

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **UTILITIES ACT 2000**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND**

**Consumer provisions**

**Gas and electricity regulation**

**Wider social and environmental objectives**

**Regulatory institutions and procedures**

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE ACT**

#### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

##### **PART I: NEW REGULATORY ARRANGEMENTS**

Sections 1 - 8 and Schedules 1 - 3: New Regulatory Arrangements

##### **PART II: OBJECTIVES OF REGULATION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY**

Sections 9 - 12 and 13 - 16: General duties under the Gas Act 1986 and the Electricity Act 1989

##### **PART III: FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

Sections 17 - 27 and Schedule 2 (paragraphs 10 - 14): Functions of the Gas and Electricity Consumer Council

##### **PART IV: AMENDMENT OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989**

Sections 28 – 43: Electricity licensing; and sections 74 – 75, 81 – 83 and 85 – 88: Gas licensing

Sections 44 - 50: Duties of electricity distributors

Sections 51 – 53, 84 and Schedules 4 and 5: Electricity licence holders (and ‘The gas code’)

Sections 54 – 58 and 89 – 94: Electricity and gas performance standards

Sections 59 - 60, and 95 - 96: Enforcement of obligations of electricity and gas licence holders

*These notes refer to the Utilities Act 2000 (c.27)*

Section 61 and 97: Remuneration and service standards

Sections 62 - 67: Electricity from renewable sources

Sections 68 – 73 (electricity), Sections 98 - 99 and 102 (gas) and Section 103 (overall energy efficiency targets): Miscellaneous

#### **PART V: AMENDMENT OF THE GAS ACT 1986**

Sections 74 - 88: Gas licensing

Sections 89 - 94: Gas performance standards

Sections 95 - 96: Enforcement of obligations of gas licence holders

Section 97: Remuneration and service standards

Sections 98 - 102: Miscellaneous

#### **PART VI: MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

Sections 103 - 105: Miscellaneous

Sections 106 – 110 and Schedules 6 - 8: Supplementary

#### **COMMENCEMENT**

#### **HANSARD REFERENCES**