MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE ISLE OF MAN OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING HELD ON 30TH APRIL 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)	-
2020/04/01	**CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS** Members and officers considered any agenda items in which they had interests or may have been conflicted. None were identified.	-
2020/04/02	**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26TH MARCH 2020** The Minutes of the meetings of 26th March 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings. The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes at the next available opportunity.	-
2020/04/03	**MATTERS ARISING** The 'Board Action Update and Agenda Planner' dated 24th April 2020 was noted.	-
2020/04/04	**CORONA VIRUS CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS** The Head of OFT reported that OFT staff were, in the most part, working from home and were managing to maintain core services. There was to be consideration of future working arrangements in regard to practical benefits of extended home working and continuing with virtual meetings etc.	-

2020/04/05	**EMERGENCY POWERS (CORONAVIRUS)(COMPETITION) REGULATIONS 2020 AND WRITTEN COMFORT TO BANKS** The Regulations and agreed letter of comfort, which had been circulated to Members by email between meetings, were noted. These were in the public interest in supporting goods and services to consumers and it remained a key aim of Government to support the economy.	-
2020/04/06	**BUSINESS PLAN & ANNUAL REPORT** (Last Minute to which refers 2020/03/13) The finalised Business Plan 2020/21, as agreed by email between meetings was noted. Officers were working on an Annual Report 2019/20, which was to be considered at the next meeting.	-
2020/04/07	**FINANCIAL SUMMARY** The paper dated 24th April 2020 was noted. This acknowledged a significant underspend at year-end 2019/20, which was due to unutilised budget in areas of FSOS Adjudicator Costs, competition investigations, and staffing – significantly due to the existing Trading Standards Officer vacancy. Whilst the 2020/21 budget was largely unchanged at present, discussions at senior level within DEFA were onoing in regard to Treasury's review of budgets due to the Covid 19 crisis.	-
2020/04/08	**ESTATE AGENTS AMENDMENT BILL** (Last Minute to which refers 2020/03/06) The Head of OFT advised that, due to revision of the Programme for Government timetable, the Bill was now due for first reading in March 2021.	-
2020/04/09	**COMPETITION BILL 2018** (Last Minute to which refers 2020/03/07) The Head of OFT advised that due to revision of the Programme for Government timetable, the Bill was now due for first reading in October 2020. There remained issues to resolve within the current draft.	-

2020/04/10	**MANX GAS QUARTERLY REVIEW (ANNUAL REVIEW 2019)** (Last Minute to which refers 2020/03/08) Finalised figures and answers to queries were still awaited from Manx Gas to enable a year-end 2019 compliance paper to be finalised. It was hoped that this could be considered at the May 2020 sitting. Manx Gas was to be written to to remind of the need to return the required information. In regard to the OFT's ongoing monitoring role, a paper explaining the current position of the OFT in the regulatory framework was to be prepared for the May 2020 sitting.	**JRP** **JRP/ ZAM**
2020/04/11	**GAS REGULATORY REVIEW COMMITTEE** (Last Minute to which refers 2020/03/09) There was no material update on a revised agreement. A written Keys question requesting an update was to be asked of the Minister for Policy and Reform, the following day. An update on progress with revised regulatory arrangements was now expected in June 2020.	**-**
2020/04/12	**POTENTIAL ANTI COMPETITIVE PRACTICE - BUS SERVICES** (Last Minute to which refers 2020/03/10) Interested parties had been written to, to advise that the investigation was on hold at present. Tender documentation would still be progressed.	**-**
2020/04/13	**COMPETITION AND MARKETS UPDATE** The Head of OFT gave an update on other potential cases of anti-competitive practice.	**-**
2020/04/14	**BREXIT** There were no significant issues to report. Legislative work had been very reactive to the ongoing situation and current demands.	
2020/04/15	**STAFFING/SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT** (Last Minute to which refers 2020/03/14) Approval to recruit a Trading Standards Officer had not yet been formally received. It was in any case impractical to undertake a recruitment exercise at the current time. Review of budgets may impact the matter.	**-**
2020/04/16	**FSOS STATISTICS** The paper dated 21st April 2020 was noted.	**-**

2020/04/17	**CONSUMER ADVICE STATISTICS** The paper dated 24th April 2020 was noted.	-
2020/04/18	**DEBT STATISTICS** The paper dated 24th April 2020 was noted.	-
2020/04/19	**ENFORCEMENT UPDATE** The Head of OFT gave an update. A call centre had been setup staffed by the Trading Standards team to assist the Cabinet Office in fielding calls advising on businesses permitted to operate under current restrictions.	-
2020/04/20	**ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS** <u>USE OF CISCO CONFERENCE FACILITY FOR BOARD MEETINGS</u> Members agreed that the existing conference facility was adequate for ongoing meetings without use of alternatives such as 'Teams' or other software.	-
2020/04/21	The meeting closed at 10:30. Signed _____M J Perkins MHK_____ Dated _____25th June 2020_____ Chairman	