

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Structural Reform Plan Monthly Implementation Update	April 2011
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1) Actions due to be completed in April 2011

Section	Action	Status
1.2(i)	Analyse the funding landscape for medium-sized businesses to identify any finance gaps and develop options to address them	Complete
1.2(ii)	Develop an implementation plan to support sustainable, affordable lending to business	Complete
Milestone 1(B)	Implementation plan published to support sustainable, affordable lending to business	Complete
2.2(iii)	Put in place systems and funds to deliver the Regional Growth Fund	Complete
Milestone 2(F)	Conditional offers announced resulting from successful Regional Growth Fund bids	Complete
4.2(ii)	Introduce new statutory national standards to increase the quality of apprenticeships (Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England)	Complete
Milestone 4(C)	Statutory national standards for apprenticeships introduced	Complete
4.5(iii)	Publish information about providers and their performance to inform choice of learners and employers, and review options to create a new information system	Complete
5.2	Review options to monetise the Student Loan Book	Not complete
5.6(iii)	Establish the UK Space Agency as an executive agency to formalise links between industry and researchers in a single body	Complete
Milestone 5(J)	UK Space Agency established	Complete
6.1(iv)	Simplify publicly funded venture capital funds by bringing funds together at the national level to improve value for money	Complete
Milestone 4(D)	Venture capital funds simplified	Complete
6.3(i)	Rationalise and simplify the range of 'Solutions for Business' products	Complete
6.3(ii)	Promote the benefits of mentoring and make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises to find business advice and support from mentors, working with the private and voluntary sectors	Complete
Milestone 6(F)	Publish online business information in a single place and complete the rationalisation of 'Solutions for Business' products	Complete
6.4(ii)	Consult on competition law and the roles of sector regulators with competition powers	Complete
6.5(i)	Support a Department for Work and Pensions led trial for the New Enterprise Allowance in Merseyside by facilitation access to mentoring advice and micro-finance loans to engage unemployed people in setting up their own businesses (including franchises)	Complete
Milestone 7(D)	Single point of contact with the largest license-issuing authorities in place	Complete
8.3	Develop guidance for policy-makers in all departments to seek alternatives to regulation, supported by the Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team	Complete
Milestone 8(J)	Publish guidance for all departments to seek alternatives to regulation	Complete
8.6(ii)	Put in place secondary legislation to extend the right to request flexible working to parents of children up to age 18 (end Apr 2011)	Suspended

Milestone 8(L)	Secondary legislation in place to extend the right to request flexible working to parents of children up to age 18	Suspended
8.7	Review BIS employment and workplace laws, for employers and employees, to ensure they maximise flexibility while protecting fairness and providing the competitive environment required for enterprise to thrive, working with other departments	Complete
8.8(iii)	Draft regulations to remove the default retirement age and lay them before Parliament	Complete
Milestone 8(P)	Regulations to remove the default retirement age come into force	Complete
8.10(ii)	Consult on options to address barriers to growth in the intellectual property system	Complete
8.10(iii)	Examine the cost and complexity to small and medium-sized enterprises of assessing intellectual property service to help them to protect and exploit intellectual property	Complete
Milestone 8(I)	Publish results of the intellectual property review and consultation	Not complete

2) Actions due to be started by end April 2011

Section	Action	Status
9.1(ii)	Take forward strategy proposals to enable local people to bargain collectively to improve their purchasing power, improve the transparency of consumer data and ease of access, and enhance customer service in the public and private sectors (due to complete Dec 2011)	Started
8.6(iv)	Analyse consultation responses and develop detailed plans on shared parental leave and the extension of the right to request flexible working to all employees (due to complete Dec 2011)	Not started
6.2(iii)	Implement a joined-up company registration service ('one click') (due to complete Aug 2011)	Started
2.2(iv)	Manage subsequent bidding rounds for the Regional Growth Fund (due to complete Apr 2013)	Started
4.3(ii)	Consult on proposals and develop an implementation plan so that loans are introduced in time for the academic year 2013/14 (due to complete Aug 2011)	Started
9.2(iii)	Develop and implement a pilot of electronic statements (due to complete 2011)	Work ongoing
7.6(ii)	Launch a trial programme to develop partnerships with leading business people and organisations who will act as advocates for UK business overseas (due to complete Jun 2011)	Work ongoing
8.10(iv)	Run a pilot 'peer to patent' system to support patent examination through community involvement, including working with the US 'peer to patent' project (due to complete Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
4.6(iii)	Remove controls from further education funding, auditing and monitoring (due to complete Nov 2011)	Work ongoing
5.4(ii)	Reform quality-related research funding to further focus on research excellence, taking account of benefits of critical mass and multidisciplinary capacity (due to complete Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
8.8(ii)	Develop and refine guidance on the Default Retirement Age for employers and individuals, working with ACAS (due to complete Sep 2011)	Work ongoing
1.1(i)	Establish the governance arrangements and design the business and operating model of the Green Investment Bank (due to complete May 2011)	Work ongoing
1.1(ii)	Put staff and back office systems in place for the Green Investment Bank, in preparation for the launch of the incubation phase (due to complete Dec 2011)	Work ongoing
1.3	Establish a Cabinet Banking Committee and an Independent Banking Commission to	Work

	report on banking structural reform, working with HM Treasury (due to complete Autumn 2011)	ongoing
1.4(i)	Review regulations to promote growth of key economic sectors, working with Infrastructure UK (due to complete Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
1.4(iii)	Ensure the UK has the right strategies and frameworks, and relationships internationally, for our companies to take advantage of emerging global markets in which the UK has world leading expertise (due to complete Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
2.1(iii)	Respond to proposals and facilitate the establishment of local enterprise partnerships, including working with those local authorities and businesses who were not immediately ready to establish their local enterprise partnership boards, to enable them to move forward with their local partnership proposals (due to complete Oct 2011)	Work ongoing
2.1(iv)	Work with each new local enterprise partnership to enable them to establish their roles and functions (due to complete Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.3(iii)	Complete RDA projects (stand-alone ongoing major programmes) or transfer to other bodies (due to complete Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.3(iv)	Manage out RDA functions, assets, commitments and liabilities an orderly fashion to transfer to other bodies (due to complete Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
4.2(i)	Provide funding and a training offer to support the creation of an additional 75,000 adult apprenticeship places by 2014/15 relative to the level of spending inherited from the previous Government (due to complete Mar 2015)	Work ongoing
4.5(ii)	Put in place Lifelong Learning Accounts to encourage learners to make informed choices and take up the funding they are entitled to (due to complete Sep 2011)	Work ongoing
4.7	Develop proposals for reforming informal adult and community learning and review the effectiveness of basic skills training in delivering economic and social outcomes, to support the development of the Big Society and progression of formal learning (due to complete Sep 2011)	Work ongoing
4.9	Work with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that Jobcentre Plus, Work Programme providers, further education colleges and other training providers collaborate so that people on active benefits have access to training to find and keep work, and progress once in work. This collaboration will include work with employers to give benefit claimants access to sector-specific training (alongside work experience and guaranteed interviews brokered by Jobcentre Plus) through the proposed 'Service Academies' (due to complete Sep 2011)	Work ongoing
5.3(i)	Ensure information is available for each university on key issues for students, including student satisfaction and post-educational outcomes for graduates from different courses and universities (due to complete Jul 2012)	Work ongoing
5.6(i)	Create a national network of Advanced Technology Centres to support growth, increase UK translational capability and position the UK to take advantage of emerging global markets (due to complete Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
5.6(ii)	Reform the Higher Education Innovation Fund to incentivise and reward universities to increase commercial interaction between the research base and business (due to complete Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
6.1(v)	Help the banks set up the business growth fund as soon as possible, developing a credible investment capability and attracting other non-bank investors to support established small businesses with growth potential (due to complete Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
6.2(i)	Launch an online 'one stop shop' for people looking to start up a new business, co-locating existing online transaction services offered by HMRC and Companies House (due to complete Nov 2011)	Work ongoing
6.3(iii)	Ensure that those looking to start a business can access the information they need online, including about franchising, published in an open and standardised format so that it can be re-used for free by third parties (due to complete Nov 2011)	Work ongoing

7.3(i)	Liberalise European markets for business services by working with EU partners to deliver an ambitious outcome for the European Commission's blueprint to improve trade in the EU (called 'Single Market Act') (due to complete Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
7.3(ii)	Make it easier to sell goods and services on line in the EU (due to complete Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
7.3(iii)	Work with EU partners to ensure the services directive is properly implemented to radically improve free movement of services (estimated benefits to the UK economy of £6bn per annum) (due to complete Dec 2011)	Work ongoing
7.3(iv)	Make trade in Europe work better through improving transparency, dispute resolution and enforcement for UK companies selling their products in major EU markets (due to complete Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
7.4	Achieve substantive progress on the Doha Development Agenda, working with international partners (due to complete Nov 2011)	Work ongoing
7.5(i)	Simplify inward investment activities and connections with UK businesses (due to complete Mar 2012)	Work ongoing
7.5(iv)	Support the defence and security industries through the Defence and Security Organisation of UKTI to maintain and improve the UK's leading position in the global marketplace, working with the Ministry of Defence (due to complete May 2015)	Work ongoing
8.1(iii)	Launch a civil society red-tape taskforce to identify ways of reducing the bureaucratic burden on social enterprises and small voluntary organisations, working with the Cabinet Office (due to complete May 2011)	Work ongoing
8.2(i)	Publish a White Paper on reforming the regulatory landscape and the introduction of 'sunset clauses' on regulators to secure a thorough reform of 'tick-box' regulation (due to complete May 2011)	Work ongoing
8.4(ii)	Hold regional meetings with small and medium-sized enterprises to identify regulations that they would like to amend or repeal (due to complete Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
8.5(iv)	Work with EU institutions to start to embed smart regulation (due to complete Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
8.9(i)	Undertake a comprehensive review of corporate governance and economic short-termism, including reviewing the range of factors that can be considered when takeovers are proposed (due to complete Mar 2012)	Work ongoing
9.1(iii)	Develop proposals to transfer information and advice functions to independent consumer bodies and local authorities (due to complete Sept 2011)	Work ongoing
9.1(iv)	Implement a Consumer Rights Directive and simplify existing consumer legislation in a Consumer Bill of Rights (due to complete Dec 2014)	Work ongoing
9.3(i)	Put in place measures to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges and to protect credit and store card users (due to complete Jun 2011)	Work ongoing
9.3(ii)	Undertake a consultation and joint review with HM Treasury of consumer credit and personal insolvency in the UK, including reviewing regulators' powers to define and ban excessive interest rates on credit and store cards, and a seven-day cooling-off period for store cards (due to complete Jun 2011)	Work ongoing

3) Explanation of missed deadlines

In April 2011, BIS missed the following deadlines:

Deadline missed	Reason
5.2 Review options to monetise the Student Loan Book	The department is undertaking additional work to finalise the feasibility study that is reviewing the options to monetise the Student Loan Book. We expect to complete the review in June.
Milestone 8(I) Publish results of the intellectual property review and consultation	The Hargreaves Review of intellectual property and growth could not be published at the end of April due to publication restrictions relating to local election purdah. Ian Hargreaves has used the additional time to put the final touches to his report which will be published this month following purdah.
8.6(iv) Analyse consultation responses and develop detailed plans on shared parental leave and the extension of the right to request flexible working to all employees	We have had a number of discussions with business representative bodies (e.g. FSB, CBI, CIPD) about our proposals for flexible parental leave and the extension of the right to request flexible working – at both ministerial and official level. These discussions are ongoing. We will publish the full consultation with proposals on shared parental leave and flexible working in May.

The status of missed deadlines from previous reports is:

Deadline missed	Status	Comments
8.5(ii) Develop government policy to end gold-plating and a stronger role for the Reducing Regulation Committee and new guidance for departments (due to complete Mar 2011)	Still not complete	Publication of the Transposition Guidance, that outlines the role of the RRC in ending gold plating of EU rules, has been delayed. This has been to provide further clarity regarding how existing UK legislation that goes beyond a new agreed EU minimum is treated under One-In, One-Out rules.
Milestone 8(I) Publish guidance for all departments on ending 'gold-plating' of EU rules (due to complete Mar 2011)		
5.1(ii) Develop a White Paper on the future strategy for higher education to encourage greater choice for students, high quality teaching, a fair deal for part-time students, and wider participation for students from disadvantaged backgrounds (due to complete Mar 2011)	Still not complete	The White Paper will set out major reform of the English higher education system. Reform of this scale warrants careful consideration so we have decided to take more time to develop it. We want to consult comprehensively with stakeholders and to test proposals more thoroughly among higher education institutions, students, employers and other experts; and also to learn from how universities' price setting works this spring.
Milestone 5(B) White Paper published on the future strategy for higher education (due to complete Mar 2011)		
9.1(i) Develop a consumer empowerment strategy, drawing on the insights from	Complete	The consumer empowerment strategy was published on 13 April.

behavioural economics and social psychology, including collective bargaining, data transparency, and customer service (due to complete Mar 2011)		
Milestone 9(A) Strategy published on consumer empowerment (due to complete Mar 2011)		
Milestone 4(B) Proposals published on the introduction of loans for further education students (due to complete Mar 2011)	Still not complete	The higher education White Paper will set the framework for both HE and FE loans. As the White Paper has been delayed to enable proper consultation and testing we have been unable to meet this milestone. We have however shared our thinking to date with representatives from colleges, training organisations, employers, sector and employer representative groups and the NUS.
7.2 Develop a strategy setting out how UKTI will deliver on key trade priorities, stimulate trade sectors, creating inward investment in regional and supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) (due to complete Feb 2011)	Still not complete	The development work is complete. The strategy has been held to follow the Budget and Growth Review announcements and we expect to be able to publish mid-May.
Milestone 5(C) Strategy published on how UKTI will deliver on key trade priorities (Feb 2011)		
Milestone 8(K) Proposals published on shared parental leave and flexible working (due to complete Jan 2011)	Still not complete	We have had a number of discussions with business representative bodies (e.g. FSB, CBI, CIPD) about our proposals for flexible parental leave and the extension of the right to request flexible working – at both ministerial and official level. These discussions are ongoing. We will publish the full consultation with proposals on shared parental leave and flexible working in May.
8.6(iii) Consult with business on shared parental leave and extension of flexible working to all employees alongside equal pay measures (due to complete Mar 2011)		
Milestone 8(C) Forward regulatory programme published (due to complete Dec 2010)	Complete	The renamed 'Statement of New Regulation' was published on 7 April.
9.2(ii) Review technical issues [to provide electronic credit card statements] and announce timetable for implementation (due to complete Dec 2010)	Complete	Published as part of the consumer empowerment strategy on 13 April.