



Office of Utility Regulation

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OUR consults on postal price rises

Guernsey's utilities regulator wants the views of Islanders and local businesses on how they'll be affected by proposed increases in postal charges. The Office of Utility Regulation (OUR) has launched a consultation period following an application by Guernsey Post (GPL) to push up local stamp prices to 29p and UK stamp prices to 34p from April next year.

“The OUR is here to look after the interests of consumers, while at the same time making sure the three main utilities can operate effectively”, said John Curran, Director General of the OUR. “Postal price changes affect everyone, and the purpose of this consultation process is to find out exactly how this application will affect both local people and the economy as a whole – once we get that feedback from individuals, organisations and businesses we can assess this request properly’.

That consultation process will last until 21st October, with the OUR planning to publish its final decision in early December. As part of that process the OUR will be conducting detailed discussions with the bulk mail sector and flower growers given the likely impact of this application on their industries.

“The bulk mail sector is very important not just to Guernsey Post but also to the economy as a whole. It is therefore important that the implications of this application on those customers be fully understood” said John Curran. “My office will be looking to meet each bulk mail customer to assess the impact on each individual customer before any final decision is made”.

A document explaining exactly what Guernsey Post is proposing is available on the OUR's website – www.regutil.gg – or from it's office. It's entitled "OUR 05/22: Guernsey Post's Proposed Tariff Changes". Comments on that document should be received in writing by 5pm on 21st October. –ENDS-

Information for Editors

- **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.