Part 1: Regulatory Functions

(i) Powers as respects consistency in regulatory function.

North Ayrshire Council supports actions which will encourage or improve regulatory functions in terms of simplifying processes and bureaucracy for businesses. We would like to see regulation that reduces any unnecessary regulatory burden on businesses especially small businesses which are the mainstay of the local economy.

It is welcomed that this Bill is suggesting that listed regulators may be required to co-operate and co-ordinate activity with each other. This should make it easier for businesses to comply with regulations.

(ii) Regulations under section 1: further provision

We are supportive of suggestions under this section which should represent a more agile and responsive regulatory system. The local economy and business will benefit from regulation which is proportionate, consistent and is aimed at situations where action is needed. Businesses need regulation that is relevant to their businesses and industry. Businesses do not want regulators intervening to make bureaucracy more complicated or difficult to comply with.

This seems to suggest that there will closer scrutiny of regulators and how they discharge their function. The Scottish Government need to be clear on who or how this will be monitored.

(iii) Compliance and enforcement

Agree that all regulators should comply with new act and that therefore regulations are applied consistently across Scotland, business sectors and all aspects relating to sustainable growth.

(iv) Code of practice on regulatory functions

Agree that a code of practice for all regulators will be beneficial to the consistent and commensurate application of regulations. This code of practice should be shared with businesses so they are aware of what the code relates to and how it will be applied. There should be a co-ordinated information campaign to ensure all relevant businesses are made aware of how regulations are applied and how they will be impacted.

(v) Code of practice: procedure

Agree that the procedures in issuing the code of practice should be consistent with better regulation and that they should be consistent with interests of business and sustainable economic growth

(vi) Powers to modify

No comment