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TO

Make provision for the prevention of unsolicited commercial e-mail; to amend the Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000; 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 Amendment of the Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000

- (1) The Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000 are amended as follows.
- (2) After regulation 24 (Inertia Selling), there is inserted—

“24A Prohibition of sending unsolicited commercial e-mails

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- (1) It shall be an offence to send unsolicited commercial e-mails.
- (2) In this regulation—
“commercial e-mails” means e-mails which advertise goods and services.
“unsolicited” means, in relation to commercial e-mails, that they are sent without any prior request made by or on behalf of the recipient.

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- (3) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable to a fine for each e-mail sent.
- (4) The Secretary of State shall specify in regulations the level of fines to apply in respect of an offence committed under subsection (1).
- (5) Regulations made under this section shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to approval by each House of Parliament.”

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2 Short title and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Consumer Protection (Unsolicited E-mails) Act 2003.
- (2) This Act extends to Northern Ireland.

Consumer Protection (Unsolicited E-mails) Bill

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To make provision for the prevention of unsolicited commercial e-mail; to amend the Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Paul Flynn,
Mr Tony Lloyd, Mr Win Griffiths,
Michael Fabricant, David Taylor, Brian White,
Mr Andrew Dismore and Mr Huw Edwards.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 10th June 2003.*

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LONDON: THE STATIONERY OFFICE
Printed in the United Kingdom by
The Stationery Office Limited
£x.xx net