

*These notes refer to the Utilities Act 2000 (c.27)
which received Royal Assent on 28th July 2000*

UTILITIES ACT 2000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

Gas and electricity regulation

- legislation to underpin new electricity trading arrangements;
- separate licensing of electricity supply and distribution, and the introduction of a bar on supply and distribution licences being held by the same legal person;
- powers to adapt the licensing regime to changing market structures in future without additional primary legislation (by statutory instrument under affirmative resolution);
- alignment where appropriate of the licensing and regulatory systems for gas and electricity (for example by introducing the concept of standard conditions for electricity licences);
- new “collective” licence modification procedures enabling the Authority to modify standard licence conditions without a Competition Commission reference even if some utility companies disagree;