



CICRA media release

5 July 2013

CICRA extends deadline for business connectivity market review

Business customers in the Channel Islands have an extra three weeks to participate in CICRA's (the Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities) consultation on business connectivity markets in Guernsey and Jersey.

Following feedback from business customers, CICRA has extended the deadline to Wednesday 24 July for those wishing to submit responses to its call for evidence.

CICRA chief executive, Andrew Riseley, said: "Since launching this review in early June we've received an excellent response from business customers across the Channel Islands. However we've received several requests to extend the deadline from others wishing to comment.

"The aim of the review is to consider whether regulatory action is required to improve outcomes for business customers in these markets including through the promotion of competition where appropriate. It's essential that we gather comments from as wide a range of business customers across Guernsey and Jersey as possible so we are urging interested parties to have their say.

"We want to make sure that a wide range of services is available, of the right quality and at the right price to meet the needs of Guernsey and Jersey business customers so that Channel Islands businesses can compete effectively in global markets. We have set out some detailed questions in the call for evidence on our website but respondents need not feel constrained by the questions. We would like to hear from all business customers about

whether the connectivity services they need are available and whether prices are reasonable.”

The regulator has requested this evidence from business customers to establish the scope of services to be included in the review. In the past, regulation has focussed on a narrow set of services, particularly leased lines. Recognising the development of technology in this area, and the importance of these services to the economies of the Channel Islands (especially the emerging ICT sector), CICRA is conducting this wider review of the business connectivity.

CICRA will be benchmarking prices in the Channel Islands against those charged in the United Kingdom (UK) and other comparable jurisdictions to ensure that the prices charged to business customers are fair and, among other things, to determine whether tighter controls need to be applied.

Wholesale (on-island) leased lines are currently price-controlled in Jersey and Guernsey. In Guernsey, wholesale leased line prices have been frozen overall since 2008 (although individual product prices have been allowed to vary). The most recent Jersey price control on leased lines capped JT's wholesale prices at the retail price minus 20%.

The call for evidence and consultation are available on CICRA's website: www.cicra.gg. Interested parties are invited to submit comments to CICRA in writing or by email before 5pm on Wednesday, 24 July 2013.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA Chief Executive, Andrew Riseley, in Guernsey at the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority, Suites B1 & B2, Hirzel Court, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2NH or in Jersey at the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Salisbury House, 1 - 9 Union Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3RF. Alternatively email info@cicra.gg.

About CICRA:

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities or 'CICRA' is the name given to the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) (formerly the Office of Utility Regulation). The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001, and the GCRA was established under The Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2012. In Jersey, the telecoms and postal sectors are regulated by the JCRA, which is also responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005. In Guernsey the telecoms, postal and electricity sectors are regulated by the GCRA, which is also responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Guernsey competition law since it came into force on 1 August 2012.

By working together and sharing resources and expertise between the islands, CICRA strives to ensure that consumers in all the Channel Islands receive best value, choice and access to high quality services.