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Require online retailers to declare to consumers at the start of the retail process the existence of surcharges for delivery to certain addresses in the UK; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Requirement to declare variable charges

- (1) The Secretary of State shall, within one year of this Act coming into force, make regulations to require online retailers (“the retailer”) to make a declaration to consumers if their freight, delivery, postal or other charges (“charges”) vary according to the delivery address within the United Kingdom. 5
- (2) Regulations under this section shall require a declaration made under subsection (1) to include a clear statement of—
 - (a) which charges may be varied according to delivery address,
 - (b) to which locations within the United Kingdom delivery will result in variations to charges, and 10
 - (c) a reasonable indication of the total cost or costs to the consumer of such variations in charges.
- (3) Regulations under this section shall make provision requiring a declaration under subsection (1) to be—
 - (a) clear and comprehensible, 15
 - (b) made in a prominent place on the retailer’s website, and
 - (c) available to the consumer before they browse the goods and services available to them on the retailer’s website.
- (4) Regulations under this section shall include provision for their enforcement by one or more enforcement authorities and for penalties in the case of non-compliance. 20
- (5) Regulations under this section shall be made by statutory instrument.

- (6) The Secretary of State shall not make a statutory instrument under this section unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

2 Commencement and short title

- (1) This Act shall come into force on Royal Assent. 5
- (2) This Act may be referred to as the Delivery Surcharges (Transparency for Consumers) Act 2013.

Delivery Surcharges (Transparency for Consumers) Bill

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*Presented by Sir Robert Smith,
supported by
Sir Malcolm Bruce, John Thurso,
Mr Alan Reid, Mr Frank Doran,
Dame Anne Begg, Mr Charles Kennedy,
Mr Mike Weir, Mr Angus Brendan MacNeil,
Mr Andrew Turner and Dr Eilidh Whiteford.*

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to be Printed, 19 June 2013.*

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