



CICRA media release

29 November 2013

Landline competition delayed by court decision

CICRA has confirmed that giving consumers in the Channel Islands a choice of fixed line telecoms supplier remains a priority following a decision of the Royal Court of Jersey which postpones the introduction of landline competition.

Under the terms of a Final Notice issued in May, CICRA directed JT to make a wholesale lined rental (WLR) product available by 7 November 2013, which would, in particular, have allowed other operators to lease landlines from JT to resell to their customers.

CICRA chief executive, Andrew Riseley, said customers wanted the freedom to choose their landline supplier and to access bundled telecom services as was the case in Europe and in much of the rest of the world.

“There are operators in both Guernsey and Jersey who wish to provide new services to those customers,” he said.

“Our experiences in regulating mobile telecoms demonstrate how important healthy competition is in delivering better outcomes for consumers and we believe it is also the right course of action for fixed lines.”

The court upheld the key principle of CICRA’s decision rejecting JT’s arguments that it was wrong for CICRA to require JT to introduce WLR. The court also accepted that it was right for CICRA to impose fixed deadlines on JT for implementing WLR.

However, it found that CICRA should have allowed JT nine months, rather than six months, to implement WLR given the difficulties JT faced with its billing system implementation.

The court also reinforced CICRA's obligation to ensure that appropriate procedures are followed by finding that submissions by JT should have been made available to the entire CICRA board.

Mr Riseley said CICRA was now considering its next steps regarding landline competition in the islands and would provide further details early in the New Year.

"We have noted the comments of the court with respect to our internal procedures. Following the court's decision we are looking forward to working with all operators to make landline competition a reality," he said.

"CICRA is determined to ensure that consumers in the Channel Islands finally get choice and competition in this market."

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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@bicra.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.