

Scoping paper

The next phase of the OFT's Transparency Project

July 2010

OFT1234s

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Over the past few months we have been exploring ways in which we can improve the transparency of our work and the way we engage with those interested in what we do.
- 1.2 In May 2010 we published our Transparency Statement¹ which sets out a series of commitments relating to what information we publish about our work and when as well as how we will engage with those directly involved in our work.
- 1.3 The statement represents our first steps towards making the OFT even more transparent. We acknowledge there is still more we can do to improve transparency in other aspects of our work.
- 1.4 We continue to discuss our culture and attitude towards being more open and transparent with those interested in our work and internally.
- 1.5 The next chapter sets out in broad terms the areas which we plan to explore further. Some were raised through our previous public consultation, others through consultation within the OFT. More details of our public consultation can be found on our website.²
- 1.6 At this stage we have made no firm decisions about what to include in the next phase of this project and our intention in setting out a list of possible areas is simply to prompt debate, thoughts and input. What we take forward, and the order in which we do the work and when, is subject to our internal processes including those around prioritisation and resource allocation.

¹ www.offt.gov.uk/shared_offt/consultations/668117/OFT1234.pdf

² www.offt.gov.uk/OFTwork/consultations/closed/2010/transparency

Responding to this scoping paper

- 1.7 We would value your feedback on the areas set out in the next chapter and we would also like to hear your ideas on what other aspects of our work could be improved by increased transparency. All comments and suggestions should be sent to:

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- 1.8 Please could we have any responses by 30 September 2010.

Next steps

- 1.9 We will collate and analyse the responses we receive to this scoping paper. We will then be in a position to decide the next steps in the project. Once we have done this we will publish an update on the dedicated transparency page of our website.³
- 1.10 In the meantime, where we are carrying out work outside the scope of this project which has positive impact on our transparency we will use the dedicated transparency page on our website to highlight it.

³ www.oft.gov.uk/about/transparency/

2 SUGGESTED TOPICS

2.1 The areas which we are considering including in the next stage of the transparency project include:

- how and when we consult
- how we make decisions and access to decision makers
- our detailed work plans
- how we spend our budget and how much individual cases and projects cost
- internal change and organisational development
- the kind of information we may make public during our work
- OFT and Consumer Direct complaint data.

2.2 We welcome any comments on the list above as well as suggestions for other areas where we could improve our transparency.