

<b>Department for Business, Innovation and Skills</b> <b>Structural Reform Plan Monthly Implementation Update</b>	<b>March 2011</b>
--	-------------------

### 1) Actions due to be completed in March 2011

Section	Action	Status
Milestone 4(B)	Proposals published on the introduction of loans for further education students	Not complete
4.8.	Develop proposals to introduce a new workplace training programme to replace Train to Gain, started at SMEs	Complete
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	Not complete
Milestone 5(B)	White Paper published on the future strategy for Higher Education	Not complete
5.3.(ii).	Consult with the Higher Education sector on best ways to make information available, including through the existing Unistats website, enhancing and adding to the information already available through the website	Complete
5.4.(i)	Set out changes to the Research Excellence Framework, including a robust method for assessing the economic impact of research	Complete
Milestone 5(F)	Way forward published on Research Excellence Framework	Complete
5.5.(i)	Implement recommendations of the Wakeham taskforce on research efficiency in Higher Education institutions	Complete
Milestone 5(H)	Wakeham taskforce recommendations implemented	Complete
5.5.(ii)	Complete migration of Research Councils' back-office processes to a shared service centre, including grant administration	Complete
Milestone 5(I)	Migration to Research Councils' shared service centre completed	Complete
8.5.(ii)	Develop government policy to end gold-plating and a stronger role for the Reducing Regulation Committee and new guidance for departments	Not complete
Milestone 8(I)	Publish guidance for all departments on ending 'gold-plating' of EU rules	Not complete
8.6.(iii)	Consult with business on shared parental leave and extension of flexible working to all employees alongside equal pay measures	Not complete
Milestone 8(Q)	Interim review published of corporate governance and economic short-termism	Complete
9.1.(i)	Develop a consumer empowerment strategy, drawing on the insights from behavioural economics and social psychology, including collective bargaining, data transparency, and customer service	Not complete
Milestone 9(A)	Strategy published on consumer empowerment	Not complete

### (2) Actions due to be started by end March 2011

Section	Action	Status
4.3(ii)	Consult on proposals and develop an implementation plan so that loans are introduced in time for the academic year 2013/14 (end Aug 2011)	Work started

8.6.(ii)	Put in place secondary legislation to extend the right to request flexible working parents of children up to age 18 (end Apr 2011)	Suspended
9.2(iii)	Develop and implement a pilot of electronic statements (Dec 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 (Jun 2011)	Work ongoing
6.4(ii)	Consult on competition law and the roles of sector regulators with competition powers (Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
6.5(i)	Support DWP-led trials for the New Enterprise Allowance in Merseyside by facilitating access to mentoring advice and micro-finance loans to enable unemployed people in setting up their own business (including franchises) (Apr 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 (Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.2.(iii)	Put in place systems and funds to deliver the Regional Growth Fund (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
4.6.(iii)	Remove controls from further education funding, auditing and monitoring (end 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 (end Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
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 (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
8.8.(ii)	Develop and refine guidance on the Default Retirement Age for employers and individuals, working with ACAS (end Sep 2011)	Work ongoing
8.8.(iii)	Draft regulations to remove the default retirement age and lay them before Parliament (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
8.10.(ii)	Consult on options to address barriers to growth in the intellectual property system (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
1.1.(i)	Establish the governance arrangements and design the business and operating model of the Green Investment Bank (end 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 (end Dec 2011)	Work ongoing
1.2.(i)	Analyse the funding landscape for medium-sized businesses to identify any finance gaps and develop options to address them (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
1.2.(ii)	Develop an implementation plan to support sustainable, affordable business lending to business (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
1.3.	Establish a Cabinet Banking Committee and an Independent Banking Commission to report on banking structural reform, working with HM Treasury (end Autumn 2011)	Work ongoing
1.4.(i)	Review regulations to promote growth of key economic sectors, working with Infrastructure UK (end 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 (end 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 (end Oct 2011)	Work ongoing
2.1.(iv)	Work with each new local enterprise partnership to enable them to establish their roles and functions (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.3.(iii)	Complete RDA projects (stand-alone ongoing major programmes) or transfer to other bodies (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.3.(iv)	Manage out RDA functions, assets, commitments and liabilities an orderly fashion to transfer to other bodies (end 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 (end Mar 2015)	Work ongoing
4.2.(ii)	Introduce new statutory national standards to increase the quality of apprenticeships (Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England) (end Apr 2011)	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 (end Sep 2011)	Work ongoing
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 (end Apr 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 (end 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' (end Sep 2011)	Work ongoing
5.2.	Review options to monetise the Student Loan Book (end Apr 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 (end 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 (end 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 (end Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
5.6.(iii)	Establish the UK Space Agency as an executive agency to formalise links between industry and researchers in a single body (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
6.1.(iv)	Simplify publicly funded venture capital funds by bringing together at the national level to improve value for money (end Apr 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 (end 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 (end Nov 2011)	Work ongoing
6.3.(i)	Rationalise and simply the range of 'Solutions for Business' products (end Apr 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 (end 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') (end Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
7.3.(ii)	Make it easier to sell goods and services on line in the EU (end 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) (end 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 (end Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
7.4.	Achieve substantive progress on the Doha Development Agenda, working with international partners (end Nov 2011)	Work ongoing
7.5.(i)	Simplify inward investment activities and connections with UK businesses (end 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 (end 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 (end 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 (end May 2011)	Work ongoing
8.3.	Develop guidance for policy-makers in all departments to seek alternatives to regulation, supported by the Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team (end Apr 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 (end Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
8.5.(iv)	Work with EU institutions to start to embed smart regulation (end 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 (Mar 2012).	Work ongoing
8.10.(iii)	Examine the cost and complexity to small and medium-sized enterprises of accessing intellectual property services to help them to protect and exploit intellectual property (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
9.1.(iii)	Develop proposals to transfer information and advice functions to independent consumer bodies and local authorities (end Sept 2011)	Work ongoing
9.1.(iv)	Implement a Consumer Rights Directive and simplify existing consumer legislation in a Consumer Bill of Rights (end 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 (end 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 (end Jun 2011)	Work ongoing

## Explanation of missed deadlines

In March 2011, BIS missed the following deadlines:

Deadline missed	Reason
Develop government policy to end gold-plating and a stronger role for the Reducing Regulation Committee and new guidance for departments	Publication of the Transposition Guidance, that outlines the role of the RRC in ending gold plating of EU rules, will be published at the start of April to provide further clarity in the guidance.
Publish guidance for all departments on ending 'gold-plating' of EU rules	
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
White Paper published on the future strategy for higher education	
Consult with business on shared parental leave and extension of flexible working to all employees alongside equal pay measures	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.
Develop a consumer empowerment strategy, drawing on the insights from behavioural economics and social psychology, including collective bargaining, data transparency, and customer service	This was initially planned to be part of the Growth Review but is now a separate strategy. We are now planning to publish the strategy in April 2011.
Strategy published on consumer empowerment	
Proposals published on the introduction of loans for further education students	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.

The status of missed deadlines from previous reports is:

Deadline missed	Status	Comments
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) (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.
Strategy published on how UKTI will deliver on key trade priorities (Feb 2011)	Still not complete	
Proposals published on shared parental leave and flexible working (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.
Milestone 8 (C) Forward regulatory programme published (Dec 2010)	Still not complete	We are working on a package of broader deregulatory measures to be announced in Spring. The Forward Regulatory Programme will form part of this wider work. The initial stage of the Programme is complete and the independent Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) is now validating a substantial number of these regulations.
9.2(ii) Review technical issues [to provide electronic credit card statements] and announce timetable for implementation (Dec 2010)	Still not complete	The delay in agreeing the content of electronic statements has had a knock-on effect on this action. The UK Cards Association has agreed the technical issues with credit card providers and the implementation timetable was agreed in March prior to announcement in April 2011.
8.1(ii) Develop guidance for other government bodies to impose ‘sunset clauses’ on new regulations so that they automatically expire unless positive action is taken by Government to renew them (Sep 2010)	Complete	‘Sunsetting Regulations: Guidance’ was published on 22 March 2011.