

2026

Confined Spaces Regulations 2025 Consultation Report

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS

Health and Safety Inspectorate

Version Control

1	Health and Safety Inspectorate (HSWI)	13/05/2026	Initial
2	HSWI	01/06/2026	Review

Confined Spaces Regulations 2025 – Consultation Report

<https://consult.gov.im/environment-food-and-agriculture/confined-spaces-regulations-2025>

This report was created on Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 10:09

The activity ran from 03/12/2025 to 31/03/2026

Responses to this survey: 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESPONDENT COMMENTS:

Respondents broadly supported the direction of the proposed Confined Spaces Regulations and alignment with UK standards, seeing this as a credible way to strengthen the Island's regulatory framework. Feedback did not challenge the policy intent, but instead focused on ensuring the framework is practical, usable and implementable across sectors. However, a consistent theme is that clarity in practice is as important as clarity in principle. While the Regulations are generally understood, closer alignment with UK structure and numbering would improve usability, particularly for organisations operating across jurisdictions. This reflected a preference for familiarity and ease of application.

The main concerns related to delivery rather than design. Respondents highlighted that implementation may be challenging without sufficient time, especially alongside other planned reforms, and that organisations, particularly smaller ones, may struggle to adapt systems and build competence within the proposed timeframe.

Linked to this are concerns about capacity constraints, especially around training and specialist support on the Island. Respondents pointed to limited provision and the risk that demand could exceed supply, highlighting the need for a coordinated and supported rollout rather than reliance on organisations adapting independently.

Overall, there was a constructive tone, with stakeholders willing to engage through workshops, guidance and collaboration. With clear communication, realistic timescales and accessible training, the Regulations were considered able to achieve their objectives; however, without these considerations taken into account, there was considered to be a risk that strong policy intent could be undermined by practical delivery challenges.

We asked:

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) has been reviewing specific UK Health and Safety legislation to form a judgment on whether the Island would benefit from greater alignment with UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) standards. As part of that process, consideration has also been given to whether this UK HSE legislation would enhance public and worker safety for offshore energy developments. This process has culminated in public consultation of specific draft legislation, with the starting point for most of the legislation being existing UK legislation.

DEFA has welcomed stakeholder and public feedback on the proposed health and safety legislation, and where appropriate any associated guidance documentation, through this public consultation process.

You Said:

Respondents generally support the proposed Regulations and broader alignment with UK standards but highlighted that success will depend on practical implementation. In particular, respondents emphasised the need for clear, user-friendly regulations, realistic timescales, and sufficient capacity, especially in training and specialist support, to enable organisations to comply. There were also calls for stronger coordination, guidance, and engagement with industry to ensure the changes are understood and can be delivered effectively in practice.

We did:

The DEFA Health and Safety at Work Inspectorate (HSWI) is grateful to all those who took the time to consider and respond to this consultation.

Due to the December 2025 holiday period and the limited number of initial responses received, it was decided to extend the closing date of the outstanding health and safety legislation consultations to 31 March 2026.

The consultation process and responses received informed the Department's assessment of the benefits of the proposed legislation. All consultation responses were considered in detail, alongside direct engagement with relevant Manx businesses. The consultation process has therefore informed the Department's decision making. Having considered all available information, the Department has decided to pause the introduction of this tranche of legislation until further notice.

Further engagement between DEFA HSWI and the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will take place in June 2026. Should the Department subsequently decide to proceed with the introduction of any of the draft legislation, this will first be reviewed against the latest position of the relevant UK legislation and updated where necessary. If any substantive changes are made as a result, a further public consultation exercise may be undertaken.

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CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Question Number	Title	Total Responses
1	Do you agree that the Isle of Man should follow UK standards and processes for health and safety laws and its regulation?	4 (100.00%)
2	Are there any parts of the legislation being consulted upon that require more clarity to aid understanding and assist with compliance?	4 (100.00%)
3	Is the proposed implementation strategy and timescale for the introduction of the IOM Confined Spaces Regulations 2025 appropriate for industry readiness?	4 (100.00%)
4	Are there any specific support mechanisms (e.g. guidance, training, transitional arrangements) that would help you or your organisation prepare for the new legislation?	4 (100.00%)
5	Do you have any other comments on the draft IOM Confined Spaces Regulations 2025 legislation attached to this stage of the overall consultation process?	2 (50.00%)
6	Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the proposed changes or the consultation process?	2 (50.00%)

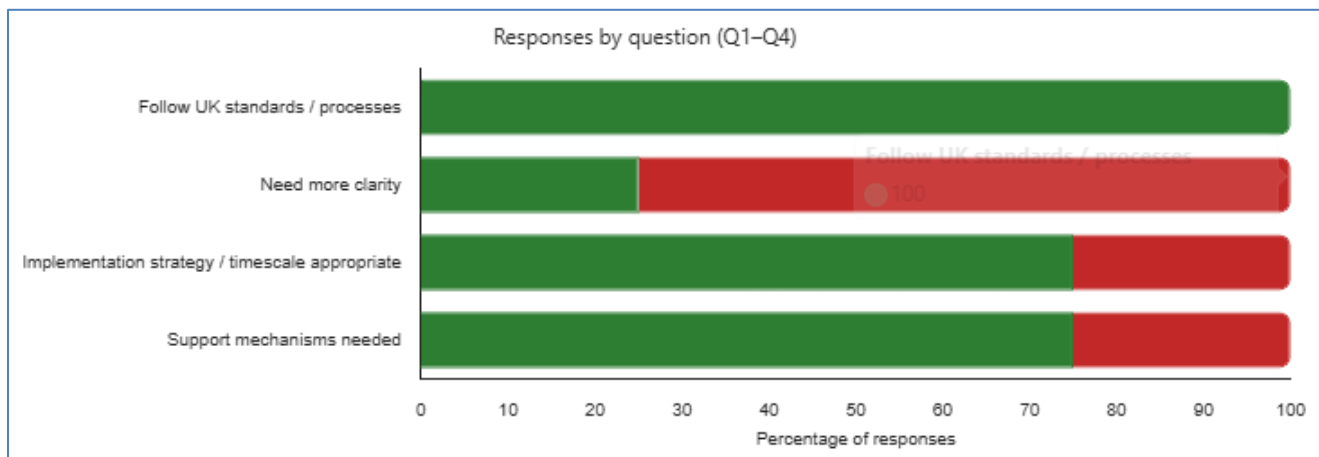


Fig 1:
Question (Q1–Q4) - Percentage of Responses (Yes/Agree, No/Disagree, Not Answered)

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS – INDIVIDUAL SUMMARY OF RESPONSES BY QUESTION

Q1 — *IOM following UK standards / processes*

Comments were consistently supportive of alignment with UK standards as “good practice” and a positive step in strengthening and modernising the Island’s health and safety framework. A specific practical point raised was that alignment works best when it also includes consistency of regulation structure/numbering with the UK, to make the requirements easier to navigate and apply.

Q2 — *Where more clarity is needed*

Where respondents asked for greater clarity, the emphasis was not on changing the substance of duties, but on making the Regulations easier to interpret and use by mirroring the UK regulation numbering and structure. The view expressed was that close structural alignment would reduce confusion and misinterpretation and improve consistency for duty-holders and those supporting compliance.

Q3 — *Implementation strategy and timescales*

Comments on timescales split into two connected themes: Firstly, implementation would land best if it was to be supported by industry understanding and competence, with enough transition time for businesses to update systems, procedures and workforce capability; and secondly, concerns were expressed that the proposed timetable could be too tight in practice, particularly when viewed alongside other planned legislative reforms. One respondent suggested significantly longer lead-in (4–5 years) may be needed for Island-wide readiness and compliance.

Q4 — *Support mechanisms (guidance/training/transitional arrangements)*

Respondent’s comments focused strongly on practical implementation support, including a request for an HSWI-led practical overview session and wider opportunities for engagement (e.g., working groups/briefings). A further theme was capacity and resourcing: comments highlighted pressures created by organisational budget cycles, limited on-Island capacity to train at scale, and the potential need to build wider competence and supporting services (including occupational health availability) to enable effective compliance.

Q5 — *Any other comments on the draft Regulations*

No substantive additional comments were provided beyond “no further comments” or blank responses.

Q6 — *Anything else about the proposals or consultation process*

No substantive “anything else” comments were provided in this dataset.