

# **DWP Better Regulation Stakeholder Group Meeting 22 January – headlines**

## **Welcome and introductions**

This was Rosie Winterton's first meeting as Chair. She welcomed the Group and said that efforts to reduce unnecessary burdens, and to ensure that regulatory inspection and enforcement were proportionate, were perhaps even more important in the current economic situation.

## **Simplification Plan**

The Department for Work and Pensions was the first major department to reach its target of reducing administrative burdens on business by 25%. In fact it has achieved 29% reductions.

The Group said that, in the current economic climate, it was important to identify those measures with one-off costs associated with administrative burdens reductions as long-term savings did not necessarily justify huge one-off costs.

The Department was still working to identify further ways of reducing administrative burdens.

BERR's consultation on Regulatory Budgets had ended and the Government was considering its response.

## **Workplace Pension Reforms – Personal Accounts**

The Pensions Act contains a number of measures aimed at encouraging greater workplace pension saving. From 2012 it is planned that all eligible workers, who are not already in a good quality workplace scheme, will be automatically enrolled into either their employers' pension scheme or a new savings vehicle, which is currently known as a personal account scheme. To encourage participation, employees' pension contributions will be supplemented by contributions from employers and tax relief.

The personal accounts scheme will be a simple, low cost trust-based pension scheme run on a not-for-profit basis by a trustee Corporation in the interests of its members.

The Department was considering the next stage of regulation which deals with the detail of how the reforms will be implemented and the exact roles and responsibilities of employers, individuals and schemes. The Group was

aware that there was more to be done to help business understand what was required and what the regulation meant in practice.

The Group said that it was important to engage small businesses and those employers who were not necessarily prepared for introduction in 2012. There was a need to inform them and so publicity was needed.

Rosie Winterton said that there was a need to focus on the best way to publicise the reforms. She said that she was willing to chair a final round up meeting with employers' associations if that would be helpful.