

TRIBUNALS, COURTS AND ENFORCEMENT ACT 2007

EXPLANATORY NOTES

PART 1: TRIBUNALS AND INQUIRIES

Background

Oversight of Tribunals and Inquiries

27. The Council on Tribunals (“the Council”) operates under the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992 (“the 1992 Act”). Its statutory purpose is to keep under review and report on the constitution and working of tribunals under its supervision. The Council has to consider and report on particular matters that may be referred to it under the 1992 Act with respect to tribunals and, where necessary, to consider and report on the administrative procedures of statutory inquiries. The Council is also under a statutory duty to make an annual report about its work, which is to be laid before Parliament. The Council seeks to ensure that tribunals and inquiries meet the needs of users through the provision of an open, fair, impartial, efficient, timely and accessible service.
28. Sir Andrew Leggatt recommended that the Council on Tribunals should play a central role in the new tribunals system (recommendations 168-182). *Transforming Public Services* built on these recommendations in the wider context of the Government’s proposals for reforming the Administrative Justice System. Chapter 11 of the White Paper proposed that with the creation of the Tribunals Service in April 2006 it was also necessary for the Council to change. It proposed that the Council should take on a wider remit to become an Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council and in particular to focus on the needs of the public and users.