

Case C-188/89 Foster v British Gas [1990]

Facts: The applicants had been employed by British Gas at a time when the industry was nationalised and monopolised by British Gas. The company's policy was to require women to retire at 60 and men at 65. The applicants invoked the provisions of the 1976 Equal Treatment Directive.

Held: The provisions could validly be invoked against British Gas. A body, whatever its legal form, which has been made responsible for providing a public service under the control of the State and has for that purpose special powers beyond those which would normally apply in relations between individuals, is included among the bodies against which a directive may have direct effect.