

## Public Accountability

As a government department, Ofgem has specific duties and responsibilities when spending public money. Ofgem must demonstrate propriety, regularity and value for money. The main responsibilities for Ofgem to demonstrate are as follows:

**Propriety:** expenditure of public money in the correct manner, for the proper purposes of Ofgem and ensuring it is properly accounted for

**Regularity:** compliance with the rules of government finance for the use of public money

**Value for money:** value for money is commonly known as the 3 'e's: economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Ofgem must ensure that it makes best use of public money by a correct balance of these elements.

Ofgem must comply with specific rules and is accountable to external authorities for performance of its duties. These external authorities include:

- The Public Accounts Committee

The principal Parliamentary watchdog for government finance

- The Comptroller and Auditor General

The Comptroller General and Auditor General examines and certifies the accounts of all government departments and reports the results of the examinations to Parliament.

Where the C & AG is not satisfied, an explanation will be sought from Ofgem. If the explanation is not satisfactory, the C & AG may qualify the certificate and report the reasons for the qualification.