacy-friendly advertising products and services, while protecting user's rights and freedoms. ICO will provide its evidence base to government in the Spring as it considers using its new Regulation 6A power in PECR to add new exception(s) to the consent requirements.
ICO	ICO will produce a new statutory Code of Practice on AI and automated decision-making to make it easier for AI developers and users to understand and apply data protection law and innovate responsibly. With the ICO's innovation services, this will make the UK the destination of choice for AI developers looking to test their ideas before entering the European market.	The ICO worked closely with government on scope and timelines for the required secondary legislation to enable the rules to become a statutory code of practice. The new code will focus on the use of AI and automated decision-making and will build on our current non-statutory guidance on AI and biometrics. With our innovation services, and a rolling programme of proactive stakeholder engagement, the code will make the UK the destination of choice for AI developers looking to test ideas before entering the European market.
ICO	ICO will scale up their data essentials training and assurance for SMEs to reduce industry compliance costs. This will increase customer trust and grow SMEs' confidence in using personal data responsibly to grow their businesses.	The ICO's expanded data essentials training and assurance platform will empower SMEs to use personal data with confidence, unlocking growth by avoiding unnecessary risk aversion, building customer trust, and reducing compliance burdens. The new platform launches publicly in Spring 2026, and the initial rollout has already begun.
ICO	Developing new guidance on international data transfers, which underpin 40% of UK exports, to support frictionless trade across borders. The ICO will also update their transfer risk assessment tools to underpin the Data (Use and	The ICO published new guidance on international data transfers in January 2026 and are providing further support to organisations. These data transfers underpin 40% of UK exports and are fundamental to frictionless trade across borders. The

	Access) Bill reforms to create a more proportionate and risk-based regime.	updated guidance clearly sets out key requirements, reduces complexity, and supports the responsible transfer of personal information — creating a more proportionate and risk-based regime.
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)	The UK will be the first country in the world to bring the delivery of innovative and personalised medicines ever closer to patients. From July 2025, new regulations will allow the safe development of highly personalised and critical medicines to be manufactured and supplied for patients in hospitals or in their homes, at the point of care. Making it easier to manufacture innovative medicines in the UK will increase the attractiveness of the UK as a destination to market new life-saving medicines.	The new regulations came into force on 23 July 2025 and introduced a world-first regulatory framework which will enable highly personalised medicines and innovative treatments with a very short shelf life or where there are significant clinical or patient benefits from local manufacture to be prepared and provided safely to patients in hospitals, care facilities or at home. Since July 25, the MHRA has been providing advice through its Innovation Office to producers who have applied for a decentralised manufacture designation. These changes will enable patients to benefit from innovative, personalised treatments such as cell and gene therapies, 3D-printed medicines, biologics and personalised medicines for certain types of cancers, rare genetic disorders, autoimmune diseases and wound care, and will bring benefits to the health system and the UK life sciences sector. This new pro-innovation regulation is an example of how the MHRA is helping to deliver the 10-Year Health Plan for England, providing a framework for transformative treatments and ensuring the UK is one of the best places in the world to develop and launch new life-saving personalised medicines.
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)	NICE will continue to transform its Technology Appraisal process, building on its success reducing evaluation times by a quarter in the last year. This year 40% of Technology Appraisals were completed in 240 working days after Marketing Authorisation, and NICE's transformation will	The government has been clear that patients should benefit from faster access to clinically and cost-effective medicines, and NICE is continuing to transform its processes to deliver more timely guidance. Through the Regulation Action Plan, we are supporting the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to streamline its appraisal processes and deliver guidance more

	reduce this further to 60% for appraisals started in 2025/26.	quickly, so patients can access effective new medicines sooner. This includes improving alignment between the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and NICE so that guidance is published closer to regulatory approval, helping patients benefit up to 3 to 6 months earlier than would previously have been the case. NICE is making good progress on delivering faster appraisal timelines, including increasing the proportion of appraisals completed within 240 days, and is on track to complete over 60% of appraisals within this timeframe.
MHRA and NICE	The MHRA and NICE will improve alignment between MHRA marketing authorisation and NICE guidance publication decisions. They will tackle information sharing and collaboration to remove delays to patient access to medicines. This will see the MHRA and NICE exploring the development of a joint process to provide a new offer to industry: concurrent marketing authorisation (from the MHRA) and technology appraisal (from NICE), enabled by enhanced data sharing and collaboration, saving time and delivering further efficiencies intended to benefit industry and patients.	The MHRA and NICE have launched an aligned pathway, supported by an integrated scientific advice service. The MHRA-NICE aligned pathway will provide decisions on licensing and value in parallel, by bringing NICE decisions forward to align with the MHRA's, allowing us to bring medicines to patients 3-6 months sooner. Not only will this benefit patients and the NHS it will provide more predictable timelines and earlier commercial benefits for industry, helping to support a thriving UK life sciences industry. Importantly, NHS and global markets will be notified earlier about medicines coming down the pipeline. While the pathway is one part of a broader ecosystem, the ambition is that over time, it will make a significant contribution to speeding up NHS adoption of new medicines. These services have undergone detailed service design work, underpinned by valuable user insight, helping to strengthen the user experience and ensure they offer real value to users.
MHRA and NICE	Working in partnership, the MHRA and NICE will launch a fully 'Integrated Scientific Advice' service, accessed through a single point of entry. The new service will further	MHRA and NICE have launched an aligned pathway, supported by an integrated scientific advice service. Integrated scientific advice has been designed to help companies adhere to aligned

	establish the UK as a primary destination for clinical trials and investigations while ensuring translation of investigative medicines and medical devices to licensed products and quicker access to the healthcare system.	pathway timelines by clarifying regulatory and HTA evidence requirements early in the development process. This will help companies to optimise clinical development plans and reduce the risk of unforeseen delays. These services have undergone detailed service design work, underpinned by valuable user insight, helping to strengthen the user experience and ensure they offer real value to users.
Natural England	Natural England will increase usage of self-regulation by moving regulatory responsibilities onto trusted landowners, large organisations, and trade bodies, including through accelerating Organisational and Project Licensing and the Bat Earned Recognition Programme, with assurance achieved through more monitoring of outcomes.	Natural England is modernising the bat licensing system and has established, with partners, a long-term vision to deliver better outcomes for bat conservation, people, and sustainable growth. Successful application of the Earned Autonomy model continues to have a positive impact - substantially reducing caseload and freeing up capacity to allow NE to focus on high-risk, high-opportunity cases. The Wildlife Trusts currently account for around 10% of NE's annual consent submissions. NE has worked with The Wildlife Trusts to codesign piloting a new light touch, strategic consent notice that provides a single consent per Trust for all routine site management activities, replacing the need for multiple individual applications.
Natural England	Natural England will deliver a more flexible service to customers, proactive engagement with major housebuilding programmes through enhanced pre-application advice and greater use of strategic solutions.	Through proactive engagement with major housebuilding programmes Natural England is helping facilitate the government's ambition to deliver 1.5 million new homes in the UK. Natural England's strategic aims include helping ensure that nature is designed into development from the outset to strengthen communities, benefit growth, and ensure that people benefit from green spaces, cleaner environments, and resilient ecosystems close to where they live. To achieve this, Natural England is engaging positively with developers, local authorities, and other stakeholders through the

		homes accelerator programme and in the development of the next generation of New Towns to help create nature rich, vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable places where nature and development thrive together. By the end of March 2026, Natural England had helped accelerate the delivery of over 50,000 homes though its proactive engagement, supporting the development of new homes whilst ensuring the environment is fully considered in decision making.
Natural England	Natural England will maximise strategic approach through reform, where the current legislative framework could be streamlined – for example on nutrient pollution, and newt and bat licensing – including delivering Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and the Nature Restoration Fund, which will save developers time and money, whilst protecting the environment.	The Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) will deliver improved environmental outcomes whilst unlocking the housing and infrastructure our communities so urgently need. Natural England will deliver the NRF through Environmental Delivery Plans. The first of these will cover nutrient pollution, delivering on the government's commitment to unblock homes affected by nutrient neutrality. As set out in the NRF Implementation Plan, we aim to consult on the first Environmental Delivery Plans in the Summer.
Natural England	Natural England will reduce the cost of delivering regulatory requirements by embedding changes to increase NE's risk appetite and optimise opportunity for environmental gain through updating guidance and increasing the use of Ministerial directions.	The amendment to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 allows Natural England to focus its advice on higher risk and higher opportunity casework, while increasing its strategic engagement and use of standing advice. This supports wider Government ambitions relating to the role of statutory consultees in the planning system. It requires Natural England to publish and keep under review a statement explaining how it will respond to advice requests. Natural England's Strategic Policy Statement sets out the government's expectations for how it supports nature recovery, sustainable growth, and effective environmental regulation. This includes embedding a change in culture that supports proportionate, outcomes focused decision-making to ensure its

		advice and decisions consistently enable and support sustainable development in areas where its statutory and regulatory framework allows for such discretion.
Natural England	Natural England will work with government to develop a workforce plan on how to improve skills capability, including addressing environmental skills necessary to implement reforms with decision makers. For example, through an enhanced training offer for Local Authorities with the Planning Advisory Service.	Natural England's Sustainable Development outline workforce plan has been agreed with Defra. A detailed roadmap for building capability across the organisation is under development.
Ofcom	In 2025, Ofcom will be finalising the second half of its ten-year framework to secure competitive investment in fibre. As part of this, Ofcom commits to publishing its consultation on the Telecoms Access Review by the end of March 2025. Secure and reliable networks are central to all aspects of our digital lives and a key driver of economic growth, and these efforts will contribute to that.	Ofcom launched a consultation on the Telecoms Access Review in March 2025, which remained open for responses until June 2025. Ofcom published the final statement in March 2026, which outlines the framework for the next five years and supports further investment.
Ofcom	Ofcom will use spectrum power innovation across the economy. This year, Ofcom will go further to unlock spectrum-sharing and make spectrum more available by: a) Opening up shared access in mmWave for private networks; b) Auctioning mmWave spectrum for mobile use; c) Facilitating greater use of existing spectrum by enabling greater sharing by Autumn 2025.	a) The 26 GHz band has been made available for private networks, supported by a self-service online tool launched in April 2025. The 40GHz band is scheduled for release in 2028. Ofcom are currently in the process of revoking existing licences, which requires a five-year notice period. b) Regulations for the mmWave auction were established in June. In October 2025, Ofcom auctioned mmWave spectrum for localised use in urban areas, with VMo2, Vodafone, Three and BT/EE each acquiring 400 MHz. c) Ofcom have included a new antenna library to enhance coordination and enable greater spectrum sharing in October 2025, with minor updates in January 2026.
Ofcom	In October, Ofcom will also consult on satellite direct to mobile device (services that enable mobile handsets to	Ofcom launched a consultation in March 2025, followed by the publication of a statement and further consultation in

	connect to satellites), which could assist in plugging mobile coverage gaps.	September. Ofcom published a final statement in December 2025.
Ofcom	To improve the data provided to consumers on the mobile coverage they are likely to experience where they live, Ofcom will deliver the first phase of the improved web-checker by summer 2025.	Ofcom's Map Your Mobile tool went live in June 2025. Whilst this was a positive step, there is more work to be done. Improving mobile coverage data remains a priority for government and this was reiterated in the Statement of Strategic Priorities for telecommunications, the management of radio spectrum, and postal services.
Ofcom	Ofcom has developed a dedicated Digital Support Service which provides interactive guidance to help organisations understand and implement the Online Safety rules. The first phase of this service launched in beta in January 2025, and Ofcom will complete the next phase of this work by summer 2025.	Initially launched in Beta in January 2025, the platform was enhanced in May 2025 to include features for the protection of children.
Ofgem	Over the next 12 months, Ofgem will work with government, the National Wealth Fund (NWF) and Great British Energy (GBE) to ensure regulation and the full range of government levers, subject to Spending Review decisions, support new entrants into the energy networks supply chain and maximise UK economic opportunity.	Ofgem is working closely with government, industry, and delivery partners to support supply chain growth and new market entrants. Key milestones have been delivered, including publication of Ofgem's position paper and Call for Input on supply chain policy, and collaborative working with government and industry is ongoing to inform next steps.
Ofgem	Ofgem will ensure that the price cap continues to protect consumers who are not able to engage, but that it can adapt to a changing market, with more options for consumers to take advantage of different pricing and to flex their usage accordingly.	In March 2026, Ofgem published a call for input setting out its initial thinking and seeking views on how the energy price cap may need to develop to accommodate Market Wide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS).
Ofgem	DESNZ will work with Ofgem over the next 12 months to consider the future of the energy retail market; including how it could better enable innovation to support consumers, system transformation, and growth.	We are continuing to work on this commitment and will report on this in due course. Ofgem welcomes contributions to this debate from stakeholders and will take these into their considerations.

Ofgem	Offer flexibility in retail rules to allow new entrants or existing companies to try new commercial approaches. Ofgem will be updating its licence application guidance in the summer to help innovators who are looking to apply. Later in the year, Ofgem will set out next steps on more flexible retail rules, and in the meantime will work closely with DESNZ on how to support local energy.	Ofgem provided a recent update to its license application guidance in February 2026 to provide further guidance and detail on our assessment process for individually modified licenses. We also updated our license processing time from 9 to 6 months and hope to enable more innovative or novel products into the energy market in a timely manner. DESNZ published the Local Power Plan on 9 February 2026. Ofgem's retail and local energy teams will continue to work closely with DESNZ on measures for enabling local energy.
Ofgem	Ofgem will work with the government to develop ways of rewarding consumer-led flexibility - so customers can benefit from using energy at times when it is cheapest to produce, and system costs can be minimised for everyone. A package of measures will be announced in the summer.	To meet clean power by 2030, we need to develop a flexible system that can accommodate and store the outputs of Britain's renewable resources. By keeping consumers at the heart of our Clean Flexibility Roadmap, we can deliver benefits to households, businesses, and the environment. Our approach to supporting consumer-led flexibility will allow all consumers to see the benefits of both lower energy bills and greater control over their bills.
Ofwat	Ofwat will work with the sector and other regulators to optimise the pipeline of £50 billions of investment across 30 major projects and work with the sector to accelerate projects where possible.	The Water Delivery Taskforce oversees investment under PR24 and is holding companies to account for delivery. Reform of the sector will improve delivery, with a single regulator making joined up decisions to speed up major project delivery. Where water infrastructure issues have blocked much needed homes, we have acted to resolve this, including unblocking over 9,000 homes in Oxford and 21,000 homes in North Sussex.
Ofwat	Ofwat will deliver the innovation fund to £400m, which has doubled in size, to drive innovation and productivity within the water sector.	With the Water Breakthrough 6 winners' announcement on the 19 May 2026, a total of £250m has now been awarded to 128 projects through the Water Breakthrough and Water Discovery Challenges since 2021. Discovery 2 is currently live with over 300

		applications competing for the 20 Finalist places and a share of £7.5m overall. Awards will be made in July. The £40m Water Innovation Implementation Programme formally opened in April. Its key objective is to accelerate the speed and scale by which successful innovations are implemented by the water sector in England and Wales. The £40m Water Innovation Missions programme has identified chemicals of concern and rainwater management as two strategically important areas in which a more joined-up, collaborative approach to driving innovation will support better outcomes for customers, communities and the environment, whilst unlocking long-term, system-wide change. Ofwat's other new programme is the Water Innovation Cross Sector Challenge – a £40 million programme to work with multiple sectors to identify cross-cutting challenge areas and deliver mutually beneficial solutions that support long-term systemic change for the water environment. This programme has been delayed following the recent and unexpected withdrawal of our delivery partners Innovate UK. Ofwat remain committed to opening our first competition before the end of 2026 and to maintaining momentum with the 400-strong cross-sector network which has been established. Ofwat is also promoting successful innovations at major industry events to support exports and growth working alongside government.
Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR)	The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) will decrease the administrative burdens of regulation, from reviewing and streamlining its guidance and utilising AI to working with	ONR has set clear milestones on simplification of guidance, streamlining reactor design assessment, efficient engagement, and recognition of international approvals. ONR is currently

	chosen international counterparts to maximise the acceptance of each other's regulatory assessments to avoid duplication and speed up deployment.	sourcing analytical support to quantify the administrative burden savings from these measures where possible. ONR continues to align delivery of the Regulation Action Plan with the Government Response to the Taskforce Review. This includes our review of the Safety Assessment Principles (Recommendation 7), work on international harmonisation and mutual recognition (Recommendation 42), and delivery of the lead regulator model for major nuclear projects (Recommendation 3). ONR has made significant progress on resetting safety case development between regulators and industry to eliminate duplication and embed simplicity, with a productive sector forum held recently resulting in clear commitments to simplify safety case structures, drive the cultural change needed, and return safety cases to their original purpose as practical, usable documents supporting dutyholders' safe operations. ONR has been appointed as the default lead regulator for major nuclear projects involving multiple regulators, working closely with the Environment Agency, the Health and Safety Executive, the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator and other key partners, improving coordination and reducing duplication. Swift progress has been made by ONR to establish the arrangements for the lead regulator model.
Office of Rail and Road (ORR)	ORR will conduct a deep dive into the rail network investment framework with the rail supply chain to encourage direct investment into railway infrastructure.	Key outputs of the review to date have included a joint deep-dive review of the Investment Framework with the supply chain, a technical assessment of the effectiveness of the Framework's core investment mechanisms, publication of an updated and enhanced Investment Framework and new investor guidance on

		the ORR website. ORR has also published two letters to HM Treasury setting out the key findings from these phases. As stated in their letter to HM Treasury, ORR has commenced the technical update of the RNIF and expect to complete this by November 2026.
The Pensions Regulator (TPR)	TPR will review the amount of capital reserving that Master Trusts are required to hold, with a view to safely freeing up millions of pounds for schemes by the end of 2025/26.	TPR is continuing to deliver against its Regulation Action Plan commitments and will outline its progress within their forthcoming Annual Report following completion of year end assessments.
TPR	TPR will develop an innovation framework and criteria to trial pensions innovation ideas and launch a hub to test a variety of innovation services with the market by the autumn of 2025.	TPR is continuing to deliver against its Regulation Action Plan commitments and will outline its progress within their forthcoming Annual Report following completion of year end assessments.
TPR	TPR will reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and improve data and data-sharing by: i. Monitoring its engagements with schemes and employers over the course of 2025/2026to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden whilst maintaining current high levels of compliance. As part of this, it will monitor the quality and value of regulatory interaction and make sure that new interventions are not just clearly linked to delivery of better outcomes for savers but are also efficient and effective in delivery; ii. Conducting a review of its scheme return and supervisory return data collection requirements by the end of March 2026 to identify options to reduce unnecessary burdens on schemes. Subject to the outcome of the review, the government will	TPR is continuing to deliver against its Regulation Action Plan commitments and will outline its progress within their forthcoming Annual Report following completion of year end assessments.

	consider how and what we capture including amendments to legislation as required.	
TPR	TPR will encourage consolidation and consideration of investment in productive assets through the following: i. The Value for Money framework will bring public disclosure of long-term risk adjusted net returns to help drive competition, growth, and enhanced member outcomes. In advance of this TPR will drive consolidation in savers' interests and encourage the voluntary disclosure of asset allocation data to shine a light on the relationship between asset allocation and net performance; ii. TPR will conduct a review of its scheme return and supervisory return data collection requirements by the end of March 2026 to identify options to reduce unnecessary burdens on schemes. Subject to the outcome of the review, the government will consider how and what we capture including amendments to legislation as required.	TPR is continuing to deliver against its Regulation Action Plan commitments and will outline its progress within their forthcoming Annual Report following completion of year end assessments.