



# Office of Utility Regulation

**Media Release**

## OUR Welcomes New Investment in Telecoms in Guernsey

The OUR today welcomed the announcement by Newtel Solutions that it has connected its fibre optic telecommunications link between Guernsey and Jersey over the Channel Islands Electricity Grid.

“Secure, diverse, high quality telecommunications links off-island are hugely important to maintaining existing business and attracting new business opportunities to the island” said Regina Finn, Director General of the OUR. “Alternative links such as the one announced by Newtel should enable it, and other operators, to have a choice of how they take telecommunications traffic both to and from the Bailiwick. Competition like this is the best way of bringing benefits to end users and I expect to see pressure on quality and prices of services as customers begin to be able to shop around.”

Newtel Solutions was licensed by the OUR in 2002 to provide fixed telecommunications services following the liberalisation of the telecoms market.

“The regulatory regime that the OUR has put in place over the past few years is fair, independent and balanced”, said Regina Finn, “and creates an environment that attracts new investment and new opportunities to Guernsey. The fact that there have been two major developments this month – one in the fixed and one in the mobile telecoms market – demonstrates the benefit of the policies adopted by the States and the successful implementation of those policies by the OUR.”

**ENDS/**

**28<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

## **Information for Editors**

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, Regina Finn 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](http://www.regutil.gg), or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 01481 711120.