



Office of Utility Regulation

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Guernsey Airtel must launch by the end of March

Guernsey's utilities regulator, the Office of Utility Regulation (OUR), is proposing to direct Guernsey Airtel to launch its mobile services by 31st March 2008. The company was supposed to launch by 15th December 2007 under the terms of the 2G and 3G mobile licences that were awarded to it in September 2006. Following a full review by the OUR, Guernsey Airtel has been found in breach of its licence obligations.

“I am disappointed that Guernsey Airtel has not yet met the requirements of its licence for launching its mobile service in the Bailiwick” said John Curran, Director General at OUR. “While we acknowledge that a huge amount of effort has been made by the company in getting to where it currently is, regrettably this falls short of what Guernsey Airtel is required to do under the terms of its licence.”

The OUR is now proposing to direct the company to remedy the breach of its licence by taking all the steps necessary to launch services by 31st March 2008. Once any comments to the proposed notice have been considered, the OUR will finalise the exact direction to the company. The OUR is specifically required by law to conduct a two-stage process when a licence condition has potentially been breached. The first is to determine if that breach has definitely occurred. The second is to give the licensee a period to rectify that breach.

The OUR document OUR 08/01 “Guernsey Airtel Mobile Licenses: Failure to Meet Launch Date. Statutory Invitation to Comment” is available on the OUR website (www.regutil.gg) or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 711120.

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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 three 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.