

2026

Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2025 Consultation Report

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS

Health and Safety Inspectorate

Version Control

1	Health and Safety Inspectorate (HSWI)	26/05/2026	Initial
2	HSWI	01/06/2026	Review

Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2025 Consultation Report

<https://consult.gov.im/environment-food-and-agriculture/dangerous-substances-and-explosive-atmospheres-reg>

This report was created on Tuesday 26 May 2026 at 08:49

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

Responses to this survey: 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESPONDENT COMMENTS:

There were 2 respondents, with comments received from Douglas City Council and Construction IOM.

The consultation responses showed clear and consistent backing for the proposed direction of aligning the IOM's health and safety framework with UK standards, with respondents viewing this as a practical and proportionate approach that supports consistency, familiarity, and effective cross-jurisdiction working.

While there is broad acceptance of the implementation strategy and timescales, the feedback highlights that successful delivery will depend less on the principle of the regulations and more on how they are implemented in practice. In particular, respondents emphasise the importance of clarity and usability of the legislation, especially through close alignment with UK structure and numbering, and the need for practical support to enable industry readiness.

Overall, the responses indicate a constructive and supportive stakeholder position, with an emphasis on ensuring the regulations are clear, aligned, and accompanied by sufficient guidance, engagement, and capacity-building measures to achieve effective and proportionate implementation.

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:

Two responses were received, one from Douglas City Council and the other from Construction IOM. Both strongly supported aligning the IOM's health and safety framework with UK standards, viewing this as a practical, proportionate approach that promotes consistency, familiarity, and effective cross-jurisdiction working. While they broadly accept the proposed implementation strategy and timescales, they stress that success will depend on how the regulations are applied in practice. Key priorities include ensuring clarity and usability of the legislation, particularly through alignment with UK structure and numbering, and providing sufficient practical support to enable industry readiness. Overall, responses are constructive and supportive, emphasising the need for clear, aligned regulations backed by strong guidance, engagement, and capacity-building to achieve effective implementation.

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?	2 (100.00%)
2	Are there any parts of the legislation being consulted upon that require more clarity to aid understanding and assist with compliance?	2 (100.00%)
3	Is the proposed implementation strategy and timescale for the introduction of the IOM Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2025 appropriate for industry readiness?	2 (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?	2 (100.00%)
5	Do you have any other comments on the draft IOM Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2025 legislation at this stage of the overall consultation process?	2 (100.00%)
6	Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the proposed changes or the consultation process?	2 (100.00%)

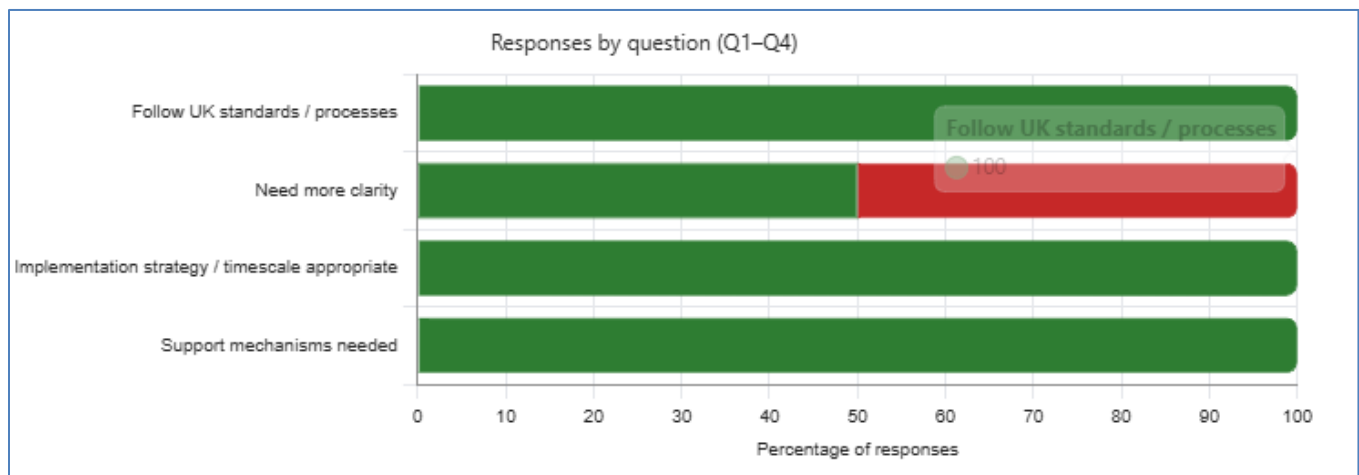


Fig 1:
Question (Q1–Q4) - Percentage of Responses (Yes/Agree, No/Disagree, Not Answered)

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS – INDIVIDUAL SUMMARY OF RESPONSES BY QUESTION

1) Do you agree that the Isle of Man should follow UK standards and processes for health and safety laws and its regulation?

Both respondents agreed that the IOM should follow UK standards and processes. The comments showed clear support for continued alignment with the UK approach, with both respondents viewing this as good practice and beneficial for consistency. Construction Isle of Man strongly supported mirroring the numbering and structure of UK regulations to improve clarity for contractors, training providers, duty holders, and health and safety practitioners working across both jurisdictions. Douglas City Council also supported alignment and specifically queried whether the regulation numbering could be made consistent with the UK format.

2) Are there any parts of the legislation that require more clarity to aid understanding and assist with compliance?

Responses were mixed on whether further clarity was needed. One respondent indicated yes, while the other indicated no. The main point raised on clarity related to the format and numbering of the regulations, particularly the value of following the same numbering structure as the UK to make the legislation easier to interpret and apply in practice. No wider substantive drafting issues were raised beyond this alignment point.

3) Is the proposed implementation strategy and timescale appropriate for industry readiness?

Again, responses were mixed. Construction Isle of Man considered the proposed approach and timescale appropriate in principle, while emphasising that successful implementation would depend on industry understanding, competence, and sufficient transition support. Douglas City Council answered positively but did not add any further concerns on timing.

Overall, respondents did not oppose the proposed timescale, but one response made clear that readiness would depend on practical support, engagement, and enough time for businesses to adapt systems, procedures, and staff competence.

4) Are there any specific support mechanisms that would help you or your organisation prepare for the new legislation?

Both respondents said that support mechanisms would be helpful. The strongest theme was the need for practical implementation support. Construction Isle of Man called for support for local training providers, possible government grant or funding support, engagement and communication for smaller contractors, and adequate transition time. Douglas City Council suggested a HSWI workshop to provide a practical overview of the changes.

5) Do you have any other comments on the draft legislation at this stage?

Only one respondent provided substantive additional comments. Construction Isle of Man said it was broadly satisfied with the direction of travel and supportive of the proposed regulations being introduced effectively and consistently across the construction sector. Douglas City Council indicated no further comments.

6) Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the proposed changes or the consultation process?

Construction Isle of Man said it would welcome further engagement, including participation in working groups, briefing sessions, or implementation support initiatives. Douglas City Council did not provide additional comments.