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MARTIN CROUCH APPOINTED AS NEW OFGEM DIRECTOR, EUROPEAN STRATEGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Energy regulator, Ofgem, has appointed Martin Crouch as its new Director, European Strategy and Environment.

Martin joined Ofgem in January 2003 as Director, Electricity Distribution. In this role he led the fourth electricity distribution price control review, which implemented a range of new policies designed to build on the success of incentive based regulation, including a number of environmental initiatives.

More recently, he led the introduction of annual cost reporting and reviews of charging and competition in connections.

Prior to joining Ofgem, Martin had ten years experience in the energy sector, initially as an economic consultant and then working for an electricity company on commercial, financial and regulatory issues.

Ofgem Chief Executive, Alistair Buchanan, said: "Martin's move into European Strategy and Environment has come at an important time, with a range of new developments being progressed in these two key areas. I am positive he will ensure Ofgem continues to deliver innovative policies in these areas."

Martin said he was looking forward to tackling new challenges within Ofgem:

"I have been fortunate to work with a great team during my time at Ofgem, which has built a strong foundation for the next price review. My new role as Director, European Strategy and Environment combines two key areas for Ofgem's future and I am looking forward to getting to grips with the new challenges they will bring."

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Notes to editors

1. Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets, which supports the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, the regulator of the gas and electricity industries in Great Britain. The Authority's functions are set out mainly in the Gas Act 1986, the Electricity Act 1989, the Competition Act 1998 and the Utilities Act 2000. In this note, the functions of the Authority under all the relevant Acts are, for simplicity, described as the functions of Ofgem.

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