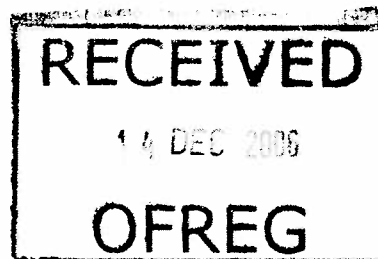


L41.12.06
12 December 2006

Tadhg O'Briain
Ofreg
Queen's House
14 Queen Street
BELFAST
BT1 6ER



Dear Mr O'Brien

**Re: Consultation Paper on the Proposed Acquisition of Viridian Group PLC
by Electric Invest Acquisitions Limited**

Disability Action is a pioneering Northern Ireland charity working with and for people with disabilities. We work with our members to provide information, training, transport awareness programmes and representation for people regardless of their disability; whether that is a physical, mental, sensory, hidden or learning disability.

More than one in five (300,000) people in Northern Ireland has a disability and the incidence is higher here than in the rest of the United Kingdom. Over one quarter of all families here are affected.

As a campaigning body, we work to bring about positive change to the social, economic and cultural life of people with disabilities and consequently our entire community.

Our network of services is provided via our Headquarters in Belfast and three regional offices in Carrickfergus, Derry and Dungannon.

Disability Action welcomes the opportunity to respond to this draft and to aid our response has put the relevant page/paragraph of the draft in brackets at the end of our comments.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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SPECIFIC COMMENTARY

- 1** Disability Action welcomes and supports Ofreg's determination to ensure that Northern Ireland consumers are protected by a regulated framework that meets UK best practice. Indeed where possible Disability Action would recommend that Northern Ireland standards should move beyond minimum compliance and develop its own model of good practice to ensure its ability to protect consumers, in particular, NTSN and Section 75 groups.
- 2** Regarding Independent Directors Disability Action recommends that an obligation to have a set number of independent directors should be included in the NIE licence. (Item 83)

Disability Action recognises the time and effort that have gone into producing this document for consultation and thanks Ofreg for the opportunity to respond and looks forward to continued dialogue.

Yours sincerely

Monica Wilson
Chief Executive