



# Office of Utility Regulation

**Media Release**

## Regulator Consults on Telecoms Prices

The Director General of the OUR today launched a wide ranging review of telecoms prices in Guernsey.

“The first price control on fixed telecoms services in Guernsey was introduced in March 2002 when telecoms services were still provided by Guernsey Telecoms Limited as a States owned company” said Regina Finn, Director General of the OUR. “That control is due to run out in March 2005 and so the OUR is now reviewing the market and prices and considering any future price control for telecoms services”.

One of the issues being looked at by the OUR in the three consultation papers published today is how the telecoms market has changed since the first price control and whether C&W Guernsey still has a dominant position in that market. The papers also look in detail at the way prices for key telecoms services provided by C&W Guernsey have changed since the first price control was set in 2002.

“We are asking questions in these papers about what types of services should be price controlled, how any control should be targeted and the way the control should be set” said Regina Finn. “In asking these questions we will be keeping in mind that in the absence of real competitive pressure on prices, the regulatory regime acts as a proxy for competition to ensure that consumers in the Bailiwick are protected”.

Any new price control will come into effect when the existing control ends in March 2005.

**ENDS/  
30 June 2004**

## **Information for Editors**

The following three consultation documents are available on the OUR website [www.regutil.gg](http://www.regutil.gg), or by calling the OUR on 711120.

**OUR 04/09: Market Dominance in the Telecommunications Sector in Guernsey – Consultation Document;** deadline for responses 5pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2004

**OUR 04/10 Price Control for Telecommunications Services in Guernsey: Review of Price Control Scope and Structure – Consultation Document;** deadline for responses 5pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2004

**OUR 04/11 Price Control for Telecommunications Services in Guernsey: Calculating Allowed Revenue and the Cost of Capital – Consultation Paper;** deadline for responses 5pm 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2004

## **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, 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.