

CONSUMERS, ESTATE AGENTS AND REDRESS ACT 2007

EXPLANATORY NOTES

TERRITORIAL EXTENT AND TERRITORIAL APPLICATION

Northern Ireland

Part 1: the National Consumer Council

Section 4: “Designated consumers”

37. *Section 4* defines “designated consumers”. The concept of “designated consumers” reflects the proposal to merge sectoral consumer bodies with a specific remit (gas, electricity, postal services and, in future, water), into the Council, and the desire to maintain a specific focus on these merged sectors. “Designated consumers” comprise those consumers in specific sectors previously served by a sectoral consumer body. The focus on designated consumers is retained by the requirement on the new Council to set out its priorities in respect of designated consumers in a forward work plan (see section 5 below). Other provisions in section 5 provide for transparency in funding, because businesses in the sectors relevant to “designated consumers” (i.e. electricity, gas and postal services, and possibly in future water) will partly fund the new Council.
38. *Subsections (2) and (3)* permit the Secretary of State to add, by order, consumers who are provided with water and sewerage services in England and Wales to the list of designated consumers. Before making such an order,, the Secretary of State must consult the Council, Welsh Ministers, and other persons as he thinks appropriate. The Secretary of State can also provide, by order, that classes of consumers are to cease to be “designated consumers”. Before making such an order, the Secretary of State must consult the Council, the Scottish Ministers (except in relation to water consumers) and the Welsh Ministers, and other persons as he thinks appropriate.