EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR HIGH SPEED RAIL (GOVERNMENT) REGULATIONS 2015

2015 No. 1458

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Purpose of the Instrument

2.1 These regulations prescribe the initial Instrument of Government and Articles of Government for the newly established further education corporation called the National College for High Speed Rail. The regulations will come into force on 30 July 2015.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None.

4. Legislative Context

4.1 The powers conferred by sections 20(2) and 21(1) of, and Schedule 4 to, the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 are being used to prescribe the initial Instrument and Articles of Government for a newly established further education corporation called the National College for High Speed Rail.

4.2 The National College for High Speed Rail is being incorporated as a further education corporation by the National College for High Speed Rail (Incorporation) Order 2015.

5. Territorial Extent & Application

5.1 This instrument applies in relation to England.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

As the instrument is subject to the negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

- What is being done and why

7.1 The National College for High Speed Rail is part of a wider programme to create a new set of employer-led Further Education institutions to meet identified gaps in the delivery of higher level technical skills for a particular industry or sector. The National College for High Speed Rail will deliver the skills needed for HS2 and other major rail projects, and will set industry standards for training within the sector based

on emerging technology and innovation. It will operate from two sites: one at Birmingham science-park (Venture Way, Dartmouth Middleway, Birmingham B7 4AP), and one at Doncaster's Lakeside campus (Carolina Way, Lakeside, Doncaster DN4 5PN).

7.2 The majority of students attending the college will be aged 19 and over, including adults who are already in the workforce and looking to further develop their skills, as well as younger learners who are following a progression route from school or college. In steady state, it is expected that the college will have over 2000 full time students across the two sites, of which approximately one third will be part time and two thirds full time. This equates to around 700-800 new starts per year.

7.3 The college is expected to open its doors to students in September 2017.

8. Consultation outcome

8.1 A consultation took place from March - April 2014 in relation to the location of the new National College. The Department received detailed proposals for 18 different sites, overwhelmingly in the Midlands, North or North West of England. Six further respondents also supported a Midlands or North of England site, one respondent suggested a location "outside London", and another supported a site within London, although none of these provided a detailed proposal. Three responses advocated investment in existing colleges as an alternative to establishing a new institution. Having assessed the information provided against a number of factors, including size, accessibility, and the potential to develop strong links with employers and providers already operating in the sector, it was determined that the best option would be to establish the new institution in Birmingham and Doncaster.

9. Guidance

9.1 As this instrument affects only the named college, no guidance is necessary and any persons affected by the change will be informed by the college.

10. Impact

10.1 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no wider impact on the costs of business, charities or voluntary bodies. The impact on the public sector is minimal.

11. Regulating small business

11.1 The legislation does not apply to small business.

12. Monitoring and review

12.1 Not applicable.

13. Contact

Val Kenton at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Tel: 0114 207 5151 or e-mail: Valerie.kenton@bis.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding this instrument.