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

	TO PUBLISH	ACTION
PRESENT	Mr M J Perkins MHK, Chair Mrs K A Lord-Brennan MLC, Vice-Chair (via Microsoft 'Teams') Mrs J Bridson, Member Dr M Maska, Member	-
APOLOGIES	Mrs C F S Convery, Member	-
SUPPORTED BY	Mr I Mansell, Director of OFT (Director of Regulation) Mr J R Peet, Head of OFT Mr N R Taylor, Secretary to the Board	-
2020/07/01	**CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS** Members and officers considered any agenda items in which they had interests or may have been conflicted. None were identified.	-
2020/07/02	**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE 2020** The Minutes of the meetings of 25th June 2020 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.	-
2020/07/03	**MATTERS ARISING** The 'Board Action Update and Agenda Planner' dated 24th July 2020 was noted. ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – item 2020/06/05. The Head of OFT had discussed the Bill with the Department of Infrastructure's Legislative Drafter. The Bill was intended to be in the branches of Tywnald in October 2020.	-
2020/07/04	**CORONA VIRUS CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS** The Head of OFT advised that a staff survey was being undertaken with a view to progressing changes to office layouts within the OFT, DEFA and wider Government premises. Issues of connectivity, security and wellbeing/teamworking remained key in ongoing home working arrangements.	-

2020/07/05	**STAFFING/SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT** Staffing budget for recruitment of a Trading Standards Officer had been confirmed by the DEFA Management Accountant.	-
2020/07/06	**ESTATE AGENTS AMENDMENT BILL** (Last Minute to which refers 2020/06/08) The Bill was still scheduled to enter Tynwald branches in March 2021. timetabling of this was to be checked and confirmed. An agreed solution for redress remained to determine.	**JRP**
2020/07/07	**COMPETITION BILL 2020** (Last Minute to which refers 2020/06/09) The Bill was designed to provide for the ten policies as agreed. Without alternative direction from either the Council of Ministers or the outcome of the Economic Regulation Report, the majority of Members agreed that the Bill should progress as previously determined. Following the Head of OFT's meeting with the drafter earlier in the week to discuss the number of queries identified, it was anticipated that a clean copy would be available within the next few days. It was agreed to circulate the latest version of the Bill to the Board for approval as soon as possible, with a view to then making it available to Tynwald Members. Mrs Lord-Brennan requested a further presentation to Tynwald Members on the Bill in due course.	**JRP**
2020/07/08	**GAS REGULATION - TERMINATION OF REGULATORY AGREEMENT** Written notice to determine the existing Agreement had been issued by The Treasury dated 30th June 2020. The Agreement was therefore to expire on 30th December 2020. The Minister for Policy and Reform's paper '*Overview of Proposed Gas Regulatory Agreement July 2020*' had been discussed at the July 2020 sitting of Tynwald. A proposed regulating authority was not stated within the paper. The matter was to revert to the October 2020 sitting. Reference in debate had been made to the all-Island tariff. Were there to be proposals to change arrangements in this regard, consideration was to be given to an OFT response.	-
2020/07/09	**POTENTIAL ANTI COMPETITIVE PRACTICE - BUS SERVICES** (Last Minute to which refers 2020/06/12) Remaining responses were due in the following few weeks. These would be analysed with a view to considering need for further requests/interviews etc. An update paper would be on the Board agenda for August.	**JRP**

2020/07/10	**CONSUMER ADVICE STATISTICS** The paper dated 14th July 2020 was noted. The nature of issues being raised by consumers reflected current Covid19 circumstances.	-
2020/07/11	**DEBT STATISTICS** The paper dated 9th July 2020, which had been circulated and agreed by Members by email and submitted to the Council of Ministers, was noted. Whilst numbers of new clients showed a decline, there had been a significant number of returning clients in recent months due to Covid 19 challenges, which had not appeared in statistics. It was likely that the full impact was yet to be felt in the workload of the team.	-
2020/07/12	**FSOS STATISTICS** The paper dated 15th July 2020 was noted.	-
2020/07/13	**BREXIT** The Director gave an oral update. Brexit work was intensive, with a lot of work being undertaken in reviewing provisions and answering questions from UK agencies.	-
2020/07/14	**ENFORCEMENT UPDATE** The Head of OFT gave an update on current cases including several cases of counterfeit goods. A media release was to be issued to raise awareness of counterfeit PPE.	**JRP/ NRT**
2020/07/15	**ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS** <u>FINANCIAL UPDATE</u> Mrs Lord-Brennan asked about governance obligations to report financial updates to the Board. The Secretary confirmed that the current schedule provided a financial update quarterly, reduced from monthly to lighten the agenda. Obligations were to be confirmed. <u>UNDERWEIGHT GOODS</u> Enforcement action through advice had been provided in resolving a case of underweight goods.	**NRT**
2020/07/16	The meeting closed at 11:25 am. Signed Malyn Pelmas Dated 27/08/2020 Chairman	