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ENERGY REGULATOR MOVES TO NEW OFFICES IN GLASGOW

The energy regulator, Ofgem, today (Wednesday) underlined its commitment to Scotland when it officially moved into new, custom-built offices in Glasgow.

The move confirms 18 jobs, with the potential for further expansion in future, following a major restructuring of the regulator to meet the challenge of helping to deliver a low carbon economy.

The restructure has also recognised the specific energy challenges faced in Scotland and the importance of working with the Scottish Government, by creating a new Scottish directorate based in Glasgow.

While the changes to Ofgem's structure will not dilute the regulator's number one priority of protecting consumers, they will enable Ofgem to fulfil an increasing role in the delivery of the radical changes needed in the energy industry to meet Britain's emissions targets.

Charles Gallacher, Director for Scotland, Wales and the Regions, said: "The opening of these new offices is an important milestone for Ofgem in Scotland. The creation of the new directorate also ensures that Ofgem is best placed to work co-operatively with stakeholders and understand their concerns."

Jim Mather, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, who opened the offices in West Regent Street, said: "I welcome the steps that Ofgem has taken to increase its presence in Scotland, given Scotland's potential to contribute to the UK and European renewable energy and climate change targets, while meeting our own energy needs.

"I am also very pleased to see the increased emphasis from Ofgem on delivering a low carbon economy and I look forward to working with Ofgem to create a regulatory landscape which promotes investment in low carbon energy throughout Scotland, serves wider UK and European needs, and ensures that energy pricing remains competitive."

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Notes to News and Business Editors

1. Ofgem is now based at Cornerstone, 107 West Regent Street, Glasgow. G2 2BA. The move was agreed after a previous lease at offices elsewhere in the city expired. Ofgem's move to Cornerstone fits well with the regulator's new duty to have regard to sustainability, as the building has a B+ Energy Efficiency rating.

2. Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets, which supports the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, the regulator of the gas and electricity industries in Great Britain. The Authority's powers and duties are largely provided for in statute, principally the Gas Act 1986, the Electricity Act 1989, the Utilities Act 2000, the Competition Act 1998, the Enterprise Act 2002, the Energy Act 2004 as well as arising from directly effective European Community legislation.

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