



Office of Utility Regulation

Media Release

Regulator Consults on Telecoms Prices

The OUR today launched a public consultation on interim price controls for C&W Guernsey until the regulator has finished the current review of telecoms prices in Guernsey.

“The first price control on fixed telecoms services in Guernsey was introduced in March 2002 and is due to end in March 2005,” said Jon Buckland, Director of Policy at the OUR. “It is not going to be possible to complete this major workstream within the original timetable and it is proposed that any new price control will now come into effect on 1st October 2005.”

The OUR is consulting on four possible interim arrangements for the period 1st April 2005 to 30th September 2005 that it has identified and is seeking views from interested parties on the proposed options.

“There is a need to have a price control for this period as the services covered are very important services for telecoms users” said Jon Buckland. “We are looking to get views on what types of services should be price controlled, how any control should be targeted and the way the control should be set, bearing in mind that this is for a relatively short period. In asking these questions we will be keeping in mind that in the absence of real competitive pressure on prices, a price control will act as a proxy for competition to ensure that consumers in the Bailiwick are protected”.

ENDS/
25 January 2005

Information for Editors

The consultation document, **OUR 05/02: Interim Price Control for C&W Guernsey Ltd**, is available on the OUR website www.regutil.gg, or by calling the OUR on 711120. The deadline for responses is 5pm Monday 14th February 2005

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, or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 01481 711120.