



Office of Utility Regulation

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OUR CONFIRMS ROLL BACK OF REGULATION IN THE MOBILE SECTOR

The OUR has confirmed moves to relax regulatory obligations on mobile operators by reducing the conditions set out in their operating licences. The changes follow a review of the mobile market and the nature of competition that now exists between the three mobile operators.

The changes include removing or reducing a number of reporting obligations and removing the obligation on Sure to provide 21 days notice of price changes before it makes them. The OUR has also removed some restrictions on spectrum, enabling more flexible use of the spectrum controlled by operators.

“As the competitive market matures consumers have greater choice and the role of regulation changes, with less need for direct control over what the operators offer. We have spent a considerable amount of effort getting the mobile market to the point where operators can now compete more evenly. As a result the need for direct regulatory involvement has diminished.” said Michael Byrne, Deputy Director General of the OUR.

“We are now looking at how spectrum can be used more efficiently in the future across both Guernsey and Jersey and we expect to make progress on this initiative over the course of this year”, he said.

In order to implement the changes, the OUR will formally amend the licences of Sure, Airtel-Vodafone and Wave Telecom through a separate statutory consultation process.

Further details of the final decision are set out in document OUR 11/07 which is published on the OUR website www.regutil.gg. Copies are also available by calling the OUR on 711120.

Information for the Editor

About the OUR

The Office of Utility Regulation was established in 2001 to regulate the three utilities of post, telecommunications and electricity in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. The Office is headed up by Director General, John Curran and has four staff.

The role of the OUR is to protect the interests of Guernsey consumers and the economy. It does this by ensuring that customers receive the best in price, choice and quality services in the three regulated sectors, while at the same time ensuring that those sectors are vibrant and robust so that they can positively contribute to and underpin a successful Guernsey economy.

The OUR licenses and regulates telecommunications operators, Guernsey Electricity Ltd and Guernsey Post Ltd. Wherever possible, the OUR promotes the introduction of competition by ensuring that there is fair play and a level playing field between the operators. Where competition is not yet effective or where it is not feasible, the OUR regulates prices and quality of services to end customers. More information is available from the OUR website www.regutil.gg, or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 01481 711120.