



# Office of Utility Regulation

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## **OUR PROPOSES MORE MOBILE COMPETITION**

The Utilities Regulator is consulting on proposals to award a 3G licence to C&W Guernsey, as well as further mobile spectrum for Airtel. The proposals, if adopted, will see the three mobile operators able to offer both 2G and 3G mobile services and have frequency spectrum across all three mobile spectrum ranges. In a separate decision, the OUR has announced plans to remove certain restrictions on the use of mobile frequency bands later this year.

'We are seeing a very good take-up of number portability from mobile customers in Guernsey. However, only two of the three operators can currently provide 3G services and we believe that market competition and consumers' interests would be best served if all of them were able to compete on an equal footing,' said John Curran, Director General of the OUR. He added: 'Achieving this will require C&W Guernsey to give up some of its spectrum in the 2G area, which we propose should be re-allocated to Airtel, to create a more level playing field between the three operators. C&W Guernsey will be invited to apply for a 3G licence and, subject to meeting the criteria, the aim would be to grant it.'

If adopted, the OUR's proposals would see all three mobile operators holding spectrum in the 900MHz, 1800MHz and 2100MHz bands and being able to provide both 2G and 3G services. The OUR does not envisage that additional mobile infrastructure, such as antennae or masts, will be required as a direct result of this decision.

'When taken together, this package of measures should result in greater competition in the mobile market. Since the introduction of Mobile Number Portability in Guernsey in December, over 1,500 mobile users have used this quick and easy method to change service provider and we believe these measures will help raise the level of competition, which can only be a good

thing for consumers,' said John Curran. 'We are now asking the operators and any other interested parties for their views on these proposals with the aim of increasing competition later this year.'

Full details of the OUR's proposals are set out in the OUR Consultation "Competition in the Mobile Telecommunications Market - Further Licence Award" (OUR 09/06). The OUR decision on liberalising mobile spectrum usage is contained in "Mobile Market Review - Final Decision" (OUR 09/05). Both documents can be found on the OUR website at [www.regutil.gg](http://www.regutil.gg).

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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 the Director General, John Curran, and has six 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.