



Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum

# Call for Input - Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum Workplan 2024/25

---

This call for input provides stakeholders with the opportunity to express their views on areas the DRCF should consider in its plan of work for 2024 to 2025.

Publication date: 21 November 2023

Response deadline: 19 December 2023

# Introduction

The Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum (DRCF) brings together four UK regulators (CMA, Ofcom, ICO and the FCA) to deliver a coherent approach on digital regulation for the benefit of people and businesses online.

The key goal of the DRCF is to ensure digital regulation is co-ordinated between our member regulators: so we can serve citizens and consumers better, reduce regulatory burdens for industry where appropriate, and enhance the position and global impact of the UK.

Collaboration between regulators is vitally important at a time when, first, digital technologies are transforming the UK economy and, second, digital regulation is changing in response to new challenges.

The DRCF member regulators are implementing new responsibilities on online safety and financial services, and preparing for further legislation on competition in digital markets and data protection.

We appreciate that navigating all these complex changes can be challenging for businesses. Efficient joined-up regulation is key to ensuring that the regulatory landscape protects consumers from harm while providing clarity to innovators and other businesses.

## Setting our programme of work for 24/25

In April 2023, we published our plan of work for 2023 to 2024, explaining how the DRCF member regulators aim to approach joint areas of UK digital regulation. That plan is now being implemented, and DRCF regulators are working together – and with wider stakeholders – on important topics for the digital economy, such as:

- Artificial intelligence and algorithmic systems;
- Developing the DRCF AI and Digital Hub one-stop shop service for digital innovators, based on our earlier Enabling Innovation research project;
- Horizon scanning of emerging technologies such as immersive environments and digital identity;
- Areas of bilateral interest, including the CMA and ICO's publication on harmful design practices that can undermine consumer choice and control online, joint research by FCA and ICO on digital assets and collaboration between Ofcom and ICO on online safety and data protection;

- Interacting on key areas of new digital regulation such as the Online Safety Act and DMCC Bill; and
- Developing our internal capabilities through joint work on skills and capabilities and supervisory technologies.

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 2024 to 2025.

A summary of the responses received through last year's call for input was presented within Annex A1 of the workplan for 2023 to 2024. The 32 respondents from across industry, academia, civil society, consumer groups and other regulators significantly informed our thinking, highlighting the importance of understanding the nuances of online safety, the potential harms and benefits of digital assets (including digital tokens) and the value of the DRCF's continued engagement with a wide set of views (including those within industry, academia, think tanks, consumer groups and other regulators in the UK and internationally).

# Call for Input

To help us plan both future DRCF work, and the evolution of our existing work, we would like to understand exactly where businesses and other stakeholders are encountering intersections 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. What are the most important areas of technology or digital regulation where you are observing intersections between the responsibilities and work of the DRCF regulators?**  
For example, as regards 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?
- 2. What specific joint action by DRCF member regulators would you like to see? What shared processes, guidance or other outputs would you find useful?**  
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, reducing duplication, or advancing regulatory capabilities.
  - Are there any other stakeholders or groups who are already engaged in work on this issue?

Please ensure that your answer covers intersection between at least two of the DRCF member regulators' remits.

## 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 2024/25 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 2024/25, 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?
- **Risk:** 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 Information. 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.

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 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 Tuesday 19 December 2023**. Please send your responses to [drcf@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:drcf@ofcom.org.uk) or use the [form](#) on our website.

We expect to publish submissions under this Call for Input alongside the publication of our Workplan 2024/25. Please clearly mark any responses you would like to remain confidential.