**Consumer Protection**

The government has passed many pieces of legislation over the past 40 years which aim to ensure that consumers are protected from the negative aspects of the operations of businesses.

The main pieces of legislation aimed at protecting consumers in the UK are:

**The Trade Descriptions Act, 1968:** This makes it illegal for a business to provide false or misleading descriptions of their products, services, accommodation and facilities.

**The Unsolicited Goods Act, 1971:** This stated that unsolicited goods become the property of the recipient if the sender does not retrieve them from the recipient within 30 days of notice.

**The Consumer Credit Act, 1974:** This states that any business which offers credit facilities must obtain a licence from the Director-General of Fair Trading and must also display the annual percentage rate (A.P.R) that will be charged.

**The Sale of Goods Act, 1979:** This states that goods must be of merchantable quality, as described in their advertisements and fit for their purpose.

**The Consumer Protection Act, 1987:** This states that it is an offence for a business to give a false or misleading price indication on its product(s) AND businesses are liable for any damage and injury that their defective products cause to consumers.

**The Food Safety Act, 1990:** This states that it is an offence for a business to sell food if it is not registered to do so and also if those handling the food have not been appropriately trained. It also states that the food must be of the expected nature and quality that is demanded by the consumer.