



Office of Utility Regulation

Regulator Consults on 2006 Postal Pricing Review

The Director General of the OUR today launched two consultations on the regulation of postal prices in the Bailiwick of Guernsey; one on the price control review process and one on a change to Guernsey Post's Licence to allow price controls to be applied to services where GPL does not have a monopoly but is dominant.

“Guernsey Post's current price control is due to run out in at the end of March 2006 and there is a lot of work to be done before any new price control can be set”, said Regina Finn, Director General of the OUR. “We are publishing this consultation on the steps that need to be taken to review postal prices for 2006 so that everyone can understand the process, how and when they will be able to comment, and crucially, the timetable. The clock is already ticking on this and Guernsey Post and its customers need to think and plan ahead for the future of Guernsey's postal service.”

Key dates in the review process are:

Sep – Oct 2004	Comment on this consultation on the price review process
Sept 2004	Comment on proposals to modify GPL licence to enable the OUR to set price control for non licensed services
Nov 2004 – Feb 2005	Comment on consultation on dominance in a relevant market for non licensed services (if necessary)
Nov 2004 – Feb 2005	Comments on review of the size of the reserved sector – i.e. GPL's monopoly (if necessary)
Sep – Oct 2005	Comments on GPL pricing proposals and submission of confidential information to assist OUR decision making process
Dec 2005	Publication of OUR decision on GPL pricing proposal
April 2006	Implementation of new postal prices

The OUR is encouraging all interested parties to participate in the review and to provide comments on the process and timing set out in the paper. “Active, extensive and informed participation by interested parties will help to ensure that OUR’s decisions at the end of the review take into account as wide a range of views as possible”, said Regina Finn.

The following two consultation documents are available on the OUR website www.regutil.gg, or by calling the OUR on 711120:

OUR Document 04/18: “Extension of Powers to Enable Control of Postal Prices Outside the Reserved Sector – Statutory Invitation to Comment”. The deadline for responses to this paper is 24th September 2004.

OUR Document 04/19: “2006 Postal Pricing Review – Process and Timetable – Consultation Paper” The deadline for responses to this paper is 8th October 2004.

ENDS/

10 September 2004

Information for Editors

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, Regina Finn 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.