

Policy Statement: Regulation

What's the issue?

- Deregulation has, again, hit the headlines as a way to achieve economic growth and break through the UK's longstanding cycle of economic stagnation.
- Regulation has often been a political football between those who believe it is a core ingredient of a modern economy and those who believe it constrains market forces to achieve growth.
- **A rapid move to deregulation risks a race to the bottom, leaving workers less safe, less healthy, and less happy at work. In turn, this makes them less productive and will hinder the overall mission of growth.**

What's our position?

- A robust regulatory framework is essential for ensuring that all workers can thrive, accompanied by a well-equipped and well-funded regulator capable of upholding standards and enforcing regulations.
- This framework needs to be risk-based, ensuring that regulation protects workers from the changes of today and tomorrow while also reducing red tape, bureaucracy, and undue burdens on businesses.
- To safeguard the workers of the future, it's crucial that regulation and legislation evolve in step with real-world changes, allowing our health and safety regime to adapt to emerging needs, patterns, and risks.
- As a global leader, the UK is renowned for its effective, data-driven, and evidence-based interventions, which have led to a significant reduction in workplace fatalities and non-fatal injuries, saving thousands of lives over the course of half a century.

Asks:

- All deregulatory decisions must include a publicly accessible *Worker Safety Impact Statement* that assesses the risk to worker safety posed by deregulation. This allows the Government to streamline for efficiency, without a race to the bottom on safety standards.
- Government to launch a *Revise, not repeal* programme to remove obsolete processes without sacrificing worker safety standards.
 - This should be delivered through an annual Statutory Instrument which identifies redundant or duplicative regulations, backed by clear evidence.
 - Consultation with affected parties should be built into the annual cycle.
- Government to adopt a formal Compatibility Test for regulatory change around cross-border/cross-jurisdictional trade.
 - This should be based on a presumption of regulatory alignment, unless a strong evidence base suggests the need for deregulation, and where a Worker Safety Impact Statement supports this.