



Office of Utility Regulation

Information Note

Mobile Telephony Licensing in Guernsey

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Office of Utility Regulation
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Mobile Licensing in Guernsey

On 16th July 2002 The Director General of Utility Regulation published a consultation paper and an invitation for expressions of interest in applying for mobile telephony licences in Guernsey. That paper (OUR 02/21) sets out in detail the proposed design of the mobile competition process and the regulatory framework for the mobile market, and also includes a timetable for the submission of bids, the evaluation of bids and the award of licences.

The Director General has been made aware that in a research paper, the Jersey Competition and Regulatory Authority (the JCRA) has raised the possibility of a pan-Channel Islands mobile operator. This has generated some queries to the Office of Utility Regulation (OUR) in relation to document OUR 02/21 and the Director General wishes to clarify matters.

Guernsey is committed to opening up its mobile telephony market to competition by 1st April 2003. The process and timetable set out in document OUR 02/21 are designed to achieve this end and this position is unchanged.

The Director General notes the potential for one or more operators to be licensed to provide mobile services in both Guernsey and Jersey. She considers that the competitive process proposed in Guernsey will provide interested parties with a valuable opportunity to enter the Channel Islands market and does not see any reason why this should preclude any operator licensed in Guernsey from obtaining a licence in Jersey also.

The States of Guernsey has put in place a framework to deliver a competitive telecommunications marketplace in Guernsey to underpin Guernsey's vibrant economy, its e-commerce strategy and to deliver the best in price, choice and quality telecommunications services to Guernsey consumers.

The OUR works to create a leading edge regulatory framework to deliver the States strategy and the licensing of new mobile operators in Guernsey in line with the published timetable is a key component of that framework.

Parties interested in entering the Guernsey mobile market are encouraged to read and respond to Document OUR02/21. Earlier documents are also available on the OUR website www.regutil.gg.

/ENDs
31st July 2002