
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2014 No. 631

The Public Bodies (Abolition of the National Consumer Council and Transfer of the Office of Fair Trading’s Functions in relation to Estate Agents etc) Order 2014

Citation, commencement, interpretation and extent

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Public Bodies (Abolition of the National Consumer Council and Transfer of the Office of Fair Trading’s Functions in relation to Estate Agents etc) Order 2014.

(2) This article comes into force on the day after the day on which this Order is made.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), articles 2, 3 and 4 of this Order come into force on 1st April 2014.

(4) Article 3(1)(g) and paragraph 14 of Schedule 1 (repeal of reference to the National Consumer Council in Schedule 1 to the Public Bodies Act 2011) come into force on 2nd April 2014.

(5) Subject to paragraphs (6) and (7), article 5 of this Order comes into force on 31st March 2014.

(6) Article 5(3)(a)(ii) and paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 (repeal of reference to the Office of Fair Trading in Schedule 5 to the Public Bodies Act 2011) come into force on 1st April 2014.

(7) Paragraph 16 of Schedule 2 (provision of information to the lead enforcement authority by the OFT) comes into force on the day after the day on which this Order is made.

(8) An amendment or repeal made by this Order has the same extent as the enactment to which it relates.

(9) In this Order—

“the 1979 Act” means the Estate Agents Act 1979(1);

“the 2002 Act” means the Enterprise Act 2002(2);

“the 2007 Act” means the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007(3);

“the 2007 Regulations” means the Money Laundering Regulations 2007(4);

“Citizens Advice” means the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux(5);

“Citizens Advice Scotland” means the Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux(6);

“CMA” means the Competition and Markets Authority(7);

“the Commissioners” means the Commissioners for Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs;

(1) 1979 c. 38; relevant amendments were made by the 2002 Act and the 2007 Act.

(2) 2002 c. 40.

(3) 2007 c. 17; relevant amendments were made by the Pensions Act 2011 (c. 19), the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 asp 8, the Postal Services Act 2011 (c. 5), the Financial Services Act 2012 (c. 21), S.I. 2011/2704 and S.I. 2012/2400.

(4) S.I. 2007/2157.

(5) The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux is a company limited by guarantee, formed and registered under the Companies Act 2006 (c. 46) with the company number 1436945, and a registered charity with the number 279057.

(6) The Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux is a company limited by guarantee, formed and registered under the Companies Act 2006 with the company number SC089892, and a registered charity with the number SC016637.

(7) The Competition and Markets Authority was established by section 25 of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 (c. 24).

“the First-tier Tribunal” means the First-tier Tribunal constituted under section 3(1) of the Tribunal, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007⁽⁸⁾”

“the GCCNI” means the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland⁽⁹⁾;

“the lead enforcement authority” means Powys County Council;

“the National Consumer Council” means the National Consumer Council established by section 1 of the 2007 Act;

“the OFT” means the Office of Fair Trading established by section 1 of the 2002 Act.

(10) A reference in this Order to a consumer advocacy body is a reference to—

- (a) Citizens Advice,
- (b) Citizens Advice Scotland, or
- (c) the GCCNI.

Abolition of the National Consumer Council

2. The National Consumer Council is abolished.

Transfer of functions of the National Consumer Council

3.—(1) Schedule 1 has effect—

(a) to transfer certain functions of the National Consumer Council under—

- (i) the Postal Services Act 2000⁽¹⁰⁾,
- (ii) the 2007 Act, and
- (iii) the Postal Services Act 2011⁽¹¹⁾,

to the consumer advocacy bodies;

(b) to transfer certain functions of the National Consumer Council under—

- (i) the Gas Act 1986⁽¹²⁾,
- (ii) the Electricity Act 1989⁽¹³⁾,
- (iii) the Utilities Act 2000⁽¹⁴⁾,
- (iv) the Communications Act 2003⁽¹⁵⁾, and
- (v) the 2007 Act,

to Citizens Advice and to Citizens Advice Scotland;

(c) to transfer certain functions of the National Consumer Council under—

- (i) the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000⁽¹⁶⁾, and
- (ii) the 2007 Act,

⁽⁸⁾ 2007 c. 15.

⁽⁹⁾ The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland was established by the General Consumer Council (Northern Ireland) Order 1984 No. 1822 (N.I.12) as amended by the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 No. 231 (N.I.1), the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 No. 418 (N.I.5), the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 No. 419 (N.I.6), the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (c. 16), Water and Sewage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 No. 3336 (N.I.21) and the Transport Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (c. 11).

⁽¹⁰⁾ 2000 c. 26; relevant amendments have been made by the Postal Services Act 2011.

⁽¹¹⁾ 2011 c. 5; relevant amendments have been made to this Act by S.I. 2013/783.

⁽¹²⁾ 1986 c. 44; relevant amendments have been made to this Act.

⁽¹³⁾ 1989 c. 29; relevant amendments have been made to this Act.

⁽¹⁴⁾ 2000 c. 27; relevant amendments have been made to this Act.

⁽¹⁵⁾ 2003 c. 21.

⁽¹⁶⁾ 2000 c. 31; relevant amendments have been made to this Act.

- to Citizens Advice;
- (d) to transfer certain functions of the National Consumer Council under—
- (i) the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002⁽¹⁷⁾,
 - (ii) the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005⁽¹⁸⁾, and
 - (iii) the Public Service Reform (Scotland) Act 2010⁽¹⁹⁾,
- to Citizens Advice Scotland;
- (e) to transfer certain functions of the National Consumer Council under the 2007 Act to the GCCNI;
- (f) to make consequential, supplementary incidental and transitional provision relating to the abolition of the National Consumer Council and the transfer of certain functions;
- (g) to repeal the entry relating to the National Consumer Council in Schedule 1 to the Public Bodies Act 2011.
- (2) A function transferred under paragraph (1)(a) or (b) to Citizens Advice or Citizens Advice Scotland—
- (a) may be exercised by each of them jointly with the other;
 - (b) may be exercised on behalf of the one to which the function is transferred by the other of them, if they so agree.
- (3) The conferring of functions on Citizens Advice or Citizens Advice Scotland by or under this Order is without prejudice to the functions of Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland not so conferred.
- (4) A function transferred to the GCCNI under paragraph (1)(a) or (e) may be exercised by that body only in relation to consumer matters that relate to postal services in Northern Ireland.
- (5) In paragraph (4) “consumer matters” has the meaning given by section 3 of the 2007 Act.

Transfer of OFT functions in relation to a consumer advice scheme

4. Schedule 1 also has effect—
- (a) to transfer certain functions of the OFT under the 2007 Act in relation to a consumer advice scheme to Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland;
 - (b) to make consequential, supplementary and incidental provision relating to the transfer of certain functions relating to a consumer advice scheme from the OFT to Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland.

Transfer of OFT functions in relation to estate agents

- 5.—(1) The functions conferred on the OFT by the 1979 Act are transferred to the lead enforcement authority.
- (2) The functions exercisable by the OFT under the 2007 Regulations by virtue of its role as the supervisory authority for estate agents pursuant to regulation 23(1)(b)(ii) of those Regulations are transferred to the Commissioners.
- (3) The following Schedules have effect—
- (a) Schedule 2, which—

⁽¹⁷⁾ 2002 asp 3.
⁽¹⁸⁾ 2005 asp 3.
⁽¹⁹⁾ 2010 asp 8.

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- (i) makes consequential, supplementary, incidental and transitional provision and savings relating to the transfer of functions under the Estate Agents Act 1979; and
- (ii) repeals the entry relating to the OFT in Schedule 5 to the Public Bodies Act 2011;
- (b) Schedule 3 (consequential, supplementary, incidental and transitional provision and savings relating to the transfer of functions under the 2007 Regulations).

13th March 2014

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