



RCAHMS Review – What Does It Mean?

What do we mean by an options appraisal?

Options appraisal is a common approach used in Government and business to help inform a decision. The definitive guidance on options appraisal is produced by HM Treasury in the form of the 'Green Book'. The Green Book effectively provides a toolkit to inform the decision making process.

In an options appraisal exercise a number of alternative options are compared to the status quo, assessing the balance of benefits, including cost benefits and risks inherent in each option. Obviously the preferred option is the one which delivers the greatest benefit with the least risk.

What options will we consider?

The starting point of the review is to rule nothing in or out of consideration, so it's difficult at this stage to be specific about the detail of options. However, the status quo will definitely be one of them, allowing the others to be compared to it. The others are likely to include variations on merger with one or more other organisations and alternative options for a free standing body, perhaps with a changed remit or governance structure.

Making decisions

The review process is a collaborative one, working closely with RCAHMS, Historic Scotland and key stakeholders and partners. It is being overseen by a Steering Group consisting of representatives from RCAHMS, Historic Scotland and the Scottish Government's Culture Division. The group will make recommendations to the Cabinet Secretary in the spring and the final proposal will be consulted upon at that time.