1. Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

No

2. If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?

n/a

3. Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?

Yes

4. If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

No, the potential costs for local authorities have not been accurately reflected in the FM. In some specific cases costs may reduce, in others there is potential that they will increase. There is also the possibility that the legislation may result in a higher number of claims being initiated. Local Authorities may require to spend an increased amount of public funds defending claims and paying out award of damages. As the impact will be vary on a case by case basis, it is not possible to determine what the financial implications will be. If the costs become significant consideration must be given to providing funding to local authorities to cover the additional burden.

5. Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?

No, the potential costs for local authorities have not been accurately reflected in the FM. In some specific cases costs may reduce, in others there is potential that they will increase. There is also the possibility that the legislation may result in a higher number of claims being initiated. Local Authorities may require to spend an increased amount of public funds defending claims and paying out award of damages. As the impact will be vary on a case by case basis, it is not possible to determine what the financial implications will be. If the costs become significant consideration must be given to providing funding to local authorities to cover the additional burden

6. If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?
No. It is not possible to estimate the additional financial costs that may be incurred by the Council as a result of the Bill. Due to the current pressure on local authority budgets there is no scope to meet any additional costs as a result of changes to legislation. If the costs become significant consideration must be given to providing funding to local authorities to cover the additional burden.

7. **Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?**

   The FM reflects the position that it is not possible to determine, with any certainty at all, the estimated costs associated with the Bill.

8. **Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?**

   See response to Question 4 and 5 above.

9. **Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?**

   It is not possible to determine whether there may be future costs associated with the Bill until the detail of any relevant subordinate legislation is made available.