

Offshore Decommissioning Unit (ODU)

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Issues Covered

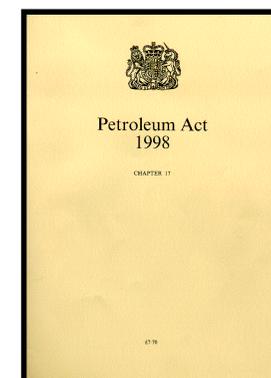
- **Responsibilities of ODU**
- **Legislation**
- **Decommissioning Programme Process**
- **Pipeline Decommissioning**
- **Interim Pipeline Regime**

Role of ODU

- Develop and implement **policy**
- Administer domestic **legislation**
- Approve **decommissioning programmes**
- Account for UK's **international obligations**
- Ensure **taxpayer protected** against default

Petroleum Act 1998 – key features

- Sets **obligation to submit** a decommissioning programme - for pipelines serve on owners
- **Duty to carry out** the programme
- Failure to do so – UK taxpayer will pay
- Current estimated cost of decommissioning UKCS £15-19 billion (**£2-6 billion for P/Ls**)
- Obligation is **joint and several**
- Secretary of State **can impose programme and recover the costs**



Programme Process

preliminary discussions with DTI



submission & consideration of draft programme



consultations with interested parties



formal submission and approval of programme

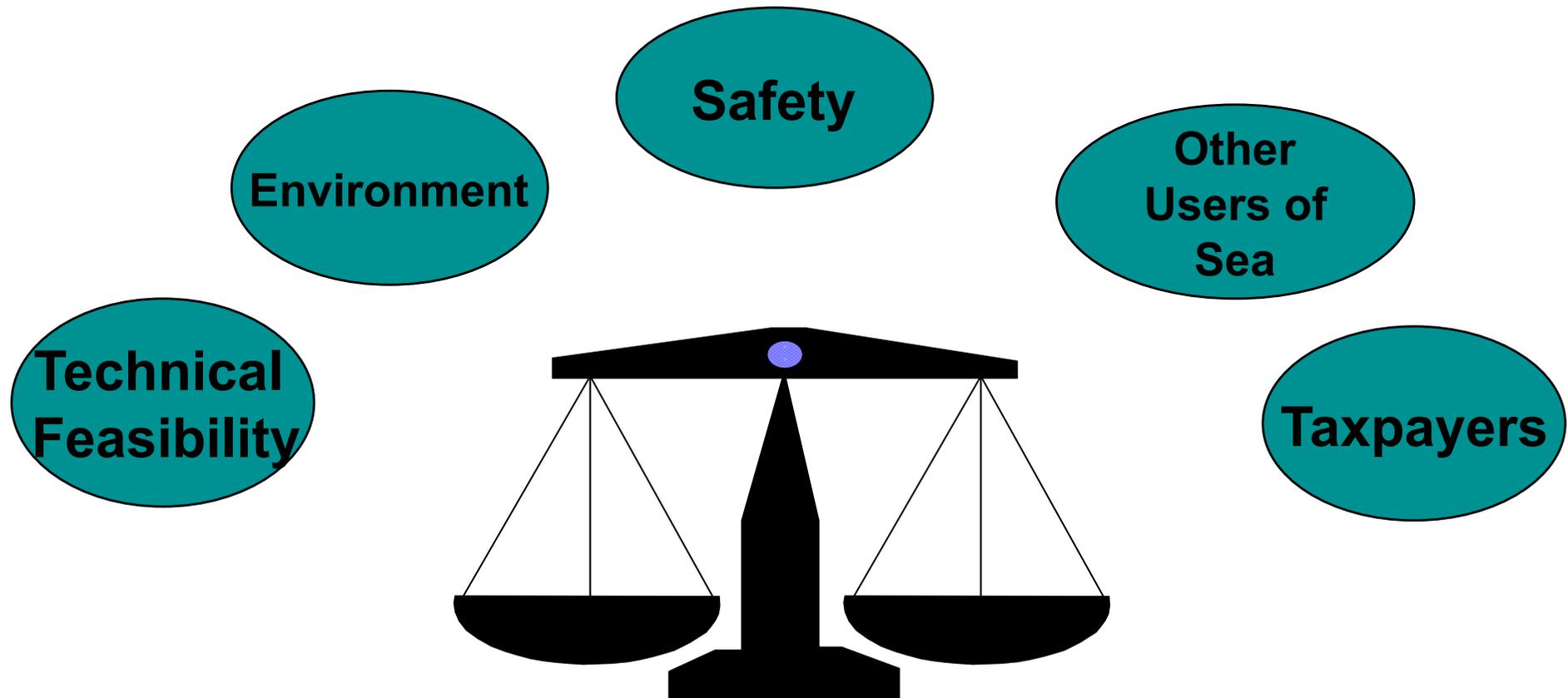


undertake decommissioning work and surveys



ongoing monitoring of site

Approval Basis



Developing Assessment Criteria

Pipeline Decommissioning

- No international regulations
- Comparative assessment of all feasible options
- Leave in place an option – where lines are adequately trenched/buried
- Small diameter lines, not trenched/buried likely to require removal
- Debris clearance required in all cases
- Post-decommissioning monitoring regime on pipelines left in situ

Interim Pipeline Regime (IPR)

- Secretary of State can call for a decommissioning programme for any pipeline
- Not always practical to deal with pipelines individually
- Allows deferral of formal decommissioning
- Ensures that out of use pipeline are monitored/maintained
- Any interim solution should not prejudice final decommissioning options

Guidance Notes

Available at:

**[www.og.dti.gov.uk/
upstream/decommissioning](http://www.og.dti.gov.uk/upstream/decommissioning)**

