

**Minutes of the Office of Fair Trading Board Meeting**

**Thursday 5 November 2009**

**Present:**

Philip Collins (Chairman)  
John Fingleton (CEO)  
Lord Blackwell  
Vivienne Dews  
Alan Giles  
Frédéric Jenny  
James Hart  
Tony Lea  
Philip Marsden  
Jonathan May

**OFT Staff:**

Frances Barr  
Claire Craig  
Barney Wyld  
Heather Clayton, Peter Lukacs, Cristina Luna-Esteban; Cavendish Elithorn (Item 3)  
Noah Curthoys, Diana MacDowell (Item 4)  
Clive Maxwell, David Stallibrass, Michelle Yardley (item 5)  
Clive Maxwell, David Stallibrass, Claire Hart, Winnie Ching (item 6)

**Executive Office:**

Rachel Christopher  
Jennifer Halliday  
Erik Wilson

**Item 1: Introduction**

The agenda of the meeting was reviewed and the timings were slightly revised.

**Item 2: ExCo oral and written quarterly report to the Board**

**CEO**

**Speeches**

The CEO has recently given speeches on consumers and competition and industrial policy, and also on government in markets. He will attend the International Consumer Enforcement Network conference in Australia next week.

**Executive Director, Markets & Projects and Policy & Strategy**

The Board was updated on the progress of a number of cases.

**Executive Director, Corporate Services**

### **New Director, Business Services**

Mario Tsavellas, the new Director of Business Services has now started.

### **Finance**

The current financial status of the organisation was reviewed.

### **Irresponsible Lending Guidance**

The consultation period ended in October. The guidance will be amended in the light of the responses to the consultation.

### **Treasury Select Committee**

The OFT recently gave evidence at a Treasury Select Committee on the impact of credit reference checks on 'shopping for credit' and credit ratings.

### **General Counsel**

The Board were updated on ongoing cases.

### **Director Communications**

#### **Scottish Select Committee**

The Senior Director of Services and the Director of Mergers gave evidence as part of the Scottish Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee inquiry into the future of Scottish banking.

#### **Evaluation of a sample of consumer enforcement cases**

The OFT commissioned London Economics to evaluate the impact of a sample of six completed consumer enforcement cases. The principal aim of this study was to review the effectiveness of a cross-section of OFT interventions, and to consider ways to enhance the impact of future interventions.

#### **OFT consumer protection event**

Lord Blackwell is sponsoring a reception for MPs and other invitees at the House of Lords on 8 December. It will focus on consumer protection in the economic downturn and the Chairman of the Board will speak.

### **Item 3      Topical items**

#### **Possible new study**

The Board discussed a proposal for a new study. The Board agreed that the subject should be researched further, and that ExCo should then consider the costs and feasibility of any work.

#### **The Future of Local and Regional Media**

The CEO is scheduled to appear before a Department of Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee on 24 November.

**Item 4      Draft Annual Plan 2010-11 for public consultation**

The team presented the draft Annual Plan for consideration by the Board prior to the public consultation period. The Board made a number of comments and subject to these being addressed, it approved the plan for consultation.

**Item 5      Proposed market study**

The team presented a potential market study, which the Board discussed and agreed should be pursued.

**Item 6:      Bank charges - update**

The Supreme Court judgment was awaited. The Board were updated on the OFT's work in this area.

**Item 7:      Minutes of the Board meeting (1st October), future agenda items and AOB**

**Minutes**

The Board approved the private and public minutes of the last meeting.

Rachel Christopher  
**Committee Secretary**  
**12 November 2009**