



CICRA media release

13 March 2012

Regulator agrees changes to telecoms charges in Guernsey

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities (CICRA) has finalised a new one year price control for key Cable & Wireless Guernsey fixed line services.

The regulator has agreed to a 76p per month increase in line rental charges with a reduction in peak local call charges, down from 4.3p per minute to 3.3p per minute (23%). The new charges will come into effect on 1 April 2012.

The decision follows a consultation on earlier proposals and the regulator has had extensive discussions with C&W Guernsey since early February on the announced changes. Michael Byrne, deputy director general of the Office of Utility Regulation (part of CICRA) said: “While we recognise that any increase in line rental charges will be unwelcome, we have worked hard to ensure that we have limited any increase to the minimum we believe is needed.

“We have also sought changes to the local call charge and we believe this decision balances the competing needs for further investment in the telecoms infrastructure in Guernsey with keeping the cost to consumers as low as possible. Even after these increases the charges for these services compares very favourably with Jersey.”

CICRA is currently developing proposals that will see greater competition in the fixed market in the near future in both Guernsey and Jersey. It is examining options for giving consumers choice in who provides their fixed line services.

It is hoped this increased choice will see similar benefits for fixed telecoms customers as it has in the mobile market - when switching providers was made very simple in 2008.

CICRA expects to publish proposals on how this will be implemented next month.

The final decision is available on the CICRA website – www.cicra.gg – or from the OUR's office.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA Chief Executive, John Curran, in Guernsey at the Office of Utility Regulation, Suites B1 & B2, Hirzel Court, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2NH or in Jersey at 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 (CICRA) is the name given to the two Channel Islands regulatory authorities, the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Office of Utility Regulation (OUR). A memorandum of understanding was signed in December 2010 to facilitate closer working between the two authorities. Both regulatory bodies were established in 2001. The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001 and the OUR was established under the Regulation of Utilities (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2001. In Jersey the telecoms and postal sector are regulated by the JCRA, which is also responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition Law (Jersey) 2005. In Guernsey the telecoms, postal and electricity sector are regulated by the OUR. The aim of both authorities is to ensure that consumers receive the best value, choice and access to high quality services while Jersey has the added responsibility of promoting competition and consumer interests.