



# Office of Utility Regulation

**Media Release**

## Regulator Consults on Licensing of ISPs

The OUR today published a consultation paper on the future licensing of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the Bailiwick. Since the opening of the market to competition in December 2002 a number of ISPs have been free to continue to provide services under their existing licences that had been issued by the old States Telecommunications Board. This consultation is considering how best to bring such providers in line with the new regulatory regime.

“The consultation is intended to help clarify the framework within which ISPs in the Bailiwick are licensed”, said John Curran, Regulatory Manager at OUR. “The paper sets out which activities of ISPs are outside the scope of the regulatory regimes – activities such as the assigning of email addresses and providing web whilst explaining those services that do come within the licensing regime – the conveyance of traffic to and from the Internet.”

The paper revisits the licensing regime in Guernsey, which is fully in line with recent developments in the EU, where standard authorisations have become the norm. However the OUR is conscious that given the size of certain ISPs in the Guernsey market, it might be appropriate to relax some of the rigour of the general licence terms and conditions.

“This is the core issue addressed in the paper”, said John Curran. “We are asking, should smaller players like basic ISPs be able to ask to have some of the licence conditions dis-applied? For example, is it sensible to ask small ISPs to submit network development

and monitoring plans? The paper suggests some conditions that should be eligible for this treatment, but we are inviting interested parties to review the full list of conditions and give us their views on any others that should be considered”.

Other issues addressed in the consultation paper are the rights and entitlements of ISPs to seek access to services provided by C&W Guernsey on a non-discriminatory basis to that which C&W Guernsey provides to its own down-stream ISP. The paper also advocates ensuring that the cost of regulating ISPs is kept as low as possible so as to ensure that no undue barriers to entry are created.

“The OUR wants to encourage the development of a vibrant, healthy, competitive ISP market”, said Mr Curran. “The proposals contained in this consultation paper would allow ISPs the maximum flexibility to develop their businesses as they see fit and would allow individual small ISPs to apply to have the burden of certain conditions waived where they could demonstrate that this was in the general interests of consumers and the market”.

The consultation document “Internet Service Provision in the Bailiwick of Guernsey; Consultation Document (OUR 03/27)” is available on the OUR website – [www.regutil.gg](http://www.regutil.gg) – or from the OUR office at Suite B1&B2, Hirzel Court, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2NH, Tel 01481 711120. The consultation period runs until the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2003.

**ENDS/**

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For further information contact the Office of Utility Regulation on 01481 711120