

Sent by email

8 April 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing in response to reports that you are considering abolishing the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC). We would urge you to ensure that any plans to abolish the RPC are discussed with the public and Parliament.

Our view is that, in providing independent expert advice to create better regulation, reduce unnecessary burdens on business and support economic growth, the RPC plays an important role in ensuring that policy decisions are properly informed by evidence.

There are a number of functions performed by the RPC that we think are especially important:

1. Proposing improvements to policy, including spotting significant errors in calculations and securing relevant expertise and evidence.
2. Assessing government's preparedness for real-world impacts, opportunities for mitigation and in some cases enabling Government to respond confidently to any public concerns.
3. Improving Parliament's understanding of the impact of policies and ability to respond to conflicting claims in an informed way.
4. Providing public assurance at a time of fragile public trust.

These functions sit naturally within a non-departmental public body. We are concerned that the proposal to replace its advice on government impact assessments with an in-house retrospective spot check loses the key functions outlined above, and does not contribute to the improvement of policy before it is finalised.

Especially considering that the anticipated savings from replacing the RPC are minimal (around £500,000 per year), we think it is important to properly consult on how the key functions provided by the RPC continue to be delivered. They are an important part of the UK's evidence-based policy process and we do not think they should be lost. We would strongly support public consultation on how these

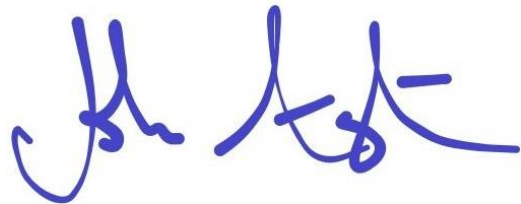
functions can be expedited and focused – and believe that this would benefit the policy evidence environment and improve public trust.

We urge you to confirm that the Regulatory Policy Committee will not be abolished without publication of government’s proposals for public and parliamentary discussion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'T' followed by a long horizontal line.

Tracey Brown OBE
Director, Sense About Science

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by 'Aston'.

Professor Sir John Aston
President, Royal Statistical Society

Sense About Science is an independent charity that promotes the public interest in sound science and evidence. We work with communities all over the UK to make sense of evidence in key areas of decision making, and with researchers and policy makers to improve use of evidence in public life.

The RSS is the leading membership organisation for statisticians and other data professionals. We have over 8,000 members in the UK, many of whom work for the government statistical service. As a charity, we are committed to promoting the use of data and statistics to inform evidence-based decision-making.