Consistency Accountability Statement: Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers (Self-certification by Plumbers and Drainlayers) Notice 2026

Agency responsible	Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board
Date finalised	18 August 2026

Statement of Review

I confirm that Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board has assessed the above legislation, and the process for developing it, for consistency with the principles of responsible regulation as set out in section 9 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025. This statement is provided in accordance with section 14 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025.

Purpose of the notice
This notice establishes the operational requirements for the self-certification scheme for plumbing and drainlaying work, including minimum standards for endorsement, ongoing conditions, and cost recovery arrangements.

Assessment against principles of responsible regulation
Rule of law
The notice is made under powers conferred by the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006. It sets clear requirements for obtaining and maintaining an endorsement and for participating in the self-certification scheme. The notice applies from the time it comes into force and does not apply retrospectively. It applies only to practitioners who choose to participate in the self-certification scheme.

Liberties
The notice applies only to practitioners who elect to participate in the self-certification scheme. The standards and conditions imposed on those practitioners are directed to supporting reliable certification of work that will no longer be inspected by building consent authorities in the usual way. The obligations are directed to managing risk and supporting confidence in the scheme.

Taking of property
The notice does not provide for the taking or severe impairment of property or authorise any person to do so.

Taxes, fees, and levies
The notice imposes endorsement fees and an audit levy under powers conferred by the Act. The endorsement fees are intended to recover the costs of providing the endorsement function and associated services required for the scheme. The audit levy is intended to fund the Board's assurance

function in relation to the self-certification scheme. Both the fees and levy apply only to practitioners who choose to participate in that scheme.

Role of courts
The notice does not remove or limit access to the courts, prevent judicial review, or affect the constitutional role of the courts in ascertaining the meaning of legislation.

Good law-making
The Board has consulted practitioners and other stakeholders before making the notice. The notice has been developed to support the implementation of a new statutory scheme, to provide operational clarity for practitioners, and to support effective administration and assurance once the scheme commences.

Identified inconsistencies with the principles
The Board considers that the notice is largely consistent with the principles of responsible regulation. However, the Board has identified one inconsistency.

The notice imposes fees and a levy through Board-made secondary legislation rather than through an Act or secondary legislation made by Order in Council. This gives rise to an inconsistency with the principle relating to consistency with section 22(a) of the Constitution Act 1986 and parliamentary control of taxation.

No other inconsistency has been identified in the Board's review. In particular, the Board considers that the endorsement fees bear a proper relation to the costs of providing the endorsement function and that the levy is reasonable in relation to the benefits to, and risks attributable to, the class of practitioners who choose to participate in the scheme and the costs of efficiently providing the assurance function funded by the levy.

Relevant principle of responsible regulation	**Relevant clauses in proposed legislation**
Section 9(d) of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025: the importance of maintaining consistency with section 22(a) of the Constitution Act 1986 concerning parliamentary control of taxation.	Clauses 16 to 22

Summary of inconsistency

The inconsistency identified above is considered to be justified in the context of the statutory framework established by Parliament for the regulation of plumbers, gasfitters, and drainlayers. The Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006 is structured so that a range of detailed operational matters are set by Board-made notices, including matters relating to registration and licensing, fees, and levies. The approach taken in this notice is therefore consistent with the broader design of the Act and the way in which the Board's regulatory functions are intended to operate.

The fees and levy in this notice are also directed to a specific statutory scheme and a defined class of practitioners. They do not apply to the public generally and do not apply to all licensed practitioners. They apply only to practitioners who choose to participate in the self-

certification scheme. In that respect, they form part of a targeted regulatory arrangement established to support a voluntary pathway within the Board's wider regulatory system.

The levy is intended to fund a defined assurance function that arises directly from the self-certification scheme. That function includes audit of endorsed practitioners and the Certificates of Compliance they issue, follow-up where issues are identified, and the systems and capability required to support that assurance role. Those functions exist because the scheme replaces routine inspection of eligible work by building consent authorities with practitioner certification supported by evidence and audit. Without that assurance function, there would be an increased risk of non-compliant work and reduced confidence in the scheme.

The Board also considers that the charging approach is justified because it reflects the voluntary nature of the scheme. Practitioners who elect to participate obtain access to a distinct regulatory pathway and assume additional responsibilities in return. It is therefore appropriate that the costs of administering and assuring that pathway are borne by those who choose to participate, rather than by the wider practitioner population.

Conclusion

The Board considers that, except for the inconsistency identified in relation to the mechanism by which the fees and levy are imposed, the notice is consistent with the principles of responsible regulation.

The Board considers that this inconsistency is justified in light of the statutory framework established under the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006, under which the Board already sets a range of detailed regulatory requirements, including charges, by notice. The Board also considers the inconsistency to be justified because the fees and levy apply only to practitioners who voluntarily choose to participate in the self-certification scheme and is directed to funding a defined assurance function that exists only because of that participation.

ALEYNA HALL
Registrar
Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Board