These notes refer to the Postal Services Act 2000 (c.26)

EXPLANATORY NOTES

POSTAL SERVICES ACT 2000

INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

PART I INTRODUCTORY

Section 1: The Postal Services Commission

Section 2: The Consumer Council for Postal Services

Section 3: Duty of the Commission to ensure provision of a universal postal service

Section 4: Provision of a universal postal service: meaning

Section 5: Other duties of the Commission in the consumer interest

PART II LICENCES FOR POSTAL SERVICES

Section 6: Restriction on provision of postal services

Section 7: Exceptions from section 6

Section 8: Power to modify section 7 by order

Section 9: General power to suspend the restriction

Section 10: Emergency power to suspend the restriction

Section 11: Licences: general

Section 12: Licences: grant

Section 13: Licences: conditions and other provisions

Section 14: Modification of licences by agreement

Section 15: References to the Competition Commission

Section 16: Reports on references

Section 17: Modification following report

Section 18: Power of intervention of the Competition Commission

Section 19: Procedural requirements in relation to modifications

Section 20: Application of competition legislation to references

Section 21: Modification by order under other enactments

Section 22: Final orders

Sections 23 and 24: Provisional orders

Section 25: Exceptions from the duty to make or confirm enforcement orders

Sections 26 and 27: Procedural requirements

Section 28: Validity of enforcement orders

Section 29: Effect of enforcement orders

Section 30: Financial penalties

Section 31: Statement of policy in relation to penalties

Sections 32 and 33: Penalties

Section 34: Time-limits on the imposition of penalties

Sections 35 and 37: Interest and payments by instalments; recovery of penalties

Section 36: Appeals

Section 38: Register

Section 39: Recovery of costs of the Council

Section 40: Directors' remuneration

Section 41: Free services for the blind and partially sighted

PART III OTHER FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE COUNCIL

Section 42: Duties in relation to public post offices

Section 43: Duties in relation to social and environmental matters

Section 44: Review and information

Section 45: Annual and other reports: the Commission

Section 46: Publication of information and advice: the Commission

Section 47: Power of the Commission to require information

Section 48: Information powers: enforcement

Section 49: Powers of entry and seizure

Section 50: Codes of practice

Section 51: Relevant postal issues

Section 52: Provision of advice and information to public authorities and licence holders

Section 53: Publication of information to users

Section 54: Exercise of functions: general

Section 55: Annual and other reports: the Council

Section 56: Complaints referred to the Council

Section 57: Power of the Council to investigate other matters

Section 58: Power of the Council to require information

Section 59: Provision of information by the Council to the Commission

Section 60: Memorandum of understanding

Section 61: Forward work programmes

PART IV REORGANISATION OF THE POST OFFICE

Section 62: Transfer of property to nominated company

Section 63: Government holding in the Post Office company and certain subsidiaries

Section 64: Government investment in securities of the Post Office company and its subsidiaries

Section 65: Restriction on issue of shares to third parties

Section 66: Restriction on disposals of shares to third parties

Section 67: Approved disposals

Section 68: Loans by the Secretary of State to the Post Office company and its subsidiaries

Section 69: Guarantees by the Secretary of State for the Post Office company and its subsidiaries

Sections 70, 72 and 74: Provisions about financial restructuring

Section 71: Limit on loans and other arrangements with government

Section 73: Statutory accounts of the Post Office company

Section 75: Dissolution of the Post Office

Section 76: Accounts of the Secretary of State in relation to loans

Section 77: Publicity requirements for certain accounts and reports of the Post Office company

Section 78: Information requirements on the Post Office company

Section 79: Exercise of functions through nominees

Section 80: Shadow directors

Section 81: Tax

Section 82: Interpretation

PART V OFFENCES IN RELATION TO POSTAL SERVICES

Section 83: Interfering with the mail: postal operators

Section 84: Interfering with the mail: general

Section 85: Prohibition on sending certain articles by post

Section 86: Prohibition on affixing advertisements on certain letter boxes

Section 87: Prohibition on misleading descriptions

Section 88: Obstruction of business of universal service providers

PART VI UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICE: SUPPLEMENTARY

Sections 89, 90, 91 and 92: Schemes and limitation of liability

Section 93: Power to modify sections 89 to 92

Section 94: Power to require carriage of mail-bags by ship or aircraft

Section 95: Provision relating to land

Section 96: Immunity from prosecution

Section 97: Harbour charges on mail-bags

Section 98: Mail-bags not to be subject to control by harbour authorities

Section 99: Common carriers

Section 100: Certain exemptions from postage

PART VII MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

Section 101: Directions in interests of national security

Section 102: Power to ensure compliance with the Postal Services Directive

Section 103: Subsidy for public post offices

Section 104: Inviolability of mails

Section 105: Application of Customs and Excise enactments to certain postal packets

Section 106: Power to detain postal packets containing contraband

Section 107: Conditions of transit of postal packets

Sections 108/109/110: Evidential provisions

Section 111/112/113/114: Provisions relating to postal and money orders

Section 115: Extension of existing powers relating to the Post Office

Section 116: The Postcode Address File

Section 117: Records of the former Postmaster General's department

Section 118: Supplementary provisions relating to the Council

Section 119: General restrictions on disclosure of information

Section 120: Offences by body corporate

Section 121: Service of documents

Section 122: Orders and regulations

Section 123: Directions

Sections 124 to 131 General and financial provisions

Schedule 1

The Postal Services Commission

Schedule 2

The Consumer Council for Postal Services

Schedule 3

Transfer to the Post Office company: supplementary provisions

Schedule 4

Transfer to the Post Office company: Tax

Schedule 5

Acquisition of Land

Schedule 6

Further provisions relating to land

Schedule 7

Disclosure of information

Schedule 8

Amendments of enactments

Schedule 9

Repeals and revocations

COMMENCEMENT

HANSARD REFERENCES