

Press Release

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CONSUMER POLICY EXPERT TO JOIN OFGEM

Philip Cullum, Deputy Chief Executive of consumer watchdog, Consumer Focus, has been appointed to the key consumer role at energy regulator, Ofgem.

Philip has been at Consumer Focus since 2008 and before that at the National Consumer Council. His career began at consumer body Which? and includes senior roles in business strategy and public policy at Opinion Leader Research and management consultants, Accenture.

Philip is a leading expert on consumers and regulation having advised Government on regulatory reviews in financial services and airports. He has advised the Food Standards Agency on consumer engagement and is currently a member of the Government's Regulatory Policy Committee.

Philip joins Ofgem in September to lead the regulator's Consumer and Demand Side Insight team. This cross cutting, leadership role is vital to Ofgem's work to protect existing and future consumers' interests. The focus will be on domestic consumers, including vulnerable households, and on business consumers, in particular the interests of micro and small businesses. As well as looking to today's energy market, this role will also look ahead to smart metering, new energy services and demand side measures, and the consumer opportunities and issues these present.

Sarah Harrison, Senior Partner, Sustainable Development, Ofgem, said: "I am delighted that Philip is joining Ofgem. Philip brings substantial experience of consumer insight and policy in regulated markets and will build on Ofgem's vital work in these areas. At a time of rising energy costs and significant market developments, the interests of today's and future consumer interests must be at the heart of regulatory decisions."

Philip Cullum "There are few markets as important to domestic and small business customers as energy. Ofgem has a key role in resolving immediate and longer-term challenges, using regulation to deliver effective competition, protect vulnerable consumers and build sustainable markets. I look forward to bringing my experience of consumer policy and regulation across different markets to this essential work."

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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 powers and duties are largely provided for in statute, principally the Gas Act 1986, the Electricity Act 1989, the Utilities Act 2000, the Competition Act 1998, the Enterprise Act 2002, the Energy Act 2004 as well as arising from directly effective European Community legislation.

For further press information contact:

Chris Lock	020 7901 7225
Alison Wright	020 7901 7217

Out of hours

07766 511470