

**CAYMAN ISLANDS**



# **UTILITY REGULATION AND COMPETITION ACT**

**(2024 Revision)**

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**CAYMAN ISLANDS**

# UTILITY REGULATION AND COMPETITION ACT

(2024 Revision)

**Arrangement of Sections**

Section	Page
<b>PART 1 - Preliminary</b>	
1. Short title .....	9
2. Interpretation .....	9
3. Application.....	12
<b>PART 2 - Establishment, functions and administration of the Utility Regulation and Competition Office</b>	
4. Establishment of the Utility Regulation and Competition Office .....	12
5. Use of seal and authentication of documents.....	12
6. Principal functions of the Office.....	13
7. Duty to consult.....	15
8. Duty to publish.....	16
9. Information gathering powers.....	17
10. Notification of contravention of information requirements .....	17
11. Penalties for contravention of information requirements.....	19
12. Cabinet may give general directions .....	19
<b>PART 3 - The Board</b>	
13. Board of directors .....	20
14. Structure of Board.....	20
15. The Chair.....	21



16.	The Deputy Chair .....	21
17.	Duties of Chair and Deputy Chair .....	21
18.	Appointment of non-executive members .....	22
19.	Reappointment of non-executive members .....	24
20.	Tenure of office .....	24
21.	Resignation .....	24
22.	Revocation of appointments .....	24
23.	Procedure and meetings .....	24
24.	Disclosure of Members' interests .....	25
25.	Remuneration: Board and committee members .....	26

#### **PART 4 - Committees**

26.	The Risk and Audit Subcommittee .....	26
27.	Committees .....	27

#### **PART 5 - The staff**

28.	Appointment of Chief Executive Officer .....	28
29.	Executive members .....	28
30.	Chief Executive Officer and Executive Directors .....	28
31.	Secretary .....	30
32.	Power to employ staff, etc. ....	30

#### **PART 6 - Financial and accountability provisions**

33.	Financial year .....	30
34.	Financial procedure .....	31
35.	Borrowing powers .....	31
36.	Advances, grants and guarantees .....	32
37.	Repayment of advances .....	32
38.	Reserve fund .....	32
39.	Balancing of revenue account .....	33
40.	Accounts and audit .....	33
41.	Annual plan and annual budget .....	33
42.	Performance audit .....	34
43.	Publication of accounts and annual report .....	34

#### **PART 7 - Significant market power**

44.	Office's power to determine that a sectoral provider has significant market power .....	35
45.	Conditions on significant market power sectoral providers .....	35

#### **PART 8 - Merger control**

46.	Shares of licensee not to be issued or transferred without approval of the Office .....	37
47.	Office to regulate changes in control in relation to licensees .....	39
48.	Change in control .....	40
49.	Questions to be determined .....	40
50.	Principles to be applied in appraising a change of control .....	40



51.	Media enterprises .....	41
52.	Appraisal of change in control.....	41
53.	Fees in respect of merger applications.....	42
54.	Timetable for appraisal of changes in control.....	42

### **PART 9 - Consumer protection**

55.	Industry Codes .....	43
56.	Codes adopted by the Office.....	44
57.	Consumer Codes of Practice .....	44
58.	Remedies .....	44
59.	Handling appeals from customers.....	44
60.	Consumer Councils .....	45

### **PART 10 - Alternative Dispute Resolution**

61.	Alternative dispute resolution schemes .....	45
-----	--	----

### **PART 11 - Promotion of economic development**

62.	Duty to promote innovation .....	46
63.	Duty to promote and facilitate Universal Service .....	46
64.	Strategic vision .....	46

### **PART 12 – Anti-competitive practices**

65.	Interpretation for the purposes of this Part .....	47
66.	Agreements, etc. preventing, restricting or distorting competition.....	47
67.	Individual exemptions .....	48
68.	Exemptions.....	48
69.	Cancellation, etc. of individual exemptions.....	49
70.	Abuse of dominant position.....	49
71.	Office's power to investigate .....	50
72.	Powers when conducting investigations.....	50
73.	Power to enter premises under a warrant .....	51
74.	Entry of premises under warrant: supplementary .....	52
75.	Decisions following an investigation .....	53
76.	Directions in relation to agreements.....	53
77.	Directions in relation to conduct.....	54
78.	Enforcement of directions .....	54
79.	Interim measures.....	54
80.	Penalties for infringing section 66 or 70 prohibitions .....	55
81.	Recovery of penalties .....	56
82.	Appropriate level of a penalty.....	56
83.	Agreements notified to Office.....	56

### **PART 13 - Discontinuation of activities**

84.	Cease and desist orders .....	57
85.	Application for enforcement .....	57



86.	Powers of Court.....	57
87.	Directions for immediate discontinuation of activity .....	58
88.	Matters to be included in directions.....	59
89.	Compliance with directions .....	59
90.	Powers of Court in respect of directions.....	59

### **PART 14 - Administrative fines**

91.	Administrative fines.....	60
-----	---------------------------	----

### **Part 15 – Review of Determinations of the Office**

92.	Review of Office's determinations .....	62
-----	---	----

### **PART 16 - Offences**

93.	Powers of summary court .....	62
94.	Failure to obtain required authorisation.....	62
95.	Failure to comply with a direction of the Office .....	62
96.	Failure to pay penalty for contravention of information requirement .....	62
97.	Failure to comply with statutory duties or regulations .....	62
98.	Failure to comply with administrative determinations .....	63
99.	Obstruction of the Office .....	63
100.	Unauthorised disclosure of confidential information .....	63
101.	Liability where offence committed by corporation .....	63
102.	Liability where offence committed by unincorporated entity.....	63
103.	Repeat offences .....	64

### **PART 17 - Miscellaneous provisions**

104.	Initial funding .....	64
105.	Appointment of first Board and first Chief Executive Officer .....	64
106.	Conflict of interest.....	65
107.	Confidentiality .....	66
108.	Unauthorised disclosure of confidential information .....	67
109.	Immunity.....	67
110.	Indemnity.....	68
111.	Regulations .....	68
112.	Amendment of Schedules .....	68
113.	Transitional provisions .....	69
114.	Validation.....	69

<b>SCHEDULE 1</b>	<b>71</b>
-------------------	-----------

<b>MARKETS AND SECTORS FOR WHICH THE OFFICE HAS RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>71</b>
--	-----------

<b>SCHEDULE 2</b>	<b>72</b>
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<b>SECTORAL LEGISLATION</b>	<b>72</b>
-----------------------------	-----------

<b>ENDNOTES</b>	<b>73</b>
-----------------	-----------

Table of Legislation History:.....	73
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## CAYMAN ISLANDS



# UTILITY REGULATION AND COMPETITION ACT

(2024 Revision)

## PART 1 - Preliminary

### Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Utility Regulation and Competition Act (2024 Revision)*.

### Interpretation

2. (1) In this Act —

“**administrative determination**” includes any order, regulation, direction, decision, or other written determination by which the Office establishes the legal rights and obligations of one or more sectoral participants, but does not include an advisory guideline;

“**advisory guideline**” means a written statement, issued by the Office, that provides the Office’s views regarding a specific matter, but is not legally binding;

“**annual plan**” means a plan published pursuant to section 41(1)(a);

“**annual report**” means a report published pursuant to section 41(1)(b);

“**authorisation holder**” means a person that holds a valid licence, permit or other form of authorisation, in accordance with sectoral legislation;

- “**Board**” means the board of directors established under section 13;
- “**Chair**” means the individual appointed as such under section 15;
- “**Chief Executive Officer**” means the individual appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Office, pursuant to section 28;
- “**Chief Fuels Inspector**” means the person appointed as such under the *Dangerous Substances Act (2017 Revision)*;
- “**chief officer**” means the person appointed pursuant to the *Public Service Management Act (2018 Revision)* as chief officer in the ministry with responsibility for the Office;
- “**co-regulation**” means a process by which an individual or a public or private sector body authorised by the Office adopts and implements a code of practice, and performs any other function specified by the Office pursuant to this Act or sectoral legislation, in consultation with, and subject to the approval of, the Office;
- “**Court**” means the Grand Court;
- “**covered services**” means services provided by a sectoral provider that are subject to supervision by the Office pursuant to sectoral legislation;
- “**critical national infrastructure**” means systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the Islands that the incapacity or destruction of the systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters;
- “**Deputy Chair**” means the individual appointed as such under section 16;
- “**Executive Director of Energy**” means the individual appointed under section 29(1)(b) as the Executive Director of Energy and Utilities of the Office;
- “**Executive Director of Information**” means the individual appointed under section 29(1)(a) as the Executive Director of Information and Communications Technologies of the Office;
- “**Executive Directors**” means the Executive Director of Information and the Executive Director of Energy;
- “**executive member**” means the Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Director of Energy, the Executive Director of Information or the Chief Fuels Inspector;
- “**functions**” includes responsibilities and duties;
- “**licence**” means a licence granted under any sectoral legislation;
- “**licensee**” means a person to whom a licence is granted;
- “**Member**” means a member of the Board;
- “**Minister**” means the member of Cabinet charged with responsibility for the Office;



“**Nominating Committee**” means the committee established under section 18;  
“**non-executive member**” means a person appointed as such under section 18;  
“**Office**” means the Utility Regulation and Competition Office established under section 4;

“**Policy**” means the policy to be followed by the Office pursuant to directions given by the Cabinet under section 12(1);

“**public officer**” has the meaning assigned to it by section 124 of the Constitution set out in Schedule 2 to *The Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 [S.I. 2009/1379]*;

“**regulations**” mean regulations made under this Act;

“**sectoral legislation**” means any legislation specified in Schedule 2;

“**sectoral participant**” means a person who provides, uses or seeks to use utility services in a sectoral utility, but does not include the Office;

“**sectoral provider**” means a person, whether or not an authorisation holder, who provides goods or services in a sectoral utility;

“**sectoral utility**” means a utility market or sector for which the Office has specific responsibility under any sectoral legislation;

“**Secretary**” means the individual appointed as such under section 31;

“**self-regulation**” means a process by which an individual or a public or private sector body authorised by the Office adopts and implements a code of practice and performs any other function specified by the Office pursuant to this Act or sectoral legislation;

“**significant market power licensee**” means an authorisation holder or sectoral provider determined by the Office pursuant to section 44(1) as having significant market power in a relevant market;

“**staff**” means the officers, servants and agents of the Office appointed pursuant to Part 5; and

“**utility services**” means networks operated or services provided by a sectoral provider.

- (2) References in this Act to services rendered by a sectoral utility shall be deemed to include references to —
- (a) services provided in the information and communications technologies sector;
  - (b) commodities supplied within a market or sector for which the Office has responsibility or supplied by a sectoral utility in rendering such services.
- (3) A sectoral provider shall be deemed to have Significant Market Power if, either individually or jointly with others, it enjoys a position of economic strength

affording it the power to behave to an appreciable extent independently of competitors, customers and consumers.

### **Application**

3. (1) In the exercise of its functions and powers the Office shall not derogate from the terms and conditions of any licence, authorisation or agreement in force without the consent in writing of the licensee or authorisation holder, subject to any special conditions concerning the modification in the relevant licence, authorisation or agreement.
- (2) This Act applies to any utility service unless the contrary is provided expressly or by necessary implication in any other Law.

## **PART 2 - Establishment, functions and administration of the Utility Regulation and Competition Office**

### **Establishment of the Utility Regulation and Competition Office**

4. (1) There is established a body to be called the Utility Regulation and Competition Office, having the functions and powers conferred or imposed upon it by this and any other Law.
- (2) The Office shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal and, subject to the provisions of this Act, shall have power to buy, sell, hold, deal and otherwise acquire and dispose of land and other property of any kind and to enter into contracts and to do all things necessary or desirable for the purposes of its functions and powers.
- (3) The Office may sue and be sued in its corporate name and it shall have exclusive right to use the name the “Office of Competition and Regulation”.
- (4) The Office shall establish and maintain its head office and principal place of business within the Islands, and shall cause details thereof to be gazetted, and service of all documents on the Office shall be deemed to be effective if delivered at the head office.

### **Use of seal and authentication of documents**

5. (1) The seal of the Office shall be authenticated by the Chair and one other Member authorised to act in that behalf and shall be judicially noticed.
- (2) The Office may, by resolution, appoint an officer of the Office or any other agent either generally or in a particular case to execute or sign on behalf of the Office any instrument not under seal in relation to any matter coming within the functions and powers of the Office.



## Principal functions of the Office

6. (1) The principal functions of the Office, in the markets and sectors for which it has responsibility, are —
- (a) to promote objectives set out in any Policy;
  - (b) to promote appropriate effective and fair competition;
  - (c) to protect the short and long term interests of consumers in relation to utility services and in so doing —
    - (i) supervise, monitor, and regulate any sectoral provider, in accordance with this Act, the regulations and sectoral legislation and any general policies made by Cabinet in writing;
    - (ii) ensure that utility services are satisfactory and efficient and that charges imposed in respect of utility services are reasonable and reflect efficient costs of providing the services; and
    - (iii) publish information, reports and other documents relating to utility services; and
  - (d) to promote innovation and facilitate economic and national development.
- (2) In performing its functions and exercising its powers under this Act or any other Law, the Office may —
- (a) collect, retain and expend funds;
  - (b) establish its internal organisation and procedures;
  - (c) conduct its internal administrative operations;
  - (d) make administrative determinations, decisions, orders and regulations;
  - (e) provide advisory guidance to sectoral participants;
  - (f) establish external advisory panels and take appropriate actions to foster industry self-regulation and co-regulation;
  - (g) establish and maintain an official website;
  - (h) purchase, acquire or lease real property and other assets that the Board considers necessary for the provision or future provision of business premises for the Office or incidental to the performance of its functions under this Act;
  - (i) enter into leases for real property and contracts for goods and services;
  - (j) grant, modify and revoke authorisations;
  - (k) collect from authorisation holders such information as the Office considers necessary for any one or more of the following purposes —
    - (i) identifying the geographic position and nature of critical national infrastructure;

- (ii) enabling the security and continuity of services over critical national infrastructure; and
- (iii) any other prescribed purpose;
- (l) collect prescribed fees;
- (m) establish operating and reserve funds, open bank accounts, and accept grants and loans;
- (n) issue, suspend, vary or revoke licences, permits and exemptions;
- (o) conduct research and studies into any matter or technology which may be relevant to its functions and publish its findings, if appropriate;
- (p) assign resources and implement initiatives designed to enable the introduction of new and innovative technologies and systems in the markets and sectors for which it has responsibility;
- (q) initiate and conduct inquiries and investigations into any matter or complaint, either on its own initiative or referred to it, which in the opinion of the Office, is not frivolous;
- (r) take such action as it considers necessary to ensure the continuity and reliability of operations of critical national infrastructure;
- (s) allocate finite resources used by sectoral providers to provide covered services;
- (t) establish technical standards for the provision of covered services;
- (u) review and, as appropriate, approve, reject or modify tariffs filed by a sectoral provider governing the provision of covered services;
- (v) establish and enforce quality of service standards applicable to covered services;
- (w) take such action as the Office considers necessary to protect the health and safety of the public in relation to covered services;
- (x) take into account and have regard for the protection of the environment;
- (y) define relevant markets, assess the competitiveness of relevant markets and identify sectoral providers that have significant market power in such markets;
- (z) adopt remedies to deter anti-competitive conduct by sectoral providers in any relevant market;
- (aa) modify or find to be void, agreements involving one or more sectoral providers that unreasonably restrict competition in any relevant market;
- (bb) prohibit unfair trade practices by sectoral providers in any relevant market;
- (cc) resolve disputes between sectoral providers, and between sectoral providers and sectoral participants;
- (dd) conduct public consultations;



- (ee) require the production of documents and other information, conduct inspections and compel attendance at proceedings;
  - (ff) publish and maintain registers or lists;
  - (gg) take appropriate enforcement action, including the imposition of administrative fines, in any case in which a sectoral participant has contravened this Act, the regulations and any sectoral legislation or any administrative determination; and
  - (hh) take any other action, not expressly prohibited by Law, that is necessary and proper to perform its duties under this Act and sectoral legislation.
- (3) Without prejudice to subsection (1) or (2), the Office has power to carry on any activity which appears to it to be requisite, advantageous or convenient for or in connection with the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers under this Act or any other Law.
- (4) In performing its functions and exercising its powers under this Act or any other Law, the Office shall —
- (a) act in a timely manner;
  - (b) rely on self-regulation and co-regulation, where appropriate;
  - (c) act in a reasonable, proportionate, impartial and consistent manner;
  - (d) operate transparently, to the full extent practicable;
  - (e) engage in reasoned decision-making, based on the administrative record;
  - (f) act without favouritism to any sectoral participant, including any sectoral participant in which the Government has a direct or indirect financial interest; and
  - (g) subject to section 12, act free from political interference.
- (5) The markets and sectors for which the Office has responsibility are set out in Schedule 1.

### **Duty to consult**

7. (1) Prior to issuing an administrative determination which, in the reasonable opinion of the Office, is of public significance, and subject to specific procedures under sectoral legislation, the Office shall —
- (a) issue the proposed determination in the form of a draft administrative determination;
  - (b) allow persons with sufficient interest or who are likely to be affected a reasonable opportunity to comment on the draft administrative determination; and
  - (c) give due consideration to those comments with a view to determining what administrative determination (if any) should be issued.

- (2) The Office shall, within six months of the date of commencement of this section, publish its procedures for seeking comments, which shall include —
  - (a) how the Office will issue draft administrative determinations under subsection (1);
  - (b) how consultations will be published;
  - (c) the minimum time for responding to consultations;
  - (d) how the Office will publish comments or summaries of comments received;
  - (e) guiding principles setting out how the Office will consider comments received and how it will publish its reasons for its decisions after it has considered those comments; and
  - (f) guiding principles for determining when the Office may derogate from the standard procedures.
- (3) An administrative determination is of public significance if it relates to a sectoral utility and is likely to lead to —
  - (a) a major change in the activities carried on by the Office under this Act or any other Law;
  - (b) a significant impact on a sectoral provider; or
  - (c) a significant impact on members of the public.
- (4) Where the Office intends to issue an administrative determination, the Office shall —
  - (a) give written notice of that intention, to any person with sufficient interest or likely to be affected by the proposed determination; and
  - (b) afford that person an opportunity to make written representations to show cause why the Office ought not to make such a determination.

### **Duty to publish**

8. Subject to section 12, the Office shall take proportionate measures to make available to the public administrative determinations which in its opinion, are of public significance and, for this purpose, shall —
  - (a) publish such administrative determinations on its website as soon as possible after these are issued;
  - (b) take steps to ensure that the website is regularly updated and available to the public; and
  - (b) maintain copies of administrative determinations at its principal office, for inspection by the public on request during normal business hours without charge.





**Information gathering powers**

9. (1) The Office may require a person to provide it with all such information as it considers necessary for the purpose of carrying out its functions or exercising its powers under this Act or any other Law.
- (2) The information that may be required by the Office under subsection (1) includes, in particular, information that it requires for —
- (a) ascertaining whether a contravention of a condition or other requirement set or imposed by or under this Act has occurred or is occurring;
  - (b) ascertaining or verifying the charges payable by a person under this Act;
  - (c) ascertaining whether a contravention of a condition of a licence has occurred or is occurring;
  - (d) the purposes of Part 12;
  - (e) statistical purposes connected with the carrying out of any of the Office’s functions under this Act; and
  - (f) such other purposes as may be prescribed.
- (3) A person required to provide information under this section shall provide it in such manner and within such reasonable period as may be specified by the Office.
- (4) The Office shall not require the provision of information under this section except —
- (a) by a demand for the information that describes the required information and sets out the Office’s reasons for requiring it; and
  - (b) where the making of a demand for the information is proportionate to the use to which the information is to be put in the carrying out of the Office’s functions or the exercising of its powers.
- (5) The reasons for requiring information for statistical purposes under this section shall set out the statistical purposes for which the information is required.
- (6) A demand for information required under this section shall be made in writing to the person from whom the information is required.

**Notification of contravention of information requirements**

10. (1) Where the Office determines that there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person is contravening, or has contravened, a requirement imposed under section 9, the Office may give that person a notification under this section.
- (2) A notification under this section shall —
- (a) set out the determination made by the Office;
  - (b) specify the requirement and contravention in respect of which that determination has been made; and

- (c) specify the period during which the person notified has an opportunity of —
  - (i) making representations about the matters notified; and
  - (ii) complying with any notified requirement of which the person remains in contravention.
- (3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), the period for doing the things specified in subsection (2)(c)(i) and (ii) shall be the period of one month beginning with the day after the one on which the notification was given.
- (4) The Office may, if it thinks fit, allow a longer period for doing the things specified in subsection (2)(c)(i) and (ii) —
  - (a) by specifying a longer period in the notification; or
  - (b) by subsequently, on one or more occasions, extending the specified period.
- (5) The person notified shall have a shorter period for doing the things specified in subsection (2)(c)(i) and (ii) —
  - (a) if a shorter period is agreed between the Office and the person notified; or
  - (b) if —
    - (i) the Office has reasonable grounds for believing that the contravention is a repeated contravention;
    - (ii) the Office has determined that, in those circumstances, a shorter period would be appropriate; and
    - (iii) the shorter period has been specified in the notification.
- (6) A notification under this section —
  - (a) may be given in respect of more than one contravention; and
  - (b) if it is given in respect of a continuing contravention, may be given in respect of any period during which the contravention has continued.
- (7) Where a notification under this section has been given to a person in respect of a contravention of a requirement, the Office may give a further notification in respect of the same contravention of that requirement if —
  - (a) the contravention is one occurring after the time of the giving of the earlier notification;
  - (b) the contravention is a continuing contravention and the subsequent notification is in respect of so much of a period as falls after a period to which the earlier notification relates; or
  - (c) the earlier notification has been withdrawn without a penalty having been imposed in respect of the notified contravention.
- (8) For the purposes of this section, a contravention is a repeated contravention, in relation to a notification with respect to that contravention, if a previous



notification under this section has been given in respect of the same contravention or in respect of another contravention of the same requirement.

### **Penalties for contravention of information requirements**

- 11.** (1) This section applies where —
- (a) a person (in this section referred to as “the notified person”) has been given a notification under section 10;
  - (b) the Office has allowed the notified person an opportunity of making representations about the matters notified; and
  - (c) the period allowed for the making of the representations has expired.
- (2) The Office may impose a penalty on the notified person if —
- (a) the Office is satisfied that the person has, in one or more of the respects notified, been in contravention of the requirement notified under section 10;
  - (b) the notified person has not, during the period allowed under that section, complied with the notified requirement; and
  - (c) no proceedings for an offence under this Act have been brought against the notified person in respect of the contravention.
- (3) Where a notification under section 10 relates to more than one contravention, a separate penalty may be imposed in respect of each contravention but, where the notification relates to a continuing contravention, no more than one penalty may be imposed in respect of the period of contravention specified in the notification.
- (4) The amount of a penalty imposed under this section is to be an amount not exceeding twenty thousand dollars as the Office determines to be —
- (a) appropriate; and
  - (b) proportionate to the contravention in respect of which it is imposed.
- (5) Where the Office imposes a penalty on a person under this section, it shall —
- (a) within thirty days of making its decision to impose the penalty, notify that person of that decision and of its reasons for that decision; and
  - (b) in that notification, fix a reasonable period after it is given as the period within which the penalty is to be paid.

### **Cabinet may give general directions**

- 12.** (1) The Cabinet may, after consultation with the Board, give to the Office general and lawful directions in written form as to the policy to be followed by the Office in the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers under this Act or any other Law, and the Office shall give effect to such directions.

- (2) Any direction given by the Cabinet shall be published in the Gazette but no such direction shall apply in respect of a matter pending before the Office on the day on which the directions are published.

## PART 3 - The Board

### Board of directors

- 13.** (1) There shall be a board of directors of the Office which, subject to this Act, shall be responsible for —
- (a) carrying out the functions and powers of the Office under this Act or any other Law; and
  - (b) the general administration of the affairs and business of the Office.
- (2) When making a decision on any regulatory issue, the Board shall have regard to the views and recommendations of the executive members.

### Structure of Board

- 14.** (1) Subject to section 105(1) to (4), the directors referred to in section 13(1) shall be appointed by the Cabinet on such terms and conditions as the Cabinet may specify in their instruments of appointment.
- (2) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), the Board shall consist of eleven individuals being —
- (a) the Chair;
  - (b) nine non-executive members; and
  - (c) the Chief Executive Officer, as an *ex officio* executive member.
- (3) The number of non-executive members of the Board may be increased by the Cabinet after consultation with the Board, by Order published in the Gazette; but the number of non-executive-members shall only be increased if —
- (a) the Office's responsibilities or assigned sectors are extended; and
  - (b) such an increase in number is necessary to ensure that the requisite plurality of skills among the non-executive members is available to the Board as a whole.
- (4) Prior to increasing the number of non-executive members under subsection (3), the Cabinet shall —
- (a) have regard to whether the non-executive members together have sufficient experience in each of the regulated sectors; and
  - (b) consider whether the non-executive members together have the requisite plurality of professional skills as a whole.



- (5) The Board shall be deemed to be properly constituted notwithstanding that there is a vacancy in the office of Chair, Deputy Chair or any other Member.

### **The Chair**

- 15.** (1) The Cabinet shall appoint the Chair for a term of three years and the Chair may be reappointed for a subsequent term of three years.
- (2) The Chair shall not be the Speaker or a member of the Cayman Islands Parliament or a public officer.
- (3) In appointing the Chair, the Cabinet shall ensure that the Chair —
- (a) has appropriate expertise, good standing and good reputation;
  - (b) has no personal or pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in a sectoral utility;
  - (c) has not been adjudged bankrupt;
  - (d) has not been convicted in the Islands or elsewhere of any offence involving dishonesty or fraud or any other offence that, in the opinion of the Cabinet, is likely to bring the Office into disrepute; and
  - (e) is not otherwise unable or unfit to discharge the functions of a Member.
- (4) The Chair shall be appointed at the expiry of the previous Chair's term or as soon as reasonably practicable after the expiry.
- (5) No person may be Chair if that person has been in that office for an aggregate duration of six years or more in the preceding nine years.

### **The Deputy Chair**

- 16.** (1) The non-executive members shall elect one of the other non-executive members as the Deputy Chair who having been elected shall serve for the duration of the term as a non-executive member.
- (2) The Deputy Chair shall not be the Speaker or a member of the Cayman Islands Parliament or a public officer.
- (3) The Deputy Chair may carry out the functions of the Chair, in such cases and manner as may be determined by or in accordance with any directions given by the Chair; and the Deputy Chair shall, in the absence of the Chair, perform the functions of the Chair as required.
- (4) Three or more of the Members may require the Deputy Chair to call a Board meeting if they have requested that the Chair call such a meeting and the Chair has not done so within a reasonable period of time.

### **Duties of Chair and Deputy Chair**

- 17.** (1) The duties of the Chair include —
- (a) chairing meetings of the Board;
  - (b) instructing the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Board;

- (c) signing Minutes of meetings of the Board;
  - (d) apprising the Board of matters raised by stakeholders;
  - (e) making best efforts to guide the Board in accordance with sectoral legislation and any Policy directives; and
  - (f) participating in public relations or education campaigns on behalf of the Board.
- (2) In the case of the absence or inability of the Chair to act, the Deputy Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair.

### **Appointment of non-executive members**

- 18.** (1) The Cabinet shall appoint a non-executive member from among the nominations received by the Cabinet from the Nominating Committee but the Speaker or a member of the Cayman Islands Parliament or a public officer may not be appointed as a non-executive member.
- (2) There is established a body to be called the Nominating Committee which shall consist of —
- (a) the chief officer who shall be the chairperson;
  - (b) the Deputy Governor;
  - (c) a member appointed by the Premier;
  - (d) a member appointed by the Leader of the Opposition; and
  - (e) the Chair.
- (3) A simple majority of the members of the Nominating Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- (4) The Nominating Committee shall make its decisions by simple majority vote and each member shall have a single vote; and the chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall not have a vote but may exercise a casting vote in the event of an inconclusive vote among the other members.
- (5) The chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall cause a notice soliciting applications for the position of non-executive member to be published in newspapers in wide circulation in the Islands —
- (a) in respect of the initial non-executive members, within fifteen days of the coming into effect of this section; and
  - (b) in respect of any subsequent vacancy for the non-executive member at either the earlier of —
    - (i) ninety days prior to the date on which a non-executive member's term is set to expire; or



- (ii) fifteen days after receiving a notice from a non-executive member stating that the member intends to resign prior to the expiration of the member's term or fifteen days after a vacancy occurs for any reason.
- (6) The notice shall set out the required background and experience required reflecting the skills and experience required on the Board which together will enable the Office to discharge its functions.
- (7) An application for the position of non-executive member shall be submitted to the Nominating Committee in writing, in accordance with the procedures specified in the notice, together with a written declaration that the applicant —
  - (a) has no personal or pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in a sectoral utility;
  - (b) has not been adjudged bankrupt;
  - (c) has not been convicted in the Islands or elsewhere of any offence involving dishonesty or fraud or any other offence that is likely to bring the Office into disrepute; and
  - (d) is not otherwise unable or unfit to discharge the functions of a Member.
- (8) A person who has previously served as a non-executive member for two consecutive terms may apply in the manner specified in this section for appointment as a non-executive member following a minimum period of three years following the end of the person's second term of the consecutive period.
- (9) Within forty-five days after the date on which a notice specified in subsection (5) has been published but not earlier than twenty-one days after such date, the Nominating Committee shall submit its recommendations to the Cabinet.
- (10) In making its nominations, the Nominating Committee shall —
  - (a) use a merit-based and objective approach;
  - (b) ensure that the non-executive members will together have appropriate expertise in the relevant regulated sectors;
  - (c) ensure that the non-executive members will together have broad experience, such as experience that would be expected of professionally qualified economists, engineers, lawyers, accountants or persons having backgrounds in business;
  - (d) present a plurality of options and skills to enable the Cabinet to make selections from the widest choice of candidates possible; and
  - (e) provide the Cabinet with a description of the recruitment, assessment and selection processes used and the results of those processes.

### **Reappointment of non-executive members**

19. (1) A non-executive member who is eligible for reappointment shall indicate by instrument in writing addressed to the chief officer the member's interest in being reappointed as a non-executive member not later than one hundred and twenty days prior to the expiration of the member's term.
- (2) The chief officer shall cause the expression of interest from the member to be considered by the Nominating Committee and shall within thirty days of receipt make its recommendations known to the Cabinet, with reasons.

### **Tenure of office**

20. (1) The members of the Board shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the provisions of this section and the terms of their appointment.
- (2) A non-executive member shall be appointed for a term of three years.

### **Resignation**

21. A Member may resign office by instrument in writing addressed to the Cabinet, and the resignation shall take effect as from the date of the receipt of the instrument by the chief officer.

### **Revocation of appointments**

22. (1) The Cabinet shall terminate the appointment of any Member who —
- (a) resigns the office;
  - (b) has been adjudged bankrupt;
  - (c) is convicted in the Islands or elsewhere of any offence involving dishonesty or fraud or any other offence that, in the opinion of the Cabinet, is likely to bring the Office into disrepute;
  - (d) has been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board without the consent of the Chair;
  - (e) fails to comply with obligations under section 24; or
  - (f) is otherwise unable or unfit to discharge the functions of a Member.
- (2) Where any Member ceases to be a Member before the normal expiration of the Member's term in office, the Cabinet in accordance with this Act, may appoint another person to hold that office until the time that the Member's term in office would have expired.

### **Procedure and meetings**

23. (1) The Chair shall summon regular meetings of the Board as often as may be required but not less than six times in any one year.
- (2) Meetings of the Board shall be held at such places on such days, and at such times as the Chair shall determine, and due notice of such place, date and time





shall be given to each Member in writing at least seven days before the time at which the meeting is to be held.

- (3) The Chair or Deputy Chair may at any time, in accordance with this Act, call a special meeting of the Board within two days of receipt of request for that purpose addressed to the Chair in writing and signed by any two Members.
- (4) At every meeting of the Board a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the voting members.
- (5) The Chief Executive Officer shall have no right to vote at meetings of the Board and the non-executive members shall each have one vote.
- (5A) The decisions of the Board shall be adopted by a simple majority of the votes of the members present and voting except that in the case of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
- (6) When considering decisions on regulatory issues including regulatory measures, the Board shall have due regard to the advice and recommendations of the executive members.
- (7) In the event that a decision is taken by round robin, the majority rule applies, but the decisions shall be confirmed and entered into the minutes of the next meeting of the Board.
- (8) The decisions of the Board and the reasons for those decisions shall be recorded in the minutes and kept by the Secretary.
- (9) Decisions, resolutions, orders, policies and rules, made by the Board, which affect members of the public, shall be published in the Gazette, on a website or in a newspaper of the Islands.
- (10) The Board may decide its own procedures, except so far as its procedures are prescribed by this Act.

#### **Disclosure of Members' interests**

- 24.** (1) If a Member has any personal or pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any matter which is to be determined by the Board, the Member shall, if present at the meeting of the Board at which such matter is to be determined, as soon as practicable after the commencement thereof, disclose the fact and leave the meeting, and shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of such matter or vote on any question with respect to such matter.
- (2) A disclosure under subsection (1) shall be recorded in the Minutes of the relevant Board meeting.
- (3) If the Board is in receipt of information indicating that a Member is in breach of subsection (1), the Secretary shall —
- (a) in writing, advise the Member of the information that is the subject of concern;

- (b) provide the Member with a copy of the information and allow the Member to provide an explanation; and
  - (c) if the explanation is not satisfactory, provide the Member with a warning that, if the Member continues to breach subsection (1), criminal proceedings may be instituted under subsection (6).
- (4) If, after the process specified in subsection (3) has been completed, the Board is of the view that criminal proceedings should be instituted under subsection (6), the Board may forward its view to the Director of Public Prosecutions for consideration.
- (5) If, after the process specified in subsection (3) has been completed, the Board is of the view that the Member is no longer in breach of subsection (1), the Board shall advise the Member in writing of that fact and that the warning has expired.
- (6) If a Member fails to comply with subsection (1) after receiving a warning under subsection (3)(c), the Member commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of six months, or both.
- (7) No act or proceeding of the Board shall be questioned on the ground that a Member contravened this section.

### **Remuneration: Board and committee members**

25. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a member of the Board or of a subcommittee or committee established under Part 4 is entitled to receive such remuneration, and the Chair and Deputy Chair may receive such additional remuneration, as may be determined by the Cabinet.
- (2) A public officer who is a member of the Board or of a subcommittee or committee established under Part 4 is not entitled to receive remuneration under subsection (1).

## **PART 4 - Committees**

### **The Risk and Audit Subcommittee**

26. (1) The Office shall establish a Risk and Audit Subcommittee comprised of a chairperson and three non-executive members.
- (2) The Office shall appoint the chairperson from among the Members and the chairperson shall —
- (a) not be a member of the staff of the Office;
  - (b) not have a personal or pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in a sectoral utility;
  - (c) not have been adjudged bankrupt;



- (d) not have been convicted in the Islands or elsewhere of any offence involving dishonesty or fraud or any other offence that is likely to bring the Office into disrepute;
  - (e) not be otherwise unable or unfit to discharge the functions of a Member; and
  - (f) have appropriate accountancy skills and experience and shall be registered as an accountant in accordance with the *Accountants Act (2024 Revision)*.
- (3) The chairperson shall be appointed for a term of three years and may be reappointed for one or more subsequent terms of three years.
- (4) The Risk and Audit Subcommittee may liaise with external auditors, pursuant to section 40(4), in the preparation of audited statements and shall report to the Board within four months of publication of the Office's annual report on —
- (a) the Office's performance against its annual plan;
  - (b) the extent to which the Office's deployment of its financial resources has delivered value for money; and
  - (c) the Office's risk profile and any mitigation steps that may be necessary.
- (5) The Risk and Audit Subcommittee shall meet at least twice every year and the quorum for the proceedings of the Subcommittee shall be three Risk and Audit Subcommittee members, including the Risk and Audit Subcommittee chairperson.
- (6) Voting shall be by a majority with the Risk and Audit Subcommittee chairperson having a casting vote.
- (7) The Office shall publish the Risk and Audit Subcommittee's report within two months of it being delivered to the Board.

## Committees

27. (1) The Office may establish —
- (a) a Regulatory Committee to which the Office may delegate decision making powers on regulatory matters and such other matters as the Board may decide, other than decisions on tariffs or the grant, renewal, amendment, suspension or revocation of licences;
  - (b) Policy and Technical Committees on a sectoral basis, to provide guidance to the Board on sectoral issues;
  - (c) a Remuneration and Human Resource Committee, to provide guidance to the Board on remuneration and human resources issues; and
  - (d) such other committees as the Office thinks best suited to assist it in the discharge of its functions under this Act or any other Law.
- (2) For each committee established under this section, the Office shall —

- (a) appoint the committee's members, who shall be members, officers and employees of the Office;
- (b) appoint such professionals as the Office considers necessary to assist the Office in an advisory capacity; and
- (c) establish the remit of each committee.

## **PART 5 - The staff**

### **Appointment of Chief Executive Officer**

**28.** Subject to section 105(5), the Board shall appoint the Chief Executive Officer.

### **Executive members**

- 29.** (1) The Chief Executive Officer shall appoint the following to the Office —
- (a) the Executive Director of Information;
  - (b) the Executive Director of Energy; and
  - (c) the Chief Fuels Inspector.
- (2) The Executive Directors and the Chief Fuels Inspector, under the day-to-day management of the Chief Executive Officer, shall be —
- (a) the principal advisors to the Board; and
  - (b) responsible for directing the activities of the Office, in the Executive Director's or the Chief Fuel Inspector's area of responsibility, consistent with Policy, the direction of the Board and the guidance of the Chief Executive Officer.

### **Chief Executive Officer and Executive Directors**

- 30.** (1) The Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Directors shall each have substantial knowledge and experience in one or more of the following fields —
- (a) utility regulation or competition;
  - (b) accounting;
  - (c) economics;
  - (d) engineering;
  - (e) finance;
  - (f) law;
  - (g) public policy; or
  - (h) any other field related to the functions of the Office;
- and the Executive Directors shall each have substantial technical, operating and regulatory knowledge and experience in their respective areas of responsibility.



- (2) The Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Directors shall each serve for a term of three years, and may each be reappointed for one or more subsequent terms.
- (3) The Chief Executive Officer, subject to the policies and delegated authorities of the Board, shall be the principal administrative officer of the Office and shall be responsible, subject to the direction of the Board, for carrying out the functions of the Office.
- (4) The Chief Executive Officer, consistent with policies of the Board may —
  - (a) retain, suspend and dismiss staff as otherwise allowed by law;
  - (b) supervise, direct and give assignments to the staff;
  - (c) prepare the proposed budget, and manage and account for the finances, of the Office;
  - (d) engage persons having technical or special knowledge that the Office requires to carry out its functions under this Act;
  - (e) coordinate the implementation of the Office’s regulatory agenda;
  - (f) supervise the preparation of strategic and annual plans;
  - (g) enter into contracts for the provision of goods and services required by the Office for the conduct of its business; and
  - (h) perform such other duties as the Board may direct.
- (5) Subject to subsection (5A), the Board, having given notice to and provided opportunity for comment by the Chief Executive Officer may, by a unanimous vote of the Members of the Board, suspend or revoke the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer for —
  - (a) serious or gross misconduct; or
  - (b) inadequate performance over a reasonable period of time.
- (5A) The Board may not suspend or revoke the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer under subsection (5) unless the Board has given the executive member adequate opportunity to improve performance to the required level.
- (5B) The Board shall determine inadequate performance by evaluating two or more consecutive performance agreements of the Chief Executive Officer.
- (5C) The Chair shall consult with the Minister prior to revoking the appointment the Chief Executive Officer.
- (6) In any case in which —
  - (a) the Board has suspended or revoked the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to subsection (5); or
  - (b) the Chief Executive Officer is unable to perform duties for an extended period due to ill health or absence from the Islands or other good cause,

the Board shall appoint a member of the staff, or other qualified person not being a non-executive member, to serve as the interim Chief Executive Officer.

- (7) A person appointed pursuant to subsection (6), when acting within the scope of the appointment, shall exercise the full authority of the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Executive Director, and shall be eligible for remuneration commensurate to the service provided.

### **Secretary**

31. (1) The Board shall appoint an individual, not being a Member, to be the Secretary of the Office, who shall be present at all meetings of the Board and shall take minutes of the business transacted but shall have no right to vote at meetings of the Board.
- (2) The Secretary shall manage the affairs of the Board in accordance with Board directives and policies.

### **Power to employ staff, etc.**

32. (1) The Office may employ, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as may be approved from time to time by the Board, such persons for such offices and such purposes as the Board considers necessary for the performance of the functions of the Office.
- (2) The Office shall create and maintain or subscribe to a fund for the payment of pensions to employees of the Office in accordance with a scheme, the terms of which shall be approved by the Cabinet.
- (3) The fund shall be vested in trustees to be appointed by the Office for that purpose and shall be maintained at a sufficient level according to accepted actuarial principles to enable pensions to be paid to all employees of the Office in accordance with the approved scheme.
- (4) The Cabinet may, subject to such conditions as it may impose, approve of the appointment of any public officer in the service of Government by way of secondment to any position on the staff of the Office, and any public officer so appointed shall, in relation to pension, gratuity or other allowance and to other rights and obligations as a public officer, be treated as continuing in the service of Government.

## **PART 6 - Financial and accountability provisions**

### **Financial year**

33. The financial year of the Office shall end on the 31st December or such other date as the Board may, by resolution, determine.



**Financial procedure**

- 34.** (1) The revenue of the Office shall be classified under the following heads of receipt —
- (a) fees received under this Act, the regulations or any sectoral legislation;
  - (b) amounts borrowed by the Office;
  - (c) other sums which may in any manner become payable or available to the Office in respect of any matter incidental to its functions; and
  - (d) such funds as may be available to the Office, for special or designated purposes, under this Act or any other Law,
- and such revenue shall, within seven days of the receipt thereof, be paid into a bank account approved by the Minister of Finance.
- (2) The revenue of the Office shall be applied to meet the following heads of expenditure —
- (a) interest on loans;
  - (b) repayment of overdraft, if any, on current account;
  - (c) current expenses;
  - (d) staff costs, including, salaries, pensions and gratuities;
  - (e) special projects to promote innovation and economic development;
  - (f) general reserve fund; and
  - (g) miscellaneous expenditure, that is relevant to its functions under this Act or any other Law, approved by the Board.
- (3) The Office shall —
- (a) submit to the Cabinet, for approval, a general investment strategy for managing its reserve and other funds; and
  - (b) invest such funds in a manner consistent with the approved investment strategy.

**Borrowing powers**

- 35.** (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Office may borrow sums required by it for meeting any of its obligations or discharging its functions.
- (2) The power of the Office to borrow shall be exercisable only with the approval of the Cabinet as to the amount, sources of the borrowing and terms on which the borrowing may be effected; and an approval given in any respect for the purpose of this subsection may be either general or limited to a particular borrowing or otherwise, and may be either unconditional or subject to conditions.

### **Advances, grants and guarantees**

- 36.** (1) The Cabinet may, from time to time, make advances and grants to the Office out of sums placed upon the estimates of the Islands for the purpose and approved by the Cayman Islands Parliament.
- (2) With the approval of the Cayman Islands Parliament, the Cabinet may guarantee, in such manner and on such conditions as the Cabinet thinks fit, the payment of the principal and interest on any authorised borrowings of the Office made otherwise than by way of advance under subsection (1).
- (3) Where the Cabinet is satisfied that there has been default in the repayment of any principal moneys or interest guaranteed under subsection (2), the Cabinet shall, with the prior approval of the Finance Committee of the Cayman Islands Parliament, direct the repayment out of the general assets and revenue of the Islands of the amount in respect of which there has been such default.

### **Repayment of advances**

- 37.** The Office shall pay into the Treasury, at such times and in such manner as the Cabinet may direct, such amounts as may be so directed in or towards repayment of advances made to the Office under section 36, and any sums issued in fulfilment of any guarantee given thereunder, and shall pay into the Treasury on what is outstanding for the time being in respect of such advances and of any sum so issued at such rate as the Cabinet may direct, and different rates of interest may be directed as respects different periods.

### **Reserve fund**

- 38.** (1) The Office shall maintain a reserve fund.
- (2) The management of the reserve fund, the sums to be carried, from time to time, on the credit thereof, and the application of the fund, shall be as the Office may determine.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), no part of the reserve fund shall be applied otherwise than for the purposes of the Office.
- (4) The Office shall set aside up to thirty percent of its reserve as a dedicated fund to promote innovation and economic development and the fund shall be called the “Innovation Support Fund”.
- (5) The power of the Cabinet to give directions to the Office shall extend to the giving to the Office of directions as to any matter relating to the establishment or management of the reserve fund, the carrying of funds to the credit thereof or the application thereof, notwithstanding that the direction may be of a specific character; but the Cabinet shall consult with the Board before giving directions in relation to the reserve fund and the directions shall be limited in the scope of application of the funds to activities related to the sectors for which the Office has responsibility.





### **Balancing of revenue account**

**39.** It is the duty of the Office so to exercise and perform its functions as to secure that its revenues are sufficient to meet all sums properly chargeable to its revenue account.

### **Accounts and audit**

- 40.** (1) The accounts of the Office shall be prepared and maintained in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards.
- (2) The accounts shall, to the fullest extent possible, allocate the Office's revenues, costs and expenses, whether in respect of personnel or otherwise, to each of the regulated sectors.
- (3) In allocating costs and expenses under subsection (2), the Office shall use its best endeavours to —
- (a) allocate directly incurred costs and expenses —
    - (i) to the regulated sector to which they relate; or
    - (ii) where relating to a number of regulated sectors, to each of the regulated sectors to which they relate in proportion to the burden from each of the regulated sectors; and
  - (b) allocate indirectly incurred costs and expenses on a reasonable and transparent basis.
- (4) The accounts of all transactions of the Office shall be audited annually by the Auditor General who shall have such powers in relation to the Office, its Board, and the property, securities and accounts of the Office as the Auditor General has in relation to other public money and public officers by virtue of the *Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision)*.
- (5) On completion of the audit of the Office's accounts under subsection (4), the Auditor General shall prepare a report thereon within three months of the close of the financial year to which the audited accounts relate.

### **Annual plan and annual budget**

- 41.** (1) No later than one month before the end of each financial year, the Office shall prepare and publish —
- (a) a plan of its proposed objectives for the forthcoming year; and
  - (b) a report of the carrying out of its functions during that financial year; and
  - (c) its approved budget for the forthcoming year.
- (2) The annual plan shall —
- (a) set out the Office's strategy for the forthcoming financial year to meet the objectives set out in any sectoral legislation;
  - (b) set out the broad priorities of the Office for the two years following the forthcoming year provided that these may require adjustments in light of

- any sectoral policy published by the Government in any sectoral utility under the terms of any sectoral legislation;
- (c) include a series of key performance indicators against which it shall measure its performance during the forthcoming year;
  - (d) include the level of remuneration to be received by non-executive and executive members for the forthcoming year; and
  - (e) set out the Office's budget based upon its target activities for the forthcoming year.
- (3) No later than six months after the end of each financial year, the Office shall prepare and publish a detailed report of the performance of each of the sectors for which it has responsibility.
- (4) The Office shall, within twelve months of the coming into force of this section, prepare its five-year strategic plan for the sectors for which it has responsibility and shall update the plan every three years.

### **Performance audit**

- 42.** The Auditor General shall, every three years, report to the Board on —
- (a) the Office's performance against its annual plan;
  - (b) the extent to which the Office's deployment of its financial resources has delivered value for money; and
  - (c) the impact of the Office's regulatory decisions when compared to the expected impacts established through regulatory impact assessments carried out by the Office.

### **Publication of accounts and annual report**

- 43.** (1) The Office shall submit annually to the Cabinet, not later than four months following the end of the financial year, a report on its activities, performance and transactions during the previous financial year, together with audited accounts including a balance sheet and income and expenditure accounts as at the close of the previous financial year.
- (2) The annual report shall —
- (a) outline the Office's financial performance against its budget;
  - (b) include a detailed report of the Office's performance against the key performance indicators published in the previous year's annual plan;
  - (c) include a detailed report of the performance of the sectoral utilities; and
  - (d) set out the key activities carried out during the previous financial year, whether or not envisaged in the previous year's annual plan.



- (3) The report and accounts under subsection (1) shall be laid on the table of the Cayman Islands Parliament by the Minister not later than six months following the end of the financial year.

## **PART 7 - Significant market power**

### **Office's power to determine that a sectoral provider has significant market power**

- 44.** (1) The Office may at any time determine that a sectoral provider has significant market power in a relevant market.
- (2) The Office shall establish and publish criteria —
    - (a) relating to the definition of relevant markets in the respective sectors; and
    - (b) against which market power may be assessed, for the purpose of making a determination under subsection (1).
  - (3) The Office's criteria referred to in subsection (2) shall include references to —
    - (a) the sectoral provider's market share;
    - (b) the sectoral provider's ability to influence market conditions;
    - (c) the sectoral provider's access to financial resources;
    - (d) the sectoral provider's experience in providing products to the market; and
    - (e) any other criteria considered relevant by the Office.
  - (4) Without prejudice to subsection (1), sectoral providers shall be deemed to have significant market power in the termination of utility services on their own networks, unless the Office determines otherwise.

### **Conditions on significant market power sectoral providers**

- 45.** (1) The Office may impose specific conditions on sectoral providers determined to have significant market power in the relevant markets, including obligations relating to —
- (a) cost recovery and price controls, including obligations for cost orientation of prices and obligations concerning cost accounting systems;
  - (b) the publication of a reference offer ensuring equivalence of access or interconnection to any of those services or facilities in which the sectoral provider has significant market power at tariffs based on an efficient sectoral provider's costs;
  - (c) the submission of regulatory accounts or financial statements separating out the key business activities of the sectoral provider;
  - (d) retail prices;

- (e) sharing of infrastructure, facilities and systems used for the provision of ICT services as defined in section 2 of the *Information and Communications Technology Authority Act (2019 Revision)*;
  - (f) technical compatibility of and access to conditional access systems used in the provision of content;
  - (g) offering services to the businesses which comprise the sectoral providers and their parent companies on a non-discriminatory, commercial basis;
  - (h) provision of standard terms of business, which should be published and accessible to customers;
  - (i) provision of service level guarantees with associated compensation payment to retail customers; and
  - (j) such other obligations as the Office may consider necessary in pursuance of the electronic communications policy objectives and the sector policy.
- (2) Prior to imposing any obligations under subsection (1), the Office —
- (a) shall review the market in which the sectoral provider has significant market power;
  - (b) shall consider the regulatory burden and the benefits to consumers of imposing any such obligation on a sectoral provider;
  - (c) shall ensure that any cost recovery mechanism or pricing methodology that is mandated serves to promote efficiency and sustainable competition and maximise consumer benefits;
  - (d) shall take into account the investment made by the relevant sectoral provider and allow the sectoral provider a reasonable rate of return on capital efficiently employed, taking into account the risks involved;
  - (e) shall ensure that, where implementation of a cost accounting system is mandated in order to support price controls, a determination of the cost accounting system is made publicly available, showing at least the main categories under which costs are grouped and the rules used for the allocation of costs; and
  - (f) may also take account of prices available in comparable markets.
- (3) Significant market power sectoral providers shall —
- (a) not unduly discriminate against particular persons or a particular description of persons in relation to utility services offered by them;
  - (b) provide technical specifications, or other relevant information about any interconnection, essential facilities or other mandated wholesale services on a reasonable and timely basis, when the information is required by another sectoral provider to provide its licensable services and when the information is not readily available from other sources; and



- (c) not adopt technical specifications for a network that prevents interconnection or interoperability with a network or facility of a competitor.
- (4) Nothing done in any manner by a significant market power sectoral provider shall be regarded as undue discrimination if and to the extent that the sectoral provider is required or expressly permitted to do such thing in that manner under this Act or any other Law.
- (5) Where a significant market power sectoral provider is made subject to an obligation regarding the cost orientation of its prices, the burden of proof that charges are derived from costs including a reasonable rate of return on capital efficiently employed shall lie with the significant market power sectoral provider concerned.
- (6) For the purpose of calculating the cost of efficient services, the Office may direct the significant market power sectoral provider to employ specific cost accounting methods or the Office may use cost accounting methods independent of those used by the relevant sectoral provider.
- (7) The Office may require the significant market power sectoral provider to provide full justification for its prices, and may, where appropriate, require prices to be adjusted.
- (8) On the date of commencement of this Act, the obligations of a licensee that are set out in regulations pursuant to sectoral legislation or as licence conditions shall apply until such time as the licensee is determined to be a significant market power licensee pursuant to section 44(1).
- (9) Significant market power does not apply to a sectoral provider who holds a licence to provide utility services in an exclusive service area.

## PART 8 - Merger control

### Shares of licensee not to be issued or transferred without approval of the Office

46. (1) A licensee that is a company (other than a company referred to in subsection (5)) shall not issue shares, and a person owning or having an interest in shares in the licensee shall not transfer, otherwise dispose of or deal in those shares or that interest where the issuance, transfer, disposal or dealing would thereby result in a total shareholding or total voting rights, by the person acquiring the shares or voting rights by the issuance, transfer, disposal or dealing, of more than ten per cent of the issued share capital or total voting rights of the licensee, without the prior written consent of the Office whose consent shall not be unreasonably withheld; but the Office may refuse to give its consent where, among other

things, it considers that the giving of the consent may result in a lessening of competition in the operation of networks or the provision of utility services.

- (2) In subsection (1), the reference to shares being issued, transferred, disposed of, or dealt with includes the issue, transfer or disposal of, or dealing with either the legal or a beneficial interest in the shares.
- (3) A licensee or person who wishes to deal with shares as indicated in subsection (1) shall request the approval of the Office in writing, and the Office shall reply in writing to such request within thirty days of the receipt of the request.
- (4) Where the Office refuses to give its consent it shall give reasons in writing for such refusal.
- (5) The Office may, in respect of a licensee whose shares are publicly traded on a stock exchange recognised by the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority, waive the obligation to obtain consent under subsection (1), and any such waiver —
  - (a) shall be subject to a condition that the licensee shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify the Authority of —
    - (i) any change in control of the licensee;
    - (ii) the acquisition by any person or group of persons of shares representing more than ten per cent of the issued share capital or total voting rights of the licensee's issued share capital or total voting rights; or
    - (iii) the acquisition by any person or group of persons of shares representing more than ten per cent of the issued share capital or total voting rights of the parent company of the licensee;
  - (b) shall be subject to a condition that the licensee shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, provide such information to the Office, and within such period of time as the Office may require, for the purpose of enabling an assessment as to whether persons acquiring control or ownership of the licensee in the circumstances set out in paragraph (a) are fit and proper persons to have such control or ownership; and
  - (c) shall be subject to such terms and other conditions as the Office may deem necessary.
- (6) In the event of shares in a company which has not been granted a waiver under subsection (5) and which is a licensee under this Act vesting automatically through process of law in a person, the secretary or registrar of the company shall, upon becoming aware of such vesting, inform the Office of the number of shares and the identity of the person in whom they have vested, and the Office shall have power to impose conditions on the licence and to issue instructions as to the management and operations of the licensee.



- (7) Where —
- (a) a licensee or a person referred to in subsection (1) fails or refuses to obtain the consent of the Office in accordance with this section or proceeds to deal with shares where the Office has refused to consent to such dealing; or
  - (b) a licensee fails to comply with subsection (5),
- the Office may suspend or revoke the licence.

### **Office to regulate changes in control in relation to licensees**

- 47.** (1) Without prejudice to —
- (a) any other Law; or
  - (b) any further obligations in a licence to notify the Office of changes in control,
- no change in control of a licensee can be implemented without obtaining the prior written approval of the Office in accordance with this Part.
- (2) The acquirer or the licensee shall notify the Office within seven days of —
- (a) concluding an agreement; or
  - (b) announcing a public bid,
- that would result in a change of control of a licensee.
- (3) The notification referred to in subsection (2) shall be in writing and in such form and manner as may be specified by the Office and shall include —
- (a) a description of the terms of the transaction;
  - (b) information about the acquirer and the licensee, each of their shareholders and any person being the beneficial owner or voting controller of more than fifteen percent of the voting shares of either or both of the acquirer and the licensee; and
  - (c) financial information of the persons involved in the transaction, including —
    - (i) annual revenues from the provision of networks or carriage services or content services identified by specific product and geographic markets;
    - (ii) copies of the most recent annual and quarterly reports and financial statements; and
    - (iii) a description of the communications markets in which the persons involved in the transaction operate.
- (4) Where the Office is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that an acquirer or a licensee may have failed to comply with subsection (2), the Office may take appropriate enforcement action, including the imposition of an

administrative fine not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars in respect of the failure to comply, and section 91 shall apply with necessary changes.

### **Change in control**

- 48.** For the purposes of this Part, a change in control shall be deemed to occur in relation to a licensee when a person, either alone or with any affiliated company —
- (a) acquires control (including by the acquisition of voting shares), by virtue of any powers conferred by the memorandum or articles of association or other instrument regulating the licensee or any other corporation or otherwise, to ensure that strategic decisions of the licensee are conducted in accordance with the wishes of that person;
  - (b) becomes the beneficial owner or voting controller of more than thirty percent of the voting shares in the licensee; or
  - (c) becomes the beneficial owner or voting controller of more than fifteen percent of the voting shares but not more than thirty percent of the voting shares in the licensee concerned unless that person, either alone or with any affiliated company —
    - (i) is not, or does not concurrently become, the beneficial owner or voting controller of more than five percent of the voting shares in any other licensee; and
    - (ii) does not have the power (including by the holding of voting shares), or does not concurrently acquire control (including by the acquisition of voting shares), by virtue of any powers conferred by the memorandum or articles of association or other instrument regulating any other licensee or any other corporation or otherwise, to ensure that the affairs of such other licensee are conducted in accordance with the wishes of that person.

### **Questions to be determined**

- 49.** The Office, on receiving a notification made under section 47(2), shall form an opinion whether a proposed change of control of a licensee —
- (a) would have, or be likely to have, the effect of substantially lessening competition in a market in the Islands; and
  - (b) in the case of a change of control involving a media public interest, whether the change of control would have an effect, or would be likely to have an effect contrary to the public interest.

### **Principles to be applied in appraising a change of control**

- 50.** (1) In determining whether to give its consent, the Office shall take into account in particular —





- (a) the promotion of sustainable competition in the sectors for which it has responsibility within the Islands or part of the Islands in view of, among other things, the structure of all the markets concerned and the actual or potential competition from undertakings located either within or outside the Islands; and
  - (b) the market position of the licensees concerned and their economic and financial power, the alternatives available to suppliers and users, their access to supplies or markets, any legal or other barriers to entry, supply and demand trends for the relevant services, the interests of the intermediate and ultimate consumers, and the development of technical and economic progress provided that it is to consumers' advantage and does not form an obstacle to competition.
- (2) To the extent that the creation of a joint venture or arrangement involving one or more licensees has as its object or effect the coordination of the competitive behaviour of licensees that remain independent, the creation of such joint venture shall be considered as though it were a change of control under this Part and, in making this appraisal, the Office shall take into account in particular —
- (a) whether two or more parent companies retain, to a significant extent, activities in the same market as the joint venture or in a market which is downstream or upstream from that of the joint venture or in a neighbouring market closely related to this market; and
  - (b) whether the coordination which is the direct consequence of the creation of the joint venture affords the undertakings concerned the possibility of eliminating competition in respect of a substantial part of the products or services in question.

### **Media enterprises**

**51.** Section 25A of the *Information and Communications Technology Authority Act (2019 Revision)* shall apply for the purposes of determining whether a change of control shall be deemed to involve a media public interest.

### **Appraisal of change in control**

- 52.** (1) Where the Office, on receiving a notification made under this Part —
- (a) forms an opinion that the proposed change of control would not have adverse effects, the Office shall issue an administrative determination giving consent to the merger; or
  - (b) forms an opinion that the proposed change would have adverse effects, the Office shall by adjudication take one of the following actions —
    - (i) declare the merger incompatible with this Part and deny its consent;

- (ii) give consent subject to an order that the acquirer or the licensee concerned takes the action that the Office considers necessary to eliminate or avoid any such effect; or
  - (iii) give consent without issuing an order under subparagraph (ii) if the Office is satisfied that any substantiated and likely efficiencies put forward by the acquirer or the licensee are necessary and outweigh any potential harm to consumers and citizens.
- (2) The Office shall, before forming any opinion or issuing any adjudication under subsection (1) —
  - (a) give the acquirer, the licensee and any interested persons a reasonable opportunity to make representations; and
  - (b) consider the representations, if any, made under subsection (1)(a).
- (3) The Office shall, by notice in writing, inform the acquirer and the licensee of —
  - (a) the adjudication made under subsection (1); and
  - (b) where adjudication is made under subsection (1)(b)(ii), the action that the Office orders the acquirer or the licensee to take.

### **Fees in respect of merger applications**

- 53.** The Office may require the payment of a prescribed fee in connection with the exercise of the Office's functions —
- (a) in processing an application under this Part; and
  - (b) in making an adjudication and, if applicable, an order under this Part.

### **Timetable for appraisal of changes in control**

- 54.** (1) The Office shall promptly review a notification under this Part and shall within thirty days of receiving a complete notification —
- (a) issue its adjudication under section 52(1); or
  - (b) inform the acquirer and relevant licensees that it is opening an in-depth investigation under subsection (2) of this section.
- (2) The Office may open an in-depth investigation where it considers that there is a significant prospect that the change of control is likely to have adverse effects and the parties have not volunteered any proposals to eliminate the Office's concerns.
- (3) Within ninety days of opening an in-depth investigation under subsection (2), the Office shall issue its adjudication under section 52(1).
- (4) The timetable in this section shall be paused if the Office requests further information from the acquirer or relevant licensee and a complete response is not provided to the Office within twenty-four days of the request; but, from the



date when the Office acknowledges receipt of a complete response to its request, the timetable shall re-start from the place that it was paused.

## PART 9 - Consumer protection

### Industry Codes

- 55.** (1) The Office may authorise industry self-regulatory or co-regulatory bodies to adopt codes of practice concerning the provision of covered services to end-users.
- (2) Any code adopted pursuant to subsection (1) shall comply with any applicable requirements contained in sectoral legislation, and may contain any or all of the following —
- (a) procedures regarding disclosure of the rates, terms and conditions on which a sectoral provider will supply covered services to end-users;
  - (b) quality of service requirements;
  - (c) requirements regarding the accuracy, contents and timeliness of bills for covered services provided to end-users;
  - (d) dispute resolution procedures designed to resolve end-user complaints; and
  - (e) any additional consumer protection requirements.
- (3) In any case in which the Office has delegated to a co-regulatory body the power to adopt a code, the Office may take any or all of the following actions —
- (a) review and, if appropriate, approve any code proposed by the co-regulatory body;
  - (b) review and, if appropriate, approve any modifications to the code;
  - (c) withdraw approval of the code; or
  - (d) give notice that the Office will not approve, or will withdraw its approval, unless the co-regulatory body makes specific modifications to the code.
- (4) The Office shall only approve a code of practice prepared by a co-regulatory body if the Office concludes that the dispute resolution procedures contained in the code —
- (a) are administered by a person who is independent of both the Office and the parties to the dispute;
  - (b) are easy to use and effective;
  - (c) allow end-users who are natural persons to use the procedures free of charge;
  - (d) ensure that all information necessary to resolve the dispute is obtained;

- (e) ensure that disputes are effectively investigated;
  - (f) include provisions conferring power to make awards of appropriate compensation; and
  - (g) provide for review by the Office.
- (5) The Office shall publish in the Official Gazette —
- (a) any code adopted or approved pursuant to subsection (1) or (3);
  - (b) any modification approved pursuant to subsection (3); and
  - (c) any withdrawal of approval of a code pursuant to subsection (3),
- as soon as possible after the code or modification has been adopted or approved or the approval has been withdrawn.

### **Codes adopted by the Office**

56. (1) The Office may adopt, modify or revoke codes specifying the obligations of sectoral providers, or of any category of sectoral provider, in the conduct of their businesses.
- (2) In particular, any code adopted pursuant to this section may contain procedures governing end-user billing practices, including requirements regarding —
- (a) timeliness;
  - (b) clarity;
  - (c) accuracy; and
  - (d) the identification of any dedicated charge.

### **Consumer Codes of Practice**

57. The Office may produce Consumer Codes of Practice which will serve as the minimum guidelines to govern the relationship between the sectoral providers and their customers.

### **Remedies**

58. Notwithstanding section 45, when authorised to do so by sectoral legislation, the Office may impose *ex ante* obligations on a sectoral provider, including incentive-based customer quality of service standards schemes.

### **Handling appeals from customers**

59. (1) The Office shall receive and determine appeals from customers of the sectoral providers in respect of disputes between the customer and the sectoral provider and, in this regard, the parties will be bound by the decision and remedies (if any) determined by the Office.
- (2) The Office will establish and publish the procedures for the handling of such appeals.



## Consumer Councils

60. The Office may appoint and fund the operation of Consumer Councils to advise it on issues of significance to consumers; and the terms of reference, composition and appointment of the Councils shall be at the discretion of the Office.

## PART 10 - Alternative Dispute Resolution

### Alternative dispute resolution schemes

61. (1) The Office may, as soon as reasonably practicable after this section comes into force, establish one or more alternative dispute resolution schemes for disputes between licensees and between licensees and consumers or approve a scheme proposed by licensees under subsection (4).
- (2) In establishing alternative dispute resolution schemes, the Office shall request and take into account proposals from licensees.
- (3) Alternative dispute resolution schemes may be comprised of —
- (a) mediation, whether conducted by the Office, persons appointed by the Office or persons appointed by the parties to a dispute or a third party;
  - (b) arbitration of specific identified matters having limited scope by an expert appointed by the Office or the parties or a third party; or
  - (c) such other methods of alternative dispute resolution as the Office may determine.
- (4) The Office may approve an alternative dispute resolution procedure proposed by licensees if it is —
- (a) fair, transparent and non-discriminatory;
  - (b) administered by persons who are independent of the licensees to whom the alternative dispute resolution scheme applies;
  - (c) administered in compliance with the policy objectives; and
  - (d) designed to ensure that individuals to be employed under the alternative dispute resolution scheme as mediators, adjudicators, arbitrators or such other roles as may be contemplated have qualifications and experience to carry out such functions.
- (5) The Office may require those responsible for the management and operation of an approved alternative dispute resolution scheme to report to the Office regarding its functioning, and it shall withdraw its approval if the alternative dispute resolution scheme ceases to meet any of the conditions in subsection (4).
- (6) An alternative dispute resolution scheme established under subsection (3)(b) may provide for binding decisions, including interim and conservatory measures, and for the payment of costs by the parties to a dispute.

- (7) An alternative dispute resolution scheme established under this section shall not prejudice any rights under any other provision of this Act or any other Law.

## **PART 11 - Promotion of economic development**

### **Duty to promote innovation**

- 62.** The Office shall have a duty to promote innovation within the sectors for which it has responsibility with a view to contributing to national economic competitiveness and development, and in doing so it may —
- (a) through its policies actively facilitate the development and introduction of relevant innovative technologies into the national economy;
  - (b) facilitate and adopt relevant programmes designed to prepare the current and future workforce to meet the needs of the society;
  - (c) leverage the advances in technology in the regulated sectors to advance national policy initiatives to enhance work place productivity and quality of life;
  - (d) design and implement programmes, including dedicated Universal Service funding mechanisms to achieve universal access to infrastructure and services in the sectors for which it has responsibility; and
  - (e) take such other initiatives as it considers to be consistent with its mandate to contribute to national development and economic growth.

### **Duty to promote and facilitate Universal Service**

- 63.** The Office may under this Act or any other Law formulate and implement programmes to achieve universal access to infrastructure and services in the sectors for which it has responsibility; and, in doing so, the Office may —
- (a) subject to sector policy, specify universal services and universal service obligations;
  - (b) provide for sectoral providers to be designated as having universal service obligations; and
  - (c) establish universal service funds which shall include the rules for contributions to and management of the funds, such funds to be managed by and accounted for by the Office.

### **Strategic vision**

- 64.** The Office shall maintain a strategic vision for the sectors for which it has responsibility and when necessary shall make proposals to the Government on changes to national policies.



## PART 12 – Anti-competitive practices

### Interpretation for the purposes of this Part

- 65.** (1) This Part applies to —
- (a) abuse of a dominant position relating to covered services;
  - (b) agreements, decisions and practices relating to covered services;
  - (c) intent or attempts to enter into agreements or practices relating to covered services; and
  - (d) other related agreements, decisions, practices, intent and attempts.
- (2) In this Part —
- “**section 66 prohibition**” means the prohibition specified in section 66; and
- “**section 70 prohibition**” means the prohibition specified in section 70.
- (3) The offences to which sections 72 and 73 relate are the offences set out in Part 16 of this Act.

### Agreements, etc. preventing, restricting or distorting competition

- 66.** (1) Agreements by or between sectoral providers or between one or more sectoral providers and any other person, decisions by sectoral providers or concerted practices which —
- (a) may affect trade in the Islands; and
  - (b) have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition in the markets and sectors for which the Office has responsibility subject to this Act,
- are prohibited.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies, in particular, to agreements, arrangements, decisions or practices which —
- (a) directly or indirectly fix purchase or selling prices or any other trading conditions;
  - (b) limit or control production, markets, technical development or investment;
  - (c) share markets or sources of supply;
  - (d) apply dissimilar conditions to equivalent transactions with other parties, thereby placing them at a competitive disadvantage; or
  - (e) make the conclusion of contracts subject to acceptance by the other parties of supplementary obligations which, by their nature or according to commercial usage, have no connection with the subject of such contracts.
- (3) Subsection (1) applies only if the agreement, arrangement, decision or practice is, or is intended to be, implemented in the Islands or is, or is intended to be,

implemented in such other manner as will affect the operation of any sectoral utility service in the Islands.

- (4) Any agreement, arrangement, or decision which is prohibited by subsection (1) is void.
- (5) A provision of this Part which is expressed to apply to, or in relation to, an agreement is to be read as applying equally to, or in relation to, a decision by a sectoral provider or a concerted practice, but with any necessary modifications unless the context otherwise requires.
- (6) In this section —  
“**the Islands**” means, in relation to an agreement which operates or is intended to operate only in a part of the Islands, that part.

### Individual exemptions

- 67.** (1) The Office may grant an exemption from section 66 with respect to a particular agreement, arrangement, decision or practice if —
- (a) a request for an exemption has been made to the Office by a party to the agreement, arrangement, decision or practice; and
  - (b) the agreement, arrangement, decision or practice is one to which section 68 applies.
- (2) The exemption referred to in subsection (1) may be granted —
- (a) subject to such conditions or obligations; and
  - (b) shall have effect for such period, as the Office considers appropriate.
- (3) The period referred to in subsection (2) shall be specified in the grant of the exemption.
- (4) The Office may grant an exemption which has effect from a date earlier than the date on which it is granted.
- (5) The Office, on an application made in accordance with rules made by the Office, may extend the period for which an exemption has effect; and the extension shall be made subject to such terms and conditions set out in such rules.

### Exemptions

- 68.** The Office may declare provisions of section 66 inapplicable in the case of any agreement, arrangement, decision or practice which —
- (a) contributes to —
    - (i) improving trade, production or distribution; or
    - (ii) promoting technical or economic progress, while allowing subscribers a fair share of the resulting benefit, but
  - (b) does not —





- (i) impose on the parties to the agreement, arrangement, decision or practice restrictions which are not indispensable to the attainment of those objectives; or
- (ii) afford the parties concerned the possibility of eliminating competition in respect of a substantial part of the products in question.

### **Cancellation, etc. of individual exemptions**

- 69.** (1) Where the Office has reasonable grounds for believing that there has been a material change of circumstance since it granted an individual exemption, it may by notice in writing —
- (a) cancel the exemption;
  - (b) vary or remove any condition or obligation; or
  - (c) impose additional terms, conditions or obligations.
- (2) Where the Office has reasonable grounds for believing that the information on which it based its decision to grant an individual exemption was incomplete, false or misleading in a material particular, it may, by notice in writing, take any of the steps mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) Where a term, condition or requirement of an exemption has been breached, the Office may, in its sole discretion, cancel the exemption.
- (4) The Office may, by notice in writing, take a step under subsection (1) where it has reasonable grounds for believing there has been failure to comply with a term, condition or requirement of an exemption.
- (5) Any step taken by the Office under subsection (1), (2) or (4) has effect from such time as may be specified in the notice.
- (6) Where an exemption is cancelled under subsection (2) or (4), the date specified in the notice cancelling it may be earlier than the date on which the notice is given.
- (7) The Office may act under subsection (1), (2) or (4) on its own initiative or on a complaint made by any person.

### **Abuse of dominant position**

- 70.** (1) Any conduct on the part of one or more sectoral providers which amounts to the abuse of a dominant position in a market or sector for which the Office has responsibility is prohibited but an authorisation holder shall be entitled to protect its legitimate business interests subject to this Act and any other relevant Law.
- (2) The conduct referred to in subsection (1) may, in particular, constitute such an abuse if it consists in —

- (a) directly or indirectly imposing unfair purchase or selling prices or other unfair trading conditions;
  - (b) limiting production, markets or technical development to the prejudice of subscribers;
  - (c) applying dissimilar conditions to equivalent transactions with other parties, thereby placing them at a competitive disadvantage, unless otherwise approved or exempted by the Office;
  - (d) making the conclusion of contracts subject to acceptance by the other parties of supplementary obligations which, by their nature or according to commercial usage, have no connection with the subject of the contracts; and
  - (e) using revenues attributed to a particular service or activity to cross subsidise unfairly or affect competition for another service or activity.
- (3) A sectoral provider which is in a dominant position shall be deemed to have significant market power.
- (4) In this section —
- “dominant position”** means a dominant position within the Islands.

### Office’s power to investigate

71. Without limiting the generality of section 6(2)(q), the Office may conduct an investigation under this Part, on application by any party or on its own initiative, if there are reasonable grounds for believing —
- (a) that the section 66 prohibition has been infringed; or
  - (b) that the section 70 prohibition has been infringed.

### Powers when conducting investigations

72. (1) For the purposes of an investigation under section 71, the Office may, by notice in writing, require any person to produce to it a specified document, or to provide it with specified information, which it considers relates to any matter relevant to the investigation.
- (2) A notice under subsection (1) shall indicate —
- (a) the subject matter and purpose of the investigation; and
  - (b) the nature of the alleged offence to which the investigation relates.
- (3) In subsection (1) —
- “specified”** means —
- (a) specified, or described, in the notice; or
  - (b) falling within a category which is specified, or described, in the notice.
- (4) The Office may also specify in the notice —



- (a) the time and place at which any document is to be produced or any information is to be provided; and
  - (b) the manner and form in which the document is to be produced or the information is to be provided.
- (5) The power under this section to require a person to produce a document includes a power —
- (a) where the document is produced —
    - (i) to take copies of it or extracts from it; and
    - (ii) to require that person or anyone who is a present or past officer or employee of that person, to provide an explanation of the document; or
  - (b) where the document is not produced, to require the person to verify by affidavit, or state on oath, where, to the best of that person’s knowledge, information and belief, the document is or may be found.

### **Power to enter premises under a warrant**

- 73.** (1) On an application made by the Office to the Court in accordance with rules of court, a judge may issue a warrant if the judge is satisfied that —
- (a) there are reasonable grounds for believing that there are, on any premises, documents or information —
    - (i) the production of which has been required under section 72; and
    - (ii) which have not been produced as required; or
  - (b) there are reasonable grounds for believing that —
    - (i) there are on any premises documents or information which the Office has power under section 72 to require to be produced; and
    - (ii) if the documents or information were required to be produced, they would not be produced but would be concealed, removed, tampered with or destroyed.
- (2) A warrant under this section shall authorise a named officer of the Office, and any other officers of the Office or other person or persons whose assistance the named officer considers reasonably necessary in the circumstances —
- (a) to enter the premises specified in the warrant, using such force as is reasonably necessary for the purpose;
  - (b) to search the premises and take copies of, or extracts from, any document appearing to be of a kind in respect of which the application under subsection (1) was granted (in this Part referred to as “the relevant kind”);
  - (c) to take possession of any documents appearing to be of the relevant kind if —

- (i) such action appears to be necessary for preserving the documents or preventing interference with them; or
    - (ii) it is not reasonably practicable to take copies of the documents on the premises;
  - (d) to take any other steps which appear to be necessary for the purpose mentioned in paragraph (c)(i);
  - (e) to require any person to provide an explanation of any document appearing to be of the relevant kind or to verify by affidavit, or state on oath, where to the best of that person's knowledge, information and belief the document is or may be found; and
  - (f) to require any information which is held in a computer and is accessible from the premises and which the named officer considers relates to any matter relevant to the investigation, to be produced in a form in which it can be taken away, and in which it is visible and legible.
- (3) Where, in the case of a warrant under subsection (1)(b), the judge is satisfied that it is reasonable to believe that there are also on the premises other documents relating to the investigation concerned, the warrant shall also authorise action under subsection (2) that the judge considers necessary to be taken in relation to any such document.
- (4) Any person entering premises by virtue of a warrant under this section may take such equipment and materials as appears to that person to be necessary.
- (5) The named officer, on leaving any premises which the named officer has entered by virtue of a warrant under this section, shall, if the premises are unoccupied or the occupier is temporarily absent, leave the premises as effectively secured as the named officer found them.
- (6) A warrant under this section continues in force until the end of the period of twenty-eight days beginning with the day on which it is issued.
- (7) Any document of which possession is taken under subsection (2)(c) may be retained for a period of three months; and where no action is taken by the Office in respect of an offence relating to the document within three months after seizure under this Act, or, if action is taken but no decision relating to forfeiture is made, the document shall be returned by the Office to the person from whom it is seized.

### **Entry of premises under warrant: supplementary**

- 74.** (1) A warrant issued under section 73 shall indicate —
- (a) the subject matter and purpose of the investigation; and
  - (b) the nature of the offence to which the warrant relates.
- (2) The powers conferred by section 73 shall only be exercised on production of a warrant issued under that section.



- (3) Where there is no one at the premises when the named officer proposes to execute such a warrant, the named officer shall, before executing the warrant —
  - (a) take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to inform the occupier of the intended entry; and
  - (b) if the occupier is informed, afford the occupier or the occupier’s legal or other representative a reasonable opportunity to be present when the warrant is executed.
- (4) Where the named officer is unable to inform the occupier of the intended entry the named officer shall, when executing the warrant, leave a copy of it in a prominent place on the premises as well as a written notice showing the date and time of the execution of the warrant and the address of the Office to which enquiries may be made.
- (5) In this section —

“**named officer**” means the principal officer of the Office named in the warrant; and

“**occupier**”, in relation to any premises, means a person whom the named officer reasonably believes is the occupier of those premises.

### **Decisions following an investigation**

- 75.** (1) Subsection (2) applies where, as the result of an investigation conducted under section 71, the Office proposes to make —
- (a) a decision that the section 66 prohibition has been infringed, or
  - (b) a decision that the section 70 prohibition has been infringed.
- (2) Before making the decision, the Office shall —
- (a) give written notice to any person likely to be affected by the proposed decision; and
  - (b) afford that person an opportunity to make written representations to show cause why the Office ought not to make such a decision.

### **Directions in relation to agreements**

- 76.** (1) Where the Office has made a decision that an agreement, arrangement or practice infringes the section 66 prohibition, it may give to such person as it considers appropriate such written directions as it considers necessary to bring the infringement to an end.
- (2) A direction under this section may, in particular, include provision requiring the parties to the agreement, arrangement or practice to modify the agreement or requiring them to terminate the agreement.

**Directions in relation to conduct**

- 77.** (1) Where the Office has made a decision that conduct infringes the section 70 prohibition, it may give to such person or persons as it considers necessary such written directions as it considers necessary to bring the infringement to an end.
- (2) A direction under this section may, in particular, include provisions requiring the person concerned to modify the conduct in question or requiring the person to cease that conduct.

**Enforcement of directions**

- 78.** (1) Where a person fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with a direction under section 76 or 77, the Office may apply to the court for an order —
- (a) requiring the person in default to comply with the direction within a time specified in the order; or
- (b) if the direction related to anything to be done in the management or administration of a sectoral provider, requiring the sectoral provider or any of its officers to do it.
- (2) An order of the court under subsection (1) may provide for all of the costs of, or incidental to, the application for the order to be borne by the person in default or any officer of an undertaking who is responsible for the default.

**Interim measures**

- 79.** (1) This section applies where the Office —
- (a) has grounds for believing that the section 66 prohibition has been infringed; or
- (b) has grounds for believing that the section 70 prohibition has been infringed,
- but has not completed its investigation into the matter.
- (2) Where the Office considers that it is necessary for it to act under this section as a matter of urgency for the purpose —
- (a) of preventing serious, irreparable damage to a particular person or category of person; or
- (b) of protecting the public interest or security interests of the Islands,
- it may give such directives as it considers necessary for that purpose without first giving notice to the person to whom the directive is issued.
- (3) In all other cases, the Office shall, before giving a direction under this section —
- (a) give written notice to any person to whom it proposes to give the direction; and
- (b) afford that person an opportunity to make oral or written representations to show cause why the Office ought not to give such a direction.



- (4) A subsequent notice under subsection (2) and any advance notice under subsection (3) shall indicate the nature of the direction which the Office is proposing to give and its reasons therefor.
- (5) A direction given under this section has effect while subsection (1) applies, but may be replaced, if the circumstances permit, by a direction under section 76 or, as appropriate, section 77.
- (6) In any case where the section 66 prohibition is believed to have been infringed, sections 76(1) and 78 also apply to directives given under this section.
- (7) In any case where the section 70 prohibition is believed to have been infringed, sections 77(1) and 78 also apply to directives given under this section.

### **Penalties for infringing section 66 or 70 prohibitions**

- 80.** (1) Where the Office has decided that an agreement has infringed either or both of the section 66 or section 70 prohibition, the Office shall give to the sectoral provider or the undertaking involved notice in writing of the decision and the Office's reasons for the decision and shall invite the sectoral provider or the undertaking to show cause why the Office should not proceed to act on its decision.
- (2) A notice to show cause shall state that, within fourteen days of service, the sectoral provider or the undertaking on whom it is served may make representations in writing or otherwise show cause to the Office concerning the matter, and the Office shall not determine the matter without considering any submissions or representations received within that period of fourteen days.
  - (3) Where, after hearing representations under subsection (2), the Office is of the opinion that its decision is correct, it shall so notify the sectoral provider or the undertaking as soon as possible and, in the case of an infringement of a section 66 prohibition or section 70 prohibition, the Office —
    - (a) may require the sectoral provider or undertaking to pay a penalty in respect of the infringement; and
    - (b) may suspend or revoke any authorisation issued to the sectoral provider.
  - (4) The Office may impose a penalty on a sectoral provider or an undertaking under subsection (3) only if it is satisfied that the infringement has been committed intentionally or negligently by the undertaking.
  - (5) Notice of a penalty under this section shall be in writing and shall specify the date before which the penalty is required to be paid.
  - (6) The date specified under subsection (5) shall not be earlier than the end of the period within which an appeal against the notice may be brought.
  - (7) A penalty fixed by the Office under this section in respect of any single infraction of section 66 or 70 by a sectoral provider or undertaking shall not exceed three million dollars.

- (8) Any sums received by the Office under this section shall be paid into the reserve fund.

### Recovery of penalties

- 81.** (1) Where the specified date in a penalty notice has passed and —
- (a) the period during which an appeal against the imposition, or amount, of the penalty may be made has expired without an appeal having been made; or
  - (b) such an appeal has been made and determined,
- the Office may recover from the undertaking, as a civil debt due to it, any amount payable under the penalty notice which remains outstanding.
- (2) In this section —
- “**penalty notice**” means a notice given under section 80; and
- “**specified date**” means the date specified in the penalty notice.

### Appropriate level of a penalty

- 82.** (1) The Office, with the approval of the Cabinet, may prepare and publish rules providing for the appropriate amount of any penalty under this Part and the Office, with the approval of the Cabinet, may amend the rules.
- (2) The Office shall also consult with such persons as it considers appropriate when making or amending rules under this section.
- (3) The Office, when setting the amount of a penalty under this Part, shall have regard to the rules for the time being in force under this section.

### Agreements notified to Office

- 83.** (1) This section applies to any period of time prior to a person entering into an agreement where that person is of the opinion that the agreement may infringe the section 66 prohibition and the person has notified the Office of the intended agreement and has requested a decision as to whether an exemption can be granted with respect to the intended agreement.
- (2) The Office may not impose a penalty under this Part in respect of any infringement of the section 66 prohibition after notification but before the Office determines whether an exemption shall be granted.
- (3) Where the Office determines not to grant an exemption with respect to the intended or completed agreement, subsection (2) ceases to apply from the date on which that determination has been made and notified to the applicant.
- (4) The fact that an intended agreement has been notified to the Office does not prevent the investigation of it under this Part.





## PART 13 - Discontinuation of activities

### Cease and desist orders

- 84.** (1) Where the Office is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that any conduct specified in subsection (2) is being carried out by any person, the Office may issue a cease and desist order to the person concerned.
- (2) The conduct referred to in subsection (1) includes any operations in contravention of this Act, the regulations or sectoral legislation.
- (3) An order under subsection (1) shall —
- (a) state the nature of the alleged conduct and the name of the person against whom the allegation is made; and
- (b) be accompanied by documents, if any, in support of the allegation.
- (4) Any person aggrieved by, or dissatisfied with, the order of the Office may, within twenty-one days of the communication of the order to the person, or such longer period as the Office may, for good cause shown, allow, apply to the Office in writing for its decision to be reviewed.
- (5) On receipt of the application for review, the Office shall, if the applicant has applied to be heard personally or by a representative, decide whether the applicant shall be so heard and, if it is so decided, fix a time and a date for such hearing and notify the applicant.
- (6) At every hearing of a review where the applicant or the applicant's representative is present, the applicant or the applicant's representative shall be given an opportunity to address the Office.
- (7) The decision of the Office shall be notified to the applicant with the least possible delay.

### Application for enforcement

- 85.** Where the Court is satisfied on an application by the Office that a licensee —
- (a) has failed to comply with any term or conditions of the licence;
- (b) has failed to comply with an order made under section 84; or
- (c) has contravened this Act, the regulations or sectoral legislation,
- the Court may exercise any of the powers specified in section 86.

### Powers of Court

- 86.** (1) The Court may, under an application under section 85 —
- (a) order the offending licensee to pay to the Government such pecuniary penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in the case of an individual and not exceeding one million dollars in the case of any other person;

- (b) grant an injunction restraining the offending licensee from engaging in conduct described in section 85; or
  - (c) make such other order as the Court thinks fit,
- in respect of each contravention or failure specified in that section.
- (2) In exercising its powers under this section, the Court shall have regard to —
- (a) the nature and extent of the conduct giving rise to the application;
  - (b) the nature and extent of any loss suffered by a person as a result of the alleged contravention;
  - (c) the circumstances of the alleged contravention; and
  - (d) any previous determination against the licensee concerned.

### **Directions for immediate discontinuation of activity**

**87.** (1) Subject to subsection (2), where the Office is satisfied that action is necessary to —

- (a) protect public health, safety or the environment;
- (b) protect the continuity of supply of essential services;
- (c) protect the interests of other licensees;
- (d) prevent a licensee from contravening or attempting to contravene a term, condition or requirement of its licence or a provision of this Act or any other Law; or
- (e) prevent dissipation of the assets of a licensee other than in the ordinary course of business,

the Office may, by notice in writing, direct the licensee concerned to immediately discontinue or refrain from a practice or to do or perform such act or thing as may be specified in the notice or procure that such act or thing be done.

- (2) Nothing in this section shall permit the Office to give directives to a licensee demanding compliance with —
- (a) the *National Pensions Act (2024 Revision)*;
  - (b) the *Health Insurance Act (2021 Revision)*;
  - (c) the *Workmen's Compensation Act (1996 Revision)*;
  - (d) the health and safety provisions of the *Labour Act (2021 Revision)*; or
  - (e) matters relating to an industrial dispute.
- (3) Subject to section 88, a licensee who fails or refuses to immediately discontinue or refrain from a practice specified in a notice issued under subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable —
- (a) on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars; or



- (b) on conviction on indictment to a fine of one hundred thousand dollars, and one thousand dollars for each day that the offence continues after the date it first occurred.

### **Matters to be included in directions**

- 88.** (1) The notice referred to in section 87 shall —
- (a) specify the term, condition or requirement which the Office considers that the licensee may be contravening or may be likely to contravene;
  - (b) specify the licensee’s acts or omissions which, in the opinion of the Office, may constitute or would be likely to constitute contravention of the term, condition or requirement concerned;
  - (c) contain a directive to the licensee to —
    - (i) immediately discontinue or refrain from any practice specified in the said notice; or
    - (ii) do or perform such act or thing as may be specified in the notice or procure that any such act or thing be done, and where appropriate, take such remedial action as the Office may reasonably require to cure the contravention or prevent its repetition; and
  - (d) specify the penalty for failure to comply with the notice and the period, being not less than fourteen days from the date of the notice, within which representations or objections regarding the matters contained in the notice may be made by the licensee.
- (2) The Office may —
- (a) after consideration of representations or objections made under subsection (1)(d); or
  - (b) at any time by its own motion, suspend, amend, modify or revoke a direction given under section 87.

### **Compliance with directions**

- 89.** In order to ensure compliance with a direction given under section 87, the Office may apply in a summary manner *ex parte* or on notice to the Court for an order requiring a licensee who, in the opinion of the Office, has not complied with the relevant notice to do all necessary things to comply with the notice or to refrain from practices as specified in the notice.

### **Powers of Court in respect of directions**

- 90.** The Court may confirm, revoke or vary a direction made by the Office and shall have such powers as are necessary to enforce such orders as the Court may make under section 89.

## PART 14 - Administrative fines

### Administrative fines

91. (1) Where the Office is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that a licensee may have failed to comply with or contravened one or more terms, conditions, specifications or requirements of any licence, order, directive, rule or regulation, the Office shall —
- (a) notify the licensee in writing, stating the nature of such suspected failure to comply or contravention and of the Office's intention to make a determination in respect of any such suspected failure to comply or contravention; and
  - (b) provide to the licensee documents, if any, in support of the suspected failure or contravention.
- (2) A notice under subsection (1) shall be sent by post and shall be deemed to have been communicated to the licensee at the time it would have been received in the ordinary course of post.
- (3) A licensee notified in accordance with subsection (1) may, within twenty-one days of the date of the notice, provide to the Office a written response in respect of any such suspected failure to comply or such contravention, and shall also provide any other documentation which the licensee wishes the Office to consider in making any determination in relation to any suspected failure to comply or contravention.
- (4) A licensee, in any response submitted to the Office as specified in subsection (3), may request that the Office hear the licensee in person or through a representative and, if so requested, the Office may in its discretion allow such request.
- (5) Any document which the licensee wishes the Office to consider at a hearing shall be submitted within the time permitted in subsection (3).
- (6) Where a licensee, notified as specified in subsection (1), makes no submission as specified in subsection (3) in respect of a suspected failure to comply or contravention, then the licensee shall be considered by the Office to have no evidence to refute the allegation of failure to comply or the contravention.
- (7) Where the Office has decided to hold a hearing, it shall hold such hearing within twenty-one days next following the twenty-one day period set out in subsection (3) and in accordance with such procedure as it may determine.
- (8) At every hearing under this section where the licensee or the licensee's representative is present, the licensee or the licensee's representative shall be given an opportunity to address the Office.
- (9) After any hearing under this section, the Office shall set out its findings in writing and shall make a determination in regard to any suspected failure to



comply or contravention as specified in subsection (1), and where the Office determines that a licensee has failed to comply with or contravened any term, condition, specification or requirement of any licence, order, directive, rule or regulation, the Office may consider the nature, circumstances and any actual or potential consequences of any such failure to comply or contravention by the licensee as well as any prior determinations in respect of that licensee by the Office, and may issue a warning or impose a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars in respect of each such failure to comply or contravention and twenty-five thousand dollars for each day that the failure or contravention occurs.

- (10) The Office shall notify the licensee of its findings and determinations and any fine or warning within twenty-one days of its determination and, following the period provided for an appeal as specified in subsection (11), may cause its findings and any warning and the quantum of any fine imposed to be published in any manner and in its discretion.
- (11) An appeal against a determination of the Office made under subsection (9) shall be made to the Court within twenty-eight days next following the date of the notification made under subsection (10); and an appeal may be made on one or more of the following grounds —
  - (a) erroneous in law;
  - (b) unreasonable;
  - (c) contrary to the principles of natural justice; or
  - (d) not proportionate.
- (12) Any notification of a fine under subsection (10) shall be deemed to also be notice of an intention to suspend any and all licences of the licensee at the expiration of the twenty-eight days next following notification as specified in subsection (10), and any fine imposed by the Office shall be paid in full by the licensee within that same twenty-eight days of notification.
- (13) Any failure to pay any fine imposed by the Office within the period specified in subsection (12) shall be deemed to be a contravention of this Act and shall be deemed to be sufficient grounds for the suspension of any and all licences of the licensee by the Office under relevant sectoral legislation.
- (14) Representatives appearing on behalf of a licensee do not need to be persons having legal qualifications.
- (15) The power to impose fines under this Part is in addition to or an alternative to any other penalty or remedy provided under this Act.

## Part 15 – Review of Determinations of the Office

### Review of Office’s determinations

92. A person affected by an administrative determination of the Office may, within forty-five days of the administrative determination, appeal to the Grand Court by way of judicial review of the administrative determination.

## PART 16 - Offences

### Powers of summary court

93. Notwithstanding sections 6(2) and 8 of the *Criminal Procedure Code (2021 Revision)*, a court of summary jurisdiction may pass any sentence which it is authorised by this Act to pass.

### Failure to obtain required authorisation

94. Unless sectoral legislation provides otherwise, any sectoral participant that knowingly provides a service for which a licence, permit or other authorisation is required pursuant to sectoral legislation and fails to obtain the required licence, permit or authorisation commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of two years, or to both.

### Failure to comply with a direction of the Office

95. Any sectoral participant that knowingly refuses or fails to comply with a direction issued to it by the Office directing the sectoral participant to comply with its duties and obligations under this Act, the regulations or any sectoral legislation, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars for each day during which the refusal or failure continues.

### Failure to pay penalty for contravention of information requirement

96. A penalty imposed on a person under section 11 shall be paid to the Office and, if the person fails to pay the penalty within the period fixed by the Office, the person commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of two years, or to both.

### Failure to comply with statutory duties or regulations

97. Any sectoral participant that knowingly contravenes a statutory duty contained in this Act, the regulations or any sectoral legislation, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of two years, or to both.



**Failure to comply with administrative determinations**

**98.** Any sectoral participant that knowingly fails to comply with any administrative determination commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of two years, or to both.

**Obstruction of the Office**

**99.** Any person who wilfully obstructs, or knowingly fails to comply with a reasonable request for information by any Member or any member of the staff in the exercise of any function conferred by this Act or by sectoral legislation commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of six months, or to both.

**Unauthorised disclosure of confidential information**

**100.** Any person who knowingly reveals or in any manner communicates to any other person, except as authorised or required by this Act or any sectoral legislation, any information for which the Office has granted confidential treatment commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of six months, or to both.

**Liability where offence committed by corporation**

- 101.** (1) Where a body corporate commits an offence under this Act, the regulations or sectoral legislation, every director or other officer concerned in the management of the body corporate commits that offence unless the director or other officer proves that the offence was committed without the consent or connivance of the director or other officer or that the director or other officer exercised reasonable diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.
- (2) In subsection (1), “**director**”, in relation to a body corporate whose affairs are managed by its members, means a member of the body corporate.

**Liability where offence committed by unincorporated entity**

- 102.** (1) Where a person that is a partnership commits an offence under this Act, the regulations or sectoral legislation, every partner, other than a partner who is proved to have been ignorant of or to have attempted to prevent the commission of the offence, commits the offence and is liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.
- (2) Where any other association, incorporated or not, commits an offence under this Act, the regulations or sectoral legislation —
- (a) every officer of the association who is bound to fulfil any duty of which the breach is the offence; or
  - (b) if there is no such officer, every member of the governing body other than a member who is proved to have been ignorant of or to have attempted to prevent the commission of the offence,

commits the offence and is liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

### **Repeat offences**

**103.** Any penalty provided for in this Part —

- (a) may be doubled where the party has been convicted of the same offence on one previous occasion; and
- (b) may be trebled where the party has been convicted of the same offence on more than one previous occasion.

## **PART 17 - Miscellaneous provisions**

### **Initial funding**

- 104.** (1) The Office may apply to the Cabinet for a loan from the Government not exceeding one million dollars in order to carry out its functions and exercise its powers prior to the Office collecting any funding under this Act.
- (2) Any loan made under subsection (1) shall be on such terms as the Cabinet may specify and shall be repaid by the Office within three years.

### **Appointment of first Board and first Chief Executive Officer**

- 105.** (1) On the date of commencement of this section, the Cabinet shall appoint the non-executive member who shall be the first Chair of the Board, and the first Chair shall serve an initial term of three years.
- (2) The Cabinet shall appoint the remaining four non-executive members of the first Board in accordance with the procedure set out in this Act and two such non-executive members shall serve an initial term of two years and the other two non-executive members shall serve an initial term of four years.
- (3) The first Chair shall be eligible to be reappointed for a second term, upon expiry of the initial term, in accordance with the provisions of Part 3.
- (4) The remaining non-executive members of the first Board shall each be eligible for reappointment for a second term, upon expiry of their initial term, in accordance with Part 3.
- (5) On the date of commencement of this section, the Cabinet shall appoint the individual who shall be the first Chief Executive Officer, and the first Chief Executive Officer shall serve an initial term of three years or such lesser period as may be agreed by the Cabinet and the individual.
- (6) The first Chief Executive Officer shall be eligible to be reappointed for a second term, upon expiry of the initial term, in accordance with the provisions of Part 3.





**Conflict of interest**

- 106.** (1) A conflict of interest shall be deemed to exist in any case in which a member of the Board or a member of the staff of the Office, participates in a decision-making or advisory capacity in any regulatory proceeding that concerns —
- (a) a business in which that person, or that person’s spouse, parent or child, is a member, shareholder or employee or has any personal or pecuniary interest, direct or indirect; or
  - (b) any other matter in which the person’s private interest may reasonably be perceived as conflicting with the person’s official duties.
- (2) In any case in which a conflict of interest exists, the member of the Board or the member of the staff of the Office who has the conflict shall not participate in a decision-making or advisory capacity in the regulatory proceeding.
  - (3) The Chair shall take all reasonable actions to ensure that no member of the Board contravenes the prohibition contained in subsection (2).
  - (4) The Chief Executive Officer shall take all reasonable actions to ensure that no member of the staff contravenes the prohibition contained in subsection (2).
  - (5) In any case in which a member of the Board is disqualified from participating in any regulatory proceeding pursuant to subsection (2), the Board shall be deemed to be properly constituted notwithstanding the vacancy.
  - (6) Each member of the Board and each member of the staff shall submit an annual written declaration to the Secretary stating whether the member, or the member’s spouse, parent or child, has any direct or indirect financial interest in any sectoral provider or in any other person who has or may directly benefit from any regulations, or from any administrative determination made by the Office, and the Secretary shall submit such a declaration to the Board.
  - (7) The Board shall retain the declaration forms submitted pursuant to subsection (6) for not less than three years, and shall provide a copy of any declaration, to any person, on request.
  - (8) The members of the Board and the staff shall not accept any gift or gratuity, either directly or indirectly, from any sectoral provider or from any other person who has or may directly benefit from any regulations, or from any administrative determination made by the Office, unless the Office has granted a waiver pursuant to subsection (10).
  - (9) Contravention of either of the prohibitions contained in subsection (2) or (8) shall provide a basis for removal of a member of the Board or dismissal of a member of the staff.
  - (10) The Office shall make rules specifying the circumstances and the procedures by which a member of the Board or member of the staff may be granted a waiver of the prohibition contained in subsection (8).

## Confidentiality

- 107.** (1) Subject to subsection (9), the Office shall not be required to publish or otherwise divulge information which is given in confidence to the Office and which, in the case of a document, is marked “Confidential” by the person giving the document.
- (2) Any person submitting information to the Office may request that the Office treat such information as confidential.
- (3) The Office shall grant a request to treat information as confidential if the Office concludes that the information is —
- (a) a trade secret of any person;
  - (b) information, the commercial value of which would be, or could reasonably be expected to be, destroyed or diminished by disclosure;
  - (c) other information, the disclosure of which would have, or could reasonably be expected to have, an adverse effect on the commercial interests of any person to whom the information relates;
  - (d) information —
    - (i) that is given to the Office by a third party (other than another sectoral utility) in confidence on the understanding that it would be treated as confidential; and
    - (ii) the disclosure of which would be likely to prevent the Office from receiving further similar information required by the Office to properly fulfil its functions; or
  - (e) information, the disclosure of which would constitute a breach of a duty of confidence provided for by a provision of a Law.
- (4) A person claiming confidentiality in respect of any information submitted to the Office shall provide —
- (a) a full justification for its claim; and
  - (b) a version of such information without the confidential provisions and in a form that may be made available to the public.
- (5) Following receipt of any information submitted subject to a request for confidential treatment, the Office shall issue a decision as to whether the justification offered by the submitting party meets the standard for confidential treatment specified in subsection (3).
- (6) If the Office concludes that the justification offered by the submitting party meets the standard for confidential treatment, the Office shall issue an order granting the request.
- (7) In any case in which the Office grants a request for confidential treatment, the information may only be disclosed —



- (a) to the Minister;
  - (b) to the Minister responsible for the sector to which the confidential information is relevant;
  - (c) to the Members;
  - (d) to the staff;
  - (e) to a court; or
  - (f) where necessary to conduct a public consultation, to specific parties pursuant to a non-disclosure agreement.
- (8) If the Office concludes that the justification offered by the submitting party does not meet the standard for confidential treatment, the Office shall —
- (a) issue an order denying the request; and
  - (b) either —
    - (i) return the information to the submitting party, in which case the Office shall not consider or rely on the information; or
    - (ii) after providing the submitting party with notice and an opportunity to comment, disclose the information, if doing so would be in the public interest.
- (9) Nothing in this Act, any sectoral legislation or the regulations shall limit the Office's duty to provide information to a court.
- (10) Nothing in this Act or the regulations shall require a person to produce or disclose a communication —
- (a) which is —
    - (i) between a professional legal adviser and the professional legal adviser's client; or
    - (ii) made in connection with, or in contemplation of, legal proceedings and for the purposes of those proceedings; and
  - (b) which in proceedings in a court would be protected from disclosure on grounds of legal professional privilege.

### **Unauthorised disclosure of confidential information**

**108.** A Minister, the Members and the members of the staff shall not reveal or in any manner communicate to any other person, except as authorised or required by Law, any information for which the Office has granted confidential treatment.

### **Immunity**

**109.** Neither the Office, a member of the Office, the Board, a member of the Board, an executive member, a member of the staff, nor the Secretary, shall be liable in damages for anything done or omitted in the discharge of their respective functions or duties unless it is shown that the act or omission was negligent or in bad faith.

## Indemnity

**110.** The Government shall indemnify a member of the Office, a member of the Board, an executive member, a member of the staff, and the Secretary against all claims, damages, costs, charges or expenses incurred by those respective persons in the discharge or purported discharge of their functions and powers under this Act, except claims, damages, costs, charges or expenses caused by the bad faith of those persons.

## Regulations

- 111.** (1) The Cabinet may make regulations for the better carrying out of this Act and for giving effect thereto and in particular —
- (a) for prescribing the form of any document authorised or required by this Act to be served, made, issued or done;
  - (b) for any purpose for which regulations are authorised or required to be made under this Act and for prescribing anything that by this Act is required or authorised to be prescribed by regulations;
  - (c) for empowering such persons as may be specified in the regulations to administer or execute the regulations and to make orders, impose requirements or give directions for the purposes of the regulations;
  - (d) for empowering such persons as may be specified in the regulations to take measures, including the entry and inspection of any land or building, to secure compliance with the regulations or any order, requirement or direction made, imposed or given thereunder; and for enabling such persons to recover expenses incurred by them in the exercise of any such power; and
  - (e) for the review of decisions given under the Regulations.
- (2) The Office may make regulations relating to —
- (a) licence fees;
  - (b) infrastructure sharing;
  - (c) radio and television content obligations;
  - (d) the numbering system; and
  - (e) quality standards,
- and the Office shall consult with the Minister before making such regulations.
- (3) Without prejudice to the power of the Office to impose a fine under section 91(9), any regulation made under this Act may provide for the imposition of a fine of five thousand dollars and imprisonment for six months or both, for any contravention of, or failure to comply with, such regulation.

## Amendment of Schedules

**112.** The Cabinet may, by Order, amend Schedule 1 or Schedule 2.



**Transitional provisions**

**113.** Where, immediately prior to the date of commencement of the *Utility Regulation and Competition Act, 2016 [Law 49 of 2016]*, a licensee held a licence which contained a waiver similar to that which is contained in section 46(5), the waiver shall be deemed to be a waiver granted by the Office under section 46(5) and shall continue in force subject to the conditions contained in the original waiver.

**Validation**

- 114.** (1) Notwithstanding the commencement of the *Public Authorities Act, 2017 [Law 21 of 2017]*, the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Directors under sections 28 and 29 prior to the commencement of the *Utility Regulation and Competition (Amendment) Act, 2018 [Law 5 of 2018]* shall be valid and shall continue.
- (2) Any acts, decisions or proceedings of the Board that were carried out prior to the commencement of the *Utility Regulation and Competition (Amendment) Act, 2018 [Law 5 of 2018]* shall not be invalid by reason only of those acts, decisions or proceedings being inconsistent with the *Public Authorities Act, 2017 [Law 21 of 2017]*.



## **SCHEDULE 1**

*(sections 6 and 112)*

### **MARKETS AND SECTORS FOR WHICH THE OFFICE HAS RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Electricity markets, including the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity;
2. Fuels markets;
3. Information and Communications Technology markets, including broadcasting and content services; and
4. Water sector, including the production, distribution, supply and treatment of water.

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## SCHEDULE 2

(sections 2 and 112)

### SECTORAL LEGISLATION

For the purposes of this Act, “**sectoral legislation**” means the following Acts and any regulations made under them —

The *Dangerous Substances Act (2017 Revision)*

The *Electricity Act (2008 Revision)*

The *Electricity Sector Regulation Act (2019 Revision)*

The *Electronic Transactions Act (2003 Revision)*

The *Fuel Market Regulation Act, 2017 [Law 20 of 2017]*

The *Information and Communications Technology Authority Act (2019 Revision)*

The *Wastewater Collection and Treatment Act (2019 Revision)*

The *Water Authority Act (2022 Revision)*

The *Water (Production and Supply) Act (2018 Revision)*

The *Water Sector Regulation Act (2019 Revision)*

**Publication in consolidated and revised form authorised by the Cabinet this 30th day of January, 2024.**

**Kim Bullings**  
*Clerk of the Cabinet*





## ENDNOTES

### Table of Legislation History:

SL #	Act/Law #	Legislation	Commencement	Gazette
	18/2022	Utility Regulation and Competition (Amendment) Act, 2022	29-Dec-2022	LG52/2022/s4
		<b>Utility Regulation and Competition Act (2021 Revision)</b>	26-Feb-2021	LG19/2021/s4
	56/2020	Citation of Acts of Parliament Act, 2020	3-Dec-2020	LG89/2020/s1
113/2020		Utility Regulation and Competition (Amendment) Law, 2018 (Commencement) Order, 2020	20-Aug-2020	LG60/2020/s1
	5/2018	Utility Regulation and Competition (Amendment) Law, 2018	1-Sep-2020	G17/2018/s4
		<b>Utility Regulation and Competition Law (2019 Revision)</b>	21-Feb-2019	LG4/2019/s11
		<b>Utility Regulation and Competition Law (2018 Revision)</b>	28-Mar-2018	GE26/2018/s6
83/2017		Utility Regulation and Competition (Amendment of Schedule 1) Order, 2017	27-Oct-2017	GE91/2017/s2
32/2017		Utility Regulation and Competition (Amendment) Law, 2017 (Commencement) Order, 2017	22-May-2017	G11/2017/s4
	15/2017	Utility Regulation and Competition (Amendment) Law, 2017	22-May-2017	GE39/2017/s1
4/2017		Utility Regulation and Competition Law, 2016 (Commencement) Order, 2017	13-Jan-2017	GE4/2017/s1
	49/2016	Utility Regulation and Competition Law, 2016	16-Jan-2017	G26/2016/s3





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