



Office of Utility Regulation

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ROLL BACK OF REGULATION IN THE MOBILE SECTOR

The OUR is considering relaxing the obligations on mobile operators by reducing the conditions set out in their operating licences. These changes include removing certain reporting requirements and removing the obligation on the dominant operator to notify its competitors of price changes before it makes them. The OUR is also proposing to remove restrictions in spectrum use between 2G and 3G services.

“With three mobile operators competing in Guernsey we are seeing a greater degree of price competition as well as the range of offers, and customers are exercising the greater choice available to them”, said Michael Byrne, Deputy Director General of the OUR. “A different competitive environment exists now than only a few years ago, and regulation can be reduced as competition sets the standard in areas such as coverage, technical quality and customer care”, he said.

The proposals will also allow operators to make more use of their existing mobile spectrum by removing the restrictions on what services can be provided over 2G and 3G spectrum. This should enable operators to have greater freedom in how they use their spectrum allocations which should assist in the development of higher speed data services.

The OUR’s draft decision will affect the licence conditions of C&W Guernsey, Wave Telecom and Guernsey Airtel. which all have 2G and 3G licences in Guernsey. A final decision will be published early in 2011.

Further details on the consultation are included in document OUR 10/16 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.