

INNOVATION IN SERVICES: YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT POLICY

This is a high profile cross-government project, reporting to BERR ministers Spring 2008 to: A) deepen understanding of innovation in service sectors; and B) assess what practical actions Government should take to stimulate and support service sector innovation. The project is business led focussing on retail, logistics, construction and environmental services.

Role of BERR (Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform)

The first stage is, by September, to produce draft sectoral reports, based on information provided by business on: what innovation means in service sectors; and what businesses consider an appropriate role for government to support this. During the Autumn BERR will be exploring across Whitehall the scope for turning these ideas into practical actions. A final report will be presented to Ministers, spring 2008.

By innovation we mean the successful exploitation of ideas (both technological and non-technological). Support for innovation also includes better regulation, standards, technology, transfer of knowledge, skills, and incentives.

Role of business

To provide the key information and evidence by responding to the following questions by 31 August 2007:

- 1) Where is innovation important in your business, now and in the future?
- 2) What drives innovation (e.g. state of the market, growth)?
- 3) What are the barriers to innovation (internal e.g. resources, external e.g. regulations)
- 4) What are the key measures of successful innovation in your business?
- 5) What are the key actions government should take to stimulate and support innovation in service sectors? And what is the business case for this to justify government intervention e.g. why can't industry do this for itself?

Please send your comment by 31 August 2007 to:

Lesley Forsdike
Director, Retail Unit
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Bay 158
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
Directline: 0207215 4153
Email: Lesley.forsdike@berr.gsi.gov.uk