



Media Release 3rd October 2007

Cable and Wireless breaches licence conditions

The Office of Utility Regulation (“OUR”) today published decisions against Cable and Wireless Guernsey (“C&WG”) finding the company breached its fair competition licence condition on two occasions. The findings follow two separate complaints lodged by Wave Telecom in July.

“The OUR found evidence of prolonged delays by C&WG in meeting requests by its retail competitors for telecommunications services. This makes it harder for new operators to compete with C&WG and impacts on the development of competition in the telecoms market,” said Michael Byrne, Director of Regulation at the OUR. “The OUR has commented in earlier findings against C&WG that its dealings with other competing operators have not matched its licence obligations. The OUR has in previous disputes imposed specific measures required of C&WG to rectify previous licence breaches. Regrettably in these two decisions today it is apparent that similar issues continue to arise.”

Wave Telecom submitted two disputes to the OUR and in both cases the regulator found C&WG’s behaviour breached its licence obligations. The first dispute involved a refusal by C&WG to provide leased circuits at Les Caches Technical Park and the second involved provision of on-island 45Mbit/s leased lines circuits.

“C&WG has a very simple obligation which is to treat competing companies in fair manner and what that requires in practice is obvious. The fact that it is continuing to fail to deliver on this is a concern,” said Michael Byrne. “This behaviour raises broader concerns and the Office is now considering what future measures are appropriate to address what appears to be a wider issue regarding C&WG’s approach to dealing with OLOs.

ENDS/

Information for Editors

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.