

Explanatory Note on Access Regime for the Designated Credit Card Schemes

The Access Regime differs in very few respects from the draft Access Regime previously published and for which a full RIS was published in August 2002. The changes are essentially of a technical and procedural nature. The changes are:

- (i) At the time the first draft Access Regime was gazetted the related changes to Regulations made under the *Banking Act 1959* had not been made. The final version of the Access Regime makes specific reference to the relevant legislation and regulation whereas the draft version could not.
- (ii) The term “as soon as practicable” in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the draft (13 and 15 in the final Access Regime) has been replaced with specific time periods.
- (iii) A new paragraph (14) has been added to make it clear that a designated credit card scheme should assess applications for access in a timely manner.

It is not expected that these changes to the earlier draft will have any practical effect on any participant in the designated credit card systems. The change outlined in (i) is of a technical nature to ensure consistency in drafting. The changes at (ii) make the Access Regime more precise with respect to timing without changing the substance. The change at (iii) formalises good business practice and specifies an expectation that was implicit in the previous draft.