

(b) provides for the transfer of each of the said new highways (other than one temporary highway) to the County Council of Kent as from the date on which he notifies that authority that the new highway has been completed and is open for through traffic.

Copies of the Order and of the relevant plans have been deposited at the Department of Transport, Room S7/17, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3EB, and at the offices of the South Eastern Road Construction Unit, Federated House, London Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SZ; the Kent C.C., County Hall, Maidstone, Kent; the Ashford B.C., Elwick House, Elwick Road, Ashford, Kent; the Shepway D.C., Civic Centre, Folkestone, Kent; the Sellindge Sub Post Office, Sellindge Super Stores, Sellindge, Kent, and the Public Library, Grace Hill, Folkestone, Kent where they are open to inspection free of charge at all reasonable hours.

Copies of the Order, the title of which is "The Mid Kent Motorway M.20 (Sellindge-Folkestone Section Side Roads) Order, 1977", can be obtained from the Director, South Eastern Road Construction Unit.

Any person aggrieved by the Order and desiring to question the validity thereof, or of any provision contained therein, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1959 or the Highway Act 1971 or on the ground that any requirement of either of those Acts, or of regulations made thereunder, has not been complied with in relation to the Order may within 6 weeks from 12th April 1977, apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision contained therein.

V. R. F. Dewar, Controller of Administration, South Eastern Road Construction Unit, Department of Transport.

Dated 30th March 1977.

## OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

### FAIR TRADING ACT 1973

#### MONOPOLY REFERENCE

##### *Electricity Supply Meters*

The Director General of Fair Trading in exercise of his powers under sections 47 (1), 49 (1) and 50 (1) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 hereby refers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the matter of the existence or possible existence of a monopoly situation in relation to—

- (a) the supply in the United Kingdom, and
- (b) exports from the United Kingdom,

of electricity supply meters.

The Commission shall upon this reference investigate and report in relation to such supply and to such exports on the questions whether a monopoly situation exists and, if so—

- (a) by virtue of which provisions of sections 6 to 8 of that Act that monopoly situation is to be taken to exist;
- (b) in favour of what person or persons that monopoly situation exists;
- (c) whether any steps (by way of uncompetitive practices or otherwise) are being taken by that person or those persons for the purpose of exploiting or maintaining the monopoly situation and, if so, by what uncompetitive practices or in what other way;
- (d) whether any action or omission on the part of that person or those persons is attributable to the existence of the monopoly situation and, if so, what action or omission and in what way it is so attributable; and
- (e) whether any facts found by the Commission in pursuance of their investigations under the preceding provisions of this paragraph operate, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest.

For the purposes of this reference "electricity supply meters" means integrating meters of kinds used in connection with charging for the supply of electricity but does not include meters of kinds used in connection with charging for telecommunications services.

The Commission shall report on this reference within a period of 18 months from the date thereof.

Gordon Barrie, Director General of Fair Trading.  
30th March 1977.

## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Block C Government Buildings,  
Tolcarne Drive,  
Pinner,  
Middlesex HA5 2DT

### STATEMENT ISSUED PURSUANT TO THE CORN RETURNS ACT 1882, THE CORN SALES ACT, 1921, THE AGRICULTURE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1943, THE AGRICULTURE ACT, 1970 AND THE AGRICULTURE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1972.

The following are the QUANTITIES SOLD and AVERAGE PRICES of BRITISH CORN per tonne of 1000 kilograms computed from returns received by the MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD in the week ended 31st March 1977. They are based on purchases from growers during the week ended 24th March 1977 by merchants carrying on business in prescribed areas in England and Wales.

British corn	Quantities sold	Average price
		per tonne
	tonnes	£
WHEAT ... ..	45,792.61	89.59
BARLEY ... ..	36,755.42	84.44
OATS ... ..	1,442.53	78.17
RYE ... ..	—	—
MAIZE ... ..	—	—

E. T. Richards

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Thames House South  
Millbank,  
London, SW1P 4QJ.  
30th March 1977.

The Secretary of State for Energy in pursuance of the Electricity Acts 1947 and 1957 and Regulations made thereunder and all other powers him enabling, has authorised the re-appointment of G. T. Shepherd, Esq., B.Sc.(Eng.), F.I.Mech.E., F.I.E.E., as Chairman of the Midlands Electricity Board constituted under the said Acts.

### COUNTER INFLATION ACT, 1973

#### *Consent by the Secretary of State*

Whereas:

- (a) the British Gas Corporation in response to a request by the Government intends to reduce its capital indebtedness by increasing its prices;
- (b) the Corporation accordingly proposes to implement the increases set out in the Schedule hereto;
- (c) the proposed increases are not in accordance with the provisions of the Price Code;
- (d) the Price Commission are considering imposing a restriction under section 6 of the Counter Inflation Act 1973, in relation to the proposed increases;

the Secretary of State after consultation with the Price Commission and being satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which justify an intervention by him hereby, pursuant to paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 to the Counter Inflation Act 1973, consents to the implementation by the British Gas Corporation of the proposed increases for their financial year ending 31st March 1978.

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

#### THE SCHEDULE

1. A weighted average increase of 9.6 per cent in gas tariffs with effect from first meter reading on or after 1st April 1977;
2. A weighted average increase of 10 per cent in service and miscellaneous charges, with effect from 1st April 1977;
3. Increases in prices on renewal of individually negotiated special contracts calculated by reference to the appropriate fuel market prices at the time of renewal.