

Designing Regulatory Frameworks

We are experts in designing new regulatory frameworks and rethinking existing ones to meet emerging challenges.

The UK's long track record in regulation has resulted in a sophisticated regulation, competition and consumer policy landscape.

But the drivers of, and need for, regulation are ever evolving. Market developments, the complexity of inter-linked frameworks and the implications of Brexit all pose new challenges, leading to calls to rethink existing frameworks or develop new ones to keep the UK economy as competitive and effective as possible.

We help our clients to assess and understand the drivers for new regulation or the reasons for re-assessing existing regulation, whether these come from international developments, political objectives or economic, social and technological changes. We know from our deep experience working with and in the main UK regulators that this understanding is critical to the design of new regulation.

We can identify the best tools to address the challenges a sector or industry faces. The sophistication of the regimes we have worked with means that there is usually no 'one size fits all' solution to a regulatory challenge. Our unparalleled knowledge of the tools deployed over the past 30 years gives us unequalled insight into what is more or less likely to work in a given set of circumstances.

A key concern in developing new regulation is to avoid unintended consequences, especially in a complex environment. This can mean taking the difficult decision not to impose new rules, or even to remove old rules that no longer add value. Anticipating unintended effects, ensuring decisions do no harm, and future-proofing frameworks to a changing environment is a key part of our approach to designing regulation.

We know that regulatory frameworks work best where they take account of stakeholders' views and build on the real experience of market players – from firms to consumers. We design strategic stakeholder engagement programmes for our clients that harness the benefits of stakeholder input and communicate effectively while protecting the independence of the regulatory decision making process.

Regina Finn has been the driving force that has transformed regulation across significant utility sectors such as telecoms, water and electricity. She has introduced innovative and future looking incentive schemes to tackle new and emerging challenges facing these sectors. Regina is skilled at gathering buy-in from stakeholders during reform.



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Heather Clayton has almost unparalleled experience of UK regulation, uniquely splitting her career between competition and consumer roles. She understands what works and what doesn't. She has developed and introduced new regulatory frameworks across many different sectors from utilities to financial services to health.



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Simon Less has an impressive track record of insightful analysis that cuts through traditional thinking. He has been the architect of many new regulatory initiatives in the water sector, energy, environment and competition and consumer policy. He grounds regulatory frameworks within the current public policy context to deliver workable solutions.



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