

Lists of and information about organisations the department is responsible for, those it works in partnership with and those it sponsors.

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**As most of these bodies will be responsible for their own affairs, we expect this information needs only to be enough to identify the relationship between these bodies and the department.**

***The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority), does not sponsor nor is directly responsible for any other department, governmental or otherwise.***

Ofgem offers advice to the **Office of Fair Trading** with regards to merger activity in the electricity and gas sector and has concurrent powers in respect of market investigation references to the **Competition Commission**.

**The Health and Safety Executive (HSE)** relationship with the Authority is framed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which highlights Ofgem's statutory duties under the Utilities Act 2000 to consult the HSE on issues of safety, and take into account any advice given. The network operators have comprehensive duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and regulations made under it. These duties are designed to secure the health and safety of their employees and all other persons who may be affected by their work activities, including the general public.

The Authority works with The Ombudsman Service Ltd which administers the **Energy Ombudsman Service**, an alternative consumer dispute resolution service. The relationship is framed by a (MoU). The Energy Ombudsman Service is an independent, alternative dispute resolution service for the unresolved complaints of its members from domestic and small business customers. The Authority's principle objective is to protect the interests of existing and future consumers.

The **National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML)** has responsibility for electricity and gas meter approvals, ensuring suitability of meters, meter examiners and arrangement for meter accuracy testing. The NWML have been carrying out these functions since April 2006 under an arrangement with the Authority and with regards to the European Measuring Instruments Directive (MID.)

**The Environment Agency** is the principle environmental regulator. In addition to the Authority's principal statutory objective to protect the interests of present and future consumers, the Authority has duties relating to the environment and sustainable development. , Ofgem's Environmental Advisory Group includes representatives from across industry, including the Environment Agency

The Authority has worked to promote competition in connections. **Lloyds Register** administers the National Electricity Registration Scheme to provide Distribution Network Operators and customers with confidence that competitive connections work is being undertaken by competent organisations/individuals.

The **DECC** (the Department of Energy and Climate Change), as the Government department responsible for energy, has a defined role as setting the policy objectives and the framework of regulation by developing and implementing government policy. Ofgem maintains a separate staffing and budget from DECC, although the Chairman of the

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Authority) is appointed for a five year period by the Minister and the Minister is responsible for appointing GEMA members in co-operation with the Chairman.

**Consumer Focus** was created through the merger of three consumer organisations – energywatch, Postwatch and the National Consumer Council (including the Welsh and Scottish Consumer Councils) in October 2008. The Authority and Consumer Focus have arrangements in place to secure co-operation, exchange of information and ensure the consistent treatment of matters that affect both organisations.