



The Consumer Focus
Environmental Information Policy

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Section 1 : Introduction

1.1 Consumer Focus recognises the importance of providing information about its environmental performance. This is further to the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and our wider obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1.2 More than this, Consumer Focus aims to minimise the broader sustainability impact of its activities and promote greater understanding of sustainability through its services to consumers of energy and post as well as issues of general interest. By sustainability here we mean the environmental, but also social and economic elements of our work.

Section 2 : Principles

Commitment

2.1 Consumer Focus recognises its responsibility to ensure sound, environmentally and socially responsible, operational practice in all its activities in line with current and best practice. Consumer Focus is committed to continually improve its environmental performance and role on a cost-effective basis. Post vesting on 1st October 2008 Consumer Focus will develop, implement and maintain a sustainability policy and action plan during 2008-10 to be reviewed annually thereafter. It will take action to achieve its aims independently and in co-operation with others.

Responsibility

2.2 The Secretariat develops the policy on behalf of the Board and the Director of Finance and Operations is charged with delivery. Responsibility is shared by all staff. Staff are encouraged to recognise their potential contribution to the achievement of a sustainable organisation.

Policy development and research

2.3 Consumer Focus will encourage all policy development and research programmes to consider the sustainable development perspective, as appropriate, so that appropriate advice can be offered to the public.

Green procurement and supply chain management

2.4 In procuring goods and services, Consumer Focus will take cognisance of objective sustainability criteria when considering price, quality and delivery.

Legislative compliance

2.5 Consumer Focus will continually monitor developments in environment-related legislation and review its policy accordingly.

Section 3 : Delivery

3.1 During 2008-10 progress towards the achievement of the aims will be monitored and evaluated through the maintenance and development of an annual action plan that will incorporate targets. An annual sustainability report will be presented to board and progress on the action plan will be reported regularly.

3.2 Consumer Focus will encourage staff to participate in developing the policy and will provide information and advice to enable them to minimise their personal environmental impact while at work. It will also work towards creating a "sustainable community" through effective HR policies including Health and Safety and the action plan.