



Office of Utility Regulation

Media Release embargoed until 6am 19th January 2011

OUR grants one-year extension of C&WG Price Control

The OUR has allowed a one-year rollover of Cable and Wireless Guernsey's current price control. The extension is being granted to allow time for further progress be made on measures that will enable further competition in the fixed and broadband markets. The regulators in Guernsey and Jersey are working with the telecoms companies to develop new wholesale access products which could significantly increase choice for consumers.

The OUR has accepted a proposal from C&WG to increase exchange line rental prices by £1, from £7.99 to £8.99 a month. However, the Office has not agreed to increase the price of the Telephone Assistance Scheme or the Shortcall exchange line tariff in order that vulnerable users will not be affected by the rise in exchange line charges.

"We believe the best means of giving consumers better value is by increasing the choice available to them. Currently for fixed telecoms services, such as broadband, consumers choice is limited and this is something, as regulators, we are keen to tackle. Given this work, it makes more sense to roll over the current price control rather than impose a longer term control that may not in fact be required," said OUR Director of Regulation Michael Byrne. "We are hopeful that by next March competition in the wholesale market will be more developed, which will have a bearing on any future price control for C&WG."

Further details on the decision are included in document OUR11/02 which is published on the OUR website www.regutil.gg. Copies are also available by calling the OUR on 711120.

Information for the Editor

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.