

**Fairer Scotland Duty**

# **Consumer Scotland Bill**

**June 2019**

## FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

### ASSESSMENT NOT REQUIRED AT THIS MOMENT DECLARATION

Policy title	Consumer Scotland Bill
Directorate: Division: team	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change Consumer and Competition Policy Unit Consumers and Low Carbon Division
Policy lead responsible for taking the decision	Wendy McCutcheon

Rationale for decision
<p>The Consumer Scotland Bill is a high level Bill to establish a consumer body that will identify and develop solutions for tackling consumer harm. To do this, it will have four key functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to provide strategic oversight of the consumer landscape to develop a full understanding of how markets work for consumers in Scotland and ensure resources are targeted to tackle harm;</li><li>• to conduct in-depth investigations into areas where harm in Scotland is most acute and recommend solutions;</li><li>• to facilitate access to a consumer advice system that meets individual consumer needs and aggregates collective data to support prevention work; and</li><li>• to comment on Scottish Government policy with significant impact on consumers, and support public authorities in Scotland to comply with a statutory consumer duty.</li></ul> <p>This new body will not be a front line operation for consumers.</p> <p>The legislation requires the new body to have particular regard to impacts on consumers who are vulnerable (including those on low incomes).</p> <p>An EQIA has been completed.</p> <p>Our assessment is that greater impact could be achieved through carrying out a Fairer Scotland Assessment at the point at which 'strategic decisions' relating to Consumer Scotland's operation are taken. This will ensure that strategic decisions consider opportunities to improve outcomes for people experiencing social economic disadvantage. This may include for example decisions relating to:</p>

- Staff recruitment and location of Consumer Scotland
- Communication and awareness raising amongst the general public
- Prioritising which issues the organisation focuses on
- Organisational governance / membership of sub groups
- The role of the organisation specifically in addressing issues related to the Poverty Premium etc

**I confirm that the decision to not carry out a Fairer Scotland assessment at this point in time has been authorised by:**

Name and job title of Deputy Director (or equivalent)	Date authorisation given
Sue Kearns Deputy Director Consumers and Low Carbon Directorate for Energy and Climate Change	30 May 2019



© Crown copyright 2019

**OGL**

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-78781-892-7 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, June 2019

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS589350 (06/19)

W W W . G O V . S C O T