

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 2025 Consultation report

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS

Health and Safety Inspectorate

Version Control

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2	HSWI	01/06/2026	Review

Provision and use of Work Equipment Regulations 2025 Consultation Report

<https://consult.gov.im/environment-food-and-agriculture/provision-and-use-of-work-equipment-regulations>

This report was created on Tuesday 26 May 2026 at 10:41

The activity ran from 07/11/2025 to 31/03/2026

Responses to this survey: 5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESPONDENT COMMENTS:

Five responses were received, providing a broadly consistent and constructive stakeholder view. Overall, there was strong support for aligning the IOM's health and safety framework with UK standards, with respondents recognising the benefits this would bring in terms of consistency, clarity, and familiarity, particularly for those operating across jurisdictions. However, there was also a clear expectation that such alignment should remain proportionate to the IOM context, with flexibility to reflect local scale, resources, and business impacts.

While the draft regulations were generally considered workable, feedback highlighted the importance of clarity, usability, and practical application. Several respondents called for greater clarity in specific areas, including how requirements should be interpreted by public-sector clients and how a proportionate approach should be applied in lower-risk activities, legacy buildings, or constrained environments. There was also a consistent theme around the desirability of closer alignment with UK structure and numbering, to support ease of understanding and compliance.

The proposed implementation strategy and timescales were broadly supported, with respondents recognising that the lead-in period should allow sufficient time for organisations, particularly public bodies, to prepare. However, stakeholders noted that practical constraints, such as governance processes, funding cycles, borrowing approvals, and wider regulatory requirements, could influence delivery timelines and need to be taken into account.

A strong and consistent message across responses was the need for proportionate and well-supported implementation. Respondents highlighted the importance of clear and accessible guidance, alignment with established UK guidance where appropriate, targeted training and briefing materials, transitional arrangements for existing projects, and, where necessary, financial support to manage additional compliance costs. This was particularly emphasised in the context of public-sector organisations operating within defined financial and governance constraints.

Finally, respondents stressed the importance of a risk-based and proportionate approach to enforcement, recognising that in some cases, particularly involving older buildings or constrained sites, compliance would need to be achieved through alternative (but equivalent) control measures rather than full elimination of risk.

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:

Stakeholders supported aligning the IOM's framework with UK standards, recognising the benefits for consistency and clarity, but emphasised the need for a proportionate approach that reflects the Island's scale and context.

Respondents highlighted the importance of clear, practical legislation aligned with UK structure and numbering, alongside greater clarity for public-sector applications and lower-risk or constrained environments. While the proposed implementation timescales were broadly supported, respondents noted that delivery could be shaped by practical constraints such as governance, funding cycles, and approval processes.

There was a strong call for well-supported implementation, including clear guidance, training, transitional arrangements, and, where needed, financial support, particularly for public bodies. Respondents also emphasised the need for a risk-based, proportionate approach to enforcement, allowing flexibility where equivalent safety outcomes could be achieved.

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?	5 (100.00%)
2	Are there any parts of the legislation being consulted upon that require more clarity to aid understanding and assist with compliance?	5 (100.00%)
3	Is the proposed implementation strategy and timescale for the introduction of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 2025 appropriate for industry readiness?	5 (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?	5 (100.00%)
5	Do you have any other comments on the draft Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 2025 legislation attached to this stage of the overall consultation process?	3 (60.00%)
6	Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the proposed changes or the consultation process?	3 (60.00%)

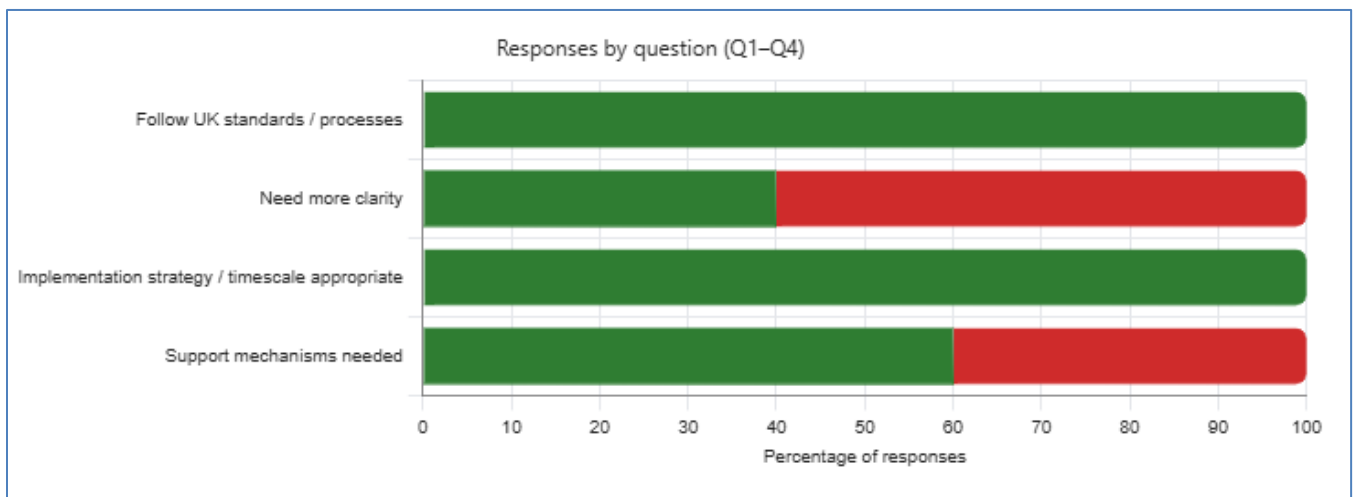


Fig 1:
Question (Q1–Q4) - Percentage of Responses (Yes/Agree, No/Disagree, Not Answered)

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?

There was strong overall support for alignment with UK standards and processes. Respondents generally saw this as good practice that would promote consistency, clarity, and familiarity, particularly for those working across jurisdictions. Ramsey Town Commissioners supported alignment but also noted that the IOM should retain some flexibility to apply rules proportionately to local scale, activity, and resources so as not to disadvantage local businesses. Other respondents supported alignment, describing the UK framework as well understood and helpful for designers, contractors, and clients.

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

Views were mixed, with a majority requesting additional clarity, although two respondents indicated they did not require further clarification. Douglas City Council queried why the numbering and structure of the draft legislation differed from the UK version and suggested closer alignment. One respondent said the draft was broadly clear but would welcome guidance on practical expectations for public-sector clients and how a proportionate approach would apply to maintenance-led or low-risk works. Another respondent similarly asked for guidance on proportionate application in older or legacy buildings, premises with limited physical footprints, and situations requiring phased improvement rather than immediate structural alteration.

3. Is the proposed implementation strategy and timescale for the introduction of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 2025 appropriate for industry readiness?

Responses were generally supportive, although not unanimous. Douglas City Council, and two other respondents answered Yes. Two respondents considered the proposed commencement timing broadly appropriate, noting that the lead-in period should allow time for public bodies to update governance arrangements, procurement documentation, professional appointments, and capital planning. However, both also pointed out that borrowing approvals, loan petitions, climate impact assessments, and other public-sector processes may affect delivery timescales. Ramsey Town Commissioners and one other respondent answered No.

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

There was clear support for additional implementation support. Douglas City Council suggested an HSWI workshop to provide a practical overview. Two respondents called for IOM guidance to be aligned with UK HSE guidance, training and briefing materials focused on client duties, transitional guidance for legacy projects, and, where appropriate, financial assistance from central government to help meet additional professional and compliance costs. These same respondents emphasised the need for support that reflected the realities of public-sector funding and governance.

5. Do you have any other comments on the draft legislation?

Additional comments emphasised that local authorities operate within central government borrowing criteria, often face lengthy loan petition processes, and may be working with older Manx buildings or constrained sites, meaning that risk may need to be managed through alternative controls rather than full elimination. One respondent requested proportionate enforcement and confirmation that a similarly risk-based and proportionate approach to guidance and enforcement would apply in the IOM.

Comments also highlighted structural alteration requirements, borrowing approvals, and the need for flexibility where equivalent levels of safety can be achieved through alternative means.

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

Only a limited number of respondents added further comments. One said they support the regulations and their objectives but stressed that effective implementation would depend on clear guidance, realistic expectations of public-sector bodies, recognition of financial constraints, and proportionate enforcement. Another again stressed the need for clear guidance, realistic expectations, and proportionate enforcement.