

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE
ISLE OF MAN OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING HELD ON 25TH JANUARY 2024 AT 9.30 AM
IN THE 'SILVERDALE' BOARDROOM, THIE SLIEAU WHALLIAN, ST JOHNS**

	TO PUBLISH	ACTION
PRESENT	Mr T S Glover MHK, Chairman Mr L Wong, Member Mr B Murphy, Member	
SUPPORTED BY	Ms V McLauchlan, Director of OFT Mr J R Peet, Head of OFT Mr N R Taylor, Secretary to the Board	
APOLOGIES	Mr M J Bathgate, Member	
2024 01/01	CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS Members and officers considered agenda items in which they had interests or may have been conflicted. None were identified.	-
2024 01/02	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2023 The Minutes of the meeting of 8 th December 2023 were reviewed, agreed, and signed by the Chairman as true records of proceedings.	-
2024 01/03	MATTERS ARISING The Board Actions Update and Agenda Planner dated 18 th January 2024 was noted. <u>MATTERS ARISING COMPETITION AND MARKETS – 2023/11/04</u> The list of possible referrals was being prioritised. <u>VICE CHAIR – 2023/11/12</u> An update was given. Appointments were formally made by the Council of Ministers and approved by Tynwald. <u>PRIVATE HIRE – 2023/11/12</u> Advice had been given previously regarding anti-competitive practice.	

<p>2024 01/04</p>	<p>ISLE OF MAN ENERGY</p> <p>Information had been circulated in regard to queries raised at the previous meeting.</p> <p>It had been clarified that CURA regulated the overall profit margin, so IOM Energy had flexibility to vary prices of its products within this.</p> <p>The Cabinet Office Gas Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2023 had been made (subject to Tynwald negative resolution). The OFT had not been made aware of the provisions of the legislation until the previous day. The Vulnerability Order was different to Isle of Man Energy's Vulnerable Customer criteria. IOM Energy was to be advised that their policy was not compliant.</p> <p>Mr Murphy felt there was still a strong need for a social tariff and that dialogue should be maintained.</p> <p>In regard to the Gas (Economic Regulation) Bill. An update was to be requested.</p>	<p>JRP/ZM</p>
<p>2024 01/05</p>	<p>PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS</p> <p>The following Parliamentary Questions were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tynwald 12th December 2023 for oral answer from Mr Ashford re Manx Gas vulnerable customers • Tynwald 16th January 2024 for oral answer from Mr Moorhouse re discussion prior to resumed gas disconnection. • Question for written answer 18th January 2024 from Mr Thomas re section 1 FTA. • Question for written answer 18th January 2024 from Mr Thomas re CPA secondary legislation. • Keys 23rd January 2023 for oral answer from Mr Ashford re dispute with island Energy. 	<p>-</p>
<p>2024 01/06</p>	<p>OFT INDEPENDENCE</p> <p>The Director, Head of OFT and Secretary had met the Chief Officer the previous day. It had been proposed to engage the OHR Organisational Development and Design Unit to review structure of the OFT based on its functions. The future nature of the role of 'Head of OFT'/Senior Officer was critical due to the current postholder being due to retire in November 2024. It had therefore been determined that a plan was required by June 2024.</p> <p>The staff team was to move to the new Garey ny Cloie office accommodation at the end of January 2024.</p>	<p>VM</p>

2024 01/07	STAFFING AND SUCCESSION PLANNING The Senior Trading Standards Officer was starting work during the following few days. The Ombudsman Services Manager was to be advertised within the following week.	-
2024 01/08	ATOL PROTECTION IN RELATION TO ISLE OF MAN The Head of OFT gave an oral update.	-
2024 01/09	ESTATE AGENTS BILL A timetable and progress remained outstanding.	-
2024 01/10	POTENTIAL COMPLAINT TO ESTATE AGENTS TRIBUNAL The Head of OFT was still to fully review the case.	-
2024 01/11	FSOS STATISTICS The paper dated 18th January 2024 was noted.	-
2024 01/12	EQUALITY STATISTICS The paper dated 17th January 2024 was noted.	-
2024 01/13	RISK REGISTER The paper dated 18th January 2024 covering an updated Risk Register was noted. Content around Brexit/pandemic was to be reviewed with a view to shortening the document.	JRP/ NRT
2024 01/14	FINANCIAL SUMMARY The paper dated 18th January 2024 was noted. Finances were anticipated to be under budget at year-end. The review of OFT structure would inform future budget.	-
2024 01/15	NURSING HOME FEES A paper was being finalised. This would be circulated in due course.	-

<p>2024 01/16</p>	<p>TRADING STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT UPDATE</p> <p>The Head of OFT gave an update, referring to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel leak. Analysis of samples would hopefully help identify the source. • Action was being considered against a 'cowboy builder' who had previously been given advice and warning. • Case of potential fraud. 	<p>-</p>
<p>2024/01/17</p>	<p>ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>Mr Wong had attended Statutory Bodies Corporate Governance training, which he had found useful and interesting.</p>	<p>-</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 11.30 am.</p> <p>Signed _____ Mr T S Glover MHK_____</p> <p>Dated _____29th February 2024_____</p> <p>Chairman</p>	