

OPSS Strategic Research Programme

Legal Metrology and Product Safety Seminar— 6th November 2018



Scientific and Technical Advice

Cross-Cutting

STAU works across the breadth of the OPSS Portfolio, delivering scientific and technical advice for policy formulation, delivery and enforcement

Pillar 1 - Strategic

The STAU is proactive in researching new and **emerging technical issues** related to our regulatory competences.

Pillar 2 - Advisory

STAU works with the teams in OPSS to support them in their priorities. It **responds to requests** for advice and is proactive in making the case for technical input.

Pillar 3 - Response

STAU has the ability to flex its portfolio to respond at times of high intensity, ensuring OPSS's **incident response** function has access to the technical evidence and advice it needs.

Pillar 4 - Catalytic

The STAU harnesses the best in scientific and technical advice from **inside and outside** of government. It maintains relationships with thought leaders in the relevant fields.

Why Research?

New products to regulate

New opportunities for
technology driven
delivery

Better ways to support
business

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

27 September 2018

Dear Prime Minister

Reforming the governance of technological innovation

Her Majesty's Government aims to raise scientific research and development spend to 2.4% of GDP and make the UK the most attractive place in the world for innovation and investment in new technologies. Many factors determine the attractiveness of Britain to innovators and investors. Among them are the regulatory frameworks that affect how businesses may develop, test and sell applications, products and services built on new technologies. We therefore welcome Government's commitment to making the UK a world-leader in innovation-friendly regulation and its initiatives to realise this ambition, such as the new Ministerial Working Group on Future Regulation and the Regulators' Pioneer Fund.

Regulation faces the challenge of striking the right balance between offering stability and certainty for investment decisions and the need to adapt to changing circumstances. The UK's regulatory frameworks are based on sound principles and, for the most part, have performed well in delivering and balancing a variety of public policy objectives, including providing businesses and investors with clarity on rules, protecting citizens and not creating undue barriers to research and innovation. The UK has often led the way in developing regulation that has benefitted citizens and made us a preferred place for invention and innovation. For example, the Financial Conduct Authority's 'regulatory sandbox', launched in 2014, has allowed many financial services SMEs and start-ups to test innovative products, services and business models in markets and with consumers, thus helping the UK emerge as a leader in fintech. In 2016, following advice from a Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) panel, the UK became the first country to approve use of a mitochondrial replacement therapy ('three-parent babies'), which can prevent children from inheriting severe mitochondrial disorders that can prove fatal.

Nevertheless, we believe that there is an opportunity for Government to develop further its approach to regulation – particularly in respect of emerging technologies – and, in so doing, to enhance the UK's competitive advantage, promote investment and maximise the economic and societal benefits possible from technological advances. Emerging technologies can present challenges for traditional regulatory structures, which may struggle to keep up with fast-paced developments. The effect of this may be the emergence of undesirable or unintended barriers to the development of innovative products, services and business models that can benefit citizens and the economy. By being a 'first mover' in shaping the evolution of regulation, Government can help ensure that desirable innovation is not stifled. This would benefit citizens and markets, and it would strengthen the UK's ability both to attract investment and to influence the evolution of regulatory frameworks internationally through intellectual leadership and experience. We therefore recommend that the government take the following steps to make the regulatory landscape more favourable to innovation.



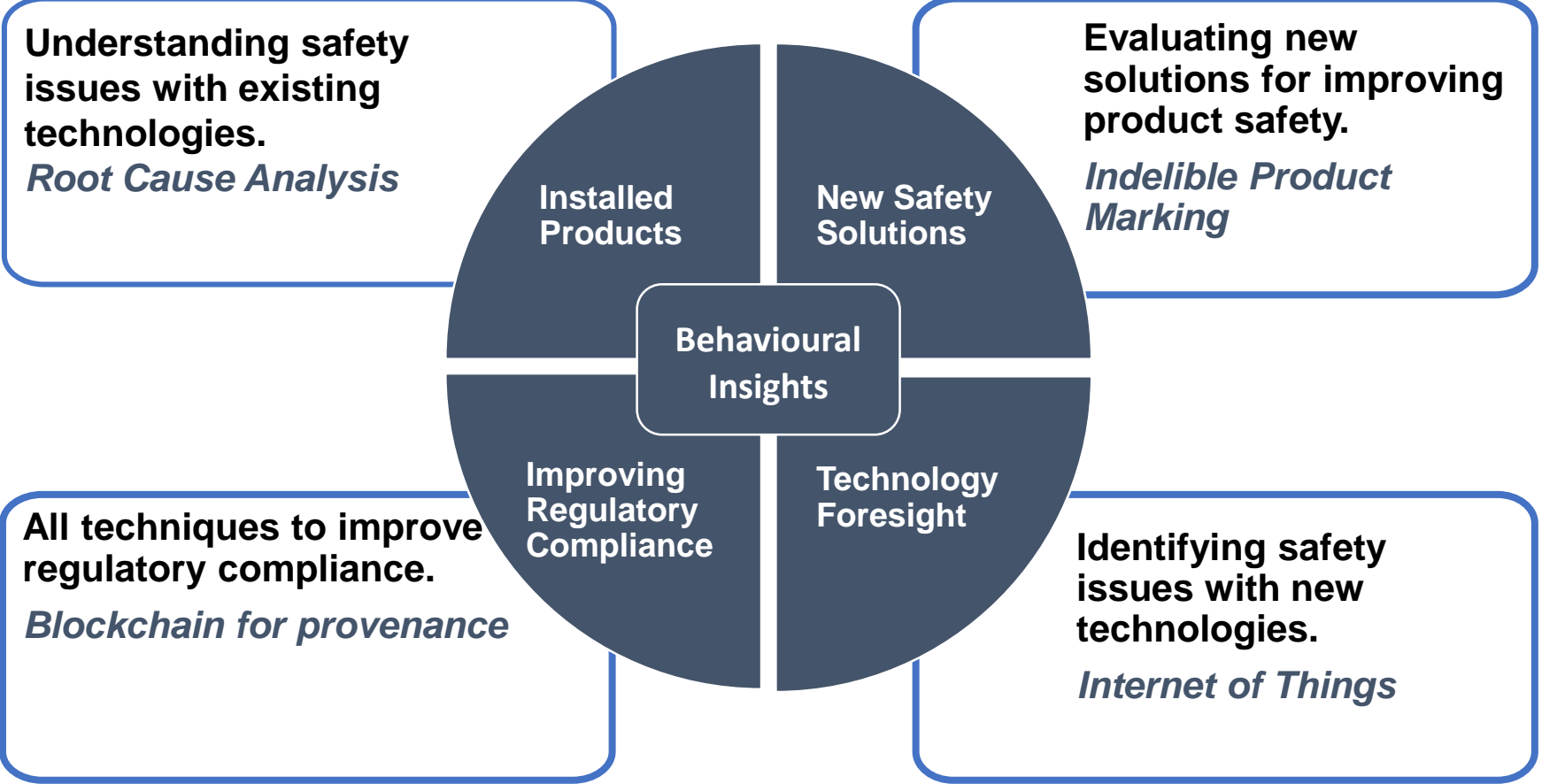
SRP Mission Statement

To commission and assure **high quality strategic science-based research** to strengthen the evidence base for the development of product regulation policy, delivery and enforcement, giving business the confidence to innovate and protecting consumers from unsafe products.

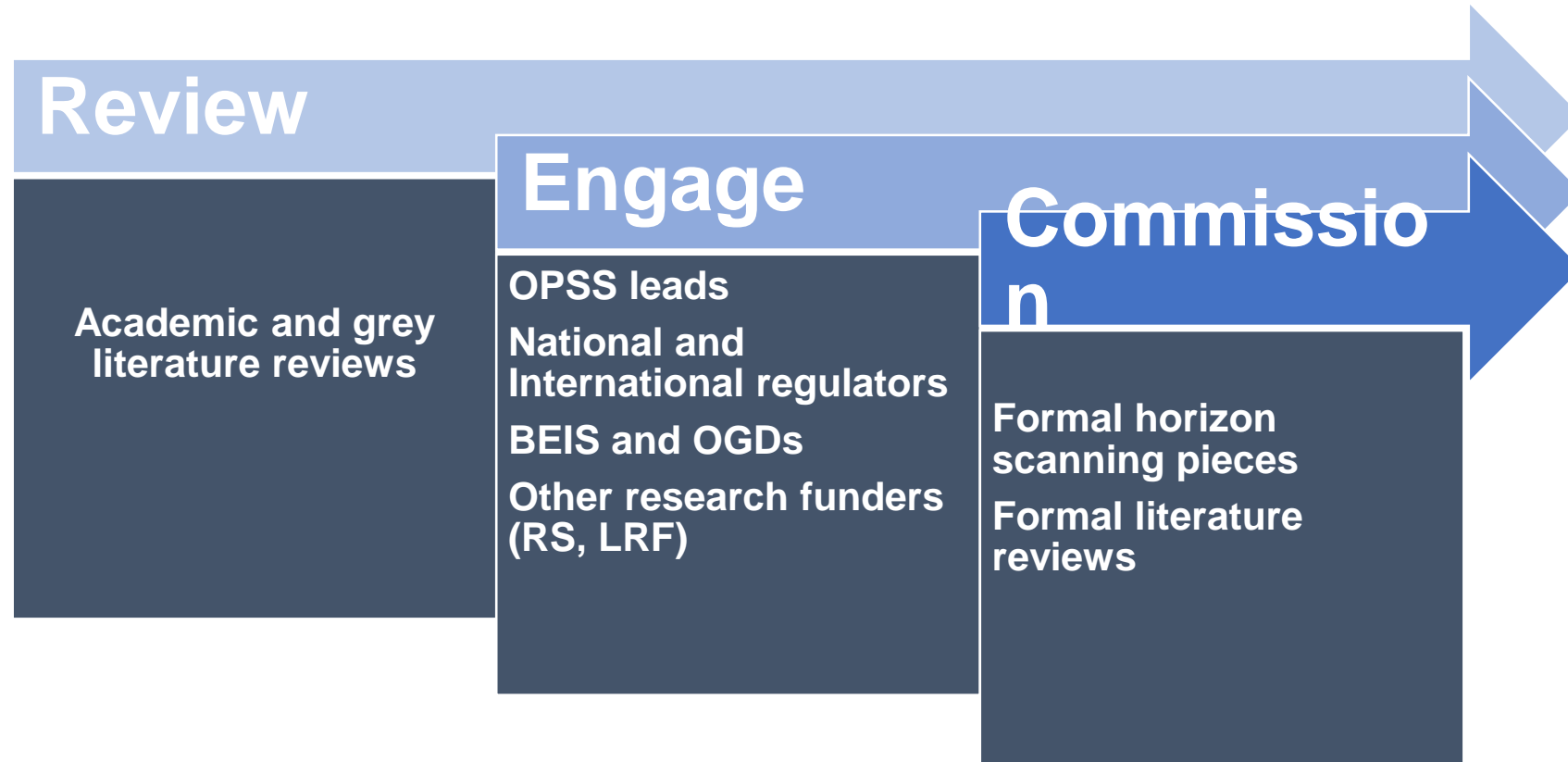


We research what is needed, not just what we think is interesting

SRP Workstreams



Pipeline



SRP Prioritisation

How big is the problem?

Are we the right body to do it?

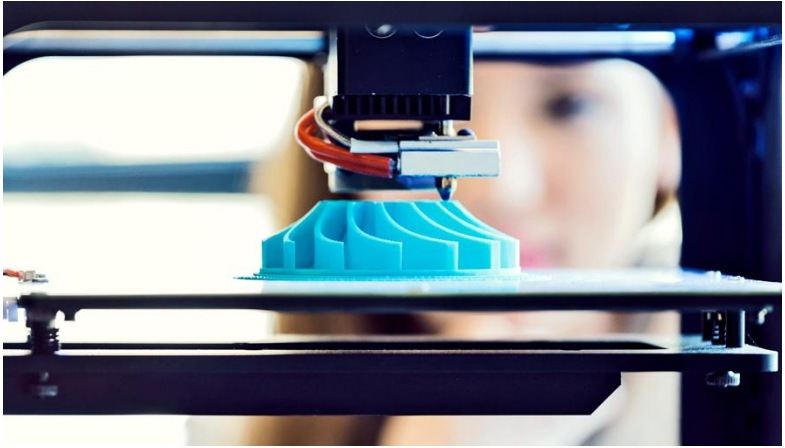
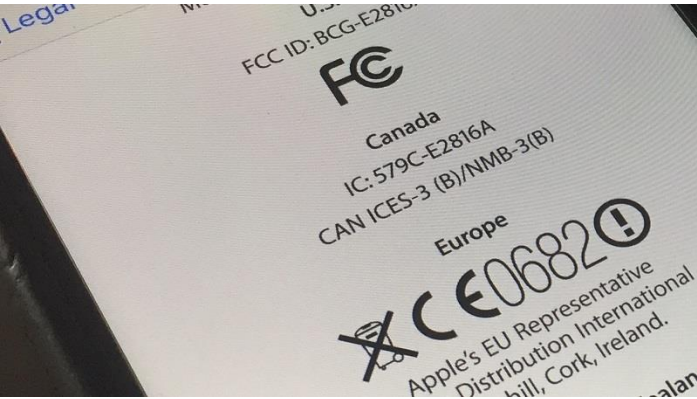
Is now the right time?

How well can we define the question?

How likely are we to solve the problem?

What will happen if we don't do anything?

Projects underway...





@Buzz

