**Annex 1**

**Consultation Questionnaire on the amendments to Mines Regulations 2014 (MR2014)**

Consultation on amendments to the Mines Regulations 2014 (MR2014) to apply a new binding limit for respirable crystalline silica (RCS) of 0.1mg/m3 below ground in coal mines.

Questionnaire:

HSE Mines Inspectorate have recently undertaken occupational health interventions at three coal mines – all three mines had a respirable quartz (or RCS) concentration <0.01mg/m3, ie one-tenth of the new binding limit. Where mine operators already meet the existing workplace exposure limit (WEL) of 0.1mg/m3, HSE do not expect that businesses will need to alter significantly what they do now.

1. What is the current/average RCS level being recorded below ground at the mine?

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1. Will the operator have to do anything different to comply with the new 0.1 mg/m3 level? Yes/No

If yes, please explain

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1. Will there need to be a change in working practices to comply with the new RCS limit/level? Yes/No

If yes, please explain

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HSE estimate that there are no additional costs anticipated to those currently in place to control and monitor RCS at the mines.

1. Can you estimate the cost (if any) of complying with the new RCS limit/level e.g. time spent per annum and money spent per annum? Please be as detailed as you can

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1. How many people work at the mine?

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