

# 2027/28 Workplan Call for Input

October 2026



Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum



# Introduction

The DRCF brings together four UK regulators - the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the Information Commission's Office (ICO), and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to coordinate their approach to digital regulation for the benefit of both people and businesses online. As a non-statutory forum, we enable member regulators to collaborate on overlapping and shared digital regulation issues. The DRCF's primary goals are also to enhance regulatory coherence and build collective expertise for effective regulation.

Regulatory cooperation continues to be an important catalyst for the UK's focus on growth and innovation in the digital sector. Efficient joined-up regulation is key to ensuring that the regulatory landscape protects consumers from harm while providing clarity to innovators and other businesses.

## Delivering our 2026/27 Workplan

In April 2026, we published our plan of work for 2026 to 2027, explaining how the DRCF member regulators aim to approach joint areas of UK digital regulation. During the final year of our 3-year vision, we set out in our workplan activities that will continue to support our longer-term vision.

These include:

- continuing to promote the responsible development and deployment of AI, including hosting our yearly Responsible AI Forum, and developing research to unpack UK consumers' attitudes to generative and agentic AI adoption.
- building a prototype of the Digital Library, testing a unified regulatory resource for businesses, investors and other innovators and better supporting them in navigating UK digital regulation.
- proactively engaging innovators via our Thematic Innovation Hub, helping them understand cross-regulatory expectations while generating insights for DRCF regulators.
- conducting horizon scanning in emerging technologies, including on consumer robotics/physical AI and future developments for consumers.
- connecting researchers across our member regulators in a DRCF Research Lab to share information on planned and ongoing research and identify topics of cross-regulatory interest for DRCF-led research.

We are on track to deliver the commitments set out in this Workplan and are planning to continue further work in some of these areas in 2026 to 2027.

# Setting our programme of work - Call for Input

To help us plan both future DRCF work, and the evolution of our existing work, we would like to refresh our understanding of exactly where businesses and other stakeholders are encountering overlap between regulatory regimes, or confronting uncertainty because of the potential interplay between regimes. We would also welcome views on other topics on which the DRCF could coordinate joint work between its member regulators, whether to ensure cohesion, build its member regulators' capabilities or for other reasons.

We would welcome your responses to the following questions.

## 1. In what areas of technology and digital regulation are you observing the greatest overlap in the responsibilities and remits (domains) of the DRCF regulators?

For example, regarding the domains of the DRCF regulators:

- Are you encountering situations in which there is potential friction or ambiguity between regulatory regimes and if so, where?
- Are you encountering situations in which you perceive a need for rationalisation between regulatory expectations and if so, where?
- Do you encounter situations in which terminology is being used in different ways so as to cause confusion and if so, where?

## 2. What opportunities for specific joint action by DRCF member regulators (quadrilateral or bilateral) do you see? What shared processes, guidance or other outputs would you find useful?

For example, where do you encounter friction in regulatory access, reporting or engagement?

Please also explain:

- What would be the positive impact of your suggested area of joint work? Examples of positive impacts could include ensuring greater regulatory certainty, ensuring systemic cohesion, reducing duplication, or advancing regulatory capabilities.
- Are there any other stakeholders or groups who are already engaged in work on this issue?

## 3. Can you identify any areas where regulators should work together to address existing or emerging risks? Please consider risks that may span regulatory remits and sectors, including systemic, cross-cutting, and technology-driven risks.

Please ensure that your answer **covers intersection between at least two of the DRCF member regulators' remits**. As the DRCF's work is focused on collaboration between regulators, we are not able to take forward suggestions relating solely to the activities of individual regulators.

## Who should respond

We invite views from people and organisations who have an interest in or interact with digital regulation and/or technologies, including but not limited to AI within financial services / telecoms sector, Regtech (regulatory technologies), smart data, cybersecurity, online safety and data protection. This includes businesses using technologies such as AI and developers who provide digital services across sectors. We also welcome responses from academia, consumer groups, and charities working in digital policy, particularly those representing communities that may experience vulnerability.

## Prioritising work - factors we consider

We appreciate all responses to this Call for Input. Although we will not be able to immediately take forward all suggestions, those that do not form part of our workplan for 2027/28 will be kept on record internally and fed into our future thinking beyond next year's workplan.

In considering key areas of work to take forward in 2027/28, the DRCF will consider each regulator's ability to prioritise and resource further work, by reference to the following criteria:

- **Strategic significance:** Does the proposed joint work align with the aims and objectives of the DRCF and the strategic objectives of its member regulators?
- **Scope and objectives:** Are the scope and objectives for the proposed joint work clear?
- **Impact:** Is there a demonstrable positive impact that could be achieved, and how significant would it be? Is there an appropriate alternative to DRCF action?
- **Resources:** How much resource would be required to complete this work and achieve the desired impact? Do the DRCF and its member regulators have sufficient resources to do so?
- **Risks:** What risks are associated with joint regulatory initiatives, and how significant are these? What are the risks of not taking on this joint work?

Each DRCF member regulator consults separately on its own plan of work in accordance with its own respective legal obligations, often via a statutory consultation. The responses to this informal Call for Input should not be treated as responses to those statutory consultations.

# How we use your information

The DRCF is not a standalone legal entity, and, for the avoidance of doubt, information submitted in response to this Call for Input should be treated as information submitted to each DRCF member (CMA, Ofcom, ICO and FCA).

**The DRCF will publish the responses to this Call for Input.** This helps to make the consultation process more transparent, allowing people to more easily see how the DRCF has taken their views into account.

If you are responding to the consultation on behalf of an organisation, the DRCF will publish the name of the organisation. If you are responding as an individual, the DRCF will not publish your name unless you request that the DRCF does so. However, if you are responding as an individual in your professional capacity, the DRCF may publish your job title - for example, 'a response from a Chief Financial Officer'.

If your response contains any information that you regard as sensitive and would not wish to be published, please advise which information you wish to keep confidential and explain why you regard it to be confidential.

**Please clearly mark whether you would like your full response to remain confidential. Unless specified, we will assume you are content for your response to be public.**

To note, any information members of the DRCF receive as part of this consultation may be subject to a freedom of information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The DRCF member regulator will endeavour to contact you if it is asked to disclose information you have indicated as confidential and not suitable for publication, so that it can assess how it responds to the request.

For more information about what we do with personal data please see the [DRCF privacy policy](#).

## Next steps

We invite stakeholders' views on the above questions by no later than 11.59pm (GMT) on Friday 20 November 2026. Please send your responses to [drcf@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:drcf@ofcom.org.uk).

We expect to publish submissions under this Call for Input alongside the publication of our Workplan 2027/28.