

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE
ISLE OF MAN OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING HELD ON 26TH MARCH 2020 AT 9:30 AM**

The meeting was convened via conference call using the CISCO phone system

	TO PUBLISH	ACTION
PRESENT	Mr M J Perkins MHK, Chair Mrs K A Lord-Brennan MLC, Vice-Chair Mrs C F S Convery, Member Mrs J Bridson, Member Dr M Maska, Member	-
SUPPORTED BY	Mr J R Peet, Head of OFT Mr N R Taylor, Secretary to the Board	-
APOLOGIES	Mr I Mansell, Director of OFT (Director of Regulation)	-
2020/03/01	CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS Members and officers considered any agenda items in which they had interests or may have been conflicted. None were identified.	-
2020/03/02	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2020 The Minutes of the meetings of 27 th February 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings. The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes at the next available opportunity.	-
2020/03/03	MATTERS ARISING The 'Board Action Update and Agenda Planner' dated 14 th March 2020 was noted.	-
2020/03/04	CORONA VIRUS CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS The Head of OFT reported that due to Covid19 restrictions, the majority of staff were working from home and able to access systems remotely. Mobile phones were on order for Trading Standards and Consumer Advice/Debt Counselling staff. The aim was to minimise staff needing to go into the office. Media releases on scams relating to Corona restrictions and debt counselling services, which were experiencing increased volume of	

	<p>client contacts, were with the Cabinet Office for issue.</p> <p>Mrs Bridson referred to Live at Home Scheme service users and the Head of OFT offered to liaise with Cabinet Office colleagues in regard to appropriate advice and messages.</p>	JRP
2020/03/05	<p>TYNWALD SELECT COMMITTEE ON FIREWORKS ACT 2004</p> <p>Members had agreed the OFT response to the Committee by email between meetings. The final agreed response was noted and it was acknowledged that Mrs Lord-Brennan was a Member of the Select Committee.</p>	-
2020/03/06	<p>ESTATE AGENTS AMENDMENT BILL (Last Minute to which refers 2020/02/04)</p> <p>The Senior Trading Standards Officer was working to take the Bill forward.</p>	-
2020/03/07	<p>COMPETITION BILL 2018 (Last Minute to which refers 2020/02/05)</p> <p>The Head of OFT had identified additional issues with the Bill, which required review and amendment. The timetable to reach Tynwald branches in June 2020 was less likely to be achievable.</p>	-
2020/03/08	<p>MANX GAS QUARTERLY REVIEW</p> <p>Due to the current situation, the Managing Director of Manx Gas had requested additional time beyond agreed deadlines to submit accounts information for compliance review. In the circumstances, this was not thought to be unreasonable.</p>	-
2020/03/09	<p>GAS REGULATORY REVIEW COMMITTEE (Last Minute to which refers 2020/01/09)</p> <p>There was no material update on a revised agreement.</p>	-
2020/03/10	<p>POTENTIAL ANTI COMPETITIVE PRACTICE - BUS SERVICES (Last Minute to which refers 2020/02/08)</p> <p>Responses had been received from several Noticed Parties. Due to the current Covid19 situation, it was agreed to suspend progress with the investigation for the present time. Parties were to be advised. Continued progress was to be made on investigation specification for outsourcing.</p>	ZAM

2020/03/11	COMPETITION AND MARKETS UPDATE The Head of OFT gave an update on other topical matters including potential need for comfort in various sectors during the pandemic, such as confirming that working together and information sharing between supermarkets would not be viewed as anti-competitive practice when in the public interest.	-
2020/03/12	BREXIT There were no significant issues to report.	
2020/03/13	BUSINESS PLAN (Last Minute to which refers 2019/09/10) Whilst it had been the intention to fully review functions and objectives, in the prevailing circumstances, it was agreed to produce a Business Plan for 2020/21 in similar form to that for the previous year.	NRT/ JRP
2020/03/14	STAFFING/SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (Last Minute to which refers 2020/02/13) There was provisional agreement with DEFA for use of funding for the engagement of a Trading Standards Officer.	-
2020/03/15	GOVERNANCE ISSUES The Head of OFT apprised Members of the nature of a recent Data Subject Access Request and two service level complaints which had been processed.	-
2020/03/16	PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS The March 2020 Tynwald Question from the Hon. Member for Rushen (Mr Speaker) who asked the Chairman of the Office of Fair Trading – Whether the OFT has got adequate powers to prevent profiteering in the airline travel sector was noted.	
2020/03/17	ENFORCEMENT UPDATE The Head of OFT gave an update.	-
2020/03/18	ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS Mrs Bridson referred to the Government-advised preference to use	

	cashless payment methods during pandemic restrictions and the difficulty this presented to many without cashless capability. The Head of OFT was to raise the matter with the Cabinet Office	JRP
2020/03/19	<p>The meeting closed at 10:30.</p> <p>Signed <u>Matylda Pedrunko</u></p> <p>Dated <u>25/06/20</u></p> <p>Chairman</p>	