

Office of Utility Regulation

Media Release

Changes made to Guernsey Post's Licence

The OUR has modified Condition 18 of Guernsey Post's licence so that prices for postal services that are within the Universal Service Obligation area (postal items up to 20kg in weight), can be controlled by the OUR under the company's licence.

"The OUR's aim with this modification is to clarify further the services intended to be regulated under Condition 18 of Guernsey Post's licence," said John Curran, Director General of the OUR. "In any market within the USO area where the company is found to be dominant, the OUR will consider whether further regulatory oversight is required."

The change, which amends a previous modification which is currently under appeal to the Utility Appeals Tribunal, will allow the OUR to regulate a wide range of services under GPL's licence should the company be found to be dominant in the provision of those services. The OUR is currently working on carrying out an assessment of which services may now fall to be regulated following this change.

"This licence amendment allows the OUR to protect the interests of consumers by controlling, if necessary, the prices charged for services where GPL is the dominant provider" said John Curran. "We will be looking to conclude the next stage of our work in this area as quickly as possible."

The report (OUR 05/18) published today, along with a copy of the consultation response received, are available on the OUR website www.regutil.gg, or by calling the OUR on 711120:

ENDS/ 29th July 2005

Information for Editors

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.