

# Working Together On Your Behalf

## Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) Business Reference Panel Meeting

*July, 2022*

### Our experts – working on your behalf

Steve Moore, consultant director at BFM, recently attended the OPSS Business Reference Panel meeting (in person) held in London on the **12th July 2022**.

The meeting was opened by Graham Russell MBE (Chief Executive of OPSS) and focussed on the Government public consultation "Choice on Units of Measurement: Markings and Sales".



The Government announced its intention to review the ban on the sole use of imperial units for sales and marking on 16 September 2021, as part of a wider announcement of a range of regulatory reforms taking advantage of 'Brexit Freedoms'. It also follows on from a recommendation made by the independent Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform.

The Taskforce's Report to Government published on 16 June 2021, recommended that the Government should amend the Weights and Measures Act 1985 to allow traders to use imperial measures without metric equivalents. The amendment should take into consideration consumer transactions made on the basis of measurement, with the aim of providing greater freedom for businesses and consumers.

The purpose of the consultation is to identify how government can give more choice to businesses and consumers over the units of measurement they use for trade, while ensuring that measurement information remains accurate.



Government recognises that metric units remain essential for both science and international trade, and hence, the review will focus on the use of units of measurement in domestic trade. From businesses, the consultation seeks to understand the likely uptake of selling solely in imperial measures, or in imperial units with a less prominent metric equivalent; and the costs and benefits related to both options.

The consultation seeks to understand the areas where the current legislation has been burdensome to consumers and businesses, and any barriers it has created. It is an opportunity to share views around this, as well as identify potential areas of inclusion and exclusion for review. It also asks for businesses views on potential impacts to their customer base and suppliers.

Government is also keen to hear views on specific areas that should be included in any potential policy around imperial units, as well as specific areas that should be excluded, for example, there will be a separate Government review on specified quantities relating to the measurements that wines and liquors are legally sold in. This legislative area does not fall within the remit of this consultation.

To take part in the consultation please email your responses via the **response form** to [UnitsofMeasurement@beis.gov.uk](mailto:UnitsofMeasurement@beis.gov.uk)