**Review of the Balance of Competences:**

**Social and Employment**

**Response form**

**October 2013**

Please use this form to answer the questions contained within the call for evidence published at <https://www.gov.uk/review-of-the-balance-of-competences#semester-3>

The closing date for the submission of responses is **17th January 2014.**

Responses can be returned by email to balanceofcompetences@bis.gsi.gov.uk

Your evidence should be objective, factual information about the impact or effect of the competence in your area of expertise.

A summary of the evidence received will be published alongside the final report in Summer 2014 and will be available on the Government website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

**Confidentiality and Data Protection:** Information provided in response to this call for evidence, including personal information, may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If you want information, including personal data that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

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| --- | --- |
| **Name\*** |  |
| **Organisation/Company (if applicable)\*** |  |
| **Job Title (if applicable)** |  |
| **Department (if applicable)** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Telephone\*** |  |
| **Email\*** |  |
| **Are you happy for your evidence and organisation details to be published? \*** | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| **If not, please state your reasons \*** |  |

\* These fields are mandatory.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organisation Type (if applicable)** | ***Please mark one box only and give details as appropriate*** |
| **NGO/Civil Society/Third Sector** | [ ]  |  |
| **Public Sector** | [ ]  |  |
| **Trade Unions** | [ ]  |  |
| **European Institutions** | [ ]  |  |
| **Business/Industry/Trade Bodies** | [ ]  |  |
| **Other (please give details)** | [ ]  |  |

Note: on the form below, please leave the response box blank for any questions that you do not wish to respond to. All boxes may be expanded as required.

**The argument for social and employment competence (Q1 – Q3)**

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| **1. *To what extent is EU action in this area necessary for the operation of the single market?*** |
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| **2. *To what extent are social and employment goals a desirable function of the EU in their own right?*** |
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| **3. *What domestic legislation would the UK need in the absence of EU legislation?*** |
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**Impact on the national interest (Q4 - Q7)**

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| **4. *What evidence is there that EU action in*** ***social policy advantages the UK?*** |
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| **5. *What evidence is there that EU action in social policy disadvantages the UK?*** |
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| **6. *Are there any other impacts of EU action in social policy that should be noted?*** |
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| **7. *What evidence is there about the impact of EU action on the UK economy? How far can this be separated from any domestic legislation you would need in the absence of EU action?*** |
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**Future options and challenges (Q8 - Q12)**

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| **8. *How might the UK benefit from the EU taking more action in social policy?*** |
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| **9. *How might the UK benefit from the EU taking less action in social policy, or from more action being taken at the national rather than EU level?*** |
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| **10. *How could action in social policy be undertaken differently? For example, are there ways of improving how EU legislation is made e.g. through greater adherence to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality or the ways social partners are engaged?*** |
|  |
| **11. *How else could the UK implement its current obligations in this area?*** |
|  |
| **12. *What future challenge/opportunities might the UK face in this area and what impact might these have on the national interest?*** |
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**BIS/13/1243RF**