



Office of Utility Regulation

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Reduction in Mobile Regulation being Considered

The OUR is considering relaxing regulation in the mobile market. The OUR has issued a consultation paper in which it is proposing dropping a number of the reporting requirements mobile operators currently need to comply with.

“Over the past two years we have enabled greater competition in the mobile market through initiatives such as Mobile Number Portability, reducing termination charges and facilitating greater competition. We believe most mobile customers would agree that the value they now get from their mobile provider is significantly better than it was even 18 months ago and is the best evidence of what competition can deliver for consumers. With the increasing levels of competitiveness between the mobile operators, we believe competition can continue to deliver benefits for consumers going forward,” said John Curran, Director General of the OUR.

“Regulation is needed to get competition established, to ensure there is a level playing field for all players and to ensure consumers’ interests are protected. However in a competitive market, such as is now developing in the mobile market, operators have much greater commercial incentives to ensure they are serving their customers fairly, providing them with good deals and new services. Competition forces operators to raise their game and make sure they operate efficiently. In such circumstances the need for direct regulation is less and we now want to row back regulation.”

Among the proposals is reducing the level of reporting operators need to comply with, allowing Sure greater freedom in relation to pricing issues and standardising the licence terms and conditions. The consultation on the proposals runs until 11th June and the consultation document is available on the OUR’s website – www.regutil.gg.

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 two 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.